

Jan 13th 1978

Dear Mr. Dawson - I'm just about "writ" out for the moment. have been writing of our Indians and have asked him ^{Mr. Irwin} to share with you - all too long to copy - by now you know how I write! Your note of 10th inst came yesterday and I'll get to a couple pictures of Millsbaugh for you and you can have prints taken off and return originals to me. I could have it done in Arcata but we are having a storm - sort of continuation of the Dec. one - gusty winds and rain. and I don't want to drive in it, will send in a day or so. While looking up dates etc - I've always kept notes - should take a week off and copy in a tablet and have time hunting them. so came across this enclosed "Back Ground on Bendire Canyon" that George Pipkin of Trona sent me several years ago - also the enclosed of "Indian Joe's Place" he knew and cared for our Indians and met them and other old timers of my young days. when he gets things wrong I let him know - so his late wife Annie & he & I have had much correspondence down through the years. he came to Cartago in the late '20's at the plant there as book keeper etc - when it closed down he went over to Trona in the early '40's & worked for the Potash Co. until he retired 5 yrs ago and stayed on - nice home - always interested in the country & people and we laugh at the fact we have never met we are good friends and "pen pals". Share Joe's Place with Mr. Irwin - while Trona & that part of Inyo was out of our district, we knew of places and old timers and what was going on in the 1900's. So I've answered your 15 & Indian questions in Mr. Irwin's letter. hope you don't mind. The Bellas family are Lone Pine and Owens Valley folks.

I knew some years ago but not well. The Matarangos are 3
peaks of Argus range. Matarango 8850' elevation - next middle
Matarango and Little - which ends at the head of Shepherd's Canyon
next north of big peak is decided change in formation & color.
pink & tan & on in to old volcanic mts. south of Little Mat. is also
malapai country on west side of Shepherd's Canyon on down
half way & then becomes regular soil & rocks of a mountain
range. and on south of Shepherd's Canyon mouth until Slate
Range sticks out and closes off Panamint Valley almost.
to a narrow Pass - Wingate - south of Ballarat. So the Junction
is on the flat down & west of middle Matarango and Tennessee
springs up at base 4 miles north about where big & little Mat.
join - no real canyons - just short openings & then steep
country - piñon grow up & on top. where Matarango and
the pink mts. meet is a short Wood Canyon - years ago
Darwin hauled wood from there. at north end of these
colored hills - mts. the original road goes up a steep draw
to top & to Modoc. and the view from there is beautiful - miles
in all directions over looking Panamint Valley. Modoc was
called Look out in early days 1879-1880's. Anything you
want to know I'll do my damndest as an old timer would say!
I get carried away as I write and memories rush in - right
now I've "writers cramp". The weather stays miserable - but
it's winter! So until next time - don't forget to remind Mr.
Irwin to share with you. Best wishes for 1978

Sincerely

Elizabeth L. Mechem

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