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FROM THE OFFICES OF THE
EDITORIAL WORKSHOP
1270 SIXTH AVE.
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NEW YORK CITY 20

Miss Laura Gilpin
Box 1173
Santa Fe, New Mexico

Dear Miss Gilpin:

I am delighted to hear from you again (you may recall we used one of your pictures of Mesa Verde in 1947), and to have a chance to compliment you upon Rio Grande, River of Destiny. I'm sorry to say I know your region less well than almost any in the country, but if I should ever get there I won't feel the need of an introduction.

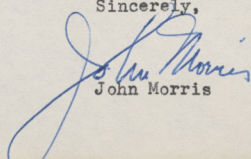
I'll be glad to do what I can in finding a market for your story. My own experience is limited to Life and the Journal, and I don't feel it will find a place in either one, so I am going to ask the advice of an agent about other media. If you are allergic to any of the established agencies please let me know at once; if not I'll use my discretion.

Actually I am not too hopeful about this particular story as it stands. It is not the fault of the subject - certainly the oldest religious ceremony in the United States is worthy of mention. But the pictures convey to me (a non-Catholic but not disinterested) neither any intense emotional feeling nor any sense of pageantry. The black and white should convey the former, the color the latter, but they do not (to me). The black and white does not come close enough to faces to convey the mood of piety. Perhaps it is not there, but if not then faces full of boredom, or whatever, would have been even more noteworthy.

As for the color - it is not the rich religious folk art of the southwest which I have seen in the Index of American Design, and therefore I am disappointed. But I feel that it might be possible to remedy this, even now. For example, I would think the final color shot of La Conquistadora would be ever so much more effective if you had used only the light of the altar candles. Perhaps this is impossible, but one of the functions of a picture editor is to ask for the impossible. And with this I shall shut up before you tear my letter up. Dave Scherman should have warned you about this aspect of me.

In any event, I repeat, it's a pleasure, and you'll hear from me again after I've had a talk with one of the agents.

Sincerely,


John Morris

JM/jcr