

LAURA GILPIN PHOTOGRAPHER

614 Alameda Road : Santa Fe, N. M.

P.O.Box 1173

August 24,
1946.

Mrs. Beaumont Newhall,
Museum of Modern Art,
11 west 53rd St.,
New York, 19
New York:

Dear Mrs. Newhall:-

It is hard indeed to realize that more than a year has gone by since I had such a pleasant visit with you in New York. My book progresses though it seems at times slowly, but after all it is a job. My chief handicap has been this unprecedented drought. How could I ever have foreseen that? On the whole great high area of the Rio Grande drainage where ^{it} is normally an average snowfall of eight feet, it measured in inches last year, and that came only in April,; with the result that the poor river has been a pitiful trickle. But fortunately I got lots of material last summer and fall of the river itself with lots of water and after all drought is part of the picture and I shall include a few such pictures.

In February I finally got back to Yucatan to finish my work of Chichen Itza which I began fourteen years ago. I don't believe that this

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pare a catalogue of 8x10 prints for selection of subject matter and also a few exhibition prints to show the quality of print. If I could get advance orders on 6 to 10 sets I could make them at a reasonable figure and present them nicely in a good portfolio. While I was at Chichen, Mr. Wheeler was there, and of-course I wondered if he was preparing a Middle American exhibition for the Museum. I hope so, you will do wonders with it.

The Rio Grande job is my real effort and I have new work for it that I hope you will like. I wish I might bring it in to you to discuss with you.

I am wondering also if I would be eligible to compete for the fund you announced some months ago, to help me finish this book in the manner I so desire. I will gladly send you as many prints as you wish to see that are ready for it. It is being a very exciting undertaking, pulling to-gether things that will make a unified whole and I am very full of the maner in which I can bring in all the main historical events of this our oldest part of the country.

I have an appartment here in Santa Fe and an adequate work room and it seems the logical place for me to be until Rio Grande is finished.

This brings my kindest regards to you and Mr. Newhall and to Paul Strand when you see him.

Most sincerely

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book was definately ^{the} on agenda when I saw you, but Hastings House is doing this as a companion piece to The Pueblos and I trust that it will be a far superior job of reproduction. This books will be ready to go in a about two weeks.

Both books are taking me much longer than I had expected for it will be early next year before I can possibly have the Rio Grande ready to send to Duell, Sloan & Pearce. They have seen a good part of what has already been done and seem well satisfied and have granted me time to finish properly.

Looking ahead for the next six months I know that I shall have to reimburse my bank account somehow or else stop and slave at portraiture for a while, and I am thinking of what I have at the moment that could bring in returns. I have been wondering if there are Museums which would be interested in a portfolio of prints of Chichen Itza. I have covered it pretty completely now and have in all about 100 prints. The original negatives are 5x7 owing to transportation difficulties, and most of these I have enlarged to 11x14 as the subject matter calls for prints of a larger size. The 1932 prints have been extensively shown in Museums all over the country, and now I have added the great Ball Court which when I was first there was in the process of reconstruction. ^{etc} Would you be so kind as to give me your advice about this? I can pre-

as well as the new material