

Sept. 20.
1948

Dear Wally:-

Endless postponements have delayed my sending you the substitute picture of the bomb site. Mr. Tyler, the manager of Los Alamos, who arranged for me to go, has been called away each time we have had an appointment. He has just returned now from his vacation and I have another appointment for next week. This material and one other substitution which I have been holding to send in with this. They will certainly come within the next ten days.

Plans seem to shaping for me at last as to my coming east, and while I have been waiting to hear just when I would be of the most use to you a new job has just come in. I am afraid to tell you for fear you will think me an idiot of the first rank! I just can't leave that Rio Grande alone! A Texas woman has bought a house in Taos which I have just photographed for her. Now she wants me to go do a similar portfolio of her two other houses, one in Wichita Falls, the other in Brownsville! This means another trip "down river" and of-course I leap at the chance to make some improvements in the last section of the book. Do I hear you laugh or otherwise?? As I have been working on the prints for my show I find lacks in that last section, chiefly activities. We could cut out some plant things, and substitute others. This Mrs. Griffin came down to see my prints and brought with her another Brownsville woman. From them I have learned of a number of things I either did not know or was unable to get when there before. But I shall not bother you with details of all this now. I am making a tentative plan, subject to word from you, to go down there Dec. 1st, get these new pictures for the book, do her houses and then drive on east. I should probably spend Christmas with my Gilpin cousins in Virginia and then come on to New York right after. If all this come to pass I shall be glad of the delay on the book for I have sufficient perspective on the whole job now to see its weaknesses and to want to correct them. Something of the mohair industry in the Del Rio Eagle Pass area is a must as I have nothing of that region and I know we would both hear about it. It is larger and much more important than I knew. And these Brownsville contacts will be of great help for few changes to make down down there.

Please don't thin-

too badly of me for wanting to do this. The whole thing has been such a big job and it was hard indeed to get all the most important aspects of a region so strange to me as that lower part of the river. I have had time now to come back to it with really renewed vigor.

Plans for my show of 100 prints of the book go ahead as originally planned for Colorado Springs opening there Nov. 15th. I have heard so many groans from people there as well as here over delay that I have a suggestion to make for Santa Fe and Colorado Springs. That we get out an advance folder about the book with a gift certificate so that these many nice people who say they want to give it for Christmas presents could do so in this manner with delivery promised for date of publication. What do you think?

Whenever you have a layout ready for me to see, I am more than anxious for it. Any possible changes in the last section need not alter number of pages nor anything in the first two thirds of the book. I just know that with the knowledge I now have I could produce from six to ten substitute pictures which would greatly strengthen the last section and vastly improve the whole. If you wish me to itemize my own criticisms of that section I will do so. I could quickly have all new material ready for you after I get to New York, before if needed.

I have another idea, passed on to me, as to a possible remunerative side line in connection with this book for both of us. I will go into that item later. I only hope I haven't given you too much of shock with my wishes as here stated. It all rests with all of you in New York anyway.

Wednesday I go to Colorado Springs for a session of dentist and will be back the middle of next week. I am to see Mr. Tyler the day after my return, and the last pictures from this region will be off to you. He has to pass on them before they go out.

I hope to find an answer from you when I return, and that you as well as I want this book to be all that I can possibly make it.

The first statement from Hastings House since the publication of TEMPLES IN YUCATAN has just come and I am greatly encouraged. 1200 copies in the first four months on an expensive and specialized book, and it hasn't gotten started in Mexico save 100 copies. The tourist season in Yucatan is just about commencing so that I have hopes, the edition will go quickly.

This brings my regards to all,

Most sincerely