

I never read anything over - so
this "Gee, as she looks" as our old
miner would say when loading a hole.

Rockside Calif.
Nov 13th 1977.

Dear Mr & Mrs. Dawson.

If you will read my story
of "Millsbaugh - The Beginning and
the End" which I wrote for the Museum
several years ago - also my Darwin
story - you will see that it was never
a town - I've never understood why folks
get that idea - it was a gold mining
camp at the head of Shepherds Canyon.
Look at the pictures I've sent to the
Museum also those of Darwin as it
was before our 2 terrible fires. The first
Aug 17th 1917 burned 2 blocks on east side
of main street - original 1876 barns and
corrals - Black Metal Saloon - 2 small
homes & Jack Gunn's original saloon ¹⁸⁹⁶
the 2nd fire burned 2 full blocks on west
side of street - of all the original business
buildings of 1876 - July 7th 1918 - fire of
gas light explosion - no one could get
into the house - a mass of whirling flames
so nothing was saved. Ted was playing in

the back yard with his wagon - his mother
thought he was in the house - she never
forget her screams "Theodore" - it was
2 P.M. & she & Domingo had just come
out on the porch in the shade - she was
sitting near the door - had kicked her
shoes off - Domingo sitting next - when
the sheet of flame shot out of the door -
changing her hair on left side - her first
thought was of Ted - Domingo ran around
to the front door of the living room but
could not get inside. I had already gotten
there & found Ted was alright - so went
into the store next door - Mamie Reynolds
was baking bread - I said lets get what
we can - your place is going - by then
the few men in town that day were be-
ginning to carry out what they could from
the store & she & I got the Post Office
Books out and a few of her personal things
some of the furniture out to the side street
where most of it burned when the fire
jumped over to the original hotel - which at
that time was leased to 2 Chinese - they
had \$700.00 in a can in their basement &

3) but could not get to it and they saved nothing. When a fire started in Darwin one just stood outside and watched - and we have had some bad ones in Darwin. The last when I was still living there - 1945 - Tucker's Gin Mill burned - old Bland Stone building - we managed to get his music box out onto the porch where it burned - also his cigar box full of cash! Christmas eve 1944 Theodore Petersens Cafe - service station & garage burned - nothing saved except Pete's little cabin. That no doubt was a set fire from evidence found. About 40 odd years of Pete's life when he came to Darwin 1905 a young man fresh from Denmark - rode a freight train load of sheep across the country and eventually arrived in Darwin - When I think, memories rush in and I get "side tracked"! Pete rebuilt - he died July 29 - 1957 and I lost a life long friend as did the few other old timers - now all gone but me! - You have some dates wrong. Domingo Echarrrens is right as to birth and

where born - he did not walk all the way across the country - rode some sheep trains as did others in those days and ended up in Darwin. In 1886 he was tending sheep and with 2 other herders set out for San Francisco with a band of 500 - through Newhall Pass - over Tehachapi & up San Joaquin Valley - the sheep lambed along the way and band doubled in the 6 month trip and they drove the band down Market St at the end of the trail. When I was growing up "over home" - Domingos was entertained with his experiences - a kind, good & honest man - we all cared deeply for him. After delivering the sheep he hired out in Sacramento Valley wintered there & summers in the high country - he & his partner - Frank Carberry also a French man from the "old country" & not a Basque tho. decided they would like to have a band of sheep - so instead of returning to the home ranch in the fall took off - down through Mono Co & into Inyo and on to Hunter Ranch Country - where

5) things looked safe. but owners finally caught up with them & they left - heading across Lee Flat country & eventually ending up in Darwin 1888 - Frank got a job as care taker of all doquence property - mine - smelter - town barns & corrals - huge black smith shop - pipe - line - old business bldg. where he made his home - all still there in 1900's & into 1910's - when I went to school in Darwin - Sat. he would take we kids out in the buckboard & while he repaired the old 4" - 3' rivited pipe with canvas & baling wire - later when Model T's came to town - inner tubes were great & baling wire - we kids would explore and found many old rifles & U.S. buttons of uniforms - In the '50's when Old Coso was being worked by Mexican miners & a few whites between fighting off the Coso Indians a platoon or what ever - were sent out and stationed at the Fort just out of Old Coso built of stones on the edge of the wash - fine look out down on the springs and the Darwin spring "Santa Rosa". It was a negro troop and stationed a year or so until called back for the Civil war - 1850's & '60's Coso was lively - Dr. Darwin French and his party

on the way to find The Gunsight of the 49ers
"Jable" instead discovered the ledges of Coso
in March 1860 and the place boomed for
a few years - I expect you have Chaffant's
Story of Inyo - Domingo settled at The
Junction - the ranch name tacked on
in the '20's by "strays" who knew nothing.
It was always "The Junction" - when
Modoc was booming - Remi Nadeau
built a grade up out of Indian Wells
Valley - we always called "The Hamilton
Road" - his engineers name (ex!)
up to a small valley - passed a red cinder
con - "Sunset Mt" and on to Junction
Flat - crossing John Shepherd's road
from Cole Springs & Old Coso - that's where
the junction comes in - dug a 90' well - dry -
and continued the road on to Modoc -
once called "Cook out" - built a stone
corral & Cabin - ruins still there last time
I was "over home" 1971 and in a straight
line to the foot of the Argus range north
of Matarango Peak & Wood Canyon - up a
sandy canyon & built a fine grade on into
Modoc. Nadeau's roads were "straight
as a die" he turned out for nothing, his

7) across Indian Wells Valley was plain
for years - straight across - until 1910
when the "dry farmers" arrived and plowed
up the grease wood & tried to farm - few
lasted - well rigs hitting rock & no water.
oh yes - it is not "Creosote bush" as late
comers persist in calling our lovely
desert Greasewood - so called by all in
the good old days - Such stupidity in-
furiates me, as does the calling our
lovely Yucca trees - Joshua trees - never
called that by old timers - well back to
the Junction - are you with me! First
established in 1876-77 by Mr & Mrs Green
of Lone Pine as a way station. (ask Mr.
Grwin to show you pictures of the old ^{Darwin} ~~place~~
I recently sent him, he has not acknowledged
them! oh well - where the roads crossed
was dry - so they built about a mile
further north - piped water down from a
spring at the base of Little Matarango Pk
in $\frac{1}{4}$ " iron pipe - later years used on fences
etc - some still around - planted Lucas
trees - fruit & a garden - duck pond and
by the time all set up. Modoc was shutting
down - and the Darwin boom fizzling out and

by the time John Shepherd built the road
down Shepherd's Canyon to Panamint Valley
Panamint City was dying so the hauling
of produce the valley farmers expected did
not last and so the Junction was aband-
oned for 10 yrs or so - in 1888 Domingo
filed on it by the Homestead Act. and it
was open house to all who came. In
1890 he sent for John Barricart to
join him from his home town in France
their families close knit - Basque - John
was 18 yrs. old and spent the next 14 yrs.
in & around there - working - prospecting
had a few sheep and butchered & hauled
down to Ballarat, when it was located in
1897 John was a fine blacksmith and
could do anything with a forge - anvil &
hammer - besides shoeing horses & mules.
Domingo had a fine pack train of mules.
white bell mare - mules love white horses,
they were fine big corbels - 2 in particular
were named Napoleon & Josephine and
he packed ore - hay & grain - wood to
the mines then working out of Ballarat
The Ratchiff Mines & mill 1903 on - 1904 a

9) Cloud burst washed out some of the Camp
Domingo located mining property in
Goler Canyon - south of Ballarat - he called
the "Gibralter" - in 1904-5 he and Jack
Keane - called Kane - easier to say - went
prospecting in Nevada after Tonopah &
Goldfield were discovered. Rhyolite and
Bullfrog - found nothing & headed back
to Ballarat. Camped up at Daylight Pass
and it is no fable that mines were found
& located while the prospectors were hunting
their mules and burros - which Domingo
& Jacks did - they repeated tracking them
down in to Death Valley when Jack picked
up some good looking float & they gave
up hunting mules and instead hunted
the lode - located it and back to Nevada
& mining men - and sold for \$25,000⁰⁰ -
a lot of money to a prospector in those days.
so each had \$12,500⁰⁰ apiece - Jack took
off with his - was a "wild Irishman" got
in a fight & killed a man & took off for
Old Mexico & the last we heard of him was
in the '20's when he settled on a hog ranch
near Barstow. Domingo and my uncle
Al Mulespauagh went on a prospecting trip

in Nevada in 1911 - and in 1912 Charles
Summers and Frank Butler of Bishop
and Mono County needed more range
for their cattle - he came interested in
the Junction as a winter range - met
Domingo in the Hollenbeck Hotel in Los
Angeles and a deal was made \$40,000⁰⁰
including a few head of cows Domingo
ran on Junction Flat - In the 1900's
Silas Reynolds & his father had 500 or
200 cows - in winter ranged them at
Wild Horse Springs 5 miles out of Coso
Hot Springs - Summers in the high
country - in 1904 Silas' father died sud-
denly at the hot springs - he and Domingo
got together on a deal to buy out Charles
Anthony's store - hotel - barns & corrals
in Darwin - in 1876 when Darwin boomed
& "every one" rushed over from Panamint
City when it died - Anthony came and
built the store - hotel etc. a fine man -
I remember well. also had a mine and
mill on east side of Argus range in box
canyon facing Panamint Valley south of
Shepherd's Canyon mouth - in those days
1900's there were mines & mills all around

"17") but "no gold" a shaft would be sunk
then a mill must be built - some never
dropped a stamp - so Etcharron & Reynolds
became partners - Silas put in his cow
or his part of the deal - Domingo the money -
in 1905 Skidoo boomed - Silas was Super-
visor of our district 5th - and instigated the
building of the Skidoo road - grade from
main Darwin Wash above the Falls down
to Panamint Valley - by then Skidoo was
dead - Domingo and Silas dissolved partner-
ship in 1907 - Domingo keeping the Hotel
& half the barns - Silas the store & half
of barns & corrals and the small black-
smith shop down the street from the store.
after Keane Wonder deal Domingo sold
his interest in the saloon in Ballarat
to his partner Blair Tyler and spent
time off & on at the Junction - when
Skidoo boomed John Barricart went to
Johannesburg "Joburg" and opened a Black-
smith shop - 12 - 16 animal freight teams
had to be shod and tires on wheels re-set.
he took a trip to France and brought back
a lovely wife - Marie - their first son Cleo was
"Clay"

was born in "Joburg" 1907 - John cleared
\$12,000⁰⁰ sold out & moved to Los Angeles
& opened a machine shop on Aliso St &
Los Angeles street. got roped in on a
rotary car engine, lost his money and
they moved to Santa Barbara - during
the terrible earthquake there in 1925?
he saved lives and property and was
so very proud of the award given him -
framed - he & Marie had 4 children -
Clete - Bulah - Lucille and Jean (am) -
W. W. I - Marie worried about her brothers
& family in France - he came ill - John
raised the family - his heart - like mine
was always "up home" - in 1937 he & Marie
came back and he worked at Coso Hot
Springs - some Jew had cabins etc and
John was maintenance man - In the
meantime Mark Lacey of Olancha made
a deal with Rummen & Butler 1932 or so
for the Junction and brought his cows over
for winter range and a line camp over
at Cole Springs near Old Coso - and in
1940 John & Marie came back to the
Junction to look after for Mark - then
the Navy Ordnance Training Station NOTS
(now Naval Weapons Center - made a

11) Bombing Range of all my beloved home country - which is all right with me - keeps strays out! and John was guard at the Junction - brought the trees back - flower garden & vegetables - lovely place - home again after almost 40 years. On Mother's Day 1945 I went "over home" (Millgaugh) nothing left but our boiler - which in 1941 when the Jew junk men invaded our country - not even a horseshoe left. They worked hard to get our boiler out - but our rock masonry too tough for them so it stays and tall brush growing all over our once beautiful Camp. I had dinner with John & Marie and on July 17th 1945 he stopped in Darwin & tell me he was going down to Hollywood to get fresh fruit & all else & would be back on the 19th - but my life long friend did not come home - tragically killed at Sepulveda & San Fernando roads when hit by, of all cars, a Navy weapons carrier killed instantly - 8 A.M. July 19th - they could not locate Clete until 3 that afternoon and at 3 A.M. of the 20th - Clete & Beulah woke me with the heart breaking news - and on over to the Junction to get their mother - my

son & wife attended the funeral for me -
now Joe writes Cramp & time I hang up.
I once start to write I never quit - so if I
missed any thing you want to know? I was
in Lee Vining when word came of Domingo's
death & I came down to bid good-bye to my
old friend from child hood. one of the best,
kindest and good man, as was John Carmichael
one could ever know - and oh yes, not
an ounce of truth about his reporting the
Indian writings in 1929 - he was still
living in Santa Barbara - besides we all
saw of them in Sand Canyon - back in
1900's! Our Indians had told us of them -
without a doubt the finest writings of any
found any where. I saw them when a girl
while hunting horses - that's how John first
found them back in old days. Our stock ran
loose on the range & so when we needed
them we rode out hunting them and they
could be any where for miles around - Some
of your dates are wrong - you will have
to take a day off to wade through all this -
but ask at the Museum to read my "Millsfangs
the beginning and the end" and of Darwin.
no one else is left who knows of old days in
my beloved home country. Sincerely,
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