

April 12, 1978

Elizabeth L. Mecham
Rt. 1, Box 416
Bayside, Calif. 95524

Dear Mrs. Mecham:

Thank you for the assortment of photographs you have sent to the Museum. They fill an important place in the Museum's collections. If it is agreeable with you I would like to include some of the photographs and information you have sent to the Museum and to Mr. Dawson, in museum-related publications such as the Kerr manuscript. Of course, I will acknowledge you for contributing information and photographs if you wish.

The Kerr manuscript includes testimonies of George Gregory and Charlie Wrinkle. One of your letters relate to them. I will ask the Board of Supervisors to approve deposit of profits from this publication into the Museum building fund.

Do you have any recollection of the Indian basketmakers in the Darwin and Coso area such as Esther Checo, Mrs. Ness and others? We have baskets by several of these craftswomen but almost no data on them. I am hoping to publish a catalogue of some of the Museum's basketry.

I'll be seeing Si Ness in the next few days in the hope he will clarify some mysteries about the Indians and non-Indian people in the Southern County. However, anything you recall will be helpful and welcome.

The weather is beautiful here, many wildflowers such as "Yellow Throats", "Yellow Pepper Grass" and others. Lupine is about to bloom. Do you recall any of the plant communities around Darwin and Coso?

Things are fine here, topographically. However the Museum

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is experiencing serious problems involving loans accepted by the Museum staff several years ago. However, I do not accept loans, only gifts. Gifts keep coming but in our building there is a perennial problem of finding storage. Also, I find there are more things to do here than one or two people can handle.

In the Kerr manuscript I ran across a reference to Upper Santaneo Spring. Have you ever heard of this place?

When in Darwin, my wife and I have observed a mortuary monument bearing the name of Nancey Williams who died in 1877. Do you know anything about her?

I hope you will overlook the rumbling nature of this letter and its delay. In the near future I will send you a gift receipt for the photographs you have sent the Museum since I came here. I realize copying photos is expensive; if you need any assistance, let me know.

Thank you for your generous sharing of your reminiscences and photographs.

Sincerely,

Charles N. Irwin
Director

CNI/vac