

Sept. 12th 1979.

Dear Mr. Irwin.

Hope your problems are all straightened out and every thing back on an even keel - here our concern is lack of rain - not even our summer fog and temperatures high for this part of the country - 68° - 70° and 50° early mornings and San Francisco reaching 98° yesterday - a record. Can't depend on "nothin" no more. The picture of Thurston putting his Mc on the yearling colt I took in the Junction corral - yucca trunks held up right with old $1\frac{1}{4}$ inch iron pipe of 1876 - when the Junction was first built by Greene's of Lone Pine as a way station when Nadeau was hauling from Los Angeles Sea Port to Modoc - he had dug a 90 ft. dry well a half mile south where his road crossed John Shepherd's from Old Coss - Cole Springs - 20 miles on to Junction Flat & across to Shepherd's Canyon & on down to Panamint Valley. by then Panamint City was dying and Darwin booming - There are still traces of an old road of Nadeau's from foot of Slate Range straight - as all his roads were along the base of the Argus Range, mouth of Water Canyon. but not known then - mouth of Shepherd's Canyon & on north to foot of Mt. & trail took off up to Modoc - later The Minnetta was located just above the valley and a steep road up to there and on up a trail to Modoc; we spent a couple of weeks at Minnetta in July 1914 and explored the country all around and Snow's Canyon where Jack Cress was working his mines and later we stayed with him to make mill runs. At that time Modoc was just as when the last man left - ledgers and Jack Gunn's home - boarding house & bunk house and all was

as when the last man "went down the hill" and we left
everything as we found it. The trail is steep up from Summit
but the road out to west side of Mt and the fine walled up
grade Indian engineer Hamilton built was still intact, led
out to Summit and then dropped down the sandy wash ^{east}
& out straight to his stone corrals & rock cabin & on to the
Junction. Our Darwin road leaves it on east side of the
true Darwin wash - which heads in the low hills to the west
& where one China Gardens from 1876 days heads in the
sandy wash in the low Coro hills and a couple washes
over to the north west our Darwin Springs are located, called
in old days Santa Rosa Springs - Clear? well it all is to me
down through the years and I sure strayed off from what
I started out to say! ah so - I took the picture in May
1916 - we and Milo - his father, Indian George Hanson -
also called Panamint George - George Gregory - Mike's son
Logan - "Happy Jack" a "cousin" of Mike's - Al Faulkner a
Tacoma school friend of Milo's (my husband) was visiting
us - so we took him along - "green as grass"! and we spent
a week at Burcham's Cabin at head of Mt. Spring Canyon
rounding up the Indian's horses and ours - a spring event
but this was the last one when we were all together and
no one could ask for better companions. George wore his
hair in a "Dutch" bob. Mike's was short as were the other
men. When we had rounded up all the stock - some of
Joe Peterson's also, we head them for the Junction - 15 miles
and if you want a thrill - ride behind a band of horses on
the run! we corraled them at the Junction and the
yearlings were branded, then all turned loose and every
one head out in several directions and all of us also. No

3) finer place any where for a girl to grow up in and go
to school in Darwin. staying with old friends - riding the
range" - even to carrying the mail on horse back 40 miles a
day - 6 days a week" - nothing like wonderful memories and
this is just between you & me! Not long after this last
round up. Mike was thrown from a bronco he was breaking
& broke his leg - all possible was done for him - but eventually
J.B. of the bone set in and he used crutches the rest of his life.
a very sad thing to a fine man ... I don't have a picture of
Mamie Gregory a good friend - use to come each week and
wash for me & clean house - always said "I like wash for
you - clothes so clean" which was true - after some of the
others she washed for and at "1 dollar a day" - what they asked
and which was standard pay back in the old days. When I
went to school & stayed with the Longhorns - Mary - and her
mother "old Viej" walked in from Cozo 8 miles - worked all
day, were fed - paid 1 dollar - got coffee - canned peaches and
tomatoes and walked home - "all in a days work". later in
1900's they moved into Darwin & had their camp in the
small wash - "Burro Alley" that runs along the east side
of town - had tents & wicki-ups and in early 1910's built
their camp & small houses where the "Indian Camp" is now
at the foot of town, clean - "could eat off the floor" - The above
Mary was George Gregory's mother and in early 1900's when
Mike Hanson married George & Mamie Gregory's daughter
Annie - he spent a good deal of time in Darwin - in those
early days the "tribes" small as they were - kept in their
own boundry - restricted from their early laws - could go
so far & no further - so my Panamint Indians did not go
to Cozo Hot Springs - that being Cozo Indian territory - the

they knew of the springs and supposed healing powers. As the picture shows Panamint George standing. George Gregory holding the colts head & Mike putting his M on the colts left hip. very few liked to have their pictures taken. and when I took them I gave copies to them. anything we did was alright with them - but I did not take pictures or ask to of Mamie - Charlie Wrinkle - Pete Ram - his step-daughter Esther and my good friend Addie Hanson Santos. why. I don't know - probably had no reason too - they would have been willing. Santos was an Apache from White Mountain country in Arizona - a nice man and was good to Addie. his death was hard on her and I lost a dear friend when she died in Rme Pine Hospital Jan 3rd 1969 - George Gregory died July 2nd 1955 and his wife Mamie died 1947 George was born about 1869 - during the Indian troubles around Old Coso in the 1860's a cousin of his was born Dec 24th 1869 and when 6 months old in her mother's lap - her mother was shot and killed - I won't give her name as her family are still living and do not know the history of her mother, who was of the Cos Indian and Mexican father. I knew when going to school in Darwin & he would come over to visit from Rme Pine - "tall dark and handsome" Caballero. This is between us & not to be printed or names used. Thanks. I've a "thing" about confidences! Leeland Hanson Addie's son. Cpl. 3rd Infantry 7th Division Infantry Korea - killed in action Jan 18th 1952 - born June 14th 1927 a military funeral in Darwin - - Marjorie Chulcote Braun "our Maggie" came to teach in Darwin 1940 and lived with me. a lovely girl. in 1941 after school was out she and Bill Braun were married and later moved to Bishop. she got her first barrels from Mamie Gregory and collected more in

5) Bishop - always said she intended to give them to our Museum. I stopped to see her in June 1947 - the last time & when school was out she intended to go down to San Diego Co - El Cajon to be near her friend Julia & bought a home - we kept in touch and then the shock of her untimely death Sept 27th 1972 - her last picture was at Christmas 1968 that she sent me. she was 55. and "the elderly former resident of Darwin" - Sale Mine, later Panamint Springs is Agnes Reid now in Mill Valley #10 Camino Alto - 94941 - we correspond always. she & Bill Reid came to the Sale (Sierra Sale) mine - 4 miles out of Darwin - west - in 1918 and lived there as manager & Superintendant until 1937 when they located Panamint Springs and built the resort up from the ground. After Bill died in Jan 1940. Agnes carried on alone until she sold out 1963-4 and moved to Newport Oregon - 20th I got side tracked here - Back in the 1910's we would bring the cows down from summer range to Olancha - up Centennial Flat on to Lee Flat. was a tin (corrugated iron) cabin & over night camp. then on to "Hunter Ranch" country & up to the winter cabin of Liles & Reynolds & Jens Ness. and the cows ranged down on the Death Valley side and Cottonwood wash, at the foot of the trail in to the piñons. I always stopped on the upper edge to look down into Saline Valley where the road heads down and the old grade winds along the side of the Mt. into Cerro Gordo. --- My Panamint Indians and others used the roots of the Yucca trees which are dark red - occasionally black in their baskets also dried willow strips and various tall grass found near damp spot - 2'-3' tall - stock would not eat it, they dried the material & coiled it. Most of our baskets were made of willow & the yucca tree root for color

"rebell" at yucca trees being called "Joshua" - just because
some Normans came along & named them that. tho riding
along on a wagon or horse back they do make some grotesque
shapes at night and wud make figures out of them. but all
old timers called them yucca trees and it is grease wood!
long before such a thing as "creosote" was known or heard ^{of}!
I'm stumped for jack! Hope this long winded "conversation"
as letters really are - answers your question - I think I told
you before when Mary died - Mary & Lalla her daughters - died
they came up to ask me to be at "our" services and to get
Wallace Campbell - we had been "young" together - and later
when Charlie died we did the same. tho neither of us knew
where to look in the bible for burial service so decided on the
Lord is My Shepherd which pleased them. then they took
the bodies "across the wash" to our Cemetery for their Indian
"Cry" asked Wallace & I to come, but we said no - that was
their private ceremony and they understood, lasted a couple
of hours and could be heard - and so the old burning of
the dead ended and several rest in peace "across the wash".
along side the "white people" - I should keep copies of my letters
and so would not repeat myself - but - "she goes as she looks".
Hope your "Secretary" problems are settled and all is well
with you and our Museum - Here we are badly in need
of rain, no prospect in sight - well drop, fields are dry
and fire danger high. -- I only know of the Bellas in the
valley - if they came to Darwin it was to work and not to
stay - they are an old family and go back a long way -
Chappo Diaz I don't recall - we knew "Leppy" Diaz well -
they are another old family in Lone Pine - in the '30s he
passed for Chrysler & Cook with my sons in their teens

and we spent summer at Carrol Creek and Hunter's
Flat (Whitney Portal now) and at The Outpost. over night stop
for shore hiking or riding to Mt. Whitney - Lone Pine was
small then and every body knew every body - now only a few
left that we knew then. Now, as George Pipkin always
signs off - "Keep your powder dry" - Adios - Elm

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