

June 20, 1977

Mr. Milton Meltzer
White Hill Lane
Hillsdale, New York 12529

Dear Mr. Meltzer;

Thank you very much for your letter concerning your biography of Dorothea Lange. I am very glad to know that it is being done. I saw her husband, Bill Taylor, when I was in San Francisco last year and had a very nice talk with him. Unfortunately, I only knew Dorothea slightly. I met her first up at the Aspen Conference in 1951 and had several good talks with her there and then in 1959 I saw her in San Francisco and she was kind enough to go through my dummy of the Navaho book and give me encouragement about it.

When I was at the Clarence White School, I was on East 11th street for the winter session, so that I did not meet Dorothea at that time as she was at Columbia. Though I was at the school in 1917-1918 downtown, and during 1931-1932 I was not in Taos at all. But my headquarters were in Colorado Springs which is also my birthplace. I wish that I had letters that I could Xerox for you. But I regret these were all just personal conversations and I can only dig up various impressions and memories of that time. Also, you ask if I could give you any impressions of Clarence White as a teacher. I quickly and enthusiastically say after all these years that he was one of the greatest teachers I have ever known in any field. His enthusiasm and his interest in his students and his help in every possible way and his example without his insisting anyone do things like his own work made him an outstanding teacher in my estimation. Thank you very much.

Sincerely yours,

Laura Gilpin

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