

July 26th 1966.

Dear Dorothy -

Tells: me again with a few "facts & figgers". The old old road out of Lone Pine ran close to the foot of the Inyo to get above the sand - and a watering spot for teams was on the point of the spur that juts out before coming to the old marble works or rather mine - and was called Rose Springs and continued on above where Keeler now is, then dropped down after crossing the Cerro Gordo road, to the edge of the lake, where later the Mojave-Keeler road (stage) ran and a stone corral was built, of Malapai, at a fine spring - warm in the mornings & cool in evenings, from there the road went up a wash to the mouth of the canyon where the stone toll house was built, just in the mouth of the canyon, and wound around up the canyon and came out on the "rolling hills" (when the present road was built in '37 and the cut was made, the stone cabin was covered up - the usual stupidity of modern engineers

The winter of 1914-15 Mills and I camped at the cabin, when he & Mr Snyder worked on the road - we cooked & ate in the cabin & slept in a tent and Snyder had his - kept a team of horses & twice a week we drove the 4 miles down to the spring & filled the water barrels. I boarded Snyder - 1 dollar a day - & each morning when we went into the cabin to get breakfast - there on the table would be some steaks or small rocks or horse manure in place of the pieces of bread or whatever we left for the trade rate - big fat ones! we also went duck hunting on the lake - they rose in clouds & very good at first but later tough & tasting of the brine - I must have plucked hundreds of them & saved the down for a pillow - Silas Reynolds - Mammie's husband was Supervisor - now back to the early days - before Keeler or Darwin - at the end of the rolling hills the road crosses a wash - a mile up it on the old road is the remains of an old stone corral - a dry overnight camp for freight teams - water was hauled

(3)

in kieg & left for trip back & the night
camp - freight wagons carried on each
side of the wagons, 50 gal. barrels of water
for dry camps, from here the road struck
off to the right across & up Centennial
Flat (on the south west edge runs a
Malapai ridge & Black Rock Canyon -
a fine spring - but a couple or more miles
from the road - the same further along
the Malapai runs into the Coos Mts. &
another fine "Crystal Spring" quite a grove
of yucca further up Centennial & over
the ridge down to Old Coos - with the
old old stone cabins & mines that the
Mexicans started in the early 1860's, from
Coos the road turned south west to Cole
Springs 4 miles (later Dave Cole & family
took up a home stead here - came from
the So. Fork - a shiftless out fit - bunch
of wild kids - & I mean wild - dirt floor
one room cabin & bare foot kids - I rem-
ember riding over there looking for horses
one cold November day & Mary had nothing
on but a "mother hubbard" - ^{20 miles} remember them!
& bare foot - they "run" horses and raised

some good ones - but all wild on the range. In '98 Dave was coming home from Darwin a cold winter day, 4 horse team & load of grub & whistled in him - the fellows at Echo wanted him to stay - but he insisted on going on home, tho it was dark - half way the team stopped on a grade & when he didn't arrive home - the next morning one of the boys, oldest Edward, started out on foot & found the team & Dave was frozen to death on the seat - his grave is up on a low hill just below where the horse stood & by it is this boy Edward, who died of typhoid fever in 1903 - how shocked we all were, later Mary & the other 4 kids moved back to the So. Fork - several times they came over to catch some of their stock - Mary always rode side ways on a stock saddle, when I was at Tunnel Air Camp in 1937 one of the Cole "boys" Brock was riding for Berh Johnson's old spread at Little Whitney - Bowers from So. Fork had bought it that spring and "Brock" spent half his time up at camp to "visit" with me - it got so Olive Aseltine - who worked for me

that summer (Bill Aultman's mother) he was 6 yrs old & with us) would hide out when we saw "Brook" coming up the meadow. his name was Dave, but nicknamed when a kid because of the many dark brown freckles on his face (an old time Texas name for the same reason) he loved to talk about when we were all kids. Well to get back on the old road again, from Cole Springs the road went south by east & comes out on Junction Flat, then up the canyon to the Shepherd's Canyon road - but until Shepherd built the road down the canyon it did not go beyond Old Boso. Then when Hawley - (Keeler) was settled & Darwin the old road up Centennial was seldom used. Traces of it are still there. There are two Darwin washes - the one just below Darwin which runs into the main wash several miles below & the main one heads in the Boso hills at a place known as China Gardens of boom Darwin days, this wash is half way 8 miles, to the Junction & 4 miles going up the hill is an old stone corral where Madieu's road forked to the right to go on

* Modock - this is what you mentioned
as Tennessee - so called for the springs
2 miles up to the base of Matarango Mt.
only a few rocks left at what you named
"deserted ranch" which never amounted to
anything - the Junction being the main
stopping station and which Greens from
Lone Pine built - set out the locust trees
& some fruit trees - piped the water 2 miles
in a half inch iron pipe line from a spring
at the base of Little Matarango, had a fine
garden & a duck pond in front of the
house facing the Mts. later when I was
little & Donnings, Echarren & John Carriack
owned the Junction the road goes in front
of the back & when Summers & Butler
moved our boarding house over in 1915
they tore down the old house with all its
memories & history - it was a garden
spot in the old days when Greens had it -
when ever I was in Lone Pine when a kid
& later a "young lady" I used to stay with
Mrs Green and listened by the hour as
she would tell me of those old days - then
only 30 odd years in the past. Occasionally
I run into a blank spot - but if I let it alone

the missing link in my chain of memory
 falls into place - It's odd, but I can remem-
 ber back to when I was 4-5 yrs. old - high lights
 that happened are very clear. In reading
 of Hon. Daniel D. Hoode & his memory of the
 1882 trip up home. Coyote Holes was always
 a fine stopping place, Freeman Raymond and
 his first wife came there in the early 1870's
 and went through several hold-ups and
 visits from Vasquez & his gang - they used
 the large pile of rocks - called Vasquez Rock
 by "us old timers" where he had his look-out
 being able to see teams or stage coming out
 of the canyon below Little Lake or out of the
 head of Red Rock Canyon - then later his
 second wife came - we knew her well - a
 lovely lady & she experienced the early days
 from 1800's on until Raymond's death in
 1909 - she stayed on and then sold out -
 I saw her last in 1913 The Post Office was
 established 1889-1890. "Freeman" - "old man
 Raymond" as he was affectionately called by
 all of us had a long grey beard and survived
 the cloud burst in 1907 that carried him down
 the wash ~~from~~ 7 miles & battered him around
 and broke his hip - he used crutches from

then on - was 80 yrs old when he died and
had lived at Coyote Holes 36 yrs. He stayed
there often and he enjoyed telling me of the
early days & knew I was interested even
tho a little girl, every one loved him - a
grand old man. Had no children of his own
left 2 nephews, Dick & George Retzer - It
is just possible but doubtful, that from
Coyote Holes Woods traveled across Indian
Hole Valley to Mt. Spring Canyon - the Junction
& into Darwin - Charlie Anthony had the
store from 1875 when he came over from
Panamint City when Darwin began - the
store - saloon & Post Office all in one large
room & the hotel across the street, Anthony
sold out to Domingo Itcharren & Elias Reynolds
in 1904-5. From Darwin he went through
Hawley (Keeler) to Lone Pine - the "Slim Prince"
arrived there in the fall of 1883 - In the
1920's a man named Knapp from "the other
side". located on Bubbs Creek and built fine
cabins - bringing friends up for visits in
the summer. Ed Thalen went up every
spring to get things ready - from Dunlap -
around to Kings Canyon & up and did this
for 14 yrs. the last few after he moved to
Darwin in '28 and in early summer of

1934 he went up from Independence and found every thing smashed from a huge snow slide - nothing was left. I've pictures of the camp that Ed gave me - it was a lovely place. In 1935 my oldest boy Dick made a trip up for Nellie Robinson to bring a party out. — "Are you still there Charlie!" I sure go on and on don't I! But every little helps to add to our early days in Southern Inyo. Those days of my youth and wonderful old times are very vivid.

There. I'd better end this & get it in the box, just got back from Arcata - the fog is thick & cool - have had fine weather so far this summer - for up here - now I suppose the usual fog & cold will be with us all August. Getting a lot of yard work done and also painting my house outside. I see my old friend from childhood days - John Callaway has gone up the long trail - he used to freight for us, drove a 12 mule team - and so the Mary Austin house has been sold and all the painting and papering Mami did in it - I liked the old time place & she could have bought it then. Take care of yourself - keep busy & out of mischief! Love from Bess - Elizabeth