

October 12, 1978

Miss Linda A. Mainville
23 North Street
Rutland, Vermont 05701

Dear Miss Mainville;

West I am very sorry to be so long in answering and returning your print. As a matter of fact, this is the ~~first~~ platinum print that I have seen the younger workers do who are trying it out. I noticed that you are using the formula put out by Elegant Images, which is practically the same as my own. I see that you are using the soft formula exclusively, which would indicate that perhaps your enlarged negative is a little too contrasty. Getting a really fresh ferric oxalate solution seems to be one of the larger problems. My own work, for the most part, is all contact 8 x 10 negatives and occasional enlarged negatives for this purpose. I have tried the Elegant Images material, and most of it I have found very satisfactory, though I think my own formula for solution #3 (the chloro-platinite) is quite a bit stronger than their formula. If you are getting as good a print as this, using the softer possible combination of chemicals, I think that your enlarged negatives are perhaps too contrasty. I suggest you try a softer positive and see what your results are. I also suggest one other thing for tonal value; using your developer anywhere from very warm to quite hot. This will change the color quality of your print and probably soften it. With best wishes to you, I am,

Very truly yours,

Laura Gilpin

LGsb