



**BRITISH BROADCASTING CORPORATION**

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3rd May 1978

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

Dear Laura Gilpin,

This confirms our telephone conversation regarding the pictures of  
Dr. Frederick Young.

The film is about how his curiosity about nature led him into the world of nuclear physics. You will recall I spoke about his childhood fascination for the sun, rainbows, lightning etc. His curiosity about how nature's works seems to be the main theme of his life and the film.

Having spent his childhood hunting and gathering to support his younger brothers and sisters - living life governed by the sun in the Navajo way - he is now trying to understand the fusion processes that go on in the sun. The eventual hope, of course, is to reproduce this process in a nuclear fusion reactor to produce limitless energy. What seems to us remarkable is that in the space of a single lifetime he has moved from a life in which his survival depended on almost pre-historic technology (he used to use a fire drill when the ran out of matches) to working at the frontiers of modern day science.

I have some basic suggestions for the pictures, but have no wildly imaginative ideas. If you have anything better, I'd be delighted if you would pursue your ideas in addition to the ones I suggest.

The pictures are to publicise Fred's story. The film itself is a non-profit making educational film, lasting about an hour, and made by the British Broadcasting Corporation. In America it will be shown in the Nova series.

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Picture suggestions are:

1. Fred Young in the Control Room where the 8 Beam Facility countdown takes place. Possibly Fred Young standing or sitting in the foreground and facing camera and behind him the bank of controls stretching away with a lot of people standing and watching and as many people as possible standing at the controls with clipboards and earphones and microphones.

This is the type of scene you would see when an actual shot is fired. It is the sort of thing we filmed - the idea would be to combine Fred with the symbol of technology and a lot of Anglo scientists in the background.

Barbara Mulkin, a wizard at these things, will I am sure arrange a mock or an actual countdown.

2. A portrait of Fred sitting in his trailer at the Laser Division. This is very much his "work home".

Note: the atomic table on the wall behind him or the clock and Yei on the table behind him - maybe useful.

3. Fred with the sun behind him against mountains or any landscape vaguely reminiscent of Indian country. I once took some of him at sunset with the sun setting over his shoulder and flaring through the lens elements. Unfortunately I under-exposed all his face, but I think the idea is worth a go. It appealed to him and would provide a chance to get the sun theme into a picture and caption.

For this picture he should wear a headband and be dressed informally as he was on the reservation during the filming. Ideally, the shot should be done on the reservation, but we can't afford it, hence the anonymous Indian country background.

It may be important for Barbara to explain beforehand that this is essentially a re-shoot of a picture we tried earlier and wearing a headband would fit in with the photograph we took on the reservation.

You may of course see many other pictures or locations in the open that appeal to you. Please feel free to do anything you like.

4. Fred with as many of his family as possible against the 'land' - preferably in traditional dress.
5. Perhaps a portrait in his lounge at home in front of his mantelpiece above which is a very large picture of Shiprock and various Indian artefacts.

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Depending on his work pressure and mood, Fred may or may not be relaxed. Barbara usually manages to work miracles in this direction. I may try and get Dr. Bergman, a close friend of Fred's (he used to work in the Indian Health Service) to come over if he is free. I found Dr. Bergman exceptionally good at putting Fred at his ease. This wouldn't get in your way, but is useful to relax the atmosphere.

You should send the pictures and bill addressed to me and headed  
( 'Omnibus: Fred Young 4147/8159' )  
Accounts Department, BBC TV  
British Broadcasting Corporation  
630  
5th Avenue  
New York  
NY 10020

I have sent a copy of this letter to Barbara Mulkin (505-667-6101) at Los Alamos. She said she would kindly arrange transport for you and liaise with Dr. Young.

Incidentally, any tips you can give Fred on how to take pictures of the sun would be appreciated by him. He has just bought a miniature Vivator camera.

Good luck.

Kind regards,

*Michael Barnes*

(Michael Barnes)  
Producer Omnibus  
Music and Arts Television