

Box 1173
Santa Fe,
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May 4, 53

Mr. Charles A. Pearce,
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New York, N.Y.

Dear Cap:-

It is a long, long time since I have sent you any report of my doings. Life just seems to be very complicated and days merge in the most alarming rapidity. You may be wondering if I have abandoned my Navaho Project with the failure to get the grant, but what I have not told you yet is that last fall out the beautiful blue sky came an anonymous grant through the Laboratory of Anthropology for \$2500. for me to finish the book. I know who the donor is and I feel quite fine about it, I shall present the Laboratory with a set of prints which will make this more or less a paid in advance purchase. I have been out on several trips and have a goodly lot of new work, but again, the deeper one gets in the more there is to do. On top of all this, the charming little house to which I moved nearly two years ago, on trial for possible future purchase, proved to be in the wrong location. People just couldn't find me, and we were down a difficult hill which was frightful last winter. So that has meant another move. Now I am nicely fixed in the best possible location, have an excellent studio, darkroom etc. and in six weeks time, things are on th up and up. I go out on two Navaho trips in the immediate future, then one or two longer ones during the summer. This will I hope complete the photography.

Format and method of reproduction are very much in my mind. There will of necessity be about four double page spreads which should have a number of small inserts. Three books that have appeared in the last year, have me thinking strongly in terms of gravure, Barbara Morgan's SUMMER CHILDREN, Cartier-Bresson's DECISIVE MOMENT, and Ylla's ANIMALS. These French gravures are so beautiful. But I understand that having them printed abroad means relinquishing copyright. Now the question is, how important is this? And just what does "All rights reserved.." mean? Is it better to produce the finest possible book, or to risk no copyright? These are questions to be decided very soon.

Another question, shall I send in a series of Navaho things for the forthcoming U.S. Annual? This I must do in the next two weeks if I am to do it. My present situation is that I am bending every effort to complete the book and have it in your hands on or before March first of next year. I might make it sooner, but I think that my type of book is definitely a Christmas book.

In addition to possible advance publicity in U.S. Camera, there is a strong possibility of a Life story coming up within the next month. A frightful situation has developed in Southern Utah, where the Mormons are driving the Navahos off of the land where

they have lived since before there ever was a Mormon, and they have been burning the Navaho hogans, killing stock etc. I have all this information from Richard Van Volkenberg who is with the Navaho Lands claim Commission. The Utah State law protects the action and it will have to go to Federal Court. Anyway, Mr. Van is very anxious to hve me do a story on it, and of-course it is the type of material LIFE is likely to want. He is making arrangements for me to do the work, late in May. I shall cover this with everything I've got, and send it in with his script. From this work there will be some that I will use in the book. But if we place this properly it should be a help ~~first~~ to the Navahos and secondly to the book. Have you any suggestions as how best to present this story?

There are a number of seasonal things I still must have and my whole plan on this book is based on the seasons as is Navaho Life. I have undergone many changes, but of one thing I can promise you, that my work on this one is far better than any previous one, and I hope that this book will really "go across". When I think of the expensive advertising you did on the RIQ, I wonder how you have come out on it. It sells prettly steadily here, but I doubt that it does much anywhere else. People seem to be interested only in people. I'm certainly going to give that to you this time.

In the meantime there is the ever present scramble to earn a living which seems to always be difficult. Were it not for that I would be finished now. However, the added time has taught me much that I might have skipped and whic is important in trying to present Navaho Life as it was and is.

This brings my very best wishes and the hope that all goes well with you. My special greetings to Charles and a reassurance to both of you that my fullest effort is on this book.

• Most sincerely