

August 16
1954.

Dear Mrs. Cahrls,

Your letter the copy of PMN reached me several weeks ago and I have been wanting time to answer and tell you how much I appreciate your sending this on to me.

Of-course I am greatly interested in your account. It makes an interesting and historic account, though there are a few items with which I cannot agree. You have written it well, and it makes a vivid story. While I was working on my RIO GRANDE I became a great stickler for accurate facts and statistics. If you will pardon my correcting a few of these just for your own information. This New Mexican section of the river is the Middle Rio Grande, so listed by government offices. The Upper Rio Grande, the section in Colorado. The distance from Santo Doming to Bernalillo cannot possibly be more than 15 miles by river. It is only 44 miles from Santa Fe, and Domingo is nearly 30 from here. I would be interested to know if the Pueblo was right on the bank of the river in 1874. It certainly isnt now. It has interested me greatly to read your account of the river between Socorro and Las Cruces. Ofcourse the building of both Elephant Butte and Caballo reservoirs have so completely changed the river that it is hard to imagine what it was like before. And also in 1874 with little irrigation in the upper river region there was much more water flowing through the midstream section. According to all the information I know and could find New Mexico was made a state in 1912, not 1916. And I wonder how your father and his friend were in making the trip? Did the name McGuffin have anything to do with the McGoffin family, who eventually settled in El Paso. Have you ever read the diary of Susan McGoffin? You would enjoy it, I know.

There is some story about General Sibly attempting to bring artillery up the river by boat at the time of the civil war. The story about the ships' anchors in Taos is to this effect. I must hunt that up.

Paul Horgan's GREAT RIVER will finally be published this fall. Two volumes. He has doubtless found many interesting stories of all the early days. I am looking forward to it no end. With many thanks to you and best wishes, I am