

Jan.29,1969

My dear Carlotta:

I was delighted to hear from you (after all this time) - but extremely sorry to learn that your last year at the University was so unhappy. Insensitive and unimaginative men ~~like~~ like the new Art Department head are extremely common in the business world - you would not expect to meet them in the academic world - but, unfortunately, they are now in all fields -and the academic world seems to produce a particularly vicious brand. And, of course, (speaking of the student who got your job) -the younger ^u generation today - when they do get ambitious -become absolutely ruthless. They will shove anyone out of the way (even those to whom they owe a lot) to get what they want.. It is a sort of poetic justice that you were able to ~~turn~~ turn the tables on them, in the case of the Dallas Public Library. I do wish I could see that show! Failing that, perhaps the show could be brought to New Orleans. I have a friend here - a young photographer from San Francisco named Matt Herron - who is going to start a gallery for showing photos here (something unheard of in N.O.) -and I think I could persuade him to show your exhibit, if you wish. But I should tell you that he would not be able to pay any rental fee - and, also, the place (in the French Quarter) is going to have an attached space to play jazz! So let me know.

I am very happy to tell you that my sister is in the Home for Incurables - considered the best place of its kind in N.O. I was in a terrible predicament right after my mother died - since there was no possible way I could take care of Laura myself, -she could ^{not} even have been able to get up the stairs here - and I had to go around and pester many people -but the case was desperate, and I was fortunate enough to get some people to talk to the proper people at the Home. I go to see Laura regularly as long as I am in town. If my mother, during her last 3 years, had not so completely exhausted herself waiting on Laura hand and foot - I am sure she would have lived years & longer.

Dagny and I were divorced in Nov.58, and we had been separated some time before that.. I am afraid most of the fault was my own -and it has led, since about a year ago ^{to a} situation where Dagny does not want me to see Karen -and I felt that it would be harmful to Karen to make

8. 29
a fight over it. But it distresses me deeply not to be able to see her - Karen is now a lovely and very intelligent girl... In looking back over my marriages, I now realize - when it is too late - that, subconsciously, I wanted my marriages to fail - I did not feel that it was good for me to be too happy. It boils down to: I sacrificed everything to my work - including my personal happiness -but I also hurt others, and this is the thing that bothers me the most.

And as to my work: belatedly (at 63) it is now getting some recognition. Thanks to the help of Henry Holmes Smith (of Indiana University), my whole Negative Collection (which now runs over 17,000 negatives) is being taken over, for preservation, and future use, by the new Photo Center of the University of Louisville, Ky. I hold all Reproduction Rights until my death. But after that, pictures will be available for use by people doing research and books, etc. Quite a large sum of money will be paid to my 3 children over a period of 6 years after demise. While a small sum of money will be paid to me for 5 years - after they get the negatives. But as part of the contract, I must transcribe, on the typewriter, all my hand-written Note Books for all those negatives - one slip of paper for each neg., to be used to make Index cards. I have been working on this since last July - and this is what has turned into a nightmare. It is taking me a great deal more time than I had thought - and the problems are innumerable - also I am doing many things for the University (such as Cross Indexing) which I was not supposed to do. I am furnishing more than just factual data - because Henry has warned me that if I do not give complete accounts of my pictures - that others will make up their own interpretations after I am gone. So I am trying to make this, when finished, one of the most comprehensive ~~accounts~~ outlines ever made by any photographer - of how ~~one photographer~~ the mind, and sensibilities of one photographer - a man interested in many things (from architecture to metaphysics) worked when approaching many different kinds of material. I am not certain I will be able to complete this job just the way I would like -because the pressures now ^{on me} are greater than ever -and, to make things worse, ^{developed} I have a case of neuritis in my left shoulder and arm about 10 days ago -and am typing this in great pain. But I will have to be here till at least the end of April -and possibly, May. Can you possibly make it here before then??? Please do your best! I must stop, the pain is getting too great (Have lots more to tell you if you can get here!) Warm regards. Clarence →

P.S. Am sending you a little surprise By
Parcel Post.

My phone is JA 2-5588