

July 17, 1951

Mr. Charles H. Duell,
Mr. Charles A. Pearce,
270 Madison Ave.,
New York. N.Y.

Dear Charles and Cap:-

Many thanks for your so nice telegram. It greatly strengthened my convictions and made me deliberate in answering the request. I sent the enclosed letter, to which I have had an immediate telephone response. While it is easy to get mad etc. the point is I want that assignment for two reasons, even three. First it would give our book a big boost which it apparently needs right now. Second I should like to earn what it would bring in to help me along with the Navaho Book. Third, I just feel that this is my job. And as you see, after some hesitation and backed by your strong words, I told them so!

Mr. Ross was very nice over the phone and asked if I had any color work that could be submitted saying that some photographers who have long worked in black and white don't always click in color. Well, I have his request for that and I have some color things which I hope will close the deal. The story that they will run will probably be an eight page spread like one they did in 1950 of the Desert in Bloom which you may remember.

I don't want you to think I am laying down on the Navaho job. I am hard at it, but work on it is intermittent as I am having to earn the way along. Much material is in hand but there still remains much to be done. If I do get this assignment for the Rio Story I think you will agree that I should do it for what it will do for the RIO GRANDE book.

This is to thank you for your advice and to keep you in touch with what goes on. It is a very nice feeling to know that you are so strongly behind my efforts. With very best wishes to one and all.

Most sincerely

P.S. Do send me some word of Wally. I heard that he had had domestic troubles which I am so sorry to hear. I have heard nothing from him for months.