



MT. SAN ANTONIO COLLEGE

1100 NORTH GRAND AVENUE • WALNUT, CALIFORNIA 91789

Telephones: (714) 595-2211 • (213) 339-7331

January 7, 1969

Laura Gilpin
P.O. Box 1173
Santa Fe, New Mexico

Dear Miss Gilpin:

I have had it in mind for several weeks now to write you but first one thing and then the flu have interfered. I feel certain that my letter of earlier in the Fall reached you but that the heavy pressure of the publication of the Enduring Navajo and the exhibits which are presently being seen made a reply difficult.

Let me first say that I have enjoyed the book and extend my compliments to you. As I told you the first day we met I had myself hoped to do such a book, not because I could do it as well as you but because it needed doing---the old people will soon be gone and no more will come to replace them. You have done the world, the Navajo and those of us interested a great service, and you've done it more than well.

I know that my father-in-law, Ellis Titcher, spoke with you when you were in Ft. Worth for the opening of the exhibit at Amon Carter. I appreciate your signing the copy of the Rio Grande he gave me as a Christmas present, it means a very great deal to me and I shall REMEMBER it as one of those gifts which will never grow old.

I have several things on my mind but one is most pressing. My wife and I so admire your work that we would like to arrange to purchase several prints from the exhibit if you would be willing to print some for us and if we can afford them. We are particularly interested in the following and hopefully in the sizes marked (this purely from the standpoint of getting them in sizes which do them full credit--but that is of course up to you): Woman, Child, and Lambs (16x20); A Chance Meeting (16x20 or 20x24); A Navajo Silversmith (11x14 or thereabouts) and perhaps most importantly a non-platinum print of the portrait of Lilly Bernally in 11x14 or so. I have no idea if you are amenable to this idea of purchase but hope more than I can say that you will be. If you are would you give me some idea how much each of the above would be since it may be beyond our modest means to buy all at once. I consider that these prints are so good and of such personal value to me that I will go to most any lengths, within my means, to talk you into printing them for us. Likely you are getting lots of inquiries about prints and hope you can squeeze us in. We attended the Amon Carter exhibit and found a large number of people, especially children, oohing and aahing over the prints--I think that the children were most impressed and I fancy you would like that very much.

As I wrote you earlier I had hoped when departing your house last that the fates might provide me with an opportunity to work with you. We are both interested in roughly the same things--photography and history. This, I felt, was a rare match and thus I was doubly interested. I would still like to entertain that idea.

* I FEAR WE JUST COULDN'T AFFORD A PLATINUM PRINT.



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As is obvious from the letterhead, I hesitate to use my photographic one, I am an academician. It is still my avowed intention to come to the state and simply make the break and move entirely into photography. At present I run a small but rather lucrative studio and thus I feel that I have enough experience to make it. I am anxious to see what might develop, perhaps you have some ideas. Please excuse the rather candid forthrightness---it is one of those often regrettable facets of my character.

Again let me thank you for preserving the Navajo and moreover for giving us such a delightful evening in August. I look forward to hearing from you at your earliest convenience, if not about the above at least about the prints--for we are most serious and quite anxious.

Our warmest and best wishes for the wide spread sale of the book and for a pleasant and prosperous new year.

Warmest regards;

Lee Harrell

Lee Harrell
9325 Mills, #4
Montclair, Ca. 91763

WE ARE, AT PRESENT, STILL INTENT UPON A TRIP TO SANTA FE AT EASTER
ESPECIALLY IF WE MIGHT LOOK FORWARD TO A VISIT.