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March 17, 1976

Miss Laura Gilpin
409 Camino del Monte Sol
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87501

Dear Laura:

Recently, your cousin, Lewis Allen, dropped in at the museum in Fort Worth, and we were able to have a very pleasant chat about photography and about you, and I was able to show him around the beginnings of our new wing to the building. In the course of our conversations, I mentioned that for future reference we were developing a very fine photographic archives facility, and we were interested in collections which would be representative of our sphere of interest. It was then that Mr. Allen mentioned the future of your negative collections.

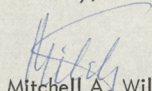
Some years ago, I think we discussed this matter very briefly, and you had indicated at that time that Fred Dockstader and the Museum of the American Indian were interested in the ultimate disposition of your negatives. I realize this is a complex subject and one I certainly would not wish to intrude upon were it not that Mr. Allen has urged me to extend my comments to you.

With the new addition to the building, we will really be in a remarkable position to expand many aspects of the museum program, among them the photographic archives. Without elaborating too much, let me say that my interest in the deposit of negative collections is as keen as is in the development of our print collections, so if there is something we could contribute in this matter, I would like very much to discuss it with you. However, please let me assure you that I do not wish to present myself as an interloper in matters which you may very well have resolved long ago.

I still hope to get to Santa Fe, but it seems one thing or another is always interfering. Have just returned from a three weeks junket to India on behalf of the State Department, and am now trying to get the top of my desk cleared off.

Fond greetings in which Sal joins.

Sincerely,



Mitchell A. Wilder
Director

MAW:aca