

MRS. E. CHASE CROWLEY
Crow Hill, Rhinebeck, New York 12572

Dear Laura;

writes for
1976 and
much
love
Anne

This has been a most difficult yet rewarding year for me. First of all it has been the greatest satisfaction to have Aunt Anne recognize and the van Bruggle pottery exhibition and both to give recognition to the work she + Artus did. I sent pictures of all the pottery I have plus some plaster casts and sent on all the pieces they wanted and gave them to the Pioneer Museum as they will be on permanent display + have a special room.

I have met here a Robert Hut + his wife — three children and with knowledge of pottery such as I have not seen. I have sold them some pieces with such great reluctance but they have been so interested as collectors and sum financially able ~~but~~ I have desperately needed the money. Bob is also a friend of Lois Church in Colbrand Springs who has become my good friend + with whom I stayed on my last visit in 1974.

I'm going over some photos of Auntie's work + collection

t. Primators + wonder if I will be able to travel on vacation again. I have to put my 1st part. My very best

we found a photograph of yours of "Plover" in a dark vase well preserved. Bob said that Princeton had a fine photograph collection & was sure they would like it. I thought it should be on display but have no room in my tiny glass house save for those of Auntie's paintings I treasure so I decided to give it to Princeton. Bob had it appraised by Lee Within of New York who wrote me "Laura Gilpin has been one of the great American photographers for years." He valued the photograph at \$500. As I had already committed myself I was glad it was highly appraised by Princeton & only hope you approve too.

My school was going on the rocks and changing too much from the standard I had worked for since I started it in 1938. I gave it over to a Trust in 1969 when I had my operation for cancer of the bladder & felt a younger person should be Director. Although my two sons & I own the property, we gave 5 acres & a new dormitory & cottage to the School to be tax free & the taxes, mortgage & overhead expenses were to be paid by the School. In lieu of rent, I retired in

early 1974 and after the start
of the 1st term, the School
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had a close
leaving debts galore - unpaid
tapes + mortgage. Our Trustees
were professors from Vassar
+ Bard College mostly +
if the School can sell its
land + buildings all will
be saved + I am happy
to say there is a possibility.
Dick lives in the big house
near my tiny house he designed
for me (he is an architect
+ it is falling about their
ears but "home". Noel is a
lawyer in Detroit doing
very well - has 4 boys (Dick
3 girls).

Have lived with the horror
of foreclosure by the Banks
this winter but it looks now
as if Noel can financially
come to the rescue - we
are dividing our property be-
tween the three of us.

In Oct. 1974 I was given
the most wonderful job as
Director of the Senior Cit. Residence
of the Benedictine Hospital in
Huntington just a 25 min. drive
across the Hudson from my
house. I have a salary which
enables me to live here but
all my capital has been put
in the school + while I was
running it I did so on

used in my classes & the children & loaned to a few
who are interested. I hope you will approve of the gift
tution & if I had to borrow be-
cause of unpaid tutions, I
repaid so here I am,
at 75 - (76 in March) with a
job I love & think the Benedictine
appreciates. I must confess
it hasn't been easy this
year & I have had to take
this month of Dec. off as I
have just returned from
my 4th operation for cancer
at Memorial Hospital in N.Y.C.
to be followed by radiation
at Vassar Hosp. in Poughkeepsie
tomorrow. Evidently it has
spread a lot & my only
difficulty is to walk & endure
the especially made elastic
panty hose to keep glands in
place as they seem to wander
for can I complain of pain
but it is frustrating. I expect
to go back to work New Year.
It was a joy to see
you again in Taos. I
think of you often when I
see my old people who
have given up & become so
complaining or those who keep
on with a constructive pattern
to their living. Your enthusiasm
is wonderful & I have my
own although I have had
to take to the needle rather
than the hoe & rake. Tools
I much prefer & give up gardening
& my chickens. The Enduring
March is my great treasure