



April 6, 1965

Miss Laura Gilpin  
Box 1173  
Santa Fe, New Mexico

Dear Laura:

I have just been given a modest grant to establish an archive of New Mexico paintings. Knowing that you have photographed many works by Santa Fe artists I thought that I might secure from you photographs for archival purposes. Do you have a list of your negatives of paintings by the prominent artists connected with New Mexico? If you do have such a list and it is not inconvenient, I would like to have an indication of the number of photographs of paintings we could purchase from you.

You may recall that when I last visited you I told you that we were in the process of organizing an exhibition of photography in the Southwest. Such a show would be incomplete without some fine examples of your work. Since we will be publishing a catalog in conjunction with this exhibition I would appreciate it very much if you would answer the following questions:

1. When did you first come to New Mexico?
2. What attracted you to the area?
3. How is the New Mexico landscape, from a photographers standpoint, different from other areas of the West which you have photographed?
4. What attracted you to the Indians as a subject for your major works?

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5. Did you know Edward Weston and Ansel Adams when they came into New Mexico?
6. Do you feel they caught the true spirit of the land and people in their photographs?
7. Do you recall their saying anything about the distinct quality of New Mexico environment and people?

Thank you very much for your help and interest.

Sincerely,



Van Deren Coke  
Chairman

VDC:js

MILLERS FALLS  
ERASE  
COTTON CONTENT