



THE UNIVERSITY OF NEW MEXICO | ALBUQUERQUE, NEW MEXICO 87106

AMERICAN STUDIES PROGRAM  
BANDELIER EAST

3 November 1972

Miss Laura Gilpin  
409 Camino Monte Sole  
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87501

Dear Miss Gilpin:

It was a pleasure to speak with you the other day over the telephone. Anne Noggle has told me about you and your work. You have had a <sup>fascinating</sup> career and I wish you many more years continuation. I was pleased that you accepted our invitation to speak at the Conference. We hope to make it a fruitful experience.

The Conference is the first attempt of the Southwest Popular Culture Association to hold a meeting. We preferred something more informal and intimate than most conferences usually attain, so we decided on the D. H. Lawrence Ranch in Taos. Tentatively, we are scheduled for February 22, 23 and 24. Our program is being designed around the Southwest and we hope to deal with aspects such as the Hollywood image of this region and other topics. One such very important topic is the camera and the Southwestern Indian. A friend of mine suggests the thesis that the camera was more influential on the Indian than any other technological innovation. Whether that is true or not, the Indian has responded to the camera in a variety of ways -- depending upon how the camera approached him.

Anne tells me you have photographed many Southwestern Indians with great sensitivity and respect. We shall look forward to hearing of your experiences photographing among the Indians and your insights into the question of how the Indians you have known respond to the photograph<sup>r</sup>-- both the courteous, sensitive ones as well as the rude ones.

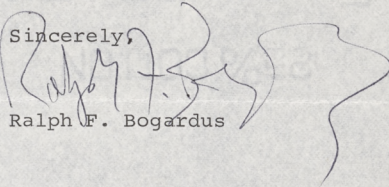
As I said over the telephone, the conference is to be informal, so we hope to present your talk more as a conversation around the lodge fireplace. Would you be willing, also, to show some of your photographs? To so many Americans, the American Indian has been introduced only by the camera -- in both still photography and movies. Often that image has been false and patronizing. However, sometimes the image making has been sensitive and honest. Yours has been the latter, and it would be refreshing for our conference participants to see some of your work.



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As I said, we will provide you with transportation and all expenses. Beyond that we have only our interest and questions, but we will have plenty of that to offer. Thank you for your interest in our conference and we are looking forward to meeting you to make further arrangements.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Ralph F. Bogardus', with a long, sweeping flourish extending to the right.

Ralph F. Bogardus

RFB:nc