

Nov. 3.
1959

Mr. Mitchel A. Wilder,
Chouinard Art Institute,
Los Angeles, California.

Dear Mitch:-

It was a great pity that letters just didn't connect right while I was in California. Yours sent to my cousin must have reached her about an hour after I left for Carmel. She forwarded it to Mrs. Owings at Big Sur where I should have received it. For some reason the postoffice at Big Sur returned it to my cousin who sent it to me here at home. Maybe just as well. Now there it a long list of happenings to report. I arrived home on July 4th. We had a quarterly meeting of the I.A.F. on the 9th. At that meeting I learned from Dr. Chapman's report that the Director of the Museum had directed that the Lab. be open on Saturday and Sunday afternoons. This order, the first time ever. Now all the staff is away at this time and one girl had been put at the desk with instructions not to leave it. She had gotten a call from down town that 6 bus loads of people were on their way to the Lab. Chap was asleep in his room. She called him and he went down to the pottery room. The bus loads arrived, and when they came down stairs Chap noticed that they began feeling everything. He started to say "please do not handle" when he saw a badge and on getting close enough to see it found that this was a convention of blind people. He talked to them guided their feeling of the pots (there were 60 odd people) and apparently on the whole enjoyed talking to them. BUT** suppose Chap. had not been there. 60 blind people moving about in the pottery room with all those big pots on the floor-- the people were of course being conducted but I felt that we had had a narrow escape from damage. Following the meeting I went up to see Wendorf. Found he was in Taos for the summer. Stanley had been sent for excavation at Quarai. No one seemed to be in charge. I called down town, the director was out of town. So for the following week end and for the rest of the summer, I called on volunteer help from members of the I.A.F. We took turns being up there from 1 to 5 P.M. each Saturday and Sunday. It was an interesting experience. The days I was there there were many visitors, all very interested. But one day the small child of

one group whose parents were in the other room, tried to get into one of the big pots. I stopped her just in time. Another day, three boys 12 or more, came down one isle hitting every pot to make them ring until I stopped that. Fiesta week end I could get no help, and as Fred was back I asked him if he wouldnt close off the basement for that week end. He called me back to his office and said as a matter of fact he was considering closing off the basement permanently. Did I agree? I said I certainly did for Sat. & Sun. afternoons, but I had no authority to decide about a permanent close off, but I would ~~not~~ bring it up at a next board meeting which was due in less than two weeks. He next I heard was that he had gone to Mr Keller (Regent Chairman) and said I had agreed to closing the basement permanently. I want first to the Lab. Fred was again in Paos or somewhere. So I went straight to Mr. Keller. Had a very nice talk with him during which I asked him if he would come to the I.A.F. annual meeting a give us a talk on new policy by the new Board of Regents. We postponed the meeting as Mr. K. was leaving for three weeks. a told me he would be back on Oct. 20th so we looked at the calendar and set the I.A.F. meeting for the 22nd. He also told me that Dr. Hill and Mr. Seth had been assigned the Lab. as their special division, so I also asked them to come as well as Fred and Wayne. Unfortunately I received answers from Dr. Hill and Mr. Seth that neither could come. So after consulting some of the Board I arranged to have a tape recording of the meeting for them as well as for our own record. At the time of our affair for Nap last Feb. we had a good number of new members join the organization. Our annual meeting was well attended, over thirty. I might add here that during the past months I have had repeated reports that the Museum was going to get control of the I.A.F. Fred went so far as to say in the hearing of several that he would give the I.A.F. six months. ofcourse we have been considered the rebels since we endorsed your report. At a meeting of the board of the Archaeological society of which I am a member (I dont know why). Wayne saw my letter coming up to be read and excused himself as having appointments. Two others sat with heads down while the letter was read.

On Oct. 21st, I called Mr. Keller at 2 P.M. to see if he was all set for the next day. a was in conference. I left my name and number. Called again before 5 P.M. line busy. At six I began calling his house, and at 9, finally got him.

He said he had expected confirmation. He had a busy day the next day but would manage to come. It was all so definitely set in my understanding that I did not write him a letter, it did not occur to me that it was necessary. Doubtless I should have. We began the meeting at 3 P.M. Usual routine business, election of officers etc. At 3:40 still no Mr. Keller in sight. I filled in time by reporting for the record the Sat. & Sun. business at the Lab. etc. Mr. Keller arrived and gave a very blunt talk. The Museum would not handle loans with any strings attached, "any contract is obsolete in ten years" was one statement, people could apply to come to a regents meeting and the application would be considered, but no guarantee that it would be granted. As I found out later there were two who thought his talk "forthright and sound" everyone else was in a state of shock. There followed then further discussion about our relation to the Lab. which I have been trying to clarify. Stanley had been given orders that he was not to spend Museum time on I.A.F. I took Mrs. Hodge to see Fred with me, and he was asked about acquisitions he answered there was no room and that all such would have to be passed by him. We said Stanley was our curator he said "I am curator". Some of this came out in the meeting I do not remember the order of events right now. One statement by Fred which is of the utmost importance I think, was that the Lab. collection belongs to the School of A.R. (I have been trying to find this out for months) F. said he had a paper to that effect. Miss White got up and offered her Kennel building as a place to store the collection if we decided to remove it. I tried very hard to keep every thing from getting out of hand and no abrupt decision made right then. The following week Miss White asked me to call a special meeting of the Board. She again proposed removing the collection and offered the building and the cost of putting it in shape and also furnishing steel shelving. Before the meeting we had a committee meeting (I app. Meem, Watson, Stubbs, Nusbaum, Ellis) to work out a new contract. We went over the old one, made some changes. Fred went over these, and I took his version to this second meeting. John went over it clause by clause. It came to a vote. To remove the collection or to try for a new contract on terms not to exceed two years, preferably one. We had been told in committee meeting that there were many new plans for display at the hall of ethnology that some I.A.F. material would go down. The Lab to be close except to research or very special visitors. When Miss White heard this

she was insistant that we remove the collection. Alice Howland joining her. I have left out one most important sequence, before this meeting at Miss Whites Stanley brought me his resignation from all activities in the I.A.F. There had been much rumor that Fred was going to ask for resignation of all staff members. He was asked I am sure by some what about all the other affiliated organizations. So Stanley has been the goat. No one else has been asked to resign.

I was very much upset by this and I dont think I handled this meeting very well. Any way as matters now stand we are working on this contract. John was going to call another meeting for last Saturday and just the day before some one came up to tell me "I hope the I.A.F. is not in a hurry about signing a new contract until certain events are made public". So with this warning I have stalled I dont think John liked it. But I do not want to make a grave mistake here. I have repeatedly brought out in both meetings "do we want the I.A.F. Collection to get into politics?". I am always more or less laughed off at this, but I promise you there is so much intrigue going on that I cannot stand it. Miss White left for New York two days after the meeting at her house. I saw her again the next day. I told her that I had no idea what it would cost to move the collection nor what other expenses we would have to meet. Knowing that now I would be shouldered with the responsibility of the move, I gave her every opportunity to give us greater financial support. The building offer and the apartment in order, and the shelving is as far as she has gone yet. Incidentally Mar. McCune is in New Orleans. I am writing to him. Since all this I am hearing more rumors of politics. I watched our treasurer taking notes during the meeting at Miss Whites, wanting to say "Sally we have an expert taking the minutes, you are welcome to go over them. There is simple addition to make of events in Santa Fe over the past 18 months and I see more or less what is in the cards.

Now what is a poor little chairman to do? I feel as though my efforts have resulted in lots of upset. My ONE AND ONLY CONSIDERATION is for the care and safety of the collection. The thought of another Museum in town seems one to stop and think about. The Navaho Museum is now calling for support. However with Miss White offer of a nucleus (the building could be remodeled wonderfully and enlarged, would we get any help elsewhere? Mar Mc. might help, I hate to split the collection, but what about the school collection joining ours???

Anyhow please think this all over and tell me what to do.