

May 12, 1965

Mr. Andrew Poggenpohl
Art Editor
National Geographic Magazine
Washington, D.C.

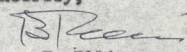
Dear Mr. Poggenpohl:

This is in reference to our telephone conversation of this morning, on the Gerald Cassidy painting: "End of the Trail", in our collection and just now on exhibition in our Fine Arts Building.

Miss Laura Gilpin, well known Santa Fe photographer, will make a 4" x 5" color transparency of this painting tomorrow morning. With special processing and mailing, it should be in your hands early next week. Miss Gilpin will bill you direct. If published, the painting should be credited to the Museum of New Mexico.

As "reconstructed" by Cassidy in the 1920's, the features shown in the painting are not wholly in accordance with the results of subsequent research. The facade and towers of the adobe "parroquia", in the background (replaced by the present stone cathedral in the 1860's-1880's) are only approximately correct. The southeast corner of the Palace of the Governors shown at far left (not on the right, as erroneously stated in the Clarke caption) was actually a blank walled tower in ruinous condition in 1846. The Plaza, shown as completely bare in the painting, in fact had been planted with young trees by the Mexican Governor Don Mariano Martinez de Lejanza in 1844-5, some of which survived into the 1900's. The building portals at the right and rear center were present about as shown, in front of traders' shops. The tower at the right is intended to be one of two low towers capping the facade of "La Castrense", military chapel, placed about as shown and for the most part demolished in 1859-60. And finally, Cassidy's painting purports to show the Plaza in the 1850's -- which accounts for the stagecoach rolling in from the end of the Trail, at the southeast corner. Monthly stagecoaches between Independence, Missouri, and Santa Fe started in 1849.

Sincerely,


Bruce T. Ellis
Curator-in-Charge
COLLECTIONS

cc:
BTE:tr

Miss Laura Gilpin