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*Archives of American Art*

## **Interview with Ansel Adams, 1976 December**

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WEBVTT

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<i>JAN BUTTERFIELD</i>: But California has always had a kind of pull for you, besides being home -- uh, what makes that more interesting to you, as a place to be?

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<i>ANSEL ADAMS</i>: Oh, I think it has interesting landscape and a big variety. In fact, when we decided we wanted to leave San Francisco, we looked at Santa Fe very seriously.

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<i>JAN BUTTERFIELD</i>: Yeah, it's beautiful. [[whispered]]

00:06:57.000 --> 00:07:10.000

<i>ANSEL ADAMS</i>: At that time, 15 years ago, it was just a little bit too big a break from the home base. I still had professional relationships.

<i>JAN BUTTERFIELD</i>: Interesting.

<i>ANSEL ADAMS</i>: --and the distance to New Mexico would have been too much for that.

00:07:10.000 --> 00:07:16.000

<i>JAN BUTTERFIELD</i>: It's a long, long way.

<i>ANSEL ADAMS</i>: There's no opportunity there, there is a little more now, but there wasn't then.

00:07:16.000 --> 00:07:27.000

<i>JAN BUTTERFIELD</i>: Quite an art community there now, it's interesting, I mean a whole new generation of younger people have discovered, which is quite interesting.

<i>ANSEL ADAMS</i>: Taos is going downhill very fast, but Santa Fe and Albuquerque are very--

00:07:27.000 --> 00:07:37.000

<i>JAN BUTTERFIELD</i>: I have friends - the sculptor Larry Bell lives in Topa, and of course Dennis Hopper was down there, and another sculptor Kenny Price, is that - all of them were California, southern California-based people.

00:07:37.000 --> 00:07:41.000

<i>ANSEL ADAMS</i>: Well you have to divide Southern and Northern California, totally different areas.

00:07:41.000 --> 00:07:48.000

And the East--

<i>JAN BUTTERFIELD</i>: Why do you think that's true?

<i>ANSEL ADAMS</i>: When they pick 'California' - they - Oh! - think, 'Los Angeles' - and San Francisco is something like Washington, you know--

00:07:48.000 --> 00:07:50.000

<i>JAN BUTTERFIELD</i>: I know! Why do you think that's true?

00:07:50.000 --> 00:07:57.000

<i>ANSEL ADAMS</i>: Well, I suppose it began with the movies. The money came from New York, the business, the...

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And Hollywood was chosen for the weather. It was seriously thought of here in Mount Diablo, which is even better, in many ways. But that wouldn't have happened if the movie industry settled in Walnut Creek Valley, which was seriously considered.

<i>JAN BUTTERFIELD</i>: I didn't know that.

<i>ANSEL ADAMS</i>: Yeah.

00:08:15.000 --> 00:08:43.000

And, but then that enormous development of the town by the big moguls, they - Clark and Hill - and they just really created, created Los Angeles out of nothing. Got the water, and advance needs, put in railroads, like the Pacific Electric Railroad, created the Port of Los Angeles, all that was absolute fabrication. It didn't exist.

00:08:43.000 --> 00:08:45.560

<i>JAN BUTTERFIELD</i>: Los Angeles. I was raised there.



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