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Letter from Gloria Berman

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5/3/90

Gloria J. Berman
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Dear Cecil,

Once again I must thank you for the slides; they are wonderful. How right you were about the possibility that there would be other opportunities for their use. I have found a few already.

First of all, the vets at the treatment center found the slides fascinating & to some extent, ^{they} brought back familiar scenes & faces. They were very surprised, somewhat disoriented & a little disappointed to find the reality of a peacetime Vietnam to be so different from the war-torn Nam they left. They had expected to see a desecrated & cratered land & instead there were serene rural scenes & bustling

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urban frames. Their response was
very interesting to me because, from
what I've read, vets who recently return-
ed to Vietnam have experienced the
same feelings as these men who sat
in a prison & revisited via slides.
Fascinating we humans. The men who
had been in the urban areas re-
cognized land marks & enjoyed that.
at times they broke down into small
groups & animatedly talked about the
scenes in front of them. One of the slides
was so peaceful & lovely that I en-
larged it for my own pleasure. My
one disappointment was that there were
no pictures of LBS. I wonder what
it looks like & I surmise that Verne
could get some therapeutic mileage
out of the experience. I hope I don't
appear either ungrateful or greedy,
but if you have any you could spare,
I would be grateful if you could

(3)

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just slip them in an envelope & send them to me.

One of the officers borrowed the slides & showed them to a number of vets one evening at home.

Since then, I have placed them in the able & creative hands of one of my best friends who teaches art at Chelsea High School. Chelsea is part of Boston &, traditionally, is an area that houses the newest immigrant group until it moves upward. Currently, there are over 50% southeast Asian youngsters there as well as substantial numbers of Blacks & Hispanics. As you show the slides, she gives history, political, cultural & humanities lessons. ~~of~~

course, she also addressed the art of the Area. She has described the excitement they evidence as they share the experience with each other (that is the Cambodian, Vietnamese & Laotian children) & with the others in their classroom. The American & Hispanic teenagers get exposed to Asian art in situ & may be as close as they ever come to the far East.

As you can see, your kind efforts have already caused the ripples to radiate out. Thanks again,
Gloria Ferman

P.S. Unfortunately, I do not, yet, deserve the title Dr. ~~as~~ since I have temporarily withdrawn from the program — Mrs will do. Thanks,

G.