

409 Camino del Monte Sol
xxxxx

April 7,
1967

Mr. Beaumont Newhall,
George Eastman House,
Rochester, N.Y.

Dear Beaumont:-

My sincere apology for being so long in answering your letter of March 20th. I was in the midst of preparing a small show for the Institute of American Indian Art, and under an unusual time pressure. As I have unfortunately developed a very bad hip and am on crutches, I am slower than slow. However, the show opened last Sunday, an exhibit of the pottery of Maria Martinez of San Ildefonso, her son Popovida (who has followed his mother's footsteps, and Po's son Tony who is a painter. As a background for the pottery is a group of some thirty odd pictures of the various stages of pottery making, portraits, etc. Some are things I did long ago, some very recent. The show will go to the Dept. of Interior in Washington in May.

Now, as to the pinhole. It is very interesting to hear from this after all these long years. To tell you the truth, the picture to which you refer is not a pinhole. I don't know how Willard got mixed up on this. Probably there was a pinhole print among the lot he had to choose from. As I didn't know this until the Complete Photographer came out, I just let it go as there was nothing that could be done about it. However, it has the quality of a pinhole. I do have two that I have exhibited in the past which are true pinholes. I will print them in the next few days and send them along with the other one should you still want it.

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The past year has been a most difficult one. My Navaho Book was finished last April, just about a year ago. The University of Texas Press is publishing it. But by the time that the anthropologist reader had approved it, the Faculty Committee which decides about these matters had dispersed for the summer, so it was September before the decision was made. Then the head of the press was busy with spring books and didn't do anything about mine until about Christmas time. As he wants Meriden Gravure to print this, he was somewhat surprised and I was shocked to find that Meriden was all booked up until late this year. The result, it is now scheduled for publication early in the fall of next year, 1968, instead of this year. This has been a major disappointment. The compensation is that the book will be done just as I want it, no cuts etc, which commercial publishers always seem to do. But as of a few days ago, I have decided that this may be a blessing in disguise, for I have been to see a very fine surgeon in Albuquerque, and the decision seems to be that I will be operated on sometime in May and given a new artificial hip joint. This will mean a month in the hospital, and three months gradually getting back on my feet again. But I welcome this ordeal for it means I will be able to walk again, and, God willing, to some of the work I still have planned to do. The Enduring Navaho took several years longer than I had imagined, and I ended up with a 65,000 word text. Also I have ahead of me a 150 print show from the Navaho Book for Mitch Wilder for Fort Worth, and a retrospective show for here. So, you see I have a lot of work ahead of me.

Please don't think I have forgotten the prints I promised you some ten odd years ago. You will get them. I have been silent a long time, but all the energy I have had has gone into finishing the book plus earning a living.
My very best to you and Nancy, As ever