

July 25,  
1959

Dear Margaret & Nat:-

At long last your proofs are ready for the mail to-morrow morning. I decided to send you proof prints rather than the fadable variety so that I could make the series more uniform and also somewhat test the negatives. I sincerely hope you will find things you like. I could only see your place as a WHOLE, and setting a prime factor, with as much of the beautiful detail as I was able to get in so short a time. The whole place was so stimulating and offered so much in the way of pictures that I probably lost my head and ran around like a dervish!

The interior color proofs will both yield excellent enlarged colorprints. If you want to see a final print of another job I can send two or three out, but I am quite sure of these. Color is so very much a part of your place. And strangely the difference between the wood and the concrete inside seems slight in black and white. The color of course shows it. The pressed wood texture into the concrete makes it look so much like wood in the black and whites. Any or all of the small color things also will yield good color enlargements in spite of the excess blue in the proofs. I had no opportunity to test your California light for color balance, but these are within the range of correction. I am enclosing a yellow color correction filter and if you will look at these through the filter you can judge how they will look when properly printed. All of the black and whites will make good final prints with correct values and contrasts.

Two good things have come my way since I came home. One a job to make a lot of color things for a special edition of LaFarge's AMERICAN INDIAN. The Southwest section of-course. But the most important, a visit from a literary agent who had heard about my Navaho book and called to see it. Wants to handle it. Is talking in terms of one of the four best publishers in the U.S. Wants to take it to Europe for printing and a big European edition at the same time. He came to see me twice. No commitments on either side yet. He told someone else "She will have to finish it in her own way and own time"! He "got" my number I take it. And again, my trip to California certainly clarified my mind about the whole book. Dorothea Lange



Lango's suggestions first and then Nat, you put my mind to work on the "First Man and First Woman" picture, (Corn and Feathers), when you said you wished I could end with it. About ten days ago, after mulling who to end the book for the 1000th time, I suddenly clicked and now wonder how I could have been so dumb. I have moved the "Tradition" section to the last, following the contemporary, and this makes it possible to end with the Yeibichai picture, then as a tailpiece, the corn and feathers again. THANK YOU. Tradition is still going on and is the essence of the Navaho, and ofcourse with this section last, it completes the circle. Now the sleeves are rolled up, and I shall be hard at it. From now on, the hours from 8 A.M. to 12 are dedicated to the typewriter. Photography has to come in the afternoon. It won't take too long once I am really in the swing. I needed a big push and a fresh point of view and to you and Dorothea I will be ever grateful.

It has been very hot and dry here until three days ago and now the summer rains have begun. My garden suffered while I was away but is coming back to life now.

For your convenience I mounted the proofs on some simple mounts so that I could make some notes and you can too. I hope that I have gotten the angles and views that you like.

And once again it was wonderful to have such a stimulating time with you. I hope I didn't wear you out.

Affectionately

Indeed Dr. Hausner's death is a great loss to his many friends and patients and to the town.