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Maritime Museum

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The President

April 24, 1959

Mr. Jerry MacMullen
Junipero Serra Museum
2727 Presidio Avenue
San Diego, California

Dear Jerry:

I'm sending you a darting gun and bombs of San Francisco manufacture (but I imagine universal model in the whaling industry). This to add to the craft previously sent.

I'm told that these are still ordered from the San Francisco ship chandlers by the Point Barrow Eskimos -- or were four or five years ago.

Missing are the shaft, of course, and the two iron parts-- the rod a little less than three feet long that fitted through the thin brass tube, looped around (toward the harpooner) and ran back a few inches to engage the little trigger that set off the bomb.

The other iron part is a toggle harpoon, and the addition of this, of course, makes a very deadly-looking instrument. Gale Blosser of 501 Gonzales Street, San Francisco, is acquainted with the addresses of eastern dealers and collectors of whale craft and it is quite likely that Gale can tell you where to look for a toggle iron of the sort that fits a darting gun of this sort.

You might write to Gale and ask him about this and also I notice that Karl Wede, who advertises in the back pages of American Neptune, sells harpoons and similar gear. There is a picture of a darting gun complete with wooden shaft in the back of Ashley's "The American Whaleman".

Sincerely,

Karl Kortum, DIRECTOR

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Encl:

