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Los Poblanos Ranch
Albuquerque, N.M.

January 10, 1938.

Dear Laura:

Many thanks for the slides. They have arrived but I have not had time to look at them, as yet. I am quite sure that I will want to use the Southwest slides, so you may bill me for them.

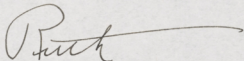
You were nice to frame the picture. I see no reason why you should pay for the framing of it, but I am grateful.

In spite of what Fanny says, I think your turkeys are better than my neighbors, but watch out for me next year when I raise my own.

I am rushing to get off Wednesday, so excuse brevity. My family are all recovering from their colds, so it looks as if we were off to a good start.

Affectionately yours,

RHS/m



Miss Laura Gilpin,
Colorado Springs,
Colorado.

LOS POBLANOS RANCH.

SOUTHWEST!---That glamorous name which conjures up in one's mind visions of Indians, of Conquistadores, of Cliff Dwellings, of landscape of enchanting beauty,-- such is the vision, but what of the white people, our own contemporary Americans who live and work in this land of sunshine? How does this land which fills our minds with dreams of romance, affect their lives?

LOS POBLANOS RANCH, (The People's Ranch), the hospitable home of Mr & Mrs. Albert Gallatin Sims, lies in the Rio Grande Valley five miles from the center of Albuquerque, New Mexico. Rich level fields,-- four hundred and seventy five acres of them,-- are bordered on the West by the Rio Grande whose banks are sheltered by giant cottonwoods. To the east across other outlying property are the Sandia Mountains, a glory of rose and purple at sunset. Los Poblanos originally was a grant from the Spanish Crown which extended from the tops of the Sandias to the river. Recently a large acreage extending from the mountain tops down to the edge of the mesa overlooking the valley has been brought back under Los Poblanos name.

The residence of Los Poblanos was originally an adobe farm house which was remodeled in 1932 by John Gaw Meem, architect, of Santa Fe. It is now a charming home essentially New Mexican in character of Spanish Colonial design. An avenue of elms leads to the house from which one glimpses a rich alfalfa field on one hand and a young orchard on the other. The wide hand hewn entrance doors open into a patio with its bubbling fountain and colorful Spanish tiles. Completely surrounding the patio is a wide portal to which all the rooms have access. A myriad of blossoming plants give forth their fragrance and suggest patios of Old Mexico or Spain. Thick adobe walls, whose surfaces were fashioned by skillful hand modeling, burning fire places so arranged that comfort draws one into deep seated chairs, charming decorations all stamped with the character and skill of New Mexico craftsmen Indian and Spanish alike,-- such are the charms of Los Poblanos.

Beyond a luxuriant garden is LaQuinta, a building designed for civic and social purposes and ultimately to house an art collection, the work primarily of western artists and craftsmen. Somewhat larger than the residence LaQuinta too is Spanish Colonial in design. The patio opens to the east, a wide portal surrounding its three sides and a Spanish tiled swimming pool set in the midst of a velvety lawn. The north wing contains a wonderful library which draws eager readers on fall and winter

evenings, while across the tiled hall is an art Gallery where exhibitions are held in addition to the permanent collection. Here too are fine specimens of New Mexico craftsmen, hand carved doors, tiles with native designs, and decorative hand made tin chandeliers and sconces, that unique craft given us by the Spanish settlers of New Mexico. The west side of LaQuinta contains a large lounge. Here are held civic meetings, (agricultural and social) lectures and concerts. The south wing contains a suite of guest rooms and a kitchen.

But Los Poblanos is far more than a beautiful and hospitable home-it is an experimental farm- and an inspiration to all farmers in this rich, fertile valley which has already been farmed for three hundred years, and perhaps more for the ancient Indians doubtless used it for cultivating corn. Both Mr & Mrs. Simms have a far reaching vision in the work they are conducting along several specific lines. In the span of a few years Mr. Simms has transformed his grade dairy herd into a certified pure bred herd of Guernseys. In 1932 Mrs. Simms brought seventy head of her finest Holstein breeding stock from her Rock River Farms in Illinois where she had been breeding them for twenty one years and where she had one of the prize herds in the United States. With the combined herds Los Poblanos now has a large dairy and supplies Albuquerque with a considerable portion of its milk and cream. Everything about the dairy is modern and up to date in apparatus but milking machines are not used as they have proved detrimental to the animals particularly when the cows are used as breeders. As a large quantity of milk is at present being imported to New Mexico from Colorado, Los Poblanos Ranch is taking the lead in building up the dairy industry in the Rio Grande Valley. In order to improve the grade herds in the state, the dairy farmers have the opportunity at Los Poblanos to buy pure bred bulls at most moderate prices.

In the fields Los Poblanos has been experimenting in raising sugar beet seed. Half of the seed now used in the United States is imported from Europe. This experiment has been so successful that it may lead to the establishment of a sugar beet factory in Albuquerque. The ranch also produces alfalfa, oats, corn, barley, and sugar beets. On the recently acquired addition to the property on the slopes of the Sandia mountains, pure bred rams will be raised to improve the sheep herds of the State.

The practical interests of these energetic owners of Los Poblanos are not their only interests. Mrs. Simms is an enthusiastic gardener and is busy with many experiments among the gardening problems she has found in New Mexico. At present she has centered her interest in roses and crysanthemums, and many varieties of roses bloom luxuriantly

during the summer while her greenhouses in October were a glory of decorative chrysanthemums in many unusual shades and colors. As an active member of the Garden Club, Mrs. Simms shares her knowledge with her club members, and her gardens are a laboratory for the countless new problems in the growing conditions of plants in the New Mexico climate.

One may well say that Los Poblanos is most suitably named for its civic minded and industrious owners are building not only for them selves but for "Los Poblanos" the people of their community.