



THE AMERICAN UNIVERSITY

WASHINGTON, DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA 20016

College of Arts and Sciences
DEPARTMENT OF ANTHROPOLOGY

February 9, 1973

Miss Laura Gilpin
409 Camino del Monte Sol
Santa Fe, New Mexico

Dear Miss Gilpin:

I have been asked by the Smithsonian Institution to prepare the tribal entry for Taos Pueblo which will appear in a 20 volume Handbook of North American Indians. As you may know, the general editor is Dr. William Sturtevant of the Smithsonian while the volumes editor for the Southwest is Dr. Alfonso Ortiz.

Accompanying each article will be a number of photographs. At the suggestion of Al Ortiz, though it was my initial thought having seen and greatly admired your work with the Southwestern Indian people, I am writing to inquire whether you could help in the dilemma in which I find myself.

Searching the files of the Smithsonian and other sources I have been able to turn up any number of both old and recent photographs of the Pueblo itself, but very few of the people that are truly sensitive and reflective of Taos culture. Knowing that you are a long-time friend of the Pueblo people up and down the Rio Grande, it occurred to us that perhaps you possess such photographs of the Taos and would be willing to have them appear in the Handbook. Naturally you will be credited for same. Basically I have become very frustrated in trying to uncover truly good photographs for Taos which seems so ironic since Taos has been photographed so much. I might add that I am of Taos descent and perhaps this makes me even more sensitive to the situation. I want to do the very best job I can for my people and frankly when the term best is used I immediately think of you as far as photography is concerned.

If you can help in any way, I will be most appreciative.

Sincerely,

John J. Bodine
Associate Professor

JJB/sh