

May 13, 1969

Dear Oriole,

Thanks for your recent letter. I hope you had a good trip to England, and that you accomplished your purpose whatever it was. England right now is a wonderful place to be. I remember my one and only trip in 1982, when a friend and I landed on the first day of May.

When gathering in all the comments etc. about my show, I come up with the analysis that it did not receive too warm a reception. I believe the answer is that it needs to be closer related to the book. This in no way reflects on you and I think the answers are several. The most important being the frightful unrest particularly in the east and also in your immediate vicinity. The Navaho are very far away. Deschin and Popular photography are judging the pictures as individual items rather than the relation to the whole. One of these days I will have another kind of show in New York. One comment disturbs me a lot, not for a criticism, I welcome those, but for the idea. This is the review by Gruen (?) (I cannot find the clipping at this moment). This man so rightly praised the Indian paintings which delighted me. But his heading No More Reservations, disturbs me greatly. I do not know about other parts of the country, but here in the Southwest it would be a catastrophe plus. Somehow this man seems to intimate that a reservation is a sort of prison. I know there are a lot of people who think the Indian should be "intergrated". These people just don't understand the vital importance of these Southwest Indians' relationship to their land and the land's great importance to them. They are not confined to an area, it is their choice and their necessity. Were they to be scattered, a wonderful culture would disintegrate and be lost. This is true of the Navaho, the Pueblos and others in this area. Of course there are lots of white land grabbers who want Indian Land plus Indian resources and do everything possible to get it. This would be another act of real aggression on the part of the white man. Well, I didn't mean to sound off quite so hard, but I worry about this line of thinking. I wonder if this writer has ever been out here? His comments on my prints are amusing. I would like to take him to a lot of

places I know and watch his reaction. A review of The Enduring Navaho is just out in El Palacio by Dr. W.W.Hill. If you do not see this (The Museum of N.M.'s organ), I will send you one. Dr. Hill is the authority on the Navaho and his review of my book pleases me more than anything that has come along. One comment is "Her descriptions are of the Navaho as they really are."

Now as to where to send the show. I should hear this week about a possible showing in Oklahoma City. I was over there two weeks ago. The book received an award in the non fiction group for the best in 1968 (a tie with another book), from the Western Heritage Center. It would be good if the show can be arranged for there right away. I will let you know the minute I hear.

In the mean time, my best wishes to all of you. Are you coming this way this summer?

Cordially