

Sunday April 16th 1978

Dear Mr Irwin. Raining here - Yours of 12th inst and the pictures & what ever writings I send are for the Museum to keep - Way back, when it was in the Court House basement it had my interest & when ever I was in Independence I would go down & visit with the "girls" - Library was there also - a lot of water gone to the City since then! Is it Mark Kerr you mention - we knew him years ago when he first came and camped on Lone Pine Creek - not necessary to mention me - just "Elm". as does Peggi Dorr... I tell her Silas Ness told you about the Saline Valley Indians - tho I've known them since they first came to Darwin 1900's 1910's - the Cozo Indians I knew in 1900's when I went to school & they were still living out at Indian Gardens & Cozo country. all our Indians were fine good people - a privilege to know and have them for friends - a couple wild ones now and then but settled down. The Indian Bureau and missionaries have always been dirty words to me - what they have done and continue to do to our "noble red man" - still at it with the Indians up here. their fishing rights & etc. "just between you & me"! Rosie Nobles Ness I knew from 1900's late when she first came to Darwin - a fine good lady and her baskets were beautiful - she was considered one of the best. Mamie Gregory - Cozo - also made fine baskets up until her death in late '30's we had some fine Death Valley basket makers, a few came to Darwin in 1900's - Esther Checo (Sam) did not make baskets - she & Rosie were half sisters. Rosie was making baskets up until her death. Silas & Francis Ness have many of her fine ones, he is her son - maybe a bit reticent - he can be proud of his Indian blood... Wild flowers are wild flowers to me! we had many around Darwin and the

Cozo country - mala - and a beautiful orange lily of the Mariposa family - I always called them "Malapai" lilies as they grew thick over home where I roamed the hills - also a wild onion - blue blossom and the tiny ground wild flowers grew thick - & fine spring stock feed and wild filaria (or) grass - thick under the grease wood and all through Indian Wells Valley (Salt Wells) and Mahavee desert (Mojave) - fine stock feed. (It kills me up) when our Grease wood is called "Crisot bush" - since our desert was first discovered - old timers called it "Grease wood" as the grease dropped into a camp fire and made a sizzling sound & hot quick fire. (I can't find "filiarie" in my dictionaries any way we always spelled "filiarie" - of course properly "alfilaria" well we all goof now & then! - I agree no loans - gifts free & unincumbered - mine are - I seem to be using a lot of "2-bit" words! Centennial Spring, Crystal Spring ^{east end of} are to the south side of Centennial flat in the west end of Cozo Mts and the Malapai further west - wild horses always ranged through there & on over to the Cozo Hot Spring side Silas ran come there as did Dugan Hanson - edge of the bombing range now. NOTS really closed off a large part of our old country - I'm glad - as it keeps vandals out and protects my old home country. Re-reading your letter and "I hope you will over look my rambling nature" also - There is so much dear to me & when I write, memories rush in and my letters "go as she looks" if I read them over they probably would not! ... I've Raved films for years - I'm both of a pack rat. and "40 yrs gathering" - It's my pleasure to send pictures I think are of interest and of "the good old days" occasionally some I particularly want have disappeared. Have a fine trip and day over to Rand Canyon and the "Indian Untings". I hunted horses when a girl many times all through there - they ran with the Indian horses and wild ones from the Cole stock. Wasn't that a fine picture of Panamint George & his burro at Nadeau's old Stone Corral, fine of George - all good wishes. Elizabeth L. Mechem

I like Mr. Dawson - the Village "look great" - the Museum Pamphlet - and thanks for the