

August 15,
1951

Dear David,

Thanks a million for your letter and the inquiry. First, my congratulations on LITERARY AMERICA. That is fine. I will be getting my copy as I am a member of the BOTMC. Yes indeed, I saw your things in LIFE and was delighted with them. You surely did cover the country. I liked particularly the plow against the sky. Every time I go out anywhere in this region I find myself surrounded with round red hills and wonder why I was so slow in directing you to them. My Navaho book comes slowly. Why do I always bite off the hard ones? Leonard McCombe's book is due out soon. When I heard about it I went to see Dr. Kluckhohn to see if I should retire. He went over my outline and pictures to date and said don't think of giving it up there is very little overlap and none that matters. My chief difficulty at present is lack of funds and it seems to take almost all my time to keep going. So I should welcome a sale to HOLLIDAY.

As I wored you yesterday, nearly all my good things are in New York. I have been having some communication with a Norman Ross in Dailas. I wanted to see my color things. I sent them to him and he sent them on to New York. I am just about to go off on another Navaho lap. this time to Canyon de Chelly. I have been preparing to do a lot of color. My question is how long will I have? I shall be out until Sept 7th. I am processing all my own color now so can send in very quickly after I return. I could have them done at this new place in New York, but I hate to submit anything at least until I have seen it. I should love an excuse to go over to the north rim of the Grand Canyon.

I expect to leave here Sunday. Would you be so good as to send me a collect wire giving me a date by when you must have material? I have some good Navaho things which I am saving for just the right outlet, and also until a get sets of separation negatives made, as they are things from which I intend to make prints. These are both 4x5 and Medalist. Am working for a possible lecture and building up a set of Navaho projection slides. Therefore I have not yet released any Navaho material. Also I am to have a color frontispiece in the book, and no decision yet on that.

By this time you must be proud father. My congratulations. With my best wishes to you three.