

LAURA GILPIN



PHOTOGRAPHER

409 Camino del Monte Sol • Santa Fe, New Mexico 87501

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Mr. Frank Wardlaw, Director
University of Texas Press

Dear Frank:

Excuse me for being so long in answering your letter and I am extremely sorry to tell you that my little companion is gone.

I have written to Mitch, to whom I sent the Guggenheim application and requested he return it to me; however, so far I have not heard from him. I assume that he is away as it was some time ago that I wrote. In the meantime, I will see if I don't have some notes here so I can at least give you an approximate outline of the project. I believe I understand now why I didn't get the award, even though Ansil Adams and Beaumont Newhall both seemed so certain of it. I think the mention in my book which was sent in that the Nathaniel Owings Foundation had donated the color plates might have had something to do with it.

I have long wanted to do a book on Canyon De Chelly and I hope that this may come about. I will be free very shortly to plunge into any new project. I shall go over in any event very soon to talk with various Navaho people and to make sure that I have sufficient strength to do this. I know I will need help carrying equipment, etc., but I truly believe I can do it. I have the promise from two Navahos of their assistance in obtaining cooperation from the people who live in the Canyon and in the general vicinity. I should like to do a definitive work of this nature.

I was pleased to have you respond enthusiastically to this. I should get material to you very soon.

While I was delighted to see Dave Gilbert at the history conference, it was a disappointment that you and Rosemary were not here. I hope that she has recovered and is quite well again. Dave seemed to be very alert and interested in everything; I saw him several times talking to various people.

I am glad to hear from him, as well as from Steve Rice, that you are seriously considering a new edition of my Rio Grande. I still get many calls for it. Please let me know as soon as you can concerning this, because I shall have to reprint most of that work—which will be quite a job.

I was about to write to Dave, but perhaps you can pass this on to him. I have been requested to furnish a few prints from the Navaho book for

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reproduction in the quarterly publication of the Southwestern Association of Indian Affairs. This is a small circulation, some 600 copies only, but it goes to a rather select, extremely interested group of people. These prints could very well lead to some sales. Is it agreeable with you for me to furnish these prints? Due credit to the University of Texas Press as well as to myself will of course be given.

I have one other request of the same nature from an organization with which Mr. Graef is associated—the Institute of American Indian Arts. They would like to use one picture in the forthcoming project of theirs. I can see no reason why both of these requests cannot be fulfilled.

To go back to the Canyon De Chelly book, I would be most pleased if you wish to take this up for a possible grant with the National Endowment for the Humanities. Any way that I could receive funds would make it possible for me to devote full time to this, which would of course insure its completion in a reasonably short time. I want to divide this book into four parts, but this time to do it seasonally with pictures from the four seasons. The book would include landscapes and as much as possible of the life of the people who live in the Canyon. I believe through my friend Shirley Sells, Navaho Graduate Anthropologist, who is most anxious for me to do this, that I would be able to secure many pictures that I have never been able to get before. In one sense, this could be a companion work to the Enduring Navaho.

It is very amusing to most of us in this part of the country to find that the New York area and other points in the East have suddenly discovered the American Indian. It seems to me that now would be a very good time to push the Enduring Navaho in that area. Navaho jewelry is being worn extensively and advertised. A recent exhibition at the Hudson River Valley Museum in Yonkers contained much Navaho work, plus the addition of some Navaho people who did both sand paintings and weaving. Mitch Wilders, of the Indian Art Fund, displayed at the Amon Art Museum; you may have seen all this some years ago. *material*

Steve seems to be developing splendidly as a salesman and he told me that you were making some new associations in the East. I do hope that this will greatly increase the distribution of the book in that area.

I just want you to know that I am still working, expect to continue and feel that I could tackle the job of producing another book.

With best regards to all,

Most sincerely,

Laura Gilpin