

rec'd
6/24/53
go on.

Santa Fe, N.M.

June 19 - 53

Dear Neil:

With ref. to your letter of May 6,
no success yet in securing a later or
present address for Mrs. Hildig Palmer
but answers are yet to be received from
Corabeth (Fiske) Teague - who operates the
Coyote Hotel at Coyote and Cal Miller
former Superintendent, now superintendent
of Mammoth Cave Natl Parks in Ky. One
or the other may be in position to furnish
desired info. - if they do, I'll airmail it
promptly. -

Reported, with delight, at the ensuing Reg. 3.
Staff meeting, your information that
funds have finally been provided for
publication of two volumes of your Chaco final
report. This is grand news, and since
the staff minutes are distributed to all
Southwestern field areas, all the interested
Southwestern archeologists will share in
your satisfaction.

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Haven't had a free moment since returning from inspection of the probable Casa Moreno site concentration but have assembled some new information thereon which will be incorporated in my summary report.

Dorothy Head Kuer was taken to the sites in 1933 by a Navajo who informed her about them. She found some weathered human bones about disturbed trash and burial mounds, - or evidence of looting. During the severe winter of 1934, when the Navajos in that region were destitute so the story goes, Navajos dug like holes mad in burial and trash areas, and from lined deep pits, took the pottery buried with the dead, which were piled several deep vertically, and sold it or exchanged it with the three Burnham brothers, who had the Standing Rock Trading Post (mile south and a half mile east), but ~~sold~~ the Navajos, according to the info. Gordon Vivian got at this trading post in 1935 - couldn't tell which tips of pottery were found at the lowest, intermediate or top levels. - The Burnhams then had according to Vivian, a ^{super} fabulous collection still intact, of about 200 pieces, most Chaco but including Windgate? Hads on reds and possibly polychromes - a number of pieces of 2 and 3 joined jars, and some pieces with handles.

inlaid with turquoise, it was then stored in the rear room of the trading post in boxes & cartons — the Burnhams wanted to sell ~~of~~ the collection — reported that it had cost them above \$10.00 per piece — but they would quote a price on the whole collection. They were afraid that the collection would be confiscated if Indian Service officials knew of it, so were pretty shifty about letting anyone see it. — They also admitted that some of the finest specimens had been given to friends, & no doubt some had been disposed of by 1936.

Floyd Burnham, the son now operating the post, who has resided there since 1919 — did not give me any of the above info. — told me only that one Karalus, kins, abd when released from capitivity at Bosque Redondo, had excavated there in 1924 and 25 and got quite a lot of good pottery which he sold to traders. He's been dead for some years.

The local story in 1936 was that the people from Pueblo Bonito and other major Chaco communities carried their dead there to bury them — that the reason for the fine pottery found there, and few burials at Chaco.

The Kirbss (not Hall) and Mrs. A. P. Springstead reportedly have some of the best specimens from the 1934 & 1935 digs by Karalus — and I think it probable that Headwin purchased the bulk of the Burnham collection — in view of a note from Harry stating that there is

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probably no method of tracing any of this pottery in
 the Isla Pueblo Chaco collection. I'll follow this
 up with Errol after he returns from his summer
 session at Pt of Pines as I think it probable
 that some of his records may show that
 certain pieces were purchased from Floyd
 Burnham & his brothers. - There are no other
 important sites within the normal trading
 range of this post - so what bought from
 these brothers was no doubt from the probable
 Casa Morena concentration.

Since Fred Wendorf had told Floyd Burnham ^{in advance of my return}
 of my responsibilities under the Anti. Act generally
 & in connection with the pipeline proj. - he was
 sharp about divulging any self incriminating
 info. to me - played up what he had done over the
 years to keep all narrators (except the released coffee)
 and others from digging there - when I
 interrogated both Floyd and his wife. Told me
 that the 3 of us, including Wendorf & Hoe Schumacher of
 my El Paso Natl Gas. pipeline arch. crew. were the first archeologists
 ever to visit the site to his knowledge since 1919. - If I
~~get~~ est. a means of tracing Isla Pueblo pottery to this Casa
 Morena location & the Burnhams, I relay the info.

Not to get back on the job, so will best to
 Ann and you - Sincerely

Tess Musmann

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