

January 25,
1954.

Dear Charles and Cap:-

After the big push to get that tentative dummy off to you and the portfolio of prints which followed, I take time to collect thoughts and send them on also. I know that cost is probably going to be the final factor in the selection of process of reproduction. As I go over my own duplicate dummy, the single item that seems the most important is the quality of blacks we are able to produce. I have been looking at a lot of other books again, and I find in the new Abrams book of the Metropolitan Museum such fine reproduction of both drawings and photographs under the name of the "Optak process". Edward Stern Co. This looks to me like a very superior offset. Isn't this worth looking into? It is a more purely photographic process if it is offset, and should be able to yield fine results. I only wish it were possible for me to fly on for a consultation on all this, but my cash register is so very low at this stage that that is impossible particularly with so much work yet to be done.

One thing I do want to pass on is the very encouraging reactions I have had from every one to whom I have shown the dummy. These people range from anthropologists to artists and authors. Their predictions are most encouraging. The point is now to get the best possible reproduction and book making. I visualize a rather bold, sans serif type. There is nothing superfluous about the Navaho! It would be the most in keeping. I hope you agree with me on this. That is another reason why I favor bleeds on this book. No waste. Again Navaho. One thing I did not even mention in my last letter was the color frontispiece we more or less planned long ago. Georgia O'Keeffe says I must have two color reproductions, one to give the color of the people, the other the color of the landscape. I am wondering if we can't make an arrangement with U.S. Camera for 1955 to use the plates we select in that issue. I have this whole thing in color as well as black and white. Mostly in 2 1/2 x 3 1/2 but also 4x5 and 5x7. My reason for this is the possibility or rather probability of a lecture which I foresee I shall be forced to do financially as well as otherwise, but

it will all help the sale of the book.

In a few days I will have more proofs to go in the dummy, and will send them on for your insertion. It is taking a great deal of research to be certain of the information to go into the sections on ritual. Navaho Religion is so ver complex and it is being difficult indeed to boil it down to a few simple pages. As a matter of fact the photography has been by far the easiest part of this job. Winning permission to get the pictures has been the most difficult. I was despairing over even one real ritual, having been refused so many times, and then in September I got the Yeibitchai. I still feel that I must ask Sam Akeah if the tribe is willing for me to publish it. I am going over tho the tribal council meeting on Feb. 8, and will see him then. He is in Washington now on the Colorado river water project, and all this other legislation so vital to the Indian. They are threatened right now with the greatest problem of their lives with us whites. It all boils down to greed and those who are trying to get ahold of uranium and oil land, and doing it through very underhand legislation. The Indian competency bill is one; the Malone bill another.

I am more than anxious ~~from~~ letter from you and to hear what your reaction to the dummy is. I hope I gave you enough information to have it all make some sense at least. For those of us out here who know the Indians it is very easy to overlook things others may not know.

My hopes are pinned on a fine reproduction job, and I shall do my utmost to help in every way possible. What I need to know soon is whether I shall need to make softer prints as well as brilliant guide prints such as I sent in last week. It will save a great deal of time if I can make both at once as I work on each negative.

I hope that you are feeling that this is going to be a really worth while undertaking. I have lived so close to it for so long that I am often overwhelmed by all the things I haven't got.

My best wishes to you both