

Dear Mr. Irwin.

June 11th 1978

You are welcome to use any information I give - just keep it to "Elm". If I was young I'd certainly go in for archaeology - we became interested in it when we lived in Arizona and on the Navajo reservation - Tuba City - and all that land of pre-historic ruins and the rock formations, geology - growing up in So. Inyo - pre-history was all around but we just accepted it and learned from our Indians the little they knew - The only Isabelle in Panamint Valley in my time was Panamint (Indian) George's daughter and went by his name Hanson all her life, as did Miss - tho his full brother was Bill Johnson! ... Sara Hunter rings a bell of years ago - but was not in Darwin - probably from Hunter Ranch country - many of the valley - Owens - have the Hunter name - taken in early days when the Hunter family was prominent in the Valley & Hunter Mt country - If George George's family ever came from So. Fork - Olancha or any where except Cozo country - I never heard of it - George was a Cozo Indian and born in the 1860's or earlier - the Mexicans were in there mining at Old Cozo & around that time quite a lot of fighting going on amongst them all & among the Indians themselves. George was born about 1869 - died July 2nd 1955 and a "cousin" of his - born Dec 24th 1869 was in her mother's arms 6 months old when her mother was shot and killed by an Indian - her Mexican father took her to his mother in some Pine who raised her - I can't give her name as members of her family are still living and never knew the circumstances & nor would she ever recognize the Cozo Indians as related - in fact was always afraid of all the Indians - we were told the story by Miss Hanson - Bill Johnson & Indian George - and of course could not let her know or her family that we knew the story - ever - a very

beloved friend all my life - and died on Jan 19, 1967 at St. Louis
Hospital Pasadena - Altadena - 98 yrs old - we had all hoped she
would make it to 100 yrs - she was a half sister of "Aunt" Annie Dupre
"Tatsumbe" who a few years back was so widely publicized by
the press of her great age - they had a field day for awhile - I knew
her from my child hood until her death Feb 27, 1970 - we all had
heartly laughs when together and the reporters stories - Aunt Annie
was born in Lone Pine July 26, 1865 ripe old age of 105, a wonderful
lady - as usual I'm going around Robin Hood's Barn - all our
Indians were small tribes - Cosos separate from Panamint Valley
until intermarriage in early 1900's when Miss Hanson married
Annie Gregory - George's and Mammie's daughter - It is possible that
when Gold was found in the Cosos in the 1860's that So. Fork
Indians could have come in - as the few Coso tribe were
scattered around even to the Hot Springs - where they went - as did
the Owens Valley tribes. And N.O.J.S. should never have included
it in the Bombing range when they first took over so much
of my old part of the County. It is to be hoped they take it
out of the range - so it is at least accessible to the Indians -
up home there were never any real pre-historic sites - never
found any traces of pottery shards - some matates and manos
were found here & there - but never any signs of permanent
camps - and Panamint George used to say they were "people"
but he did not know who or if they were any part of his
ancestors - probably not, as his came from Death Valley part
of the country - in far districts and a few in each camp. They
must have been a nomadic people - gathered misquith beans
in their season - piñon nuts in the fall and their little patches of
gardens - as George used to say "we eat any time we catch um"

Mon June 12 - Ball game on yesterday so had to listen
and at last The Giants won from the Mets - but when the
Giants & Dodgers get together it is always exciting - I do

I enjoy Base Ball. Glad you all are keeping busy at our Museum and may the Garden flourish! It has been years since I've been to Mazouka Canyon - roads being what they were in them "thar days" and as far as wild flowers go I know a paint brush and mala plus loco weed and that about it. We use to have a beautiful lily - "Malapai lily" I called them as they grew each spring on the lava flows and some around Old Coro - a deep crimson orange & black member of the Mariposa family. Gov. Botanist men stayed at our Camp - Millsbaugh, one spring in 1904 and named all the plants and the Yucca trees are members of the lily family - this "Joshua" and "Creosote Bush" I refuse to accept! They were always Yucca trees and Greasewood by every old timer - I'm "Bet" in some ways. and those botanist called them Yucca & greasewood - which by the way when steeped, is a strong "tea" is one of the best things we use on a horse's back & shoulders to prevent saddle sores & shoulder sores - Indian George taught me that when I was little and starting to ride - also good for washing ones hair - shiny & clean - we learned other remedies from them - Mountain tea had various names - fine for stomach & bladder - they showed me how to cook the fruit of the Yucca tree - there is a name I refuse to use for an Indian woman - tho the Indians themselves used it & still do - to me it is degrading & when applied to a white man when living with or married to - he was more or less looked down on - well we all have our idiosyncrasies - there is a six-bit word! So the Edwards House is open to the Public - history there.. In at the end of your letter - no we had no potters or weavers - years ago Susie Carberry made a few baskets - also "Burdie" a relation of hers from Death Valley country - she came and went - Marnie Gregory made fine baskets - but Rosie Nobles

was the prize winner - none of the younger girls went in for basket making. They preferred to live like the white people - in Darwin, they always wanted to give me baskets for whatever help I could do for them - but I couldn't accept - what ever I did was because I cared for them & valued their friendship. Isabelle Hanson made fine baskets & found buyers in Trona and when I was little they made large storage baskets and also to carry pinon nuts etc in - and the cradle boards of course. Molly was the last in George's family to use one - Isabelle's little girl - 1900 - we all loved Molly! at that time they did sew rabbit skins together for blankets but soon preferred our kind - so that art was lost... Prop 13 seems to have shook up most of California and given the Clamity forecasters a field day. It is just possible that among the baskets at the Museum that Maryjory Chilcott gave several years ago before her death is a Mamie Gregory basket - she lived with me in Darwin when teaching our school children 1940-41 - married Bill Braun and later on taught school in Bishop 1947 and added to her basket collection there, if she marked them. Well luck to the fore going - have fun!

Best Wishes

Elizabeth R. Mecham
"Elmi"