

Mrs. Charles W. Amsden
1124 Grosvenor Avenue
Winnipeg, Manitoba
Canada R3M 0N8

August 29, 1973

Laura Gilpin
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87501

Dear Miss Gilpin,

I am writing to tell you how very much I admire your work. Your book, The Enduring Navajo, is one of my most treasured possessions. Dr. Nibs Hill gave me a copy while I was working as secretary in the department of anthropology at the University of New Mexico in 1969. The book has become dearer and more meaningful over the past few years as I am now a student of photography myself and, although I found your photographs pleasing before, I can now more fully appreciate your flawless techniques. As my husband and I are now permanently transplanted from the Southwest, in which we were both born and raised, the pictures hold many memories of sunny New Mexico and the Navajo land near Shiprock and Farmington.

My husband is an ethnologist and archaeologist as was his uncle, Charles A. Amsden, however he has worked in sub-arctic and arctic regions and not in the Southwest. He is now teaching at the University of Manitoba and we have made Canada our home.

I would very much like to add a touch of New Mexico to our home here and I have no idea if your photographs are ever for sale or if they are handled by any agencies. I wrote to the publishers of your book, University of Texas Press, and they advised me to write directly to you. I would very much like to have a copy of "The Little Shepherd" as reproduced in your book on pages 92 and 93. The serenity and warmth of this picture can fully be appreciated by those who have known and loved New Mexico's and Arizona's desert country.

If it would be possible to obtain a copy of this lovely picture, either from you or through one of your agents, I would be delighted to purchase one. If you could let me know who to contact or if you could put me in touch with someone who could, I would be very grateful.

Sincerely,

Sheila Amsden
Sheila Amsden
(Mrs. Charles Amsden)