

2217 Elm Street
Denver 7, Colorado
September 8, 1954

Dear Miss Gilpin:

Thanks for returning "Pen Magazine." I am glad that you found my story interesting.

Of course, the wrong date of New Mexico entering the Union was a typographical error, which slipped by as things sometimes do.

Regarding the Upper, Middle and Lower Rio Grande I am afraid that you got the wrong slant. This reported account came out of Mesilla, and the part that had never been navigated was the part from Santo Domingo to Mesilla which the newspaper of 1874, itself called the Upper Rio Grande, undoubtedly to distinguish it from that portion of the river below Mesilla, which, as I understand had been navigated. It was a section of a River in New Mexico that was being considered.

I, too, try to be very careful about historical data. However, it has been my observation that people being only human, and the best of research in our western U. S. somewhat scattered, that new things are constantly coming to light that upset or must be added to the old.

*signed probably
from Santa Fe.*
You asked how long it took my father and his friend to make the trip. 20 days running time, and a total of 30 days; the extra ten days being spent in sketching, etc in towns near or not too far from the river. This, also from the Mesilla newspaper account, as well as from personal knowledge as my father often told the story when I was growing up.

No, I know nothing about the name "McGuffin!" My father was part Irish descent, and had visited Ireland when studying art in Europe. I thought the association of terms came from that. I am sure that I would enjoy reading the diary of Susan McGuffin. Thank you for telling me about it.

The happenings on the Rio Grande this year, give us a little idea of how terrible the River could be in the early days when it ran wild and free, sweeping everything before it.

With kind regards, I am

Sincerely yours,

Kate Howland Charles

KHC/pm

*The drawing from Harper's was not by
my father. KHC*