

Sept. 21, 1970

Dear Ansel:-

Ever since you were here I have been meaning to get a letter off to you to tell you how great it was to see you and have such a grand uninterrupted talk. And since you were here I am most pleased to tell you that I am making good progress in walking. Now only one crutch and that I use lightly, a little walking without around the house. So all in all I am hoping that a few months more will see able to do a lot.

I was down at the University last week and Rudisill, and George were urging me (as well as Anne Noggle who started it all) to try for a Gu Gyggenheim when I told them of two projects I still want to do. Number one is a concentrated book on Canyon de Chelly and the people who live in it. (This of course include del Muerto etc.). Second, Wardlaw of the Texas press was here a few weeks ago about the second printing of of the Navaho book. I go down to Austin Oct. 12 to work with the color printers to see how well we can correct the off color plates. Now they want me to come, before they didnt want me anywhere near the place. After Wardlaw and I had finished all this discussion, I asked if he would be at all interested in a revised edition of my Rio Grande. He said he was. (The second printing of the early edition is long out of print & now selling at a ridiculous price of \$75. second hand). This would mean one good trip down river where most of the big changes have taken place, plus a few up this way, plus augmenting the text. Mr. Wardlaw suggested that would be a good job for Fritz Hartmann to print in West Berlin. He has just done a beautiful printing job in a book Cacti of the Southwest. Un. of Texas Press. I would be very pleased if this all came about.

But to go back to DeChelly, two Navaho friends have been here, Shirley Sells who is the only Navaho graduate anthropologist and her husband Sam Day III who is now head of Navaho Tribal Parks. Both of them were very eager to have me do this book. Offered to take me anywhere I want to go, and Shirley to help with the people. This is just such a wonderful opening, that I would be an idiot to let anything

interfere with this kind of opening. I want to get over and work at each season of the year and try once more to produce the kind of book that is always hanging out in front of me!

And ofcourse if I had a grant so that I could put in full time, I think I could accomplish the two books within a two year period. As a try out, and a feeler of my own ability to handle this kind of work, I am going to-morrow up the Rio Grande to near headwaters to get some fall color. I would want a few only color plates in the revised edition especially if Hartmann should print them. I will be back by Sat. evening.

I know that it very late to get going on the material to send in to the Guggenheim but it is worth a try. David and Agatha Vestal have just been here, and they too, want me to try for it. I called you yesterday. Had such a nice talk with Virginia and was sorry to miss you, but she and this letter will give you an idea of if what it is all about. Now would you feel like writing one of those four letters sponsoring me? Be perfectly frank. You may well have someone else you are backing and dont want to add another. I am 79, but still have God willing, a few more years of production ahead of me. One thing had happened to me I have lost a lot of inhibitions! And I will certainly go after all this with a lot experience behind me. So I hope you will feel like giving the old gal one last boost.

My very best to one and all