

Chouinard Art Institute

743 South Grand View Street, Los Angeles 57, California : Dunkirk 9-4138

March 16, 1959

Miss Laura Gilpin
Box #1173
Santa Fe, New Mexico

Dear Laura:

My apologies to you for failure to write before this late date, but as you must have gathered, I have been dashing frantically from one part of the country to another and in between having conversations with various members of the Santa Fe organization who have kept me posted on the latest activities but also have kept me somewhat off-base so far as decision-making was concerned.

I found your letter awaiting me in New York and along-side it were messages from Parker Wilson asking me to communicate with him. Unfortunately, Parker had departed from New York before I arrived and we were unable to get together. I did run into Paul Horgan at the hotel, however, and this was the occasion to sit down and have a very satisfactory and illuminating discussion on problems in Santa Fe generally. I talked with him about the advisability of sending on some type of information but came to the conclusion that this might be construed as an effort on my part to defend the Report. Actually, I feel that the Report was in the nature of an assignment on which I received full cooperation from the authorities in Santa Fe and all members of the staff as well. In other words, I have had my innings on the subject and it is for others to take action as to the pro's and con's of the recommendations. I do not wish anyone to feel that I am backing away from the Report or the recommendations that I have made, but rather that until I have been asked to comment upon the new ideas that have been proposed, it does not seem appropriate for me to take the grounds of defending the old recommendations. I did receive a copy of Ina Cassidy's article in the paper and thought she had done a very favorable article and one which pleased me very much. The information which she had was substantially correct and it was probably better that it was not too loaded with details and names. The inclination to drop names in such an article is very real, of course, and one that possibly would have done some good. However, I am inclined to think that any direct association to the Rockefeller organization is somewhat unfair because Mr. R. has exhibited his interest in Santa Fe on several occasions only to have it rejected. My belief

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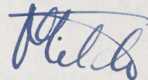
is that the only way to ever entice him back would be for Santa Fe to take direct action on its own. The "once-bitten, twice-shy" experience is bound to work to disadvantage at the present time. I know that the people in the office will be keeping an eye on developments in Santa Fe and will be interested to see what final organization is set up in answer to the problems of the Museum. The answer, as you see, must be in reply to the problems of the Museum and not in reply to the Report. After all, as I stated in the Report, there are many ways of interpreting the solutions and that the suggestions which I made were but one approach.

I do hope that you will not feel that I have passed over this matter lightly or willingly avoided backing up the recommendations which I have made. After discussing the matter with Paul Horgan, I felt that it was better to remain quiet and let other people do the arguing.

I received several copies of the Bills introduced into the Legislature and assume by this time that something has been passed. Did the Bill for establishment of a State records office get through? I think this is terribly important insofar as the Historical Society is concerned.

Please bring me up-to-date on the latest in Santa Fe.

Yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "M. Wilder".

Mitchell A. Wilder

MAW:had