

Jan 4th 1979

Dear Mr Irwin. Finally getting back in the groove - I hope your holidays were happy and 1979 holds peace and your wishes fulfilled. In answer to your letter of Dec 18th 1978 - the red cinder cone out of Little Lake was hauled away extensively back in the '40s for yards and walks around Los Angeles - before then was seldom disturbed except as used on roads - My Indians - (Pana-mint) never spoke of it or of Coso Hot Springs or that part of the country - it was out of their territory - being in the few Coso Indian part of the country - more or less special or sacred for the healing powers. Probably was a land mark for early day travelers - and Vasquez may have used it - tho it would have been out of his "stamping grounds". In 1900's it was a perfect cone - but of no particular interest. all the volcanic action was just accept as part of the landscape - stories were told of robbers hiding their loot? loot. in the malapai and at times some one would hunt around. but if any thing found it was not talked about. Early stage stops were at Coyote Holes - then Little Lake because of the water & good grass. In 1900's "Goat" Smith had the place - had a woman cook and over night accommodations. I stopped over night once when hunting our horses & made the loop from Mt. Spring Canyon around to Little Lake & on through Coso Hot Springs - Cole Springs & back home. I'll always remember it as the woman who was cooking Rerved fried boiled potatoes and

they were Bour. and Smith's angora goats were all over
the place - on the tables - kids remember things like that!
later he sold his goats and moved to Keeler as G. I Smith
& had the store - that was formerly Boland's. until his
tragic death at Cerro Gordo & Blanche Boland sold out -
Smith was in Keeler for years. ... No I don't recall any of
the Indian names of Charlie Winkle or George Gregory - the
later Coso Indian & Winkle from Hunter Ranch Mts and
Saline Valley - & Keeler & evidently Darwin. a very fine man.
as was his wife Mary - -- the road to the Coso Hot Springs
turned east off the main road to Lone Pine - Keeler etc. a
few miles north of Little Lake - as it does today - the Fossil
falls - so called never interested me - just some more
lava flow Malapai - when I was little Indian George
and Mike & Bill taught me some Indian words - long
forgotten from lack of use - they were more interested in
learning American words - A few of our Indians live
away from Inyo Co. - in Bakerfield - one family in
Grant's New Mexico, sent there from Darwin when Ana-
conda was working - I've lost contact with them in late
years, those who kept me informed are gone - Silas Nest
may know Osgan Hanson's address - last I heard from
him was Bakerfield back in the early '60's - With Lucy
Lorance taking such an interest in Darwin and
setting up a Museum there - I ask her why all the interest
in Darwin. Certainly no longer the dear old town it once
was - now full of "strays" & some don't take to Lucy! I've
no interest in the town as it now is - except that Frances Black
keeps well and my beloved old friends "across the wash" - I wish
could answer your questions more full. A good year to you and

our Museum. Sincerely, Elizabeth L. Thechem. Our Indians wanted things like we had.

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