

2037 B Via Mariposa East
Laguna Hills, California 92653

June 17, 1968

Mr. Click Relander
1701 Commonwealth
Yakima, Washington 98901

Dear Click:

You will probably be surprised to receive a letter from me. I would like to ask your advice on the present day value of my collection of Indian baskets and other artifacts you so ably and generously helped me to put together and which has rested for these many years in a special glass show case in the registration office of Giant Forest Lodge.

I shall never forget the great interest you aroused in my mind about these relics and artifacts of the old Yokut Indians and other tribes and the wonderful pictures you made for me of some of these fine old Indian characters.

You probably know that March 31, 1966 we sold our Company in Sequoia and Kings Canyon to Fred Harvey, the outfit who operate the Santa Fe dining cars, and what is left of the station restaurants along the route of the Santa Fe Railroad. Recently I got a hurry up order to remove the collection from the Lodge Office to make way for extensive alterations and I just happened to be coming to Visalia that weekend and arranged for a small moving van to move the case and the collection from Giant Forest to the Museum in Mooney Grove where it now rests temporarily until we can complete the necessary inventory and evaluation to complete turning over the collection to Tulare County, whose Park System under Superintendent Merle Harp, administers the Museum, as you know.

Some time ago Annie Mitchell, whom of course you know, informed me that Mr. Donald Witt of Porterville, knew a great deal about Indian artifacts of California Indians and was better informed on such matters than anyone she knew around these parts to make an appraisal of their value which I could use for tax purposes. I came to Visalia last Wednesday, June 12 with my wife Rosa for the first visit since we moved south January 31st of this year. On Friday, June 14 I met with Don Witt at the Museum and I send you a copy of the Inventory and Values resulting from that visit.

During our inspection of all the baskets and other artifacts, it seemed to me that Don Witt was naming values that were on the low side rather than the high side. You understand, I have no real knowledge of their value and I may be

Mr. Click Relander

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completely wrong. However, I noticed that in the case of approximately half or more of the baskets, he seemed to take a critical view of the workmanship on the baskets, down grading the quality considerably in conversation, and probably arriving at a lower value as a result, than he would otherwise if he had considered the workmanship first class.

You understand of course that I am not seeking an inflated value that might adversely affect its use for a tax deduction. It seems to me, however, that the items you gathered together for me were all quite fine quality and some exceptionally so, also that many items must be quite old and therefore rare and hard to locate these days. All I seek is a fair appraisal of values which probably have increased from the days, years ago that you turned them over to me.

By the way, do you remember what I paid you for this collection? It is in my mind it was \$100.00 but I could be wrong. If you remember, do let me know, please.

I imagine you are plenty busy with your newspaper responsibilities as well as your continued work with Indian artifacts and history and lore, so please don't let this request of mine bother you. When you can conveniently look over the papers I send, you listed at the bottom of this letter, and give me your opinion on the values arrived at by Don Witt, I will be very grateful.

You probably remember the case these items were displayed in at the Giant Forest Lodge. It is 6' 10" from floor to top of case, by 17" deep from front to back, and 8' long from end to end. This case will also be given to the Museum. Have you any idea what would be a fair value? As I remember I paid \$200.00 or more for it and today it is probably worth more. It is well built with heavy plate glass doors and in excellent condition.

Conclusion - After Fred Harvey bought the Sequoia Company March 31, 1966, I retired. We continued to live in Visalia and I was called on as a consultant to assist the new management from time to time during 1966 and 1967. But no such arrangement was contemplated in 1968 and Rosa and I carried out a plan we had been thinking of for some years, namely to move to Southern California where we would be closer to our son George Jr. and his family in Covina, and also to my brother-in-law Howard Hays with whom I was in business in Yellowstone in the early 1920s as well as in Sequoia from March 1, 1929 until March 31, 1966. On January 31, 1968 we moved to Laguna Hills in Orange County, our address being at the top of this letter and where you can always reach me although I am writing this letter at the Steno Shop in Visalia. I would like to have taken my collection along with me to our new home in the South but there is no room in our apartment at Leisure World and those interesting Indian artifacts should remain in Tulare County.

When you come to California, as you probably do once in awhile, it would

Click Relander

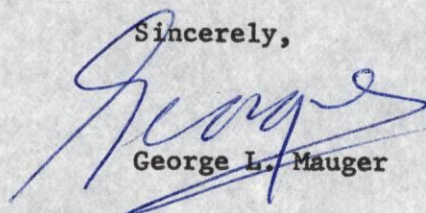
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be wonderful if we could see each other.

All good wishes,

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "George", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

George L. Mauger

GL:mc

Enclosures:

1. Copy of Inventory made 9/15/67
2. Copy of an Inventory made 6/14/67

GEORGE L. MAUGER

2037 B VIA MARIPOSA EAST
LAGUNA HILLS, CALIF. 92653

July 7, 1968

Mr. Click Relander,
3701 Commonwealth
Yakima, Wash. 98901

Dear Click:

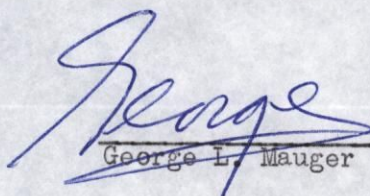
Your good letter (undated) in reply to mine of June 17, 1968, written from Visalia, has been received and very much appreciated. You have made some interesting comments and observations on the collection which should be very helpful to me.

There is one point I want to make sure I understand correctly, having to do with the value you suggest being placed on the collection. On page two, the second paragraph from the bottom, you say "the figure should be doubled once and one-half."

I take this to mean, the total estimated value on the inventory I sent you on 5 pages, namely \$451.00, plus once and ~~one~~ one half again. In other words \$451.00 plus \$451.00 plus \$225.00, or a total of \$1127.00 approximately. Is this what you meant? If I am mistaken will you please correct me?

So you can refresh your memory I return the inventory and would appreciate your sending it back immediately as I want to conclude this matter with the Tulare County Museum without further delay. I enclose a stamped envelop for its return.

Sincerely,


George L. Mauger