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December 22, 1969

Miss Laura Gilpin
Santa Fe, New Mexico

Dear Miss Gilpin:

Yesterday my thoughtful wife presented me with a copy of your new book, The Enduring Navaho, for my birthday. I have wanted a copy since I first saw it a year ago in Tucson while attending the annual meeting of the Society for Historical Archeology. It is a fantastic effort and the best publication on any Indian people I have seen, and - - - the photography is masterful.

A couple of years ago I found myself deeply involved in glass trade bead research, going over many hundreds of beads sent to me from the National Park Service and preparing two articles for publication, one for the first annual Brandbook of the San Diego Corral of the Westerners and another ~~one~~ presently is resting with ARIZONA HIGHWAYS with over forty color 4 X 5's. I also prepared a paper that I read in Tucson at the meeting of the Society for Historical Archeology. Presently I am collecting material for a needed book on glass trade beads and their use in North America, particularly of our Southwest, where there has been very long and almost continual use - from 1539 (Fray Marcus de Niza) up to the almost present day - as I will explain.

I am sure the most recent use of glass trade beads in the United States has been on the Navaho Reservation. Sometime in the mid 1920's there was a glass bead introduced to the Navaho that was made in Czechoslovakia, was blue in color and quite closely resembled turquoise. This bead with its several variations, we call the Hubbell bead because of its close association with the Hubbell Post - probably not exclusively. The Park Service at the Hubbell Post has not been able to come up with much information on the bead and when it was first introduced and the types represented. Apparently they were "wholesaled" by the Richardson Brothers at Winslow. Anyway the Hubbell name seems to stick, and like pottery types, it is as good as any tag and certainly better than most.

MEMBER

-more-



PHOTOJOURNALISM

I am searching for ANY information on these beautiful glass beads. Especially an introduction date, knowledge of how popular they were with the Navaho etc.

I have seen and photographed Hubbell beads in several shapes including round and cubical with a black glass matrix resembling "spider web", in clear bright blue (opaque) tear-drop, diamond (flat), and short cylindrical and a few that are flat, disc-like or tabular with the hole through the length of the bead. I am quite sure that there were others. I will try to sketch the size and shape for you.

I am reasonably sure that there are Hubbell Beads shown in the photographs on the following pages:

Page 21 - the little girl has some I think that are probably flat and diamond shaped that come to a "v". Also I think that there are some on the mothers necklace, the larger beads near the bottom of her necklace

Page 24 - Color, the baby's necklace and are apparently spaced with colorful orange glass beads often seen strung with Hubbells.

Page 57 - The two rows of tear-drop beads that are shorter than the other two necklaces.

Page 201 - The blue choker on the lady to the left, again they are the typical color and tear-drop shape.

If it would not be too much trouble I would appreciate learning the approximate date of the above photographs.

My wife and I love the Navaho Country and spent two weeks of our honeymoon there four years ago. We have an interesting collection of North American Indian items including a fully beaded Sioux cradle board of the 1840-50's, many other fully beaded "plains" pieces, bows, arrows, a war bonnet, thousands of glass trade beads, knives, lances etc., but I am sure that treasured most of all are our 5 X 9 foot Teec Nos Pos from Maxwell's Collection; a very old silver necklace, with a number of crosses and a heavy, crude najahe with a rough old piece of surface turquoise added, apparently as an afterthought with awl marked designs; and last but far from last is a very old and heavy silver bridle with incised designs and complete with a heavy iron Spanish-spade ring bit.

Your help on the Hubbell Beads would be valued and appreciated when you have time.

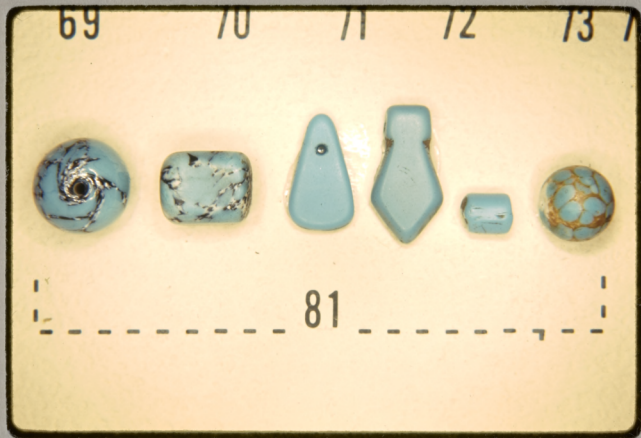
We plan to get back over in your country soon and hopefully our paths will cross, resulting in a visit and I am sure mutual admiration and respect for the "Enduring Navaho".

Wishing you a very happy holiday season.

Most sincerely,

Cloyd Sorensen Jr.
Cloyd Sorensen, Jr.

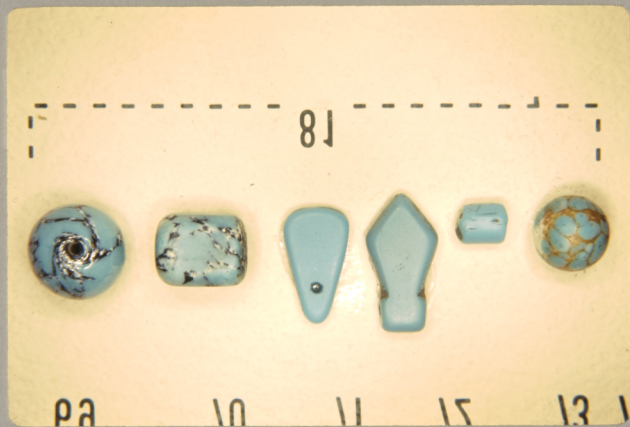
Sorensen



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DEC 68 H5 17

Ektachrome

TRANSPARENCY



PROCESSED BY

Kodak

memo from

Cloyd Sorenson, Jr.

I have enclosed a
trans of some Gubbells
rather than try sketching
same. no need to
Return it.

also not shown



very small & flat



Round
and
Several Sizes