

Mrs. Robert E. Dietz III
7017 Edith Blvd. N. E.
Albuquerque, New Mexico 87107

Dearest Laura - December 4, 1968

I have put off writing this
and communicating with you
in person, hoping each day I
would recover that old energy
and hope and enthusiasm =
maybe the one word is
"courage". Because what I
am is so discouraged that
I have been totally unable
to face the agony and embarrass-
ment, for both of us, of
having so few come to that
long-planned and looked-
forward-to autograph party
for your beautiful new
book. I hate to burden you
with my long tale of woe,
but, in a way, perhaps it will
be best to write it down -

You have been such a great inspiration and strength to me in my humbling efforts to show people what creative photography means. That I hate to heat the time of my greatest discouragement at the very moment when the two of us could do something together.

It is such a long story - I entered my fifth year of quivira the first of November. I have fought daily. the sense of rejection by Albuquerque people, the indifference, the refusal of the local newspapers to give me adequate coverage, the "no answer" to my letters &

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photographers and publishers
(I wrote your press a few days
after the salesman left that
sleaz on the desks in Old Town;
I wrote Ralph Looney's
publisher two letters, a
month apart - I have
never heard from either.
The first knowledge I had
of yours, for sure, was when
Stephen came in and told me
of the coming autograph
party in Santa Fe "Friday.")

The great stumbling block
I cannot get over is the
complete lack of response to
the invitations we have
sent out and I just
cannot ask you to come

for an autograph party
feeling, as I do, that we
would sell, maybe, four
or five books -

I have tried and tried to
make myself dismiss this
sense of hopelessness - so I
must tell you some of the
background for it - You
must not believe it has
anything to do with you or
your book -

We can go way back, even
beyond the Bookshop days to
that beautiful April day in
1962 when I prepared coffee
and rolls for a hoped-for
40 people ^{for a Retreat} ^{Doyle} which
all four ^{parish} churches had
announced in their
bulletins. Ross Calver, who
had prepared his four

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meditations to be given during the day, arrived. I set up the altar-table for communion. No one else came = all day.

The Great Autograph Party for Peter Hurd: we sold less than 150 copies of the ordered, picked up by me at Navajo freight. 400 copies, unpacked by me and taken back to freight lines - etc. But his Press did write most cordially and offered and paid for $\frac{1}{2}$ th cost of advertising in the papers & on KHFH. @ \$7.50 books.

The autograph party for Matt Peane - about 14 copies as I recall; so

few people to see the lovely
exhibit of the Mary Austin
mementoes I set up - a \$6.00
+ \$3.50 book.

The autograph party for
Rox Calver, we sold 17 copies
over a period of a week. I
have 25 autographed copies
left -

The photography ^{openings} shows:
Van Dieren took show last
February: 500 invitations =
an embarrassing few came.
Show openings in March.

April, May, June (Paul
Saunders + Dick Kent - both
have given without end of
their lives to Albuquerque),
July, August - I skip to
September: Dr. Thomas
Baird flew in from San
Francisco: addressed 200
of his 300, Audrie and

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I did the rest. Five people
signed the guest book.
Mr. Coke and the photographers
came. No news coverage at all.

Finally the last one - I
mean it - October for
Bernie Lopez, who had the
honor of being the first
photographer accepted by
the Wurlitzer Foundation.
1000 invitations. Bernie
did 200; Audrie and I
spent 25 hours ^{just} folding,
addressing and stamping
the rest. It took me two
full days to hang the
shaw. 450 invitations
went to the faculty and

parent of the Albuquerque
Academy (and I used my
name for the first time
on the invitation) of which
Bot is one of 4 Charter
trustees. 200+ to the
Friends of Art; the rest to
members of the Museum of
Art. hist. One was posted
at St. John's Cathedral (in
4 weeks, one couple came.)
Bernie's friends came; the
photographers, as always;
and, perhaps 10 others.
O.K. ~~from~~ the Journal gave us
one inch; as did the Tribune.

I tried to think if we
gave your party in Old
Town, it would work.
Since you were here,
however, I have taken a

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for old Jaron's old
 partner, and she has
 transformed it into a
 most attractive "Boutique"
 shop with books and
 photographs as part of
 the boutique. It is no
 longer ~~at~~ what it was -
 and there is no room for
 a party.

I knew this tale of
 woe would be too long
 and boring - but I
 had to communicate -
 And thank God you
 live in Santa Fe and
 not Albuquerque.
 With my love,
 Ann

P.S. I saw your Channel V
show last night =
excellent!!

P.S. Bob and I leave the 9th for
Syracuse - I don't know
how long I will stay -
A.