

Jan 4th 1978

Dear Mr. Dawson.

Well it's all over for another year. Let try and get organized & back on the track. Yours of Dec 9th 1977. I hope your sister-in-law is recovering from her operation and this will be a waiting for your return home. I do not see why Domingo Etcharrens birth date or place should be changed. he was born May 7th 1866 in St. Etienne de Baigorri France. died June 25th 1940. he would say he could always remember his birthday as that was the date May 7th when the Lusitania was sunk - eventually getting us into World War 2. born on French side of the Pyrenees. French Basque. as was John (Jean) Carricart in Rome town March 26th - 1871 - died July 19th - 1945 - Domingo arrived in California about 1884 as near as he could remember. he was 34 in 1900 when I first knew him and John was 28 - and they would tell me of their home land and experiences after arriving in America and as a child I devoured it all. they came to our Camp - Millspaugh often. John worked for us and ran the Mill when we made a "clean up" - no finer men ever lived and my friends down through the years. ... Yes. the Junction material was for the Museum with other information and the pictures for the Museum to keep, descriptions on the back of my pictures I always wrote at the time taken. anything but old pictures no one knows what or where! Regardless of what the Court House records are - my dates are correct. Our old timers were not always explicit when filing claims etc. "The Great Register" of early days - had records filed at election times - I remember it when growing up and our voters descriptions were in it. I've kept as many records and have them to check on. and our Indians, which I see

get around to - eventually - at the moment we have another storm brewing; strong north wind gusts and rain and can only hope it is not as severe as our Dec 20th - 21st hurricane - 70 - 90 miles an hour wind - no power for 36 hours and great damage all over Humboldt County - several million dollars trees down and my yard is a mess - now to get at the Argus range canyons etc. Edm

1) All the canyons on east side of Argus range are box canyons - from Minnetta at north end of Panamint Valley. South to Shepherds Canyon - through from head of Shepherds Canyon where our Gold Mining Camp Millsbaugh was built and a quarter mill around our grade to summit and down to Junction Flat - west. before we built our grade 1899-1900 the original road John Shepherd built in 1875-6 - came up from Junction Flat to the "summit" & dropped steeply down to the Canyon road & on to Panamint Valley - next canyon south is Water Canyon - impassable except on horse back - huge boulders etc. - we had horse thieves at various times, who rounded up stock running loose on Junction Flat and surrounding country - the Indians & a couple times some of ours. and they were run down Water Canyon & across Panamint Valley south end - either over the Plate range or through Windgate Pass & on to Barstow & loaded on trains for the east, with other stock held there from other parts of the County. I mention no names, tho we knew who they were. a wild horse corral was at La Motte Springs at head of Water Canyon off Junction Flat, east - as late as 1930 one was still there - newly built! Just off the mouth of Shepherds Canyon was Riley Canyon - box - 2 brothers had a mine & mill there in 1890's 1900's - came often to our camp instead of across P. Valley to Ballarat - which was settled in 1895 or thereabouts. a lively town for a short time, as mines in the Panamints were working - next is Water Canyon & Slate Range - a sort of malpais finger from base north of Argus Peak & across Panamint Valley east to almost base of P. Mts and turns south - leaving a passage & low hills which sort of encloses Searles Lake on east and Irons now - peters out and

into a large valley for miles east & south - (Victorville country way - a lot is government land & miles of fences (to hold it in!)) as Osborne. Thompson & Knight canyons are box - prospected in early days - Bendire Canyon is south of Homestead - which comes down from Argus Peak - mines around and water - Joe Peterson's & sister Mabel had their fine garden & fruit trees originally planted when Charles brother located the lake & settled there - used the garden spot as summer retreat - and when Isona established after Joe died 1905 about - Mabel lived on there alone for years and sold the water - it really was a garden spot - I liked to ride there to see them and hunt our horses who ranged all over with the Indian stock and the wild horses, which were many when I was growing up - descended from Lander's fine horses they ran in the 1890's also ran cows in Indian Wells valley - from Bakersfield country - was a large outfit. Knight Canyon was a short box about 4 miles north of Shepherd's Canyon - prospected and in 1905 Peter Harmon was mining there - is just over the Mt. from the summit up east of Millsbaugh and straight down about 4 miles to drop into the short box - Pete went crazy down there alone - some day I'll tell you that incident, pretty ragged when it happened! You will have to segregate all this yourself, and take my way of writing "as is"! Tennessee Spring was a fine spring at base of Matrango - west side up from the Junction about 4 miles to the north. Our Indians camped there often in summer up from their winter home in Panamint Valley at Warm Springs mine called Indian Ranch - is a very small reservation - a winter home long before the white man showed up - "strange looking people" who robbed the Indian camps as they made their way into Death Valley - what utter fools these emigrants

3) were - filled with Gold fever greed. I often rode over to visit my Indian friends when ever they came "up home" and camped at various places around Junction Flat - early day Indians had territories of their own - an invisable boundary over which they did not enter other "tribes" spots of country - Death Valley Indians & Panamint Indians were close - but our Cozo Indians were different and had their own territory and Taline Valley Indians - after 1900 they began to mingle and inter-marry - more of that when I get to them! I've said where La Motte Springs is - named in early days when a Frenchman of that name camped there & prospected. When I was growing up all my part of the county was prospected and mines and mills all around. Some mills never dropped a stamp - soon as a shaft - few ft. and a buyer found. the first thing a mill must be built - whether any gold or not! Margaret Ann Spring near La Motte - both off Junction Flat east at top of Water Canyon. some one named it long after I grew up. in the 1920's a bunch of "strays" invaded "my country" - prospecting and taking names on things and mis calling old places. after a while they got starved out - good riddance! I have a deep feeling of love for my part of Inyo County where I grew up - and resent intrusions! Bruce Canyon east side of Argus range - a name tacked on in later years. Ruby Springs is by Orando Mine (old) near head, south, of Mt. Spring Canyon - worked by 2 partners Jack Allen & Tom Ryan 1900's and as late as 1945 Jack Allen was still there - on Mother's Day 1945 came over to the Junction in his old run about to have chicken dinner with John & Marie Carriart - Vee Wilson & me - she & I had gone "over home" for a last visit - I did not go again until 1970. & to see the Junction and be saddened that our old boarding house - there so many years had burned down & a small 3 room house in its place. and to see what

Shore gup from Navel who opens? out fit at The Base in Indian Wells Valley have done to my beloved old home country, heart breaking to me. Hornwood Canyon is old - east side of Argus between Grondo & Ruth mines - Mohawk mine - north of Slate Range into Panamint Valley - Moscow Spring above west of Hornwood - Bainter Spring east side Argus Peak - all sort of together. Wilson Canyon on west side of Argus range - south of Mt. Spring Canyon - into Indian Wells Valley - is also a box canyon - Wilson boys had quite a mine & camp there in 1900 - all this country is now in "restricted range" - Never heard of Nava Canyon - Fall Canyon on west side of Panamint Mts. is a box & above Warm Springs in Valley - (Indian winter home - a little sparkling creek used to run down from it & through their camp - when I was little - Lealter Spring & Mangel Pass I don't recall - must be late named. - Pause - the gale wind storm has just arrived - noon time and I'm about "unit" out for today. Coso Mts will follow!

Cole Springs. Homesteaded in 1880 - about - by David and Mary Cole - from So. Fork (Kernville etc) - built a one room shack dirt floor - 5 boys 1 girl - ran horses there and and settled down. in 1898 Dave went over to Darwin with 4 horse team to get grub & full of "Old Crow" - cold winter day & it can get that way around there! - about 12 miles from home to Darwin - when he got to Old Coso the fellows tried to talk him into staying over night - but he said Mary will be waiting - got half way between old Coso & Cole Springs up on a sort of grade - a blizzard was blowing snow & it was dark - the team refused to face into the storm - and balked - Dave evidently fell asleep and froze to death on the wagon seat - when he didn't arrive home Mary & the older boys - Edward & Dave "Brook" started out to look for him & found the team still hooked to the wagon & Dave dead - got the outfit home & buried Dave on the side of a low

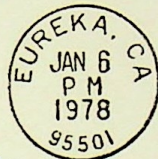
5) hill just up from the house. Still there and alongside him is his oldest son Edward who died of typhoid fever in 1906 - a fence was later put around the two graves - Mary and boys went back to Kernville and made trips to Cole Springs to check on their horses - Mary could ride a horse bare back like a Cheyenne Indian - I can see her now - they would all come over home now & then to visit - three boys! once we rode the 20 miles over to Cole Springs to see them - cold November day and Mary had on a thin cotton dress & bare foot - I can see her now. Those old Rouths were tough, they finally left for good and we lost touch - she lived alone for years - the boys grew up - occasionally came to gather some of their horses. Louisiana Butte is just a hill near Cole Springs off the old Shepherd road from Old Coso to Junction Flat. near Sand Canyon where the Indian writings are - without a doubt the finest petroglyphs any where. I often wonder what idiot called it Renegade Canyon - it was always just Sand Canyon to us old timers - just a sandy wash between to lava flows. There are also Coso Peak and Silver Peak close by, and that "Wild Horse Mesa" is up above Wild Horse Spring - 5 miles north east up from Coso Hot Springs - McCloud flat - never heard of it or Vermillion Canyon - Centennial Flat is a large flat from Coso hills to Santa Rosa Mt. and runs into Lee Flat to north which lies against the east end of Hunter Mts. is on Darwin road - I mean Darwin road enters Centennial as it comes through & off the Rolling Hills named in 1876 for the first Centennial when Darwin was booming and the freighters crossed it - a gentle rise and south park runs on up east and old old road of Shepherds drops down in to Old Coso. The Death Valley road (1937) branches to the east from Darwin road and on down the grade into Panamint Valley - at the opening in Oct 1937 Pine Pine had a big 3 day celebration - water brought from Bad Water - Death Valley - below

sea level in containers by runners and up to the top of Mt. Whitney - was a fine 3 days - dropped a bundle of burning wood off the top - later in 1940 the road up from the rolling hills was re-aligned as of now - old road went up the wash old stone corrals were lay over for freighters - barrels of water kept there - also for stage team. noon watering - Darwin Keeler stage - coming up from Owens Lake and Nadeau's old stone corrals at a fine spring - warm morning and evening - the original road came up a sandy wash & into the mouth of the canyon where a stone cabin stood for years - toll house and when the cut (present) was made the crew covered the toll house completely with the dirt & rocks from the cut - a shame, as it was a monument to early days when Darwin was discovered 1874-5-6. the old road wound around up the canyon & on to the "rolling hills" so named then and on to Centennial Flat, crossing a wash - which at times has been a raging mass of water when a cloud burst hit further up. I hope all of this is making sense & a "clear picture" of how it once was - coming down across the flat a long streamer of dust would follow a team - and on into the wash and drink from the barrels & kegs of water always left at the old stone corral of 1876 days - our old name places as I knew them growing up - have been miss named - as the government surveyors did and when NOTS first settled at The Base in Indian Wells Valley - strays who knew nothing of "my country" put names to places or did as at Cold Springs calling it "Cold Springs" some thing drastic should have been done to them - "Renegade Canyon" - indeed! and that trio - Campbell Grant - James W. Baird and J. Kenneth Prince, who in 1969 - wrote Rock Drawings of the

7) Cozo Range on page 14 they wrote about John Carricart - absolute lies. as I said earlier - John, Domingo - our Indians me and others knew of the Indian hunting long before these "strays" came into the country - to begin with - John was away from "up home" from 1905 until 1937 - except for trips to the desert when they lived in Santa Barbara from the 20's on until '37. and '38 he & Marie finally came to the Junction when Mark Lacey of Olancha had his cows there & Cole Springs - winter range - so Nava Canyon - Colter Spring, Mengal Pass. Mc Cloud Flat, Vermillion Canyon do not ring a bell - no such places when I was growing up - Homewood Canyon etc were "over the Mt." from our district and we knew of them from Prospectors and miners - Irona was in the future - at Seabees Lake in 1890-1900 was a big red barn - small house and was a change station on the Johannesburg "Joburg" & Ballarat stage - in the 1930's one of the old stages was at Warm Springs - "Indian Georges" winter home and given to him by the owners - Cheesebrough - I believe when the stage line was discontinued. All of the foregoing "Goes as she looks" as our miners would say when loading a hole - if I read it over - well - "we want just the facts Mam". Get to the Indian stuff later, have "interscramp" I hope I've answered your questions. Our last storm was not as severe as the Dec 20th - 21st one - for which we can be thankful - What I write is for the Museum, also pictures, when you are through with them. and as I answered your Dec 2nd 1977 letter - you can use what you want on my Millepaugh, The Beginning and The End - I don't want any credit or my name as source. I'll look up old films of Millepaugh - if none - have copies made of those if no films - Hope this year is good to you & yours. Sincerely Elizabeth L. Mechem. →

P.S. If you see Mr. Irwin, tell him I'll get around to answering his letter - Elm.

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