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F201-5
3659 Van Dyke Avenue
San Diego, California

April 6, 1969

Mr. Robert E. Colby
5073 Harwood Road
San Jose, California 95124

Dear Mr. Colby:

There is a W. J. Ward, age 49, who was buried in Mount Hope Cemetery Nov. 29, 1899, and is undoubtedly your man.

His daughter may present some problems. Some years ago, when I was director of the Serra Museum, we were doing an oral history project, and the late Edgar Hastings went out to interview her. As soon as he mentioned Ward's murder, she became quite agitated, stating that she did not wish to talk about it, either then or at any future time. That ended the interview.

Since my retirement, I have been free-lancing local historical bits to The San Diego Union -- but I have steered clear of the Ward case, not wishing to cause her any more anguish. However, I doubt if she ever would see a gun magazine, and I certainly hope that you can get the yarn.

The Coroner's office has records as far back as 1892, so you are covered there; most of the staff, however, are fairly new. I'd suggest that you try to get -- through your local Public Library on an inter-loan base -- the micro for The San Diego Union or The Evening Tribune for late 1899; they have them at the State Library in Sacramento. I believe Sacramento also has a copy of the recently microfilmed San Diego Sun.

We came to San Diego in June of 1899; I was a year and a half old at the time. However, as a kid, I recall hearing about the Ward case, which must have been something of a classic. On the Tombstone angle, there's a good western historian living in Patagonia, Ariz. -- Arthur Woodward. He still owes me three letters, but maybe if Clyde Arbuckle wrote, he would answer.

I remember your father from my own police reporter days. And while I never met Frank Beck, his brother Fred and I worked together for many years, on the Tribune. A grand guy.

Sorry I can't dig into this for you, but I am in the midst of getting a book published, and there just aren't enough hours in the day. My best to Clyde, and let me know when your story comes out, so that I can get it.

Sincerely,

Jerry MacMullen

