

1960, March 28.

Mr. Will T Scott,  
4820 Beaumont Drive,  
La Mesa, Calif.

Dear Mr. Scott:

I certainly hope you are pretty well out of the woods on the operation you so casually mentioned was facing you, and I admire your spirit in approaching it. By the way, when it comes to typing, you need offer no apologies, for I'm not so good, either; the trouble is, I didn't learn till I was in law school at college, and then on a non-standard key board portable, so that my "touch system" is just not there.

My photography has been sporadic and of long standing, but my interest has generally been along specialized lines. It was mostly astronomical for a number of years, and still is primarily that, but color film have opened some new interests for me on occasional trips and I have specialized in cloud and sunset-sunrise effects. My lifetime of cameras have not exceeded about seven; there were a couple of early fairly simple ones—I believe a Seneca with an f 7.7 lens was No. 1. Then followed a  $3\frac{1}{4} \times 4\frac{1}{2}$  Graflex which was always highly disappointing, tho I still retain the lens for astronomical uses—an f 3.5 Xenar-Schneider. With great reluctance I went to smaller cameras, and still use as a favorite a Kodak Flash Bantam (828 size film), tho it troubles me with an emerging loosely wound roll of films that tend to fog the last two or so of the exposures—I've had it worked on 3 times to no avail. I do have two Leicas but don't like them.

The slides I sent you were taken with one of Eastman's very cheap "Star Flash" cameras; they rigged up two simple adapter lenses for this which make it into a pinhole camera for Ektachrome and M 2 bulbs, and you can photograph from 4 to 16 inches in a very quick and informal way. They charged too much for the adaptive materials and offered this only in a quiet way thru scientific magazines, but I have used the device to advantage on quick close-ups of flowers, minerals and ordinary copying.

On a trip to West Texas some 10 days ago I was offered a Robot (German) which has the disadvantage that you have to rewind 35 mm. film into its own cassettes; it has a spring tension film advance that make it a good rapid sequence camera; f 1.9 lens (tho I find these real "fast" ratios not too satisfactory or meaningful). What do you know about these, and what's it worth? I may buy it; the owner wants to sell or trade.

I'll answer other parts of your letter in a few days.