

December 3
1953

Mr. Raymond Carlson,
ARIZONA HIGHWAYS
Phoenix, Arizona

Dear Mr. Carlson:-

All this past fall I have been hoping to find myself on the road to Phoenix, but somehow I seem always to be pressed with work that keeps me out until I have to come home. But at long last the Navaho book is really taking shape and I hope to meet my deadline by April first. And this leads to something I do want to discuss with you, and I hope I may do so in person before too long. I have a great deal of Navaho material in color as well as all my black and white for the book. I am planning a possible lecture set of slides which is my reason for using the 2 1/2 x 3 1/4. I have some 150 slides now which will of course have to cut but I should like to show you the set and if there are any you wish to use, you have the first look at them. A possible story with pictures is in my mind on the Navaho trading post. Before very many years the old traders will be a thing of the past. Enclosed with the transparencies in this package is one of the pawn room at the Bernard Post at Shiprock. I shall use the black and white of this in the book, but of course it cries for color. I should like to do this story for you if you would be interested in it. I shall be going out on the reservation for some winter things soon after Christmas and could get more material for this, and I should need time on this as the book must be finished first. But I want to suggest this possibility to you now.

The transparencies enclosed are mostly from my last trip this fall. I was up at Navaho Mountain. Mrs. Eubank told me that you had long wanted something on the Long Salt family. I have a picture of five generations from the old lady (she is wonderful) down to a two year old, all the daughters of the family. There could be several pictures for this group. After Christmas I shall get them together. The landscapes are of Navaho Mountain, Navaho Canyon in two directions, and one of Tsegi. The latter I found close to a hogan where I had gone for some special material. There was practically no road. Perhaps a hundred yards from the ~~XXXXXXXX~~ hogan was the rim of the Canyon, and a fine cave which had a small ruin in it. I have not yet had

time to go up to the Park Service to check on what ruin this is. It is up the Canyon a few miles above the Betatakin Canyon.

Also in this group of transparencies are two old subjects, but I hope with a new angle. The Betatakin showing the whole arch from inside, and a new angle on Monument Valley.

The 2½x3½ slides are from my Navaho set, but I do not need them for the moment at least. All from the Wupatki-Sunset Crater area. I got a tremendous kick out of that superb black soil with the fall colors. And one of the striking things of that area is the sudden change to the red at Wupatki itself. I hope some of this set will appeal to you.

A number of my best 4x5s I want to have in my slide series, and will have to make duplicates in the smaller size. I hope to get at this very soon and then send the originals on to you.

Ansel's Navaho portrait is a fine color photograph, only I don't like artificial light on these people who belong in sunlight! And I never saw a Navaho woman hold her hands like that! Ansel may not like my criticism but we are good friends and I would tell him the same thing.

With best wishes to you for the coming holidays, I am

Very sincerely yours,