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picture research

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February 7, 1977

Ms. Laura Gilpin
409 Camino del Monte Sol
Sante Fe, New Mexico 87501

Dear Ms. Gilpin:

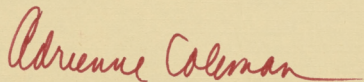
As a follow up to our telephone conversation earlier today, I am enclosing the three xeroxes of your photographs from The Rio Grande, River of Destiny, that my client, Leo Burnett Company would like to consider for use in an advertisement for U.S. Savings Bonds.

I would be most appreciative if you could have prints made of the three photographs and send them to me at your convenience. One of the three will be used for the advertisement.

I told you about seeing two of your photographs from your book reproduced in Champion Papers publication, Rivers U.S.A. Credit is given to you on the back page of the book as a special consultant. If you wish to see the publication and cannot obtain a copy from Champion Paper company please let me know and I can lend you mine.

Thank you for your kind attention to this matter.
I look forward to hearing from you soon.

Sincerely,

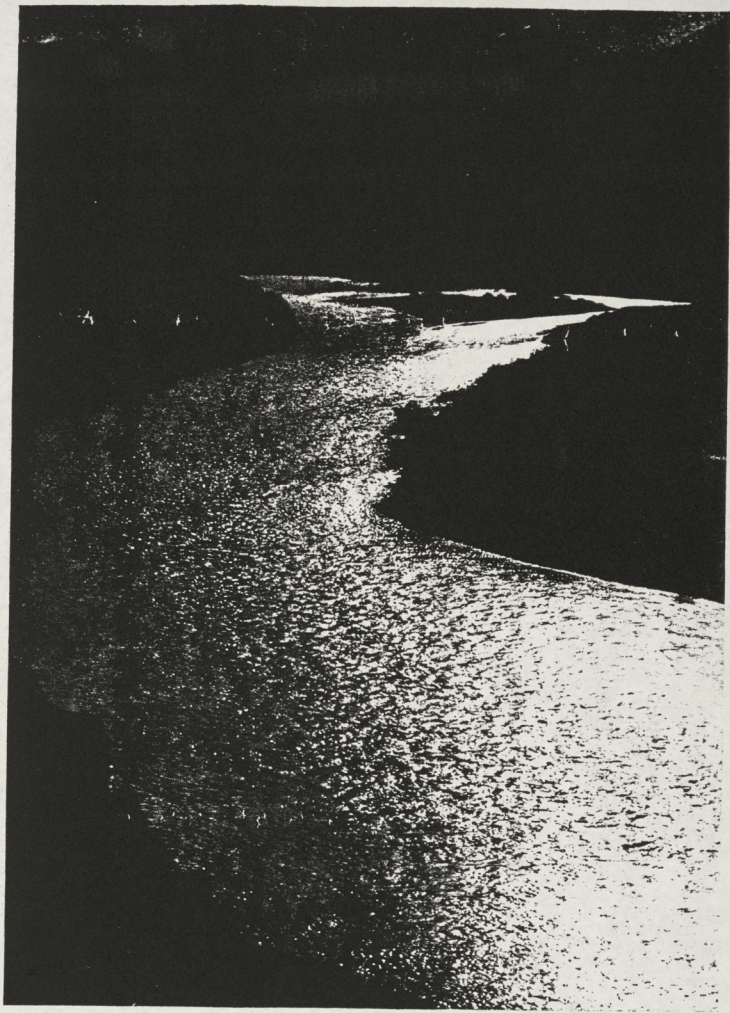


Adrienne Coleman

Looking this



The Río Conchos brings renewed life and energy to the somewhat depleted Río Grande as it joins the river just above the border towns of Presidio, Texas, and Ojinaga, Mexico. From Ojinaga, looking up the Río Grande (Río Bravo, the Mexicans call it), the junction with the Conchos is not visible, but the mountains between this valley and the El Paso-Juárez Valley bound the distant scene.



A flash of sunlight precedes a thunderstorm.



Through this part of the National Park, the Comanche Trail crossed into Mexico. For many years the Comanche Indians spread terror among the frontier inhabitants as they descended from the northern plains in their annual raids of pillage, continuing into Mexico as far south as the city of Durango. The September full moon came to be known as the Comanche Moon, when all who lived in the probable path of the Indians, fled to safety. One of the agreements in the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo was that the United States would protect Mexico from the ravages of the Comanches.

To patrol the Comanche Trail, the United States Army experimented with the use of camels. These were brought to Texas in 1856 by Secretary of War Jefferson Davis to test their value in the deserts of the Southwest. This romantic idea proved unsuccessful as neither the Army nor the cowboys knew how to handle the animals. Arab and Egyptian herdsmen were brought from Tunis, Constantinople, and Smyrna to teach the proper methods of packing and handling the caravans. In an attempt to use horses, mules, and camels in one pack train, stampedes occurred and a number of animals were lost. For many years stray camels were seen occasionally, aimlessly wandering like lost souls in an unknown land.