

June 19, 1939.

Miss Erna Fergusson,
Albuquerque,
New Mexico.

My dear Miss Fergusson:

Since I saw you in Santa Fe I have been thinking a great deal about the possible illustrations for your book and I have several thoughts on the subject that I would like to try to explain to you.

You are doubtless aware of some of the fine work that has been done with photomontage. It seems to me, as you described your book to me, that it would lend itself admirably to this treatment.

Since my return home I have been inquiring as to whether there is even one longhorn steer left in Colorado. I think I am on the way to finding one, and it occurs to me that for the subject, as you described it, it would be interesting to make a composite of a longhorn and a modern show steer, with a cowboy twirling a lariat. I have this picture quite clearly visualized, and I think there are others that I can work out in the same manner. If I can find the longhorn I can make this picture here in Colorado as well as in Texas, and I should be interested to do this one in any event and send it to you as a sample, and you could send it to Mr. Knoph.

As to figuring on the cost of sixteen illustrations for your book, I find it a very difficult thing to do, and I am wondering if it would be possible in any way to do it on a royalty basis.

Within the next few days I will send you a few things that I think might be suitable, for your consideration and for you to send to Mr. Knoph if you wish. It might be that some things could be done with the composite treatment and some as straight photographs.

I was interested to learn that you are considering Colorado as part of the southwest. I have never thought of it as such, and I am wondering just what you would wish to include from this state. Of course, Mesa Verde does seem to be a part of the southwest, but Central City is quite far removed, both in spirit and distance.

Of course, I have a great many photographs of Central City, of the town, of the theater, and of all of the productions, and I will send you a few of these.

I am enclosing the announcement on this year's performance at Central City, and I see that the production is not running quite as long as usual. I do hope that you can come up, and if you can, let me know as soon as possible what your plans are and I will get tickets for both of us and we can go up from here together. I do not yet know whether I shall be photographing this year's performance, as they usually do not send for me until the eleventh hour.

I do not know whether the photomontage appeals to you at all and I should be most interested to know your reaction to this. I can also visualize another picture that you described to me, of the oil field and the house with the Corinthian columns. As long as you are treating the book in a modern way, it seems to me that this might be fun to do for the illustrations, at least in part.

It was a great pleasure to see you again, and I hope the plans will work out for you to come up for the Central City festival.

With best wishes, I am,

Very sincerely yours,