

March 4, 1965

Dear Elizabeth:

It was wonderful to hear from you as always. I believe that I owed you a letter, but we have been in such a whirlwind here for several month and through lack of time, I seem to neglect all of my own correspondence and business.

March came in like a "lion" here. It was a cold windy day, and we have had plenty of them for the last few months, it seems. I can stand about anything but wind. We are hoping that March will end like a lamb, and today may be a forerunner of that as it is warm and pleasant.

The last year or so of the Commander's House has been a sort of a nightmare. I will not go into details, but it was not running as we had pictured it in the beginning, and naturally the Board of Trustees was very unhappy. I would prefer that you not mention this, as we have tried not to talk about it to anyone, but have been discreet and dignified about the whole affair. Needless to say that we were pleased about the change. The Commander's House is a beautiful old historic site, and an asset to the town and to the County, but it must be run properly, and should represent something fine and carry out the idea for which it was set up.

Yes, the skull is in the collection. I am glad you wrote about it as we know so little about the collection. Mr. Cooper has been very fine about it, but of course being somewhat new to the area, does not have the historical background of all of it. He did, however, feel that the things should be preserved. He is an attorney and plans to go on with his practice. This would mean that he and his wife will be gone quite a little, and he is leasing the cafe. So, he did not want people to gradually carry away the things that had been collected going a long time back. Quite a few things did disappear, so he told me. All of the arrowheads were taken, and quite a few other things.

Candy is improving all the time now, but the Dr. would not let her go to school this last semester. She wanted him to say she could, but he said, he would not recommend it, naturally she didn't want to take the risk. He said she would be fine next September.

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I have not been out to Darwin for a long time. We had a field trip to Darwin Falls and to other parts of the region, but I did not go. I had a cold and had too many other things to do, so did not make it. It was a very fine trip from all I have heard. I think they likely went up the old hill to Darwin. They say the road is not too bad. How I recall when we used to go that way to Death Valley all the time.

I take the Arizona Highways but actually have not read the last issue. I will take a look at the articles by Stan Jones. Wonder if he did make a "fortune"?

I thought about you so often when the big floods were rushing down through that country, and hoped you were on high ground. I watched the newspapers and also the television to see if I heard anything about Bayside, but did not.

I need a vacation badly, but do not know when I can get one. I'd like to take a trip up your way and look for bottles. Do you think there is any place up there where one might find some? I need to get away where I could do a little research on history of California, see, I can't get away from it. I don't suppose I'll get a chance very soon, however.

Let me hear from you. I do enjoy your letters so much. They are down to earth and of the old school which we both love so much.

Love and affection for you always.

Dorothy C. Cragen, Director