

LAURA GILPIN



PHOTOGRAPHER

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Mr. Raymond Nakai, Chairman,
The Navajo Tribe,
Window Rock,
Arizona:-

Dear Mr. Nakai:-

May I recall myself to you as one who saw you most briefly about two years ago. I have completed a book, chiefly a photographic book, about the Navaho People covering nearly thirty years' work on the reservation. I wanted two years ago to make your portrait which I earnestly wish to include. Ned Hatathli called you at that time from his office to make an appointment for me. You were very busy that day but asked me to come to your office right away. There was no time to set up the proper camera etc, and I saw you for only about five minutes. I had the first part of my book with me to show you, but there was no time to look at it.

Now, I want to do a portrait of you at your desk with the Tribal Seal in the background and will come over for this specific purpose whenever you can give me about a half an hour. I hope that this may be toward the end of next week, say May 4th or 5th.

My publisher has just been here and he agrees with me that I must have this portrait. I have portraits of Sam Ahkeah and Paul Jones and to bring this all up to date, of course you should follow. This book is all my own photography, that is my profession, and the text is mine as well. Ned has seen my dummy and I am sure will tell you about it if you wish to ask him. However, I will bring my dummy with me in any event. The University of Texas Press is publishing the book, and I am very pleased to say it will be printed by the best printer in the United States with the best possible reproductions and will be a beautiful presentation.

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Last week Dr. Officer, Assistant Commissioner of Indian Affairs was here and he too, agreed that I must get this last picture. A letter from him yesterday inclosed a copy of his letter to you.

It is a bit difficult to describe the kind of book this is, so it seems really a necessity to see it.

For the past year I have been on crutches with a bad hip which is the reason I have not been over before now. But I can manage to come over and I am doing what work I am able to do at the present time.

Should you wish to telephone me rather than write, please call me collect. My phone number is below.

Hoping that I may hear from you soon and that we may have enough time to at least have a quick glance at the book as well as time to make this picture.

Sincerely yours,

Laura Gilpin

Telephone Area Code 505-982-0032.