

1 Snow's Canyon - 1900's - 1910's April 30 1979
Jack Cress, nice Camp and 5 stamp mill
and concentration tables - 1912-13 we
ran the mill for Jack & packed ore down ^(summer)
from his St. George Claims - 2 miles up by
trail from Camp - fine Spring & stone
cabin. packed the ore down on his burros.
on Sunday we went down and had chicken
dinner with him. The Minnetta just up
north a mile around point of hill from Snow's
Canyon - above Minnetta by steep trail is
Modoc, remains of old Nadeau road grade
at top of Argus range - crosses trail at top
down into Snow's Canyon - and goes a mile
further into Modoc, Nadeau's road passes
Junction to old Stone Corral he built and
a mile further on turns north east from
present Darwin - Junction road & straight on
to base of Argus range - up a steep sandy -
(gravel) wash to Summit & grade begins.
Nadeau never turned his roads - unless an
impossible object could not be moved - all were
straight where ever he built his roads - done
by his engineer Hamilton - so we called them
by that name - first grade up out of Indian
Wells valley - now used to get to the Indian
mines in Sand Canyon (Remgrade now) it
came over a small valley - passes a fine
red cinder cone on south & into Junction
Flat. Nadeau's first road came up Mt. Spring
canyon 1876 until Hamilton finished the

Grade dug a 90' well at cross roads:
with Cole Springs on Junction Flat - dry -
so went on passed the Junction - (way side
station built by Gocen from Lone Pine 1876
Took up a homestead & planted the locust
trees - garden - fruit trees - piped the water
down 2 miles from spring at base of
middle Matarango - (Tennessee Springs is
further north at base of Matarango Peak
& Nadeau piped the water down to his
stone corral - all these places were as
left as were - 1890-1900's - some remains
still there - (I've written history of Junction
etc - several years ago for the Museum)
most of our springs are at mouth of canyons - ^{some} ^{exceptions}

Argus Sterling mine at base of Argus
range - colored hills north of Matarango Peak.
owned by Theodore Petersen 1910's 1950's - he
kept assessment work up - mine and camp
was set up in 1910's. He also owned and
worked his Belvoir Spoon mine in wash south
east of Darwin 2 miles - nearby is old incline
shaft 1876's - Columbia mine - worked off
& on by leasers. up to 1910's (late)

Mouth of Knight Canyon (Panamint Valley)
was mining camp 1900's and also at mouth
of Bendure Canyon - prospects - and never
worked very long - Nadeau's road runs (1896)
along base of Argus range on east side -
up to base below Minnetta & Modoc - highway.
At mouth of Knight Canyon was a prospect

3) and camp 1900's and also at mouth of Bendire - these are all box canyons - except Shepherd's Canyon & Water Canyon. was passable only on foot or horse back - opening into Panamint Valley. South of Shepherd's is Ryan Canyon & old Anthony (Charles) mine & mill 1880-1900's - edle most of those year - some prospectors worked off & on. is a short box canyon as is Ryan - I've written history of Millsbaugh for Museum. Junction Flat is Junction Flat - in spite of N.O.T.S. (navy) calling Carricart & Elcharren - both miss spelled - their dry lake is a small dry "lake" wet when rain falls. is a "playa". Shepherd's Canyon heads a quarter mile above our camp - Millsbaugh - it forks there & runs a short ways into the pinyon trees on up to east side of Matarango Peak and the middle M. peak! - Nadeau's old road came over State Range at south end of Panamint Valley - before Shepherd's Canyon was opened 1876 when Panamint City was dying. built by John Shepherd to haul produce to mine from Owens Valley ranchers - time road was built Panamint City was dying and Darwin booming. So when Ballarat boomed 1897 the road went on from mouth of Canyon straight across Panamint Valley to new town. All my home part of So. Inyo was familiar to me

4 as I was growing up at Millsparagh and all the old timers we knew, "The Conego" was prospected off & on and in ^(approx) 1920 Kellogg & 1930 built a camp - off Cole Springs - Junction road - near our Coso - Keyes property - half way between Cole Springs & Junction Flat and in 1971 George Koenig & Co. worked it - built a 1 room house - all very neat & clean - stones along walks yucca trees around - all very neat - but no gold! first set up in ~~1938~~ In 1920-30's, Kellogg prospected there - In spite of prospecting & mining & mills built there "just aint" no gold in my old home country - but hopes always! And thanks to the Navy it is all protected from Vandals or any camps settled now and people Out. in 1909 Trans Howard - (Howard ranch on map - never a ranch) had located the old '98 mine - then called The Bryan mine - for Bryan who tried so hard to be President in 1890's - and was looking for a buyer - so Al Millsparagh located some prospects in Seattle & Tacoma and a deal was made & the mine became The Inyo - Coso Gold Mining & milling. the original incline shaft was worked & a couple others sunk & the - tents for cook & boarding & for miners 1909 - 1910 July shut down - a 5 stamp mill was set up - no roof and a few mill

5) Ruins made. As I've said in those days.
camps stood empty months & years and nothing
was disturbed - a 4" pipe-line from the
spring above the Junction & next to the Junction
spring was laid - about 6 miles long & ex-
posed & so froze in winter after mine shut
down summer - July 1910 - later years prospectors
camped there - off & on - (I'm listening to the
ball game - Run 29th so please accept my writing
as is - and any time - I have to do it my way)
Coso - Keyes Gold mining camp - tents - 40'
shaft. Gasoline engine for hoist - worked from
1910 off & on to 1913 - no gold there either -
located 1909 by G. G. Mechem when he and
Bill Keyes who had located it earlier - (one of
Scotty's partners) and had been prospecting
in Nevada - a company (stock) was formed
in Oakland - box car load of machinery
& equipment shipped to Mojave and hauled
from there by team & wagon also shipped at
same time - nice Camp set up and worked
a couple years - no gold there either! By
1910 most mining had come to an end.
and the cloud burst in Sept. 1909 took out
Shepherds Canyon beyond any repair and so
Darwin - Ballarat stage & mail could not
get through - so no mail - eventually we
had the balance of Howard's mail contract.
changed to Brown & I carried the mail on
horse back, the 40 miles each way to finish the
contract on July 1st 1910 - Howard made no

Effort to finish his contract & left the country.
so we were without mail delivery to Millsbaugh
Post Office from Sept 1909 until Jan 1st 1910 -
before then the railroad from Mojave had
reached Brown & a Post Office established there.

Think this about answers your questions
on the maps - which I will return - Mr.
Spring Canyon is about 10 miles long -
as we counted miles - rather open last
few miles to top - willows here & there - first
real Spring was a fine one - had been
tunneled in & water ran down the road -
in 1890's Juan Andrade located a
silver prospect at mouth of canyon &
called it the "Bonanza" - built a 2 room
house by the Spring - planted a garden - a
very fine man - about 1904 or '05 he
sold the Bonanza to Mullen & Blutt of
the "haber dachery" in Los Angeles for many
years - and Juan went on a visit to old
Mexico - never returned - they worked the
mine off & on - about 1907 an old time
Prospector came and settled down in the
stone house at the mouth of the canyon
that Mullen & Blutt had built - no other
name but "Old Man Smith" white beard
which he always kept rolled & tied in a
Buell Durham tobacco cotton bag - string pulled
the top together - folks used to ask him if he

2) (Ran out of tablet!) carried his money rolled up in the sack. looked odd with that sack bobbing up and down on his chin - must have been his own idea - no one else thought of it - in 1910's quit prospecting and moved to Darwin & lived in a big tent for several years - became ill and went up to the County Farm at Big Pine with our other old timers. Later years others lived in the stone house - Chrysters in 1910 for awhile - then to Darwin & later Lone Pine - The stone house was still there in 1930's - South of the mouth of Mt. Spring Canyon - next is Wilson Canyon - mine & mill there in 1900's and the "Wilson boys" worked it - At the Summit of Mt. Spring Canyon to the South a couple or so miles in 1900's Jack Allen & Tom Ryan had a mine - in 1945 - Jack was still living there - Tom had died and on Mother's day that year I went to the Junction to spend the day with John & Marie Carricarl - who had "come back home" and were care takers for the Navy, and Jack came over in his little old roadster & we all had dinner chicken - together - shortly after Jack went up to the County Farm - I saw him there last time in 1948 - and in July 19 - 1945 saw John last in Darwin on his way to Los Angeles to see his family and met a tragic death at Rancho Grande

road and Tufulda - Rpl! Boulevard where they
meet. so one more child hood friend was
lost. but we three had a last "round-up"
and much talk of old times - No place
could be finer to grow up in and fine
people that I had "over home" in all that
grand part of Inyo County. Navy has torn
up parts with their bombing. But it is
always "up home" to me... Also just east
of the head of Mt. Spring Canyon is some
open country - old trail on & over the Malaga
& drops down into Pearls & by the spring &
garden & home of Joe & Mabel Peterson - part
of my Indian and cousin of Mike Hanson.
as near as they could figure - "called Copper-
skin Joe" - he had found some copper stained
ore - later when Iona settled in on Pearls
Lake - they made a good living selling water
for drinking and garden produce. You
will have to edit my letters - and accept
my way of writing! I hope it all makes
sense and answers your questions. Still
raining - so the maps will come later -
Happy May Day - do kids still make May
baskets - fill with wild flowers and leave
on neighbors front porches. Probably not - so
few of the good old customs are no longer.

Best wishes "Elm"

Elizabeth L. Thicham

this "Goes as
she looks"!

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Pennsylvania Toleware
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