

dec 6th 1977.

dear Mr Dawson. I can sympathize with your dental appointments! I wrote of the Junction as I thought you would add it to the Museum files - Give pictures of the original building. and later of our boarding house and as the place looked in 1930 and I'm looking for the films. I have always written on the back of my pictures when taken! I'm not very keen on my name on writings, except to the Museum, dear John Wintersteen understood that & what ever I wrote for him and his Mr. Vieis column - he kept my name out of them, except once or twice! But being such a fine fellow I forgave him! and what ever credit - you keep it. just as the facts are correct. I get upset when I read of old days in my beloved "up home" that are not true & wrong dates. Domingo Etcharren & John Barrickart were two of the finest men I've ever known - most of our old timers - miners and prospectors were - and from my childhood when I (and girls & women were rare! they respected women)

first went "up home" Millepaugh - until 1900.
their deaths we were friends for over
40 yrs. I wrote Ted Etcharren awhile back
of his dad's early days before arriving^{after}
in Darwin and settling at the Junction.
all the long years it was always open
house to all who wanted stop over or stay
awhile - they used to come up from Ballarat
and the Heat and spend the summer there
later on when Summers & Butler had it
and still later when Mark Racey had it &
ran his cows there writers and at Cole
Springs line camp - west of Old Coso. any
one were/was welcome - "Keep the place
clean & leave the wood box full." As I
said before you are welcome to read any
thing I've written for the Museum - my
"Millepaugh - the beginning & the end" is
as it was, also of Darwin - "I was there" - !
In the last Bulletin - George Pipkin - we
are old "desert rat" friends - writes of Joe
Peterson and his "ranch" in the Argus
range - east side - he & his sister Mabel
had a beautiful place there - I knew them
(Joe died 1905. J.B.)

3) both as a child - Joe "Copperstain" would come over the 20 odd miles to our camp Millsbaugh for groceries & mail - if he had any and news of his "cousins" - Panamint George - Indian George Hanson and family - who always came up in the summer and camped at different places, springs or on Junction Flat, all fine people and true friends & me as long as they lived, they loved the "little white girl" ... in the '40's when George and his son Mike Hanson died at different times - some of the family left and came to Darwin to tell me, now only 2 of that fine family are left and just 5 or 6 of our Coso Indians left and far away. Panamint George would tell me of his youth - and how he and his father sat on a hill and watched the '49ers struggle through - afraid to help these strange looking people, as word had come on ahead of their robbing camps along the way... he would always say "my father, the good man - "no killen". but his wife's side of her family - "not so good" Panamint sometimes tell of "killing white men" until Uncle Sam caught up with him - and he settled down - use to come

to our place - liked to brag! Well enough
as Joe said - when I write, memories rush
in. when I locate the films & have prints
made I'll send them. and "of course" dates
etc with them!... We are having days of
rain, drizzle & fog. will all be more
covered if it keeps it up and old Sol stays
hidden - . We always asked George how
his wife was and he would say "my wife.
he pretty sick" - he was born 1844 as well
as he could say - was "5 yrs. old." when the
'49ers came through and lived to a "ripe
old age" 99 yrs. died Sept 18th 1943. buried
some where in Panamint Valley with others
of his family. ~~near winter home - Warm~~
Springs - ^{Warm Springs winter home} only they know where - the few who
are left - Indian custom - cremation or
burial - We would ask George how often
they ate - "when we catchem" he would
say. had a great sense of humor.

Dec 7th 1941 - 1977. Pearl Harbor Day -
so few remember - not a word on any
of the news casts - when I was little, it
was "Remember The Main" and we did.

5) but who remembers Dec 7' 1941. I
always will - the quiet of a Sunday in
Darwin and at noon Ted Etcharron
came running over to my house from
theis across & up the street "The Japs
are bombing Pearl Harbor" - he had turned
on the radio - (batteries) for the noon news.
our teacher who lived with me - we were
deciding what to have for lunch - a few
days before, old F.D.R. was telling the
country on one of his "Fire Side Chats" - "no
American Mother's son will fight on foreign
soil" and boat loads of our boys were
already on the way to Europe - I can still
hear them - and as one of our old timers
would say when expressing an opinion.
"dems my pediments". Now I'd better
end this "Conversation" - Warm Springs
in Panamint Valley, now mis called The
Indian Ranch - is a small reservation -
I can still "see" it when George & his family
lived there - little sparkling creek running
by - Mollie's goats and always a warm
welcome to me when ever I road over there.

If we needed extra mules we got them from George - running loose with other stock - when not needed we turned stock loose - hay \$35⁰⁰ a ton in Lone Pine - barley \$90⁰⁰ a ton in Mojave, so only the stock we needed at the time were kept up. Some times it took several days to find them - all ran "wild" and what a beautiful sight when a bunch gathered and running ahead & me right behind them! hupping and hollering! Ah - those days of long ago - good old days - they and our old times never to be known or seen again! You young folk don't know what you missed!

Sincerely

Elizabeth A. Mechem

and "this goes as the loco" as miners would say when loading a hole with dynamite. if I read it over - it couldn't go as is!

Edm