

The American Indian Arts Center
of the Association on American Indian Affairs, Inc.



843 Lexington Avenue
New York 21, New York

UN 1-2630

September 6th 1963

Mrs. Laura Gilpin
P.O. Box 1173
Santa Fe
New Mexico.

Dear Mrs. Gilpin:

On September 26th we are opening The American Indian Arts Center. This will operate as a branch of the Association on American Indian Affairs, and on a non-profit basis. That is, any profits there may be will be turned back into a fund towards the development of good American Indian and Eskimo art, and crafts.

At this moment I am writing to you about two things, both concerning Mrs. Lucy Lewis. We are worried that possibly, either she or her daughter, Emma Mitchell, may be ill. In May we visited Mrs. Lewis in her home at San Fidel, and bought some pottery from her which was to be shipped to the Association as our shop was then not ready to receive merchandize. We also placed quite a large order with her for other pottery to be made. We have not yet received anything, though we have written to urge her to send it. I have again written to Mrs. Lewis today, and also to Governor Jerry Garcia, enquiring if she was ill.

We are trying to impress the New York Public with the realization that Indian crafts are of high quality. Many people here seem to think of them only as tourist trinkets. We will be very disappointed indeed not to have even a single piece of Mrs. Lewis' fine pottery to show them. If you have any knowledge of what has held up our shipment, I would greatly appreciate your letting me know. Oliver La Farge mentioned to me that you were a friend of hers, so I felt that possibly you would know.

Secondly when we visited with Mrs. Lewis we mentioned to her that we were going to make an album to keep in the shop. This would include a photograph and a short biographical sketch of the different artists whose work was represented in our Center. She suggested I get in touch with you about a photograph. Could we borrow a negative from you for this purpose? Also if you have anything we could use in writing up the biography we would be most grateful.

I sincerely hope that neither of them is ill. We had a most delightful meeting with Mrs. Lewis and some of her family. I hope that when I come to Santa Fe again I will have the pleasure of meeting you.

Most cordially,

Ronda Muschenheim

(Mrs. Carl Muschenheim, Chairman. Arts & Crafts Committee)