

[1962?]

LAURA GILPIN



PHOTOGRAPHER

Box 1173 • Santa Fe, New Mexico

Monday A.M.

Dear Mitch:-

I am glad to hear that you were really impressed with the Indian Institute-enough to forget me and my tome. The Institute is to my way of thinking the biggest thing ever to come to Santa Fe. Lots of things are beginning to jell right now as the first short year is coming to a close. My own job there will be finished this week and then I will be off for the very last things on the reservation. I will need this dummy with me, so I hope you can send it right back after you show it. You may be interested in something that happened yesterday. Rose Benally, the Biology honor student whose portrait I have in here, came up from Albuquerque with her sister. They spent the night on a mattress on the floor of our living room. After breakfast they spent three hours going over the dummy, reading every word I have so far. As Rose closed the book she said with a sigh, "this is the third time I have looked at this." It seems to fill a need in her life. Both girls asked how soon it would be published, what the price would be and both want copies. Adding this to much else, I predict a large sale to the Navaho themselves. They would put it on sale at the Arts and crafts building, at the motels, etc. I believe they would take 5000. at a guess. I will feel this out when I go over Gallup and the Ceremonial will be another important outlet in this part of the world. Nancy Lane (Villagra book shop here) told me the other day that she will place her order for 200 copies sight unseen. I HAVE GOT TO GET IT FINISHED! Any more research I need to do I will do at the Indian Institute rather than the Lab. They have all the B.A.E.s

I wish this dummy was in better shape and complete. No spotting has been done and some of the proofs are on that very poor proof paper: I am in the process of replacing them. Also the last two sections are not in any final arrangement, there is much to select from.

Good luck and it was grand to have a good visit with you.

MITCHELL WILDER