

April 16,
1955.

Miss Darline Bekkedal,
Washington, D.C.

Dear Miss Bekkedal:-

I should have written to you several days ago, but I've been catching up on work and days have gone by before I knew it.

I trust that everything has reached you in good tin and good order. I should have told you that the hard mounted print of the airshot of Canyon de Chelly was damaged when it was shown somewhere else. It evidently fell and was scratched. I just didn't have time to make a new print. It would mean a lot to me to see the show up and see how well it covers the subject matter and how the prints look on the wall. One always learns a lot this way and frequently changes are suggested. However, the way things have worked out it was just impossible for me to come. It now looks as though I shall be in Washington in early October.

Should the Washington papers want to use a print for reproduction, anything could be rephotographed for this purpose only, with the exception of the Yeibichai night picture. This I want to hold without any reproduction as it is my most unusual one. As far as I have been able to learn, such a thing has never been photographed before. By far the hardest thing on this whole job has been the building up of human relations to the point where I have

such permission given. No one knows how long it takes to build this all up. Many of the pictures have taken two, three and even more trips and visits to finally win through. On several I have made two and three trips of 500 miles to get one picture! Not very practical but all a necessary part of the picture as far as this book goes, and it all has to be right, no "set ups" and as complete in the Navaho story as is possible.

I shall anxiously await the verdict on this show from all of you. In a way it will be a test for the book.

I have told my young photogra her cousin, Howard Allen to look you up and to more or less take my place to-morrow. He is very keen about photography, is working in it, and I am delighted that there is another one in my more or less immediate family. His mother is my Gilpin first cousin. And I hope she will be in Washington sometime while the show is up.

My greetings to all of you, and with best wishes

Very sincerely