

Feb. 26, 1950

Miss Winnie Allen,
University of Texas,
Austin, Texas.

Dear Miss Allen:-

Your letter came yesterday and I have been hoping to hear from you for some days. I am afraid that you do not realize the work involved in preparing prints of exhibition quality. Even though I have as many as twenty duplicate prints on hand, there will be twelve to make and they are all big ones and difficult ones. I will be lucky if I can make one a day. I must have the Santa Elena Canyon, the mouth of the river, and several other big prints for this small group. In my other set, these are all toned prints which required a second processing. It took me practically one year to prepare the big show. The amount of mediocre work that is seen and is available these days tends to make people think fine photography is a simple matter.

I have had paper ordered for these large prints for two weeks. The slip came in with a back order mark, which means that the dealer had to send to the factory for it. I do not know how soon I can count on it. Do you have any time in April or May when the cases will be available? Provided that I get the material in the next day or two, I will do the very best I can I get the prints to you by March 7th, but that is only a little over 2 weeks away and I am very doubtful that it can be accomplished. As I have other work on hand I cannot devote my full time to it. I want to pick the most representative prints and have them of the quality that I have been spending my life learning how to make.

I shall proceed to get the prints ready just as quickly as possible, but will you let me know as soon as you can if a later date is possible? I know that you cannot realize the amount of work involved or that I have waited to hear definite word from you before ordering expensive material to complete the work.

Most sincerely yours