

June 15, 1957.

Miss Frances L. Koltun,
575 Madison Ave.,
New York 22,
New York.

Dear Miss Koltun:-

The eight photographs went off to you yesterday by air mail, special delivery so you should receive them the first thing Monday morning. I didn't have time to get this off at the same time, but it should also reach you Monday.

I hope this statement will be sufficient on "Why I live here"! These are the pros, the cons somehow become submerged.

Will you be so good as to return the prints you do not use. It was a pleasure to meet you and have such a nice visit with you in which I fear, I did most of the talking. But when people are sympathetic to the country and the place that is a natural sequence.

With best wishes,

Sincerely yours,

WHY I LIVE IN NEW MEXICO

My choice of a place to live has been New Mexico for several reasons. As a photographer, the work I like most to do is landscape, and here in New Mexico we have much of the most beautiful and varied landscape in the whole country. I love the big open spaces, the rich forms of contour, the magical light of this land, the limitless sky, and the delicate or rich play of color. In addition to all this, New Mexico contains our oldest history, not only our oldest history of European origin, but also the cultural past of the North American Indian, dating back hundreds of centuries. Here too, we have to-day a fusion of cultures, the Indian, the Spanish-American, and our own. Each is influenced by the others, and from this fusion is developing, a new American culture. We see it in the work of the painters, in architecture, in sculpture, in the crafts, in literature. We feel here the deep roots of long past centuries. Once this is imbedded in one's consciousness, other parts of the country seem shallow by comparison. Here one has time to think, to give time to the ripening of expression. To me this all adds up to a richer life, a life where unessentials are cast aside, and the genuine has a chance to emerge.

June 15

Navaho woman and child in summer shelter. During the summer months, the Navaho People erect simple shelters covered with branches of dried leaves or of evergreens. These shelters make delightfully cool places for out-door living and for work such as weaving etc.

Two Navaho matriarchs wearing traditional Navaho dress. Cotton skirt, velveteen blouse and always jewelry. Silver buttons adorn the collar and front of the blouse. Necklaces of turquoise, wampum (shell) coral, or of silver are always worn.

A young Navaho mother.

A Navaho Weaver seated at her loom under a summer shelter. The wool is hand spun and dyed with native vegetable dyes. Navaho weavers never follow a pattern. The design is in their minds and they need no indication for change of color or pattern.

A young Navaho shepherd watching his sheep.

Navaho Women returning home from a trip to the nearest trading post.

A Navaho Grandmother

Full Navaho dress of 1932 period.