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MARCH 17, 1978

DEAR MISS GILPIN:

I HAVE BEEN READING ABOUT YOU AND VIEWING YOUR PHOTOGRAPHY FOR THE PAST FIVE YEARS. I HAD THE PLEASURE OF SPENDING A NUMBER OF HOURS WITH YOUR WORK AT THE HEARD MUSEUM IN PHOENIX ARIZONA IN 1975. THOSE HOURS HAVE SERVED AS A CONTINUING INSPIRATION TO ME.

I AM A PROFESSIONAL PHOTOGRAPHER IN CENTRAL PENNSYLVANIA AND OWN A COMMERCIAL STUDIO. LIKE YOUR STUDIES OF THE SOUTHWEST OVER THE YEARS I HAVE BEEN PHOTOGRAPHING THE PENNSYLVANIA AMISH AND OLD ORDER MENNONITES FOR THE LAST FIVE YEARS. I WOULD LIKE NOTHING MORE THAN TO SHARE MY WORK WITH YOU IF YOU WERE EVER IN MY AREA.

MY MAIN REASON FOR WRITING YOU, OTHER THAN HAVING A GREAT RESPECT FOR YOU AND YOUR WORK, IS TO KNOW THE PROPER CHANNELS THROUGH WHICH ONE MAY HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO PURCHASE ONE OF YOUR PHOTOGRAPHS. I HAVE WRITTEN TO DIFFERENT GALLERIES IN NEW YORK IN THE LAST TWO YEARS WITHOUT SUCCESS.

I WILL BE IN TUCSON, ARIZONA ON MAY 15 THROUGH JUNE 5, 1978. I AM HOPING THAT SOMEONE IN THE SOUTHWEST WILL BE ABLE TO HELP ME OBTAIN A SIGNED PHOTOGRAPH OF YOURS. COULD YOU BE OF ANY ASSISTANCE TO ME ON THIS MATTER? I WOULD BE WILLING TO MAKE THE TRIP TO SANTA FE IF NECESSARY. I SINCERELY FEEL THAT YOUR ACHIEVEMENTS IN THE PHOTOGRAPHIC WORLD ARE UNSURPASSED. I HAVE WANTED A LAURA GILPIN NOW FOR FIVE YEARS. AN ANSEL ADAMS WILL NOT DO.

AFFECTIONATELY YOURS

DAVID A. LAUVER