

St. Joseph's day.
March 19th 1979.

Dear Mr. Irwin -- The Swallows are late arriving at San Juan Capistrano - very unusual. Enclosed is a picture of "Johannesburg" "Joburg" Stage & Ballarat. taken June 2nd 1931 - taken at Indian George Hanson & families winter home - "Warm Springs" Panamint Valley - now called Indian Reservation - when Cheesebrough's contract to carry mail on his stages from Ballarat to "Joburg" ended 1910 he gave the stage to George to care for and he did until his death Sept. 18 - 1943 - Vandals arrived later! The stage left Johannesburg Mon - Wed & Friday at 6 A.M. first stop Garden Station - a lovely place - fine meals - fruit trees - garden and flower garden - no trace left - the railroad came through 1910 and where Garden Station was is Searles siding. 12 miles out of "Joburg" next station & change of horses in Salt Creek - then at Searles brothers big red barn - built when they located the "soda" lake - from there a long run over Plate Range into Panamint Valley & on to Ballarat - return stage Tues, Thurs, Sat. Cheesebrough had a General Merchandise Store - "every thing under the sun" in it - and the old 2 story hotel & restaurant and stage contract & one never forgot a ride on it - all those 75 miles! arrived Ballarat 6 P.M. Same type stage was on the Keeler - Mojave run. The Concord type stage coach were few if any in California.... Up to now, March has been very calm - some breeze and came in "like a lamb" - Now it is 12:30 P.M. and still no word of the Swallows - has always been an event to look forward to & many go to San Juan Capistrano Mission to see the mass of birds come in. Hope all is well with you and yours - one day follows another - all about the same, here. never there just "Aint" - Best Wishes - "Elm"

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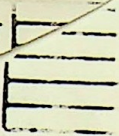


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