

1/4/72

Dear Jim,

Sorry it has taken me so long to get to sending the Altgens negative. When I am away for more than three weeks, the duration of my November-December trip, I have so many notes to make, so much mail to catch up with, so many other things that accumulate, it does take me some time to work out everything.

I assumed you would ask Clancy to make the enlargement for you, so I spoke to him before I left New Orleans. In the event he has forgotten, this is a contact negative made from the 8x10 print I got from AP (Wide World) when I finally got them to produce Altgens' original negatives (Triex, by the way, and with a 200mm lens).

The lab I used in Washington labored with this work. They found that the enlargement made from the original negative was slightly out of focus, something I did not detect. Thus, with his skill that I do not have, Clancy may detect this. I don't think you will outside the lab. I tell you this so that he will not knock himself out if, on making the enlargement you want for your wall, he detects this. He can not correct it.

If ~~it is~~^{it is} not too much trouble for him, or too costly, I'd appreciate one about 14" high. I have a mounted, larger one but have no wall space for it. There is one place where I have this 14", but it is not really important. Packaging it so it can reach me in good condition may be more trouble than making the enlargement.

When Clancy has made the enlargement for you, I'd appreciate the return of this negative. You will find it is possible to make prints of parts from this, as I did in WHITEWASH II.

For whatever souvenir value it may have, this is actually the first copy of the full negative ever. I kept pushing AP for more than a year until they really dug out the original, which they kept insisting they didn't have. From that negative they made the first 8x10 print, of which this is a contact negative. So, your copy will then come from the first print of the full negative. I have the wire copies. They were none of them full-negative.

Hope you and Jasper are coming along well. Best to everyone,

Sincerely,

Harold Weisberg