

303-761-6572

3017 S. Cornell Circle  
Englewood, Colorado 80110  
February 14, 1979

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

Dear Miss Gilpin:

It was a pleasure for my husband and me to meet you and to view some of your prints on December 30. Just wish that I had made that photo of Sierra Blanca for my own book on the San Luis Valley.

Despite the horrors of moving back into our home after two years' absence, the prospect of writing an article about your photographic career has not been forgotten. I have talked to Ed Holm, editor of American West, a very reputable and attractive magazine which has been sponsored for sixteen years by the Western History Association. I am enclosing a copy for your scrutiny. This issue carries an article which George and I did on photography of the Grand Canyon.

Mr. Holm expressed interest in an article about you. Tentatively, he believes that it would be suitable for the magazine. He wishes to see an outline of the article, which I am sending to him today, and stated that a portfolio of your own photographs would enhance such an article immensely.

Now I must come back to you to enquire about your willingness to provide some of your own prints. Obviously, you should be in a position to negotiate reimbursement for this use of material. If you wish to write to Mr. Holm directly, you will find his name and address in the fore-matter of the magazine. If you feel confident in my own dealings with him, I will do the best that I can for both of us, but I should state immediately that this magazine is not a particularly affluent enterprise. George and I received only \$200 for our article with prints of archival photographs. Something more should be offered with your own fine photographs, I would hope.

I am also enclosing a copy of the outline, in part because I think that it would give you some ideas about what types of photographs would make useful illustrations. Although I need to learn much more about you, it is my impression that your experiences with the visiting nurses' program had a deep influence, which culminated in the work in the Southwest--i.e., that what you learned in Colorado Springs with Miss Forster underlay your understanding of the people you photographed elsewhere. At the same time, a concurrent theme, not unlike Frank Waters', seems to pervade your appreciation of the influence of land and nature on the people who occupy a place. Do I go too far?

By the way, I called on Abby Kernochan last week and found her in excellent spirits although somewhat weakened physically. She remembers you well and reports that your family lived in her old home at 1200 N. Wood.

I shall look forward to hearing from you.

Cordially,

*Virginia*  
Virginia McConnell Simmons