

May 15
1972

Dear Mr. Witkin:-

It was good to receive your letter and to know that you are coming this way. I shall be very happy to see you. Both Barbara Morgan and Marcia Keegan have spoken of you so often and I have intended to write but somehow I never seem to come to the end of what I have to do right here. Suddenly New Mexico seems to be becoming a photographic center, with the Newhalls now residents, and Van Coke coming back and so many new and young photographers showing up. How every one is going to earn a living something I couldn't answer.

I am just about to embark on a big new project, another book. I shall be away a good deal in the next few months, but with modern highways and quick transportation I shall be going back and forth. I have a grant (two year) to do a book on Canyon de Chelly and the people who live there (Navaho). Something I have long wanted to do. I only hope my advanced years and some incapacity will see me through. Somehow tackling this job seems much easier to think about than an trip to New York. I don't know how I would manage the city traffic!

My years in New York seem very far away and almost like another life, and yet in another sense they are also close. I just can't believe that so much time has gone by.

Would you kindly let me know where you will be staying in Albuquerque so that I could get in touch with you should I not get back from the canyon in time or that I will be already to leave for there.

Glad you saw the New Mexican Magazine. I was very much flattered by Mr. Kerr's article and the thought the reproductions were on the whole very good. Our "light" is not always what it used to be. We have a big battle on over air pollution coming over here from a coal burning power plant over by shiprock.

I am looking forward to a good talk with you about photography in general etc. etc.

Very truly yours,

LEE WITKIN