

Nov 7<sup>th</sup> 1978.

Dear Mr. Irwin - sorta got ride-tracked - the Southern Branch came up - so every thing stopped and much visiting. Yours of Oct 31<sup>st</sup> arrived Nov 2<sup>nd</sup> and I hope the enclosures answer your questions and a couple of "memories". When the opportunity comes and you can go over to my old home country - look first at my pictures of Millsbaugh and "see" the now over grown brush as it was - I hope Silas & Francis Nees will take you, follow the grade up from camp east to the "Raddle" and the fine view in Panamint Valley and look down the steep shallow canyon to Pete Harmon's camp, we called it 4 miles - directly under your feet and up which he climbed to the top then dropped down the half mile or so into Millsbaugh - facing Panamint Valley to your right will be Recongnence Flat - to the left the dump where the K.P.C. shaft 90' or so deep and was open for years until the weapons boys have filled it completely & drive over it & on sharply up the Mt. above to some sort of look-out. So you get another "long, detailed" letter - and the Stick game - all Indians seem to have a love for gambling and of course cards when they learned of them - sat on the ground with a blanket between them. Their weather prediction I still "use" red sky in the morning means rain - red evening no rain. The same as the old time Sailors used. Small circle around the moon is haze - but large circle is rain & number of days before by the number of stars

inside - still holds true! new moon on back, full of water -  
reversed empty - standing no "signs". Some one else must  
have told you of the "sun dial". I don't recall my Indians  
having one - heavy coat on stock meant a cold winter -  
light coat a mild one, still holds true. the baskets were  
willow split and dried in a coil and the "thread" was  
reeds finely split - a sharp pointed pine bone was a needle.  
punched the hole and the reed put through & back out. the  
dark & lighter red is the roots of the Yucca trees, which  
are short & many. one wonders how the tree stands in  
wind - but do and are hundreds of years old. the very  
large groves - there is a fine one up from Junction Flat  
on the old road to the summit of Mt. Spring Canyon. we  
used to talk to Indian George about the "writings" but he  
always said "made by old people" they knew nothing  
about - read them as we did. trails - circles, meant  
information for others, where water & game was etc. he  
thought and that "many years" ago. they lived along  
the base of the Malapai on west side of Junction flat - but  
moved around as the seasons came - they would not des-  
turb any metates & manos found along there - that was  
for white man to do later - we found several - heavy -  
some scooped out shallow others deeper as they ground  
their reeds & pinon nuts and dried berries into a flour and  
stored in their big deep "tuwa" baskets. a finally wove basket  
would hold water - of which they could get along with very  
little of. -- While I think of it - did I tell you "My wife he"  
died in 1926 Panamint Valley. her name was "jai - he' - alai-  
he - ali". - his "Bah - Vanda - pava - Kee" - "Boy who ran away".

3) The Shoshones had "head man" - In late 1890-1900 - Indian George's wife's father was "Panamint Tom" and when he died in early 1904-5 - George became "Panamint George" and as the head man of his Panamint Valley - branch and winter home at "Warm Springs" now called Indian Reservation very small in size. a tiny creek that sparkled in the sun ran through their camp years ago. good water - There were never any villages, just very small family groups, living by themselves, Death Valley & beyond and the "49ers" robbed their camps as they came to them of any food found, so they were afraid of these strange looking people - their animals & the wagons and made no effort to help them, as George used to tell us, he & his father sat hidden on the hills and watched them struggle through and everything they left behind remained as for many years - wagons drying out - remains of some at Furnace Creek Ranch & Mine Pits Wells. In fall of 1912 we bought a new wagon & harness & hauled our "possessions" & grub up to camp from Agua & do the assessment work - didn't need the outfit any more did our traveling on horse back & pack horse so gave the new red wheeled wagon & harness to Indian George. how proud they were. Earlier when Chestbrough of Ballarat ended his stage route from Johannesburg to Ballarat he gave a couple of the stages to George at Warm Springs to take care of - and there they remained for years, unused but taken care of. Their homes were wicki-up and shade structures - I just blanked out on the name of the later! 4 or 6 upright poles - cross poles & willows & brush for a roof and shade. cooked on open camp fire - rocks around & strips of iron across to rest coffee pot & bean kettle etc on over a fire of sage brush & grease wood. Last time I stopped

at Warm Springs 1970 Kirk Barker was living there - built  
a house & she & her sister running around in a bathing  
suits and burned black - she used to write all the time but  
lately have not heard so may have left - she was very  
fond of Addie Hanson - Mike's oldest girl - and took an  
interest in the family when they were at Warm Springs -  
also of Isabelle - George's daughter - had the Angora goats  
so many years & they made a good living selling the meat  
at Trona - also the hides & mohair to buyers who came in  
for years - she finally became too old to care for them and  
sold them, each summer they brought them up to Tennessee  
Springs & camped & the goats ranged in the sage brush - but  
not at the Junction or south on the flat - In reading your  
letter as I write - Its been years since I have been in  
Saline Valley - then it was empty - few prospectors coming  
& going - and the road down from Lee Flat rough &  
steep - It is a hot hole and fall always the best time  
& in Death Valley also - less sand storms and weather fine  
we knew the Hunter Ranch Country years ago when Silas  
Reynolds & Jens Ness had their winter cow camp there -  
nice Cabin in the pines and I never got enough of the  
view from a hill top - miles into Death Valley country and  
beyond - no smog then - ... I have a good trip to Minnetta &  
climb up the steep trail above to Modoc - years since I've  
been there 1914 and we stayed a week at Minnetta with  
Ralph Williams & his partner Bill Williams - no relation -  
Then Modoc was just as when Jack Gunn & the miners left  
it - records in the big ware house - their nice home and  
all the mining equipment - we enjoyed everything and left  
all as we found it and slid back down the trail - also went  
over to Snow's Canyon - just south & visited with Jack Cross, who

5) was mining there & making an occasion mill run - later we went over & packed ore down from his mine - straight up to a fine spring & little rock cabin, we used to ride & pack in from Darwin up the steep wash on west side of the Argus Mts. - is just at the north end of the pink Mts and where Remi Nadeau had his road up to Thodoc in '70's from the Junction & Mt. Spring canyon until he built the grade up from Indian Wells Valley, called the Hamilton road after his engineer who built his fine roads & grades and used now by weapons boys to the Junction and by those who go to Rand Canyon to see the Indian writings - Renegade Canyon bah! - Yes, the old dobe' in Ballarah is the original school house and Shorty Harris was living in it in 1930's when we went over to see him - have a picture of him & my boys - Dex & Bob... he was a delightful true old timer - "single" blanket Jack - ass prospector, strikes and money "to burn". Are Smiths still in Ballarah - little store & cafe' up from town, yard full of junk. Had a hard time getting away when he knew that I was an "old timer" didn't care much for him... The springs at Warm Springs are just above George's old home (winter) and the little creek ran down from them through the camp. They are the origin of the real name for his place - Warm Springs. Well, I'm run down as you no doubt are as you wade through this, but I hope it answers your questions and you can mentally "see" how things "used to be" - try and see as much of "my" country as possible and how things were "back in the good old days". Bye for now. Elizabeth R. Thecham

"all goes as she loves"!

Hope you can make it over to the 49ers Encampment.