

May 25, 1951

Mr. Gordon M. Wilbur,
N.W. AYER & SON, Inc.
West Washington Square,
Philadelphia, Pa.

Dear Mr. Wilbur:-

Your letter reached me yesterday evening, and I am very glad indeed that my end of this job with Mr. Kerlee was satisfactory. It was too bad that the weather made three tries necessary, and as has turned out three days later it would have been easy. It looks as though this long and sever drought is breaking up. Water has been severely rationed here in the city and lawns and gardens have suffered badly. We have had one good rain ending in snow, and a couple of showers since, so we hope things are taking a better turn.

For many years I have hoped that something could be worked out in the way of collaboration between east and west. We have such wonderful country out here that should be utilized pictorially. The trend of the moment looks promising for such collaboration. I have noticed a number of advertisements recently using western scenery ofr background, and I can promise you that I could keep you going for a long time to come with great variety. I do wish you would come out and let me take you on an inspection trip of "back country". As landscape has always been my greatest source of photographic delight and effort, I know it pretty thoroughly in this section of the west from Wyoming to Arizona. In the event that you have not seen it, I am sending you a copy of my RIO GRANDE. I got the contract for this book shortly after I saw you in Philadelphia in 1945. After two very strenuous years as chief public relations photographer at Boeing Airplane Co at Wichita Kansas, this was my reaction to get out of doors as completely as possible. The book was a huge undertaking but a wonderful one to work on. I am at present at work on a Navaho book, but I shall be more than glad to do work for you whenever it comes along.

I am also sending you the catalogue of the Ghost Ranch where I made these pictures for you. If you want a wonderful vacation, like horseback riding, etc. you would enjoy it there. While I am responsible for the color post cards, the catalogue is an older one, and I hope to do a new one for the new managers in the coming

year. It is a marvelously beautiful place.

I do hope that you will be able to come out to see for yourself some of this wonderful country and I hope that I may be your officia guide. But I warn you that there is quite a colony of Philadelphians here in Santa Fe, who never went home! Among them the retired heads of the Shipley School in Bryn Mawr who are very good friends of mine.

I sent in my expense account to Mr. Kerlee several days ago and as for my own bill, I leave that entirely up to him and to you. I should like to do more work for you and you are the best judges of its worth to you.

Hoping that I may be of further service to you, I am

Very truly yours,