

Dayside Calif.
Nov 11 - 1962.

Greetings to the Museum.

"Round about The Museum" in my home paper is a must with me each week. I don't know who the writer is, but me thinks it is my old friend Dorothy Cragen, but who ever does it. it is interesting and I take the trips mentally and enjoy seeing over again the many places of interest our loved desert has for all who want to see. Of special interest to me was the column of Oct. 26 - 1962 where in you mention the County Atlas of California & Nevada and of the stage lines from Darwin to Milledgepaugh & Ballarat. Milledgepaugh at the head of Shepherd's Canyon was my home for many years, growing up there and attending school in Darwin. The Mining Camp was built & owned by my Uncle Belman N. Milledgepaugh and my mother, Jessie N. Fowler, who was also Postmaster the eight years we had the Post Office and also assayer for the other mines around and for the

2) prospectors, of which there were many in those good days of long ago. The stage came at noon Monday - Wednesday and Friday & on to Ballarat, after changing team and those I fed & cared for - then up Tues. Thurs. & Sat. In the summer of 1909 we had severe cloud bursts which washed out the road completely down Shepherd's Canyon, Frank Howard - who had the stage & mail contract made a few trips on horse back with the mail & then gave it up, the contract running until July 1st 1910 - so we had the contract changed from Millepugh to Brown, Kern Co. which was located on the railroad being built from Mojave to Owenyo and on January 1st 1910 I began carrying the mail on horse back from Camp to Brown where Gus Heilzig was Post master & General Store. I did this for six months until July 1st and finished the contract - 40 miles to Brown Mondays, Wed. & Fri. returning home Tues. Thurs. & Sat. My route was across Indian Wells Valley (also known then as Salt Wells Valley) and to Mt. Spring Canyon

3) and up it & around to Junction Flat
& then to Camp. No where was there a
finer piece of Country in which to live
than my old home, now it is all in
the Bombing Range. He had one of the
little books put out by the Fireman's
Fund Insurance Co. but it has been
lost, even tho I am a regular Pack-Rat
for saving things. I'll be in to see you
the next time I am up home and I hope
that will be soon, I get very homesick
for God's Country.

Sincerely
Elizabeth P. Mechem
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This is just between us!