

September 18
1971

Mr. Mitchell A. Wilder, Director
Amon Carter Museum of Western Art,
Fort Worth, Texas.

Dear Mitch:-

Thank you muchly for your nice letter and your many kind words. My hip (the main source of my infirmity) is very much better. I now use only one crutch (you see I am naturally a tripod), but I am now walking around the house with out that. So that within a few months more I believe that I will be my natural self again!

do
Indeed I do want to go on to the de Chelly book. I am enclosing herewith the application I sent in to the Guggenheim. Perhaps it wasnt detailed enough; perhaps applying for a grant to do a book was wrong, perhaps it should have been for photography only. And again perhaps it may all be for the best, it usually is.

I am sure that you know that if I do undertake this book on the Canyon, I would give it the best of my 80 years of experience and judgement and all that goes with them. I am going to go over in a week or ten days, to talk to Sam Day and Shirley to see if they are still of a mind to give me the help they offered when they came to see me a year ago. Sam, now head of Navaho Parks, and Shirley Sells now his wife, the only Navaho anthropologist would be of invaluable help. Sam offering to take me all sorts of places in his Landrover, and Shirley helping with the People, would ofcourse be of the utmost value,

The thought of a possible Abrams book ofcourse thrills me to death. I have been much disillusioned by the lack of salesmanship of the UTP. The Navaho should have been in its second printing a year ago instead of just now. And also other items.

I am sure that you know that I have always worn my shoestrings down to the last thread, but I have a brand new pair which will take me quite a long way. I am here alone now. I have had to put poor little Betsy in a

nursing home as I could no longer handle her. My back and hip just couldn't lift, as she no longer can walk. It is all very sad and grim, for even the best of nursing homes leave much to be desired.

If I could start off with a grant of some sort of \$1500, it would carry me quite a way with perhaps a similar amount sometime after the first of the year. Expenses would not be great, but I could very well want to rent a Jeep, also a plane for some new air shots, and the help of a Navaho boy or someone to help me carry my stuff.

The way I see this book is again dividing it into four parts, the Navaho magic number, but this time the four seasons, with characteristic pictures of each both as to landscape and to the activities of the people living in the canyon. And I want to get all sorts of weather, snow, rain, dust and wind. I have always wanted to get a series of small pictures across a double spread of ~~pictures~~ ^{pages} of tumble weed in a cation. This is all very ambitious, but I hope I have the strength to do it. There will be a lot of research to do, and I know to whom to go for advice for this part both here and in Flagstaff and of course from Sam & Shirley to substantiate local customs.

There is no need to go into too many details at this point, but enough to give you the idea of what I see such a book could be. Is there any chance that you will be coming over for the Historic Conference here in October? It only would it be great to see you, but we could talk about this at a greater length.

I hear that you are going to do a show on W.H. Jackson, great. Had dinner with the Newhells a couple of nights ago. And I read in a magazine Barbara Morgan sent me that you are doing a show of her work; better still. She spent a week with me in June and we had a great time. I will surely come over for this opening whenever it is to be. She is a great gal.

This brings my very best to all and to Sally in particular,

L. S.

P.S. I hear from the young UTP salesman that F.W. is going to do a new edition of my Rio Grande. Haven't heard from him though.