

May 15, 1951

Mr. Charles Kerlee,
146 East 56th St.,
New York, 22
New York.

Dear Mr. Kerlee:-

I sent off the last batch of negatives in a big hurry to get them to you by this morning and I scarcely know what I had finally gotten. I feel as though I had never been so thwarted by the weather in my life. But a dead line can certainly make you feel that way. I went up to the ranch again early yesterday morning knowing that the only hope was work before those dust storms come up. The early light didn't last long, and had the car come up three quarters of hour earlier I could have had more negatives to send you. As it was it began again to cloud up by nine A.M. It doubtless seems to you that I should have been farther back in all these efforts. The reason was that there was always something to block it. Trees or a drop in the contour of the land that put me too low. I found it surprisingly difficult to find all the combinations at one site. The right turn in the road to put the car at the right angle in relation to the background.

I didn't want to take time over the telephone to explain just what I meant by moving farther away. I meant moving the whole works a mile or more down the valley to get farther away from the cliffs and consequently dropping them. I intended to do that if I had another opportunity to work that first location, but it would have meant making a short piece of road. Then that first site was only possible in the afternoon light as the moving would have meant turning the car around which could have put the steering wheel on the far side.

On this last lot I was again as far away as possible from the car to be where the road could be seen at all unless I used an elevation which would have been looking down on the car too much. Also I used charcoal as you suggested but the wind ended that in a hurry.

I did the cliff shot without the car early while we were waiting for it. Perhaps you can use it with the action of one of the others. I did several also in another direction but there were two difficulties, one the rearing horse turned too much in every one, and the car was too much back lighted.

I enclose two color shots to show you what it is all

like in color.

I cannot tell you how I appreciate the cooperation on the part of the Miles Motor Co. (Mr. J. Wade Miles) in sending a new car out three times, and also Mr. Vance and his help. I know that he would like a 16x20 print of one or two of the pictures I made for him up there last year. These I shall make for him. I have still two more color shots to process and I hope one will be suitable for the Motor Company. The sales man was very anxious to be in one, so I did one yesterday which will I hope be satisfactory.

I enclose herewith two transparencies , one very under-timed in the dark sky of the second attempt, but I did get the color of the car right. I also enclose releases on the part of Mr. Vance and the cowboy. Also some poor reproductions of some color things I did up there last year.

I do appreciate your calling me on this and I only hope I got something that you can use. The breaks were certainly bad. There is a strange atmospheric disturbance going on. To the east of us, in eastern Colorado and western Kansas there was a deluge (8 in) of rain which has blocked all traffic. Here there is dust and wind in all my equipment, my eyes and hair and my feelings! To-day is bad again. 350 days out of the year I should have been able to execute this in one day. But.... its results no matter what that count.

With best wishes,

dustily yours