

406 Ponderosa Apt. 201
Moscow, Idaho 83843
January 1, 1972

Dear Laura,

I've tried several times to call you. When I wasn't able to get you this morning I called Margorie McPharlin to ask if she knew if you were out of town - or ill.

The reason I wanted to talk to you is that I wanted to tell you that Editha Watson - who has been in and out of the hospital a number of times this winter - because of her bad leg - usually - went to the hospital just before christmas with ulcers.

She has decided she won't be able to ~~wotake~~ over the string-game book project. Also, she had written to Ruth Underhill to ask if she'd like to help and didn't hear from her for a long time - when she did hear, finally, she was just back from a trip - and didn't mention

Edith's suggestion.

So I have decided I could handle it from hence - and want to.

I am very much aware that you came all the way to Thoncu - when it was hard for you to travel - and I had forgotten how ~~seard~~ was a lousy hostess - to cook ~~and~~ and took those lovely pictures - only as a gamble that there would eventually be a book - and a profit for you -

I've been thinking a good deal about the project - and now I think there should also be a picture of each design - just the design - would this be possible for you to do - if Mary can get to Santa Fe - She is teaching this year in Navajo, N.M.

Again, you would be using your valuable time and talent - on speculation.

I do have an agent now - a good N.Y. agent, who handles only juveniles. And I'm convinced that this can be a very successful publication -

Mary hasn't done anything about a recording - I'm sure she would hesitate to ask anyone but her own grandfather, who, as you know, wasn't willing to record them.

I had thought Editha would be able to find someone who knows the stories.

But I'm going to write - with Mary's permission - to some good friends at Lukachukai, who are community leaders - they know everyone - Frank and Polly Harvey - and ask them if they can find someone willing to record the string game stories.

I have several other friends at Lukachukai who come from traditional families who may be able to help, ~~it~~ too.

What I need to know - from you - is whether you would be willing - if Mary Chavez can go to Santa Fe some weekend - to photograph all the string designs she knows. (Obviously, I should have thought of this when you came to Thoreau. Since I didn't plan, then, as well as I should have, perhaps you'll be impatient with me.)

I had ~~also~~ hoped that by calling you I could save you the bother of writing a letter.

I'm busy with other writing projects - But when (and if) the photographs and the stories are ready - I will certainly ~~make~~ give this priority -

Mary, I suspect, would hesitate to do the string designs in the summer -

But I don't want to push either of you - there will be next winter.

How are you? I hope there's less pain, and that you're walking more easily.

Happy New Year,
Mary Perrine