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February 13, 1969

Dear Sylvia,

I was delighted to receive your letter of February 8th and to hear that you think the slides are important.

I sent slide sets out to other critics that I correspond with for the purpose of getting feedback. Most of these people give public lectures and I asked them to get expert endorsement or hostile criticisms for me (Gary Schoener, Gary Murr, Dick Sprague, and Dr. George Abbott of San Diego AIC). So far, I have only heard good things but I know these critics have the same bias I have.

Roy Watson is a professional photographer of 30 years, with war-time experience with Lockheed Aircraft Company in their photo department. Roy has played devils advocate with me on this and was a Commission backer until I showed him the overlays.

I am what is called an art director (advertising jargon) or commercial artist of some 20 years experience in layout, illustration and perspective. And in the course of my work, I have done many such composites for advertising illustrations. I work with photographers constantly and understand film and what you can do or not do with it. I also do photo retouching, but am not by profession an airbrush specialist. However, here again, I work with photo retouchers and constantly give them assignments and approve their work.

As you can see by these PROBE articles, I am not a professional writer. PROBE editor Perry Adams is responsible for making sense out of this story.

Your idea about a presentation in a mass circulation magazine is a good one and I would be grateful if you could arrange anything here. I don't have any contacts in this area and thought that if I mailed a set of slides to some Eastern editor it would be a waste of time since it is important that these slides be presented by someone who can explain them properly.

more

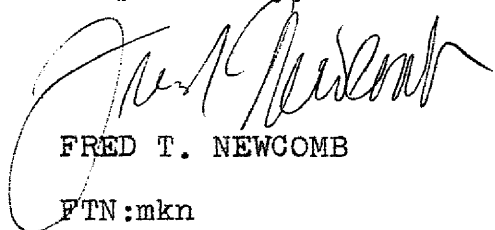
Page Two - Sylvia Meagher

I know no one has heard of THE PROBE, but then Perry is a friend of mine and he did a pretty good job, even if some of the illustrations were printed flopped. Also, the reproduction is necessarily poor because of the newsprint stock and the lack of color. This thing should be done on coated paper and in color to get maximum impact.

May I have your permission to quote from your last letter in future PROBE stories?

Again, thanks for your thoughtful comments and kind words.

Respectfully,



FRED T. NEWCOMB

FTN:mkn

P.S. I have had contact with Ramparts, about printing the slides, but frankly, am not interested in seeing them appear there because they seem only interested in the sensational or the "gee whiz" aspects of anything.