

LOS ALAMOS COUNTY HISTORICAL MUSEUM & SOCIETY

1921 Juniper  
Los Alamos, New Mexico 87544

P.O. Box 43  
505-662-6272

March 30, 1979

Ms. Laura Gilpin  
409 Camino Del Monte Sol  
Santa Fe, NM 87501

Dear Ms. Gilpin:

The Los Alamos Historical Museum is planning an exhibit of your Ranch School photographs to be held in conjunction with the Fuller Lodge Art Center's showing of photographs by you and William Clift in May of this year. I learned from Hilda Volkin that you have so graciously consented to prepare the photographs for that exhibit, and I realize that you are quite busy with that alone. For that reason, I am writing to you rather than requesting a meeting with you.

I have recently assumed the position of archivist for the Historical Museum and am, as are our other staff members, impressed with the beauty and value of your Ranch School photographs. As you probably know, we have never exhibited these photographs to the public. We feel that it would be exciting to our visitors to see both shows because of the different subject matter of each, and especially because the Ranch School period is one that intrigues our visitors the most. Your photographs help us to bring this period to life. We have chosen forty-six of your photographs from our collection to put on exhibit in the museum.

There are a few questions that I would like to ask you, concerning both the impending exhibit and the state of some of our photographs. I believe that our former archivist had given you some photographs to be redone because of their poor state. One of these in particular would be an excellent addition to the exhibit. It shows six Ranch School boys riding horses on North Mesa (Horse Mesa). The others are as follows:

- Birthday dinner at Fuller Lodge
- Ranch school student on horseback riding to the rings on gymkana field - 1939
- Ranch School boys saddling up at school stables - 1933
- Guest room at Ranch School - 1935

We would love to have these photographs whenever you are able to redo them.

I might add that this will be only the initial showing of your Ranch School photographs. We plan to exhibit them once a year in the future so that we may share them with as many of our visitors as possible.

Laura Gilpin  
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One of the photographs which we have chosen to exhibit is unfortunately damaged - a corner is broken off. It is the scene of cows around Ashley Pond. It is one of my favorites of the entire collection. We have not decided whether or not to exhibit it "as is." Perhaps if you were able to redo it some time in the future, we could include it in a later exhibit.

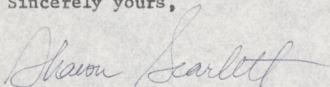
I understand that most, if not all, of your collection was given to the Amon Carter Museum in Fort Worth. Does this include the Ranch School negatives? If so, do you think that we could get copy negatives for our collection? (would you object)?

We have an album of photographs donated to us by Fermor Church which includes work by you and by T. H. Parkhurst. We would be most grateful if sometime in the future you could identify which of these photographs are yours.

We will appreciate any assistance that you can give us at whatever time is convenient to you. It would be most helpful if you could supply us with a publicity photograph of yourself and a complete bibliography (including interviews and articles about yourself). These would help me to prepare our brochure for the exhibit. We would be delighted if you have redone the photograph of the boys on North Mesa.

We look forward to seeing you at the Fuller Lodge exhibit in May.

Sincerely yours,



Sharon Scarlett  
Archivist

662-6272  
662-7740

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