

Jan. 11  
1969

Hi Ansel:-

A happy New Year to one and all. Your letter with check for \$50. came two or three days ago. That seems a lot for damaged mounts. Are you sure that much is coming to me? You seem to have a lot of Post Office trouble out there. I thought that Santa Fe was the worst on record, but maybe it has an equal. This brings me to the one thing that seriously concerns me. When I came out in June, I brought with me the negative of my Navaho Weaver. A 4x5. Virginia had asked for the use of it for a big print for the Navaho rug corner at the Shop. The day I went in to San Francisco I was in my cousin's car and of course forgot and left it in my suitcase at her house. So after I got home, ( I have a feeling I wrote you all about this) I mailed the negative to Don at your address. Knowing full well how hard it is to get around to extras, I thought nothing about it until sometime in November I thought I must write about it. Then I got up to the ears in work and here it is January. I am sure that I must have insured the envelope ( it would have been in a 5x7 envelope) and I must have the receipt here somewhere. I must get a special container for postal receipts. Am still wading down through the pile on my desk. But in the meantime didn't Don receive it, has the print been made and all if so may I have it back?

I am deciding that I am a very bad manager of my own affairs for my slowness in getting around to many things. I still haven't made a black & white print of anything I did in the Yosemite. But I think the best I did was color strangely enough. The best I did, according to my judgement was a little thing of a pink hollyhock (Bear Valley) sentled up against an old goat hide. I have a b&w also. I think back with pleasure over those hectic two weeks. I wish I could have a long talk with you about the whole program. You give a terrific lot in that short time. I only wish it could be expanded and include not only other techniques but picture analysis and picture organization. I know full well how hard it is to get started on a class. I used to have a small dept. of Photography at the Art Center in Colorado Springs. And I marvel that you give as much as you do in so short a time. But to me the crying need in photography today is picture organization.

I am sure there are many who do not see eye to eye with me on this, but I believe that working out definite problems in design trains the eye and teaches one to see things quickly when they do happen. Aside from the scientific technique of photography itself there is a whole field of another technique, and the ultimate goal is combining the two plus that extra something else that is hard to define and analyze.

So much for my ramblings. Please let me hear about the negative soon. And as for Polaroid, 4x5 film would be fine to have if Polaroid wants to send it. Bill Field sent me some of the new fast film and a wink light. He wants some stuff for his little magazine. Now I do not have a polaroid camera. I traded mine in on the 4x5 back. I use this quite a bit. On an architectural job this fall I sued it on everything I did and had a set of proofs to show before I left the spot. I just haven't had time to sit down or rather stand up on work on some real prints with it. Will try before long and send you something you can send in if you wish.

My very best to one and all, Virginia, Gerry, Don and you. Isn't it time you came riding into town?