

April 5, 1969
Christine VandePol
Batten House,
Bryn Mawr College,
Bryn Mawr, Penna.
19010

Dear Miss Gilpin,

I am a junior at Bryn Mawr this year, but my main interest lies in other things - such as weaving. This summer I would like very much to learn from a Navaho weaver the traditional Navaho weaving. (or, rather, begin to learn.) I had a talk with Mr. Ted Hetzel of Haverford College this week about the possibilities and you were one of the people he suggested I write to for help since you have had much contact with the Navaho. (Incidentally, your recent book about the Navaho inspired me even more!) I hope you can give me some help - daydreams are nice, but I would like this one to come true!

Let me be a little more specific about what I would like to do. My main interest is the weaving, but I think that my desire to know the Navaho and their ways is just as strong. Ideally I would like to live with or near the Navaho family in which I would be weaving and I was hoping you could put me in contact with a family who would be willing to have me around. I can't offer much financial recompense although of course I will pay my own way, but ~~and~~ as it is I will have to try and get myself some kind of transportation, according

to Mr. Hetzel and that may be a struggle in itself. A car of course would be even more essential if I had to live in one of the towns and "commute" to my teacher.

As far as my previous knowledge goes, I have done spinning on spindle and wheel, have woven (not very much) on European and homebuilt tapestry looms, and experimented with natural dyes.

Probably I will plan ~~to~~ to stay about 2 months. I don't know too much about which place is the best known for its weaving excellence, but in your book you mentioned especially Chirle (in connection with dyeing) and Two Gray Hills, which still uses mainly natural color (undyed) wool and does fine work. My main interest is blanket weaving. Perhaps Two Gray Hills would be good since I could concentrate first on the basics of spinning and weaving, rather than dyeing.

I hope with this information you can have some basis on which to help me, which I would deeply appreciate.

(It doesn't matter if the family speaks no English or little; I would like to learn some Navaho anyway.)

Thank you very, very much.

Sincerely,

Christine VandePot