

U.S.S.Hornet CVA-12
Photographic Laboratory
18 May 1955

Hi Pop,

I got your letter today with the pictures enclosed in the letter. It looks like you and Mom aren't receiving very many of my letters. I wrote you about the Linhof and you don't say a darn thing to me at all. Where's the pictures of the Trout? I like the pictures and they are pretty good. Should use flash on the outside if you can. It will help fill in on the shadows. You should have used the 135mm on the Leica for shots of the airplanes and you would have had larger images. The ones up in the mountains are very nice. Good exposure on those and the others also. You are getting pretty good.

I told you to wear the clothes. I don't want them put away. If Mother does put them away I'll not be able to wear them by the time I come home. I'll grow out of them for sure. You wear them this summer. Yep, I used to loan that red shirt to Wilkie as he liked it a lot. I guess he's alright as he and I get along swell. I guess we are the only two in the lab that does.

How do you like the haircut? Sure is short isn't it? I like it this way but I can't comb it at all. Oh well, who cares.

The Viewfinder on Burwell's camera isn't as good as the one on my Leica. Only covers from 35mm to 135mm. Mine goes from 28mm to 135mm. What were you and Mom doing when the camera flash went off? Cripes, Mom looks like she lost her best friend. You look like you two are supposed to be watching TV? Ha Ha. Her eyes sure just about pop out of her head. Ha Ha. Bad sad shadows on the one of Mom by herself. Think how you can hide the shadow from the lens seeing it. It can be done if you try. The pooch looks swell, but Mom looks like she is putting on some weight. I guess I'll have to come home for Xmas after all and show you how to shoot pictures with flash. You haven't been studying the book I gave to you I see. If I can pick up an extension for the Rollei I'll send it to you. What do you think of the strobe with 35mm

ektachrome color. Pretty good aren't they? I think so. I'm still studying for PH2 as you know. Going to continue tomorrow noon.

19 May 1955

Hi Dad,

I'm back once again and it's the night of the 19th. Didn't have any time to do this as I had planned. Got busy with aerial work and just couldn't get to the letter again. Still haven't done a thing on the model as I just can't get my mind to it in the evenings. Sit around and try to figure how I can skin the Japs on the cameras. Ha Ha.

I got two lists that I made up from Dick Schreuls' list that he got from Kung Bros. in Hong Kong, China. I'll enclose them in this letter that way you can sort of give me an idea of which one to get or if I should at all. There wasn't any folder on the Nikon S-2 and I have all the dope on it here already. It also came from Hong Kong.

I got my watch fixed for a dollar. The darn thing stopped and I wound it up and it started but I couldn't set it. Some screw must have came loose so I got it fixed for a buck. I'll also enclose a few bucks towards the phone bill and COD package. I'll get a picture of me in blues if it takes now until December. Next page.

Yep, I'm still counting the days till 5-27-56. Ha Ha. Almost a year to go now. By the end of next week I'll have it made an well over the hill as far as time goes. Ha Ha. Wow!, one of the fellows just came into the lab with about three or four pounds of fresh cooked shrimp from the galley. Hot Dog. Chow down for sure tonight. Ha Ha. Join up and get something to eat. Ha Ha. Don't worry if I'm on the outside and want shrimp I can get it and not get chewed out for asking for seconds. Ha Ha. Hot dog the shrimp sure is darn and I mean damn good. Ha Ha. Time out for some more shrimp. Sure is good. Well all gone and there ain't no Mo. Ha Ha. I ate twenty-seven shrimp in all. Sure were good.

Heck in another week we leave Pearl till the trip back. Glad to here that the Merc is still 4.0
Yeah, I've looked at the new autos and I sure like the Merc Mont Clair and New Dodge. Here's
some #'s. 493, 746, 541, and 679. Also 098 on Race. I think you will see where the #'s are from
once you have read this letter through.

Nope, flash is for shadow area in daylight to light up shadows. If they have a collision or
something to that effect. I have to shoot pictures of damage done and include everything I can so
I use flash to fill in the shadows. I'll show you when I come home and teach you all I know and
then some. Ha Ha. Cripes, Mom will jump out the window if you get hot under the collar over
color. Try her on a roll of B & W and there isn't any trouble to it and she will begin to see.

Well, I'm going to close this one off now and get to the sack as I think one more night's rest and
the cold will be gone for sure. Don't cough hardly at all anymore and the headaches are gone. If
you can think of it ask Mom to send me some pills like she did the last one for my sinus and
colds. They are grooved on one side of them. Sure work well and do the job. So long for now. Be
good and take care of yourself and Mother. P. S. Also Tiny.

Your Pal & Shadow,

HERE'S FORTY BUCKS FOR PhoneCall. & Package.

Bobby

[letter also includes several handwritten notes and tables of camera prices]

Linhof 2 ¼ x 3 ¼	PRICE IN	PRICE IN		
	\$\$\$ Hong Kong	\$\$\$ U.S.	Status	No.
1. Linhof Camera & w/3 lenses	292.35	564.15	O.K.	1
2. Rollei revolving back for 2 ¼ x 2 ¼ plus mask	30.00	± 50.00	O.K.	1
3. Double plate & cut-film holder with ejector (2 ¼ x 3 ¼)	@ 5.85 16.55	25.00	O.K.	3
4. Filmpack Adapter 2 ¼ x 3 ¼	13.20	25.00	O.K.	1
5. Cable release with special clip, metal covered	1.45	2.50	O.K.	1
6. Flash cable with elbow-type socket	.60	1.25	O.K.	1
List is complete so far. Total	354.15	667.90	O.K.	8
@ = cost of one ± = approximate cost in states				
Zeiss Tessar f3.5/105mm Sy-Pr 1/500	Normal Ang	69.95	O.K.	1
Schneider-Angulon f6.8/65mm Sy-Pr 1/500	Wide Angle	64.95	O.K.	1
Schneider Tele-Xenar f5.5/180mm Sy-Pr 1/500	Telephoto	74.95	O.K.	1
Sy-Pr = Synchrono-Press Compur	TOTAL	209.85		3

(over)

The 3 lens come with 2 ¼ x 3 ¼ but film is still sort of small for retouching.

So long for now.

Your Pal,

Bobby

All of the above will be purchased in Hong Kong China providing I sell the Contax for at least \$250.00 and the Rolliflex for at least \$150.00. I will send all Rollie accessories that I have home if I do all I have said I would. A good buy isn't it? I wish you would answer my questions.

Linhof 4 x 5				
	Hong Kong \$\$ Price IN	US \$\$ Price IN	Status	No.
1. Linhof Camera 4x5 Less lens	220.00	329.75	O.K.	1
2. Schneider Press Xenar F4.7 127 mm Sy-Pr 1/500	29.30	69.95	O.K.	1
3. Schneider-Angulon F6.8 90mm Sy-Pr 1/500	31.50	74.95	O.K.	1
4. Schneider Tele-Xenar F5.5 240mm Sy-Pr 1/400	60.80	119.95	O.K.	1
5. Rollei roll film adapter 2 ¼ x 3 ¼ Semi-Auto	27.10	40.00	O.K.	1
6. Double plate + cut film holder 4x5 @ 6.60	19.80	25.00	O.K.	3
7. Lisco Film pack adapter	18.30	30.00	O.K.	1
8. Optical multifocus viewfinder with parallela 90mm – 360 mm	42.50	86.00	O.K.	1
TOTAL	449.30	774.60		