

February 26, 1945

Mr. Phil Davis,
200 Van Ness Avenue,
San Francisco, Apt. 307

(Copy for Historical Society)

Dear Phil:

I secured your address yesterday from Conrad Aldes, who came into the office over a month ago looking for contact with the Historical Society. Hope you're at the same address.

Conrad had an old pair of stillards, gold pan, miner's pick and gun which he said you had left with him for delivery to the society. The group holds another meeting next Sunday, this time at Tulare to get the Tulare people interested etc. and if you have time, send me some information so I can tell the members at that time. I have been pretty busy promoting it and was glad that we got it under way several months ago with a responsible man like A.D. Sweet to head it. The county is giving it a fair reception and everything seems to be moving along okay.

If you can sketch out the historical information on the stillards (scale), the ~~gold~~ miner's pan, pick and old gun, this should be attended to at this time. We are arranging for some cases in the library, Masonic temple etc. to put out a display in April, the county founding anniversary date, as another means of stimulating further interest. Right now we are being deluged with a bunch of old flood pictures, revived because of the recent flood.

If you send me the information so I can have it by Sunday, I'll be very happy to present the information at the next meeting of the group, telling them about you, etc. I'll see that the secretary has the information and will keep a copy in the file here at the office which I will turn over to the society in due time.

I suppose someone sent you one of the folders about our recent flood, which I am enclosing, but in case they did not, perhaps you'll be interested in receiving it.

I'm inviting Conrad and any of the other Three Rivers old timers who show up here in town Sunday to accompany me to Tulare. Later we want to hold a meeting in Three Rivers to get all residents of that area informed as to what is going on, the progress being made etc.

Things are about the same around Visalia. Pete Sweeney of the Stag has been drafted and has sold out his interest to Warren. Harry Dineley died suddenly yesterday, his funeral is tomorrow.

Mrs. Palestine Huffaker was 91 years old today and I have a story about her. She's lived in the same house here in Visalia for 73 years, but I suppose you're pretty well in touch with things around here through the family, etc. We received a story from the Navy yard the other day (Vallejo) about Lawrence Davis, I think it was, receiving a \$30 bonus for thinking up some kind of idea to help speed up things.

I am interested in the Historical Society because it keeps me in touch with the old timers, information for stories, etc. and the only thing I am personally interested in is old books, old pictures (prints) colored or plain, because they relate to printing with which I am familiar and when I'm lucky enough to get in touch with some concerning early day California that helps out that much more. I have a lot much time however to scout up stuff and darn seldom get to the cities to comb the old book stores/ If I'm ever lucky enough to get enough to gether to make a suitable collection, I'll turn it over to the Historical Society which will have a library as part of its layout. We lined up the Jack Frost collection of old clippings etc/ You'd be surprised at the number of people who go to the library here for old time reference and they haven't a decent place to keep the stuff. We are also trying to line up the old brick house back of the old county library (the old Masonic temple) and want to see that it is preserved intact. It is one of the first houses in Visalia.

Well, if I can do anything for you around here, drop me a line. Also keep me informed on any developments or any ideas you have about the old time things so we can keep them lined out for the museum. Also, if you know anyone of the old timers who have some real old books, magazine or prints they'd want to get rid of, I'd be willing to buy them just be sure that I could keep building them up, for the future and before they gradually rot away, are lost, etc. I'm only interested personally in that phase.

Hope things are going well with you there in S.F. and that you are getting along swell. Personally, I'll stick to the sticks for awhile, although sometimes I figure the Army might get around to guys in my age bracket.

If you want a few of the flood folders let me know and I'll mail you some.

Sincerely
Click Melander