

August 26
1961

Dear Ansel:-

Such a time as I seem to have had getting our various photographers together. Just the day after the article appeared in the paper here about the possibility of your having a workshop here, I talked to both Elliot and Todd. We were to get together in the next few days to discuss it. The next thing I knew, both had gone off on a trip with Georgia. Not yet back. I think it is awful that you haven't heard from us, but perhaps you have heard from one or both of them individually. I think we were all a bit uncertain from the paper article as to whether we were to contribute in any way or is this just on your own. Perhaps you don't want any one else involved. But anyway as far as my thinking goes I would love to see you do it. All of us seemed to feel by telephone that it was too late to do anything this year. We are doubtful as to how many local students would show up.

I have always dreamed of a school here, though a somewhat longer course etc. than a two weeks workshop. A school where there would be two or three so called instructors (an out of date term). Somewhat along the line of the original Clarence H. White school.

Last year, I was asked by a local semi-serious amateur to have a small group. I said I would be delighted if they could get eight people. That was all I ever heard about it. Then Todd tells me he had very little response to a free "clinic" he started shortly after his arrival here. You of course would bring a big following from parts near and far, and you have the operation technique all at your fingers' tips. Well, regardless of the others I say more power to you. I would be flattered if you wanted me for a helper, but perhaps my way of working wouldn't agree with what you want to present. No hard feelings if you don't want me.

I dont think I half told you how beautiful your part of THIS IS THE AMERICAN EARTH is. Your aspen is a beauty and as are many many others. The continuity and format bother me a bit, but this is a minor criticism. And I am delighted that it is selling so well.

Things have been the usual busy for me. Much work at small pay and the circle I dont seem to be able to break. But perhpas I will one of these days soon. I have beenwout a typewriter for a month. Just broke down and bought a new one. Not yet used to it as it has a good many differences. I am clearing the decks now to get at my Navaho book text in great earnest. Am going to breeze over for the Window Rock Fair and get my slef into the feel again and then pull all my notes and thoughts together. Also the hotel in Yucatan wants me to do a small book on Uxmal, so here I go with two. And speaking of Yucatan, the director of the Folk Art has "resigned" as of Dec. 1st. Has already left town. This eases my feelings greatly. I am really sorry for the man. He has a lot of ability along certain lines but not for that particular kind of job. But I feel as though I had thrown away a lot of time I cant afford to loose.

Dozens of negatives still unprinted. Ofcourse all the work at the ruins is my own, so I concentrate on that. Never have I gone into a project with higher hope or greater entheusiasm, and the whole miserable buisness has taken a lot out of me. But I am riviving and back on a harder hitting pace than when you were here.

I wish I had had more time to take Jerry places, but I was just on a spot for work that had tobe done. She certainly has great talent and I look forward to following her work.

My very best greetings and do let me hear from you about any plans for here. My long delay in writing doesnt mean I am not interested, just my usual difficulty in completing the day's work.

And my best to all