

406 Ponderosa Apt. 201  
Moscow, Idaho 83843  
January 8, 1972

Dear Laura:

I'm so sorry about your friend, Betsy. As I think I told you, I reread the story in your The Enduring Navajo this winter, enjoying it all. Betsy must have been a very nice person.

I'm glad you want to do the string game project. I certainly admire your courage--being willing to travel on the Navajo Reservation during the winter months. I hope very much you are feeling better.

And I hope you can find someone who knows the stories. I had begun to think these are only Lukachukai stories. Father Berard would have known. Did you ever meet him? I had several visits with him in the hospital in Santa Fe. He was wonderful, and charming.

He did a good deal of his work at Lukachukai, I know. Most of his old informants there--Chic Sandoval, Joe Lee, another one, whose name I know well but--oh, Denet Tsosie--are all dead.

I'm enclosing a letter I had from Editha the other day. I'll tell her, of course, that you are taking over the project. She'll be delighted, I'm sure, and admire you even more.

I hadn't expected Mary Chavez to be your guest in Santa Fe. I was going to insist on paying her expenses to stay at a motel. She, I know, although she never mentions it, spends every spare nickel to help her old grandparents, and her brothers and sisters. She dresses well, but that's because she makes all her own clothes.

over

I'll have a chance to find out from a friend who grew up in the Four Corners area if her grandfather told them stories about Spider Woman, and the string designs. She adopted me into her clan--the Salt Clan--so she's my sister.

Her husband came from an area north of Tuba City.

Both Jane's family, and Wilson's family, were very traditional, and they both talk to me very freely about Navajoway.

I have to write to Jane anyway--about something else--and I'll ask her.

It's too bad Crownpoint people don't know these stories--or the ones Mary thinks are the right ones.

Mary's address is:

Mary Rose Chavez  
Box 164  
Navajo, N.M. 86509

She's always been called Mary Rose, and, I think, prefers that name. For some reason, everyone called her just plain Mary while she was teaching at Crownpoint and Thoreau.

Good luck, and happy new year,

Mary Perrine