

April 3, 1979

Mrs. Elizabeth Mecham
Rt. 1, Box 416
Bayside, Ca. 95524

Dear Mrs. Mecham:

Thank you for the informative and interesting letters. I was pleased to hear that you may be coming home this summer. Perhaps you can take a detour to the County Museum during your trip. It would be a pleasure to meet you and discuss the Museum and its future.

The weather is nice now, although we got a snow fall about two or three weeks ago. The flakes seemed the size of half dollars. The plants are starting to thrust their way through the decomposed granite. One is a long stemmed plant with a bunch of small yellow blooms at the tops. They almost took over the Museum last year. They are a species of *descurainia*. Perhaps they are Tansy mustard. You may know. This spring is cooler than last spring. In 1978 the flowers came out earlier in great profusion beginning with pepper grass.

There are a number of place names in the Darwin area which you may know about. I would appreciate any historic information you can give including whether or not the Indians camped around the following areas and if you know the Indian names of these places.

Old Coso	Wild Spring
Pipe Line Spring	Haiwee Spring
Crystal Spring	Junction Ranch
Japo Spring	Delnot Spring
Horse Spring	Mountain Spring
Black Rock Spring	Rain Spring
Lower Centennial Spring	Maturango Peak
Cole Spring	
Lost Cabin Spring	

I have enclosed maps which you may mark on to show locations of these places or others which you consider important. Please return at your convenience.

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Do you recall an Addie Santoz, a basket weaver, and where she came from and who she was related to?

Do you recall Sally Phoe, Nemo, Nennie Bowers, Sarah Carson, Teha, Annie Gilbert, Jennie Price, Topsy (who was killed by a Mexican), Sally Wing, Big Maggie, Ella Bell, Mary May and Old Maggie? These were Indian basketmakers, some of whom may have come from the Darwin area. Perhaps you can tell us something about them, where they came from, who they married and to whom they were related.

Turning to another matter we are interested in acquiring more photographs and objects from the Darwin area. As you know the Museum represents and should represent every part of the County where science, prehistory and history are concerned.

Thank you for your patience and kindness in answering my letters.

Sincerely,

Charles N. Irwin, Director
Eastern California Museum

CNI/vac

enclosures