

[1974?]

Prood

4177 N. Lang St
Alvin, Texas, 77511

Ms. Laura Gelpin,

Your article about
Maria Martinez of Pueblo San Ilde-
fonso which appeared in New Mex-
ico Magazine - Jan - Feb 1974, interested
me in that you gave her a
photogramme of a picture ^{to} of Edward
S. Curtis. In the last issue of the
'Smithsonian' an extensive article
relates his great contribution to
Indian culture. I am hoping that
I can, through you verify or
obtain more information.
While living in El Paso Texas in
the early 20's several of his pictures

framed
resembling daguerretype were
on display in an art shop. I purchased
one - "The Vanishing Race" several others
whom I know purchased others.
After several years while traveling
on the Southern Pacific train
to Houston, I engaged in conversation
with a couple who said that they
were personal friends of Curtis
and that these particular pictures
would become collectors items as
the plates had been destroyed out
of family troubles. I did not pay
much attention to details at
that time and that is not what
I am trying to identify. They
said that the ^{smallest} ~~pictures~~ ^{frames} were called
'Curtone' Two people I know live
in El Paso and still have the pictures

I will appreciate any information
you may pass on to me - The
west and especially New Mexico
are dear to me after 60 years of
living in the area you don't forget
it.

Sincerely

Bertha Ward.

JK-