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1998

The Long Trip at Bank Street

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Long Trip 1998 Santa Fe Reflection by Evelyn Tabas

Evelyn Tabas

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Dear Fern, Carol and Eileen,

Many remarkable people and very interesting places keep parading through my thoughts as I fondly recall a myriad of treasured memories connected with our Long Trip to Santa Fe. You deserve much praise for your tremendous input of time, effort, pre-work, planning and coping skills essential in making our adventure so meaningful!

The dynamic colorful people, their equally colorful art work, the colorful classrooms at the Little Earth School, the bluest expanse of sky, the contrasting whitest puffiest clouds, (small wonder Georgia O'Keeffe was fascinated with them) the shades of tan and brown of the sand, rocks and mountains picked up by the rich earth tone of the adobe type dwellings, the silhouette of light and shadows all rimmed by the higher elevation pine trees and snow capped peaks are indelibly imprinted on my mind.

Indeed, Frank Lloyd Wright was not the first architect to feel the need to have dwellings blend in and not intrude on the natural landscape!

The brilliantly colorful sand art done by Tibetan monks was amazing in detail and symbolism. It was a treat to see how the process is accomplished. I can still "hear" and "feel" the murmur of the chanting and the serenity of the environment.

The biggest let down and surprise was the lack of color and diversity among the beautiful children and teachers that we observed at the schools.

The bright, caring special guides Elena {and family} Gloria, Jan, Yvonne and even Allan (his knowledge of history was fine) added realism in fleshing out the picture for my limited background.

The entire atmosphere, wherever one looked, - the people, the buildings, the art, the sculpture, the landscape and the sky seemed to be infused with a magical spirituality.

The warmth and comraderie of the participants towards one another added another aspect to our enjoyment. To have the opportunity to share all this with my lovely grand daughter Lily was "the icing on the cake".

Fern, having been immersed in the culture of storytelling for the week, I feel akin to the Grandma of a pueblo who "orally" transmits the culture, the stories and the folklore to her family. I have already expressed my feelings, comments and reactions "orally" at our insightful, reflective Bank Street style sessions. I feel I not only earned my one

credit, but once again thanks to you I have experienced enrichment, enlightenment and gained new growth, understanding and knowledge on a vital piece of American history.

With appreciation and best wishes to all.

Evilyn