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Laura Gilpin
LAURA GILPIN PHOTOGRAPHER
409 Camino del Monte Sol
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87501

Dear Miss Gilpin:

I was simply delighted today when I received your letter. I too am happy for the coincidence of being at the press while your book was in progress--otherwise my parents may never have discovered the book's existence. My father, Jewel McGee, has a print of the early picture of Red Rock Trading Post with my Uncle Carlos Stolworthy behind the counter--it is his pride and joy, as it is the only evidence he has left of the "old Red Rock Trading Post". He has shown it to me many times and so naturally I was quite shocked when Mrs. Spielman came down to my office carrying the prints for your book and it was among them. Actually, I feel like the whole book is mine as I am familiar with almost all of it.

I was really quite sick about one thing though, and that is the one picture showing Troy Kennedy and a Navaho with the sheep skins in one of Red Rock's store rooms. Why couldn't it have been my father?! Troy was only my father's hired hand at that time. Knowing my father he was probably camera shy. I realize that you didn't plan it that way--just wishful thinking that it could have been my Dad. I, of course, have told my parents all about your book and we are all anxiously awaiting the day it is completed. My parents plan on giving my Uncle Carlos one for Christmas.

My father says he remembers you very well. He said that you were a teacher at the Day School out at Red Rock--is this correct? He also said that he is certain that I did see you as a little girl, as you were in and out of the store quite often. My Uncle Carlos and his wife are both still living. I think they are still living in Spanish Fork, Utah. My father bought Red Rock from my Uncle many years ago--which I am sure you are aware of. He later went into partnership with Troy Kennedy. About two years ago my father sold his half to Troy Kennedy and he is now sort of retired. Daddy still ranches and farms around Farmington, New Mexico and he also has part interest in a couple of smaller stores on the reservation.

I get very melancholy when I think of Red Rock and all of the memories it holds for me and my family.

I am not sure if you were interested in hearing all of this--I did get a bit carried away. Anyway, I think your book is just beautiful and who knows, I may even leave a few for the public to purchase.

I was sorry to hear that you were on crutches, and do hope that you will soon be rid of them and feeling better. I wish that you could come to Austin when your book is published as I would very much like to meet you. Perhaps some big party could be arranged!

I am enclosing our new fall catalogue, and Helen Simons, our promotion manager, is going to see about an ad for the Navajo Times.

Sincerely,

Joan McGee Morris