

February 12
1952

Mr. Beaumont Newhall,
George Eastman House,
Rochester, N.Y.

Dear Beaumont:-

At very long last I have all my to date Navaho material ready to submit to the Wenner-Gren Foundation with a petition for a grant-in-aid to complete it. Time is a moving factor in my request for this as changes are coming so rapidly on the reservation. This plus the fact that the constant delay when I must stop to earn sufficient funds to continue is making the work drag much too much. Such a grant would enable me finish the job and have the material with D.S.&P. by April first of next year for publication in the fall.

I must present four letters of recommendation. The petition is going in through The Indian Arts Fund, an organization here with which I am affiliated. As I understand it, the Foundation prefers grants through an institution or organization. One letter will come from them. One from Dr. Kluckhohn who suggested my applying for this grant and who knows my work with the Navaho. I am wondering if you would do the same for me from the point of view of photography? Please be very frank and tell me if either you do not wish to or if there is any policy in your present position that would prevent your doing so. I cannot remember how much Navaho material you saw last fall. I have prepared about 100 prints, now mounted in tow lodge leaf books ready to go in. I have some more typing to do and will hold the books until I hear from you. If you wish me to send them to you to see, I shall be very happy to do so and then you can send them on. Cap Pearce wants to see them also and I am planning to have them go to him and Charles and then they deliver them to Mr. Fejos. I am asking for the maximum grant for the reason that I have found that I can obtain some ceremonial material for a fee, and it has to be a pretty good one. Then I want to get in to two or three remote regions which will mean pack trips. All costly.

There is still a great deal to do to complete the book, but if I were free to give full time to it, I could certainly pull it through.

Since you were here it seems as though I haven't stopped for a moment. First moving, getting my new darkroom built and working, Christmas work, and getting all this Navaho material ready, has had me very much on the go. I have two or three things from Aspen, that I have hopes for, but as yet have not had a moment to work on them. Once I get this Navaho business off, I shall get to them.

Your article on the Conference was fine. Am looking forward to next year no end. I have been wanting to write something on the subject of picture organization which the journalists seem to know so little of! That is where Cartier-Bresson has them all beat, I think. I firmly believe that serious picture organization can be done with quick as well as still. Hope to prove my point on the Navaho. Both ways.

It is very pleasant to think of you and Nancy in the position you now occupy and I look for big things from you for our photography.

My very best to you both,

Most sincerely