

Dayside Calif.
Nov 23rd - 1971

Dear Mr. Raub -

You probably met the Thomsons & Jenkins as they were to be in the valley this past week - and to stop at the Museum after a trip to Darwin - Peggy is anxious that our old school house will be moved - so I told her I'd give you the history on it - and you can type off from this as follows. (The old school house in Darwin)

It was built in 1876-77 of redwood & square nails as were all the original buildings - for a restaurant and after the boom ended & the town died down, stood empty - the Deference Corral was next to it on north side & the huge barn - these stood until in the 1920's & finally torn down - in 1896 Mr & Mrs Wm Loughrey were married and moved in for their home - the front room all purpose & the kitchen in rear & onto it was a shed for wood etc. they lived in it until 1899 when the school burned down - the first one - and so it was selected to be our school & Loughrey moved up the road to the last house going out of town - the decks were well built - about 23 if I remember -

Ida Cunningham came up to teach in 1900-01 met Ray Barrothers and they were married 1901 and she came back to teach in 1901-02 my first year was with her then - and it continued to be our school until 1914-15 when Ted Cook came out and built the "fine" one on the hill above town and which was torn down last year by a bunch of foolish people. The old school survived the bad fire when 2 blocks of original buildings on the south east side burned down Aug 17-1917 (see my story of Darwin) and it also survived the second fire July 7-1918 2 blocks on the other side of the street and so all the original buildings of early days were gone - only our school house and the old Thompson house up the street by the water tanks are left. After the second fire it was used as a butcher shop by Connie Lee until he bought and moved into the building brought from Arkidos after the first fire & which became a store on the site of the Black Metal Saloon. Lee bought it 1918 & opened a General Merchandise Store - in 1923 sold to Bland who sold to Thorson in 1928 and so the old school was used

3) as a store house and later families lived in it. Hope you make sense out of the foregoing! At the time of the 1917 fire - John Nixey & Murray Blay had a store in the old Black Metal saloon - County was dry & they sold soft drinks - shirts, overalls etc. for miners & card tables - then when it burned & they lost every thing - they got a building at Skidos & hauled it over - if you had been on the Skidos road (Quix road) you can picture hauling it up the grade - turns & dips! So they put it together on the corner where the Black Metal was - restocked it and John left & shortly after Lee took it over & it was the Darwin store until 1946 fire (1938) when³⁸ Thorsons bought The Out Post from King & moved the store & Post Office to it - In the '40's Lucken had it for a "Gin Mill" and on the morning of Aug. 1945 it burned down - he saved the music box - but when our buildings burned we just watched - could not get inside to save any thing. It is amazing "The Black House" has stood all these years and even though the present Darwin Citizens protest it's being taken away from them! they do nothing to protect it. So I hope the Jenkins & Thorsons found you home this

were when they stop in Independence.

Sincerely

(mms) Elizabeth C. Mechem