

20 Link NW
albuquerque
NM 87120

July 8, 1974

Dear Eliot -

Sad, very sad, news. Nancy died last night in St John Hospital, Jackson Hole, of severe injuries caused by a unique and frightful accident on the Snake River. We were vacationing in Grand Teton National Park and as a wind-up to a wonderful week we took a float trip. About 15 minutes out, as we were leisurely floating near a wooded shore, a 60 foot spruce tree fell into the river, right across the float. Nancy received a compound fracture of the left ankle, 5 broken ribs, a cracked vertebra and a brain concussion. She was doing well at the hospital when, suddenly and inexplicably, she stopped breathing and expired. Her body will be cremated and later I will scatter the ashes on the Pacific at ~~and~~ Point Lobos, a place she loved so well. On Sunday, July 20, there will be a short memorial service at our house in Albuquerque.

My future plans are uncertain, but I shall stay through the academic year 1974/75. Long before Nancy's death I had begun an inventory of our collection + library, and had started to draw up plans for its mental disposal. And I may well move East. It now seems to me impractical to assume the responsibility of acting as a trustee of your photographic estate, and must ask to be excused from my commitment. I still

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feel honored indeed that you should have chosen me to aid your executors, but I think you will agree that at this moment of my life I should pare down my ~~responsibilities~~ responsibilities, and assume only those that I know I can carry out - and obviously I could not administer your estate outside of New Mexico.

With every best wish to you and Aileen,

Yours

Beaumont