

October 2, 1968

Laura Gilpin
Box 1173
Santa Fe, New Mexico

Dear Miss Gilpin:

I have had you constantly in mind since our delightful evening but the pressure of my academic and photographic duties has prevented me from sitting down to this letter.

Let me first thank you for such a delightful evening, we really did enjoy ourselves even though I am sure we imposed upon you. I have, pursuant to our conversation about your new book, ordered three (3) copies from the U. of Texas Press and hope to be able to get you to autograph them for me so I might give them as Christmas presents.

My wife chided me for being so forthright and forward in my conversation with you but I have always been honest with myself and others, sometimes overly so, and I guess its a bit late to alter those spots.

We plan to definitely move to the Santa Fe area next summer and will be coming to the area for a short while over the Christmas vacation, I hope we might again "drop in" for a short chat. I am not, as yet, sure just how we shall support ourselves but I shall trust to my varied background and a bit of luck to see us through.

At the risk of again being blunt let enquire if it would be allright with you if I might bring what I feel is a representative portfolio with me at our next visit. I left your house with the feeling that I have met no other photographer with whom, or under whom, I would rather work. I realize the rather blunt nature of this but I trust you will understand that it is inspired by a very real and quite intense desire to hope that I might work with you in some capacity. As you are aware my "formal" training, in the sense of schooling, is not in photography but in other fields; but, I have used my academic talents plus courses in technique and the generous expertise of friends for sometime now to alter deficiencies in my knowledge. I frankly am quite glad that I am not a photographer by training since the freedom to experiment and absence of a particular school of thought has made me more objective and hopefully a little better. As you know I own my own studio(a rather loose definition) and have faired quite well financially in that enterprise.

I realize your time is limited but it would be very nice to hear from you and of your obviously interesting doings. Again, thanks for your time and past kindnesses, we look forward with great eagerness to seeing you in a short time.

Warmest regards and best wishes;

lee Harrell

lee Harrell

lee harrell
photographer

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