

May 26, 1952

Mr. Albert Kornfeld,
House & Garden,
420 Lexington Ave.,
New York City, N.Y.

Dear Mr. Kornfeld:-

Miss E. Boyd of the New Mexico Museum called on me last week for the color photograph you wish of the Santos for your forthcoming Southwest issue. She told me that you very definitely wanted the Santos just as they were. I quite appreciate what you wish in the way of a picture but the little cupboards present bad problems for the photographer. First the space occupied by the figures is too nearly square. Second it is impossible to get anything but a straight on lighting. This gives the problem of the white wall not being white enough if the figures are held with richness of color.

I have been down at the Museum again to-day and I have found another white brick wall similar to that in the cubbyholes. This wall is situated where I can get lights from either side and also where I can direct one light onto the wall and not onto the figures. I know that I can make a much more interesting picture with a more modeled light giving third dimension and illuminating the background.

Herewith are two transparencies which I made last Friday. I feel sure that you will see what my problem is. I want to make them over and produce a really good picture for you. If this is to be a cover picture, would you not prefer it in 8x10? In any event will you advise the space required for your lettering etc., sending me a rough sketch of it and I can arrange the figures to fit without losing in any way the effect as you saw them in the cubbyhole. This is wonderful material to work with, and I do want to do it justice.

I was sorry not to see you when you were here. I have other material of the true Southwest character, both in black & white and color and I hope that I may have the opportunity to do other things for you as well. I shall send you in a few days material I have on hand of Mrs. Thompson's house and furniture for your consideration.

In the meantime, I am very anxious to remake the Santos picture to your satisfaction as well as to my own. With best wishes, I am

Sincerely yours,