

February 22, 1978

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

Alan Lee Voorhees
608 Lovell Avenue
Elmira, New York 14905

Dear Miss Gilpin,

Six Years ago while attending graduate school at the University of New Mexico, I had the privilege of coming to your home to speak with you about platinum printing. I had a most enjoyable afternoon that day looking at your work and also through your home and studio. I wish to thank you again for being so kind to a stranger. I promised you at that time that I would send you any information I found regarding sources of supply and I remembered you mentioned the badger hair blending brush you used to use and how you had tried to find a new one. At that time I made a promise to myself that I would try to find you one and send it along as a thank you.

I have looked long and hard having written to many companies and I have had no success. I have found in my own work that a good sable brush along with the two types I have inclosed do a favorable job.

I have been slow in getting back to my own work after dropping out of UNM and starting a family however a recent article sent to me by Lynn Daily of F.D. Fogg/Co. in Albuquerque (she was the one who sent you the umbrella) stirred me to get to work. I was glad to hear of your Canyon de Chelly work coming along and recall the work you placed at the foot of your bed to get you started ^{in the morning}. I also have been haunted by the memory of a soft focus print of a cliff dwelling you showed me and with mention of your new gallery I wondered if that might be for sale. My funds are limited yet I feel the need to own one of your works as a remembrance of the good times I had in the southwest.

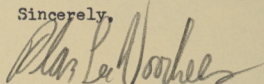
I have also enclosed copies of material I have gathered to begin work. I have included many general things not as an insult but simply for the reason that they may relate ideas on current materials you had not used.

I have started working using 35mm negs. and blowing them up on the Kodak direct dupe film. I have begun as funds permit to get into larger format work

by rebuilding an old 1918 Seneca View I was given and I am also building a 4x5 using some great plans I obtained from the university of Michigan. My only hold back now is a lens. I hope to find an old Kodak Ektar but they seem few and far between. Something will come along to do the job it will just require more searching.

I appologize for taking so long in getting this material to you though I am sure this will be a complete surprise to you and you will no doubt not even recall our meeting. I simply want to thank you for becoming a part of my photographic life when I needed that special contact your provided.

Sincerely,



Alan Lee Voorhees

P.S. I formerly worked at Fogg Jewely in Albuquerque and was a neighbor of John Candelaria who directed me to you.