

Marxh 11,
1950

Mr Charles A. Pearce,
Duell, Sloan & Pearce, Inc.
270 Madison Ave.,
New York, N.Y.

Dear Cap:-

Sorry. I didn't understand that you wanted an outline before drawing up the contract, though if I had stopped to think I should have known that you must have it. And I haven't answered your letter by return mail because there has been a meeting scheduled here for a talk by under Secretary Warne on Indian problems, and I was very anxious to hear all that he had to say before writing you. The meeting was extremely interesting. And it seems that at long last the Navaho re-habilitation program is through. This will make for much of interest in many ways on the reservation this summer. And last night a delegation from Taos came down to ask the Secretary some questions. There has been an internal split up there and much trouble because some of the young men, particularly those who were in the army, want to get control of the government of the pueblo. They have been bitterly opposed by the older men, of-course, who resist change. The Governor, the head council man and an interpreter got up before the audience to ask the Secretary three questions (it took over half an hour). I wish you could have seen their earnestness, their seriousness, their formality, and above all the clear way their stated their problem.

I enclose herewith a tentative outline of the Navaho book. It will, however be one of flux, for changes are coming rapidly and with the new program on will come more quickly still, for the Navaho can adapt himself extremely quickly. My concern will be getting sufficient material for the section on TRADITION. But this is as I see it at the moment.

I had a letter from Mary Goodwin early in February from Mexico City and in it she said that they would be in Arizona early in March but wouldn't have time to come to Santa Fe. When I wired the office for his Arizona address, I thought that they were to be in Arizona earlier than this. So, I finally wrote to Mexico City, but I have never heard a word. I do want to talk with Wally as to format type, number of pages, etc. before I get into this too

far. Because this book will be concentrated one as to research, it should not take as long as the Rio by many months PROVIDED I am not frustrated too badly in obtaining the pictures for TRADITION section, old customs etc. One happy circumstance is that the Indian who is chief of the Navaho Tribal Council is an old friend of mine, I have known him since 1925, and I believe that I can get much help from him.

Next week, I shall make a quick run over into the reservation somewhere to get some lambing pictures. I have been waiting hoping to hear from Wally, and also to clean the slate here at home. Then return and get ready to rent my house for the summer, and move over to spend much of the time in car and tent. I shall make every effort to do this job and have it ready for you by June 1951, so we can get in on the Christmas market of that year. (It will probably take another year!) but that is my goal. A good deal of the material I did while working with my friend Elizabeth Forester when she was a field nurse on the reservation in 1932-35, I will be able to use. And also much of her material which was contained in the letters she tried to have published. She is living with me here now, has made a miracle recovery from polio-encephalitis, and though not strong enough for a fulltime job, has been here helping me. She is all enthused over this book and her knowledge and understanding of the Navahos will be abig help I know. While I regret deeply that her own effort never materialized, I also realize what was the matter with it. It lacked continuity, sequence, and above all, she so obliterated her own work that it was left too much like an ethnologists report without his sufficient training. Some of her experiences I can use I am sure.

33
Does RIO GRANDE continue its good record? It must be nearly time for a reprint IF the first edition was 5000. I have asked that question several times but still dont know how many copies were printed. This was one the major things I want to talk to Wally about. If I hear from him in the next few days, I will drive down to intercept them on thier eastward drive. An hour's talk would be a great help. There are a few small changes to make in a new edition which will not involve much by rearrangement. I will not go into this here but send it along in a few days if I do not hear from Wally. This brings my very best wishes to all of you

Most sincerely

March 11,
1950

far. As this book will be a concentrated one, as far as research goes, it should not take me as long as the Rio Grande by many months provided that I do not run into too many frustrations in obtaining pictures for the section on TRADITION. One happy circumstance is, that the Navaho who is now head of the Tribal Council is an old friend of mine-I have known him since 1925. I feel sure he will be sympathetic with the project and very helpful.

Since starting this letter, I have heard from Wally. He will be in Tucson Monday and I shall make every effort to intercept his eastward journey. There are a number of things to go over with him, particularly the slight re-arrangement that I hope we can make in edition two of RIO GRANDE.

While I shall make every possible effort to complete this book in fifteen months' time, I don't promise it! One never knows the obstacles, but many factors will contribute to a more speedy completion on this one.

As you may be hearing from Wally Monday I am hurrying this into the air mail so that you will have it the first thing Monday morning.

this brings my best wishes to all of you,

Most sincerely

March 11,
1950

Tentative Outline for book on the Navahos.

TITLE: Not yet decided upon.

I suggest three major sections, with the whole book following the pattern set in the RIO GRANDE.

HISTORY

A condensed section, probably not more than four text pages. Possibly one landscape.

TRADITION

I This should be the major part of the book containing at least fifteen landscapes. These to include the Sacred Mountains, Prayer Rock, Canyon de Chelly, Monument Valley, Shiprock, and space for things or places I don't yet know about. Also some symbolic figure studies, which can incorporate much of the old Navaho religion.

II Manner of life of old tradition. While changes are coming in sweeping strides right now, there is still much that can be found in out of the way places. Also I have material made some years ago that has never been used.

III Activities. What can be found of old style, such as thrashing wheat, sheep herding, sheering, spinning wool, dyeing and weaving. Silversmithing. All that I can get of my ceremonies. The making of a sand painting, and if possible some night things of a fire dance.

TRANSITION

This section to include things that go on to-day, in the life of the Navahos as they seek to adapt themselves to our way of life. Possibly a few pictures of the transplanted colony on the Colorado river which sounds extremely interesting. The book should end with a young Indian facing the future with white man's education.

In making all the figure pictures I shall strive for significant portraits for the characters one finds among the Navahos are superb. Some close ups, and a number of figure things with landscape background. And as these people are extremely colorful in every sense of the word, I hope that a few color reproductions can be used. Possibly six.