

5146 Oakwood Ave.
La Canada, Calif.
March 7, 1962

Dear Laura Gilpin:

Many thanks for your letter, and for the formulas for making platinotypes. I remember I owe you a formula, and here it is:

Compensating, hi-acutance developer:

Catechol (10% sol.)	20 cc
Sodium hydroxide (10% sol.)	10 cc
Water to make	1 litre

Use at 68°. I find I can get negative printable on normal paper with condenser enlarger with about 8 minutes development for both Panatomic-X and Plus-X. This may be a bit on the soft side for some subjects, so you could try a longer time. It is interesting that longer times do not cause the highlights to block, and I have had very printable negatives when I've developed normal contrast subjects as long as 14 minutes. The longer developing times help greatly to step up contrast of flat subjects without seriously impairing the quality of contrasty stuff on the same roll. You can see why I am very fond of this developer. The quality with Panatomic, enlarged on Medalist (developed in Amidol and toned slightly with selenium -- also Benzotriazole in the developer--) is something wonderful to behold.

Incidentally, throw the film developer out after each use. It doesn't keep and is very cheap anyway. I make about 200 cc of stock solutions at a time and they keep a good month if I need them that long. The catechol gets a little discolored after a while, but seems to have no serious effect, but I suppose if it ever got really dark I'd throw it out. But for practical purposes make a month's supply.

Ward Ritchie Press will write to Mr. Forrest shortly about the exhibit. Your help here is much appreciated.

Also they will be writing to you about the Navajo book, about which they are very enthusiastic and I do hope you can get together on it.

Well, you flatter me so generously I am bound to come through Santa Fe more often! Anyhow, I now normally get there three times a year. I wish I lived there! I really think Santa Fe is second only to the Garden of Eden. Believe me, if my book business ever develops enough in the ways I am trying to develop it, I will be moving to Santa Fe! Of course, if you and Ritchie work this book thing out, you'll probably want to make at least one visit to this area, and of course our 'welcome' sign is out!

Best, wishes,

Bill Webb