



Oct 10, 1976
Rochester, N. Y.

Dear Laura,

The pot arrived in perfect shape in the magnificent box which you made for it. It came just as Frances and I were leaving for Rochester to attend a weekend symposium on the history of photography. Thank you so much for shipping it to me. As for the pot itself, I was a little disappointed that its firing caused that dull grey color on the upper portion. However, Frances, for whom I had gotten it, liked it very much and it does fit in well with our other Indian pots.

I want to thank you also for making our stay in Santa Fe so delightful. Lee and I both agree that it was one of the most enjoyable and memorable jaunts we have ever taken on behalf of our little publishing company.

One marvelous experience followed the next in such rapid order that before we knew it our four days in the South West were over and

I was heading back to the polluted environs of New York City.

My first thrill was simply meeting you again and feeling the warmth of your hospitality. Your enthusiasm for life, your humanity and the place you have established amongst the young people (photographers), who so obviously appreciate and adore you, is a great inspiration to one who aspires to live through his eighties. I also admire very much the way you have extended your house. The gallery, dark room and work areas which have been added are the blend of need and beauty which good architecture must always achieve.

Next, the day we spent picking images for the portfolio, six out hundreds, was terribly tiring but very exciting. I believe we have a superb selection which reflects each important area of your work and at the same time fits together well. I hope that you have had a chance to start on the platinum prints and that your ideas for printing the rich tones of the old platinum prints are working out. I will send you a contract letter shortly, which will cover the financial agreement we agreed to.

Of course, the afternoon spent at Saint Idefonso watching the Comedance was another great if unexpected thrill. as was being invited into Annie Martinez's home for tea and a look at that marvelous collection of Maria's pots.

Finally, I must tell you how much I enjoyed meeting Bill Clift and Ed Ranney and their families. They are both excellent photographers who deserve to be supported. Lee and I each bought some of their work. They also seem to be carving out meaningful lives in the South West, with some of the old goals and virtues that have been disappearing from our society in recent years - home, family, hard work, living a healthy life etc.

I trust that this letter finds you well.

With best wishes and regards from Frances,
Fondly, Dan Berles