

Sunday Morning

Dear Laura.

This will be a scribbled letter. I'm enclosing a letter from Editha Watson - I feel very badly that I was so very unfair to her. of course she wasn't not-communicating. Although she has remarkable energy for her age, ~~but~~ communicating with all her friends and convalescing from her injury and working 8 hours a day, and writing book reviews, have been too much to do - I think she drives to window Rock every day. And I should also have known that she has learned from Navajo people, as I have, that waiting for right-times isn't wrong, but right.

I must have called you the other night while you were getting supper, or eating.

I thought you'd be as excited as I was that my friend in Chicago, K. B. Frost, is very enthusiastic about our book - which I think - do you - might be called The Panning Coyotes. And can do a great deal to help find a publisher. she (K.B.) used to work for Scott. Foresman in their editorial department. she and her parents were close friends of the Ickes - Harold Ickes - family - and K. B. was with the old Indian service when they were in Chicago - so ~~that~~ was Editha Watson. I'm sure you know that Mrs. Ickes was deeply interested in Indian culture. Anyway K. B. said she knows several juvenile editors - Lee Hoffman of Julian Messner, Alice Torrey of Coward McCann. she would be glad to recommend this to either of them. But she'd ~~think~~

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"love to see someone like Viking" do this,  
and would be glad to talk with their  
representation in Chicago -

And she knows Ann d'Harnoncourt - who  
is with the Art Institute - she, of  
course, is Renee d'Harnoncourt's widow and  
her recommendation would ~~be~~ have great influence -  
K.B. is a modest person - not at all  
a name-caller - is that the expression?  
she really will be very helpful -

You mentioned on the phone that  
~~then~~ John Stanton hadn't needed "stories  
to go with the string games."

I thought I had told you  
I was beginning to suspect there  
weren't any as such.

Many children had used that expression -  
a number of times - It was only after  
I talked to Bertha Kalleco several  
times that I began to realize that  
many meant, really the winter stories all  
grandfathers tell - and <sup>that</sup> there were no  
specific stories for each string game.

The book will have to ~~be~~  
consist of an introduction by Mary  
about her childhood - how she learned  
the string games, etc - and something  
about Spider Woman - As a children's  
book, ~~it~~ and the writing will have to  
be ~~kept~~ done simply - without too much  
detail.

Of course your pictures - and I'm  
very much looking forward to seeing them -



but ~~but~~ I certainly understand your not  
 having time or energy to hurry with  
 them. will be the major contribution -  
 I don't know of any photographers -  
 anywhere - I would have more confidence  
 in to do these pictures.

I felt very sad that ~~I~~ <sup>Martins</sup> wasn't  
 able to go that day - ~~I~~ <sup>the Martins</sup> did have an  
 ear infection - I saw my doctor the  
 next day and of course he gave me  
 another anti-biotic.

Mary and I went out to the  
 Martins the next Sunday and he  
 recorded some more for us -

It may be some time before I  
 get Mary's story written - My doctor  
 advises me quite strongly to retire  
 next year - Besides not being able to  
 eat properly and I've had one ear on  
 throat infection after another -

I'll move to Idaho - and live on  
 social security disability -

Getting moved, will, of course, take some  
 time from my summer, and Houghton Mifflin  
 wants some revisions in the Doll with Yellow  
hair.

Mary's story will be her story -  
 with her name - not an "as told to."

I probably won't actually move  
 until July - I'll want enough time to  
 get Mary's story - with more details, of  
 course, than will be used - (~~and~~ I may not  
 have time to do the writing until late in the summer)  
 And I will want to say good-bye -

a very sad good-bye - to my lots of Navajo friends -

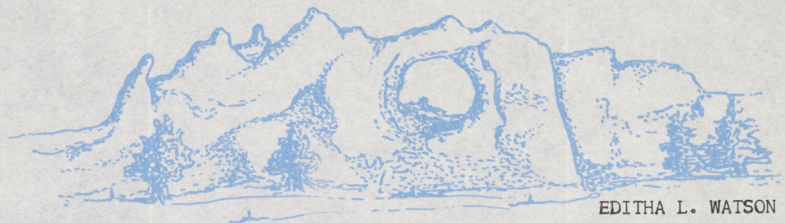
I wish I could tell you how much that day looking for Elton's mother meant to me - especially our visit with the Begay family - (I'll see Elton's mother <sup>again. I'm sure</sup> ~~I~~ was the only time since ~~I~~ my bout with that tumor - and probably the last time - I've had a chance to just wander on the reservation. I realized too, that day, that I hadn't really seen the beauty of Navajo country, as well as of the people - since I came back. I had depended on memories almost as much as I had the year I ~~was~~ <sup>spent</sup> in San Francisco - getting rid of the tumor.

I want to apologize again for being such an awkward hostess - I still can't remember your nice friend's name -

You were both very patient with me - I seem to have energy in the morning and then by a little afternoon I begin to cop out - The drive to Gallup for groceries - and waiting all that time ~~had~~ for the highway to be cleared from that wreck - and I didn't have time to eat when I came home because I wanted you to have a good dinner - meant a very sad dinner - and I'm still embarrassed -

sincerely,  
Mary Perrowe





EDITHA L. WATSON

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←  
But I'm writing at the office, Tuesday the 9th

Dear Mary -

This has taken a long time to answer your Christmas letter, and I am sorry. But I have been in and out of the hospital a few times, and now that I'm back at work I have little time for anything else. The doctor asked that I work six hours a day at the office and make up the two hours at home, so it takes all my time.

I'm much interested in your book, Nannabah's Friend. Where can I get a copy? I wish your publisher would send me one for review, as I'm doing book reviews for the University of Oklahoma Press, Northland Press, and possibly the University of New Mexico Press.

It seems to me that you should have the say about your illustrations, even in a first book. Do they have to be done by the artist you had for the first one? They were bad enough, I thought. The publishers should realize that they detract from the book.

While I was at Many Farms I photographed (on slides) some of the string figures the people there were making. I found them most interesting. My slides are too dark, as they were taken without flash near a window, but they show a little. So at least I know what you were talking about. Have you done more on the subject? Laura Gilpin's photographs would be perfect.

I would love to have a good chat with you over the phone if not nearer. Did you have your surgery, and was it successful? You see, I'm having to catch up on the items in your Christmas letter, as I haven't run across anyone who could tell me about you.

I'm fine, walking with a cane outdoors, but without it at home, and have a slight limp, that's all. I hope my hospital days are all over. I am back at work now, and expect to be here another fiscal year - at least, they have asked me to stay one more year, though I had planned to retire next this coming June. I work six hours at the office and two at home, to break the day for me so I can rest between. This was Dr. Keney's suggestion. It works well, but leaves me little time for anything else right now.

Do let me hear from you, all about you. And tell me who the publisher of your books is, and the address. Esther Munsterman says she would like to order them.

Affectionately,

(My typing as is bad as ever)

Editha

TO MARY PERRINE