

MAY 22, 1972
KARVAL, COLORADO

DEAR MISS GILPIN,

IT HAS BEEN SOME TIME SINCE I LAST WROTE YOU SAYING I'D SEND A COPY OF THE MAP SHOWING THE MARYLAND CATTLE COMPANY ON IT IN 1889. I TRIED SEVERAL AGENCIES WHICH SOLD THE TOPOGRAPHICAL MAPS AND THEY WERE OUT OF THIS SERIES. I FINALLY CALLED THE U.S. GEOGRAPHICAL SERVICE IN DENVER FOR THEM AND THEY SAID THEY WERE OUT OF PRINT AND NO MORE. SO--RATHER THAN WRITE TO ALL THE AGENCIES WHO CARRIED THEM, I TOOK A SHORT CUT AND HAD THEM COPIED IN COLO. SPRINGS LAST WEEK. SOME REPRODUCED BETTER THAN OTHERS AND I AM PIECING THEM TOGETHER AND SENDING THEM TO YOU UNDER SEPARATE COVER. THE ONE MISSING QUADRANGLE WAS NEVER SURVEYED FOR SOME REASON. I HAVE BEEN GIVING TALKS TO THE SEVENTH GRADERS OF LINCOLN COUNTY WHO STUDY COLORADO HISTORY THEN, AND HAVE USED THE MAPS WHICH SHOW THE TRAIL ROADS FROM RANCH TO RANCH, BEFORE THERE WERE REGULAR ROADS. THE KIDS SEEM INTERESTED, AS I HAVE SEVERAL STORIES TO GO ALONG.

LAST WEEK ON MY WAY TO C.S. I WENT TO THE RANCH, AND TOOK SOME PICTURES TO SEND YOU. THEY ARE NOT YOUR QUALITY PICTURES, AS I HAVE HAD GREAT TROUBLE WITH MY POLOROID. THE YOUNG MAN WHO LIVES THERE WITH A FRIEND, IS HOMER JONES' GRANDSON, BOB JONES. HE SHOWED ME THROUGH THE HOUSE AND TOLD ME WHAT REMODELLING HAD BEEN DONE, AND WHAT HE IS DOING NOW. HE IS A LONG-HAIRED, SIDE-BURNED, CLEAN, INTELLIGENT PERSON, AND INTERESTED IN THE HISTORY OF THE PLACE. HE DISCOUNTED THE IDEA OF THE FOOT-THICK WALLS, AS HE HAD BEEN PUTTING PANELLING ON THE PRESENT LIVING ROOM. HOWEVER, I AM SURE MR. JONES TOLD ME THAT WHEN THEY REMODELLED IN 1940 THEY FOUND THE ROOM WHICH THEY USE AS A DINING ROOM TO BE THIS WAY. I THINK PERHAPS THERE WERE ONE OR TWO ORIGINAL ROOMS OF DR. SANBORN'S HOUSE, WHICH THE GILPINS ADDED TO WHEN THEY LIVED THERE. THE MASTER BEDROOM IS HUGE AND THE CLOSETS ARE AMPLE, AND I AM SURE AN EARLY SHEEP MAN WOULD NOT HAVE CONCERNED HIMSELF WITH CLOSETS. I ASKED BOB TO HAVE MR. JONES WRITE OUT ALL HE COULD REMEMBER ABOUT THE PLACE AFTER THE ALTMAN'S (HIS IN-LAWS) BOUGHT IT IN 1898, INCLUDING THEIR FAMILY HISTORY AND WHO LIVED THERE AT VARIOUS TIMES. I HAVE TWO OTHER SOURCES WHICH I CAN CONTACT, BESIDES MR. JONES, WHO WERE NEIGHBORS IN THE EARLY DAYS AND HAVE REMARKABLE MEMORIES FOR MEN PAST 90.

I HAVE BEEN TRYING TO LOCATE THE WILLIAM H. JACKSON SERIES OF COLORADO RANCH OR RANCHES? WITHOUT ANY LUCK. I HAVE LOOKED AT SOME PORTFOLIOS AND A BOOK BY HIS SON BUT NO LUCK. I ASKED THE LADIES AT THE PIONEER MUSEUM TO LOOK THERE, BUT THERE WAS NOTHING. MISS DOROTHY SMITH HAS RETIRED AS CURATOR, BEING REPLACED BY MRS. DOROTHY STEVENSON, WHOM I HAVE MET AT THE MUSEUM AND AT SOME WORK SHOPS. WHEN I WAS THERE THURSDAY, THEY DID FIND A PICTURE OF YOU WHICH SOMEONE HAD BROUGHT IN RECENTLY. IT WAS A YOUNG WOMAN PICTURE, WITH FEATHERED HAT, AND CARRYING A MUFF. A VERY PRETTY YOUNG WOMAN I WILL SAY. SO NOW YOU ARE A MUSEUM PIECE, AND I DON'T MEAN THIS UNKINDLY. IT IS YOUR DUE AS A CELEBRITY OF COLORADO SPRINGS.

COLORADO SPRINGS MEN ARE GROWING BEARDS FOR THE CENTENNIAL EVENTS AND MANY THINGS ARE BEING PLANNED. THE MAIN WEEK OF THE CELEBRATION WILL BE JULY 8-15TH, 1972. I HOPE I CAN GET OVER FOR SOME OF IT. MANY OF OUR SETTLERS OR POSSESSORS OF LAND IN LINCOLN COUNTY EITHER CAME OUT HERE AND MADE SOME MONEY WHICH THEY TOOK TO COLORADO SPRINGS TO INVEST, OR THEY MADE MONEY THERE AND INVESTED IT OUT HERE. WE WILL GET THE STORY EVENTUALLY, 1976 HOPEFULLY.

THE PICTURES I AM SENDING YOU ARE BLACK AND WHITE, BUT I TOOK A FEW OTHERS ON A COLOR FILM I HAD IN ANOTHER CAMERA. WHEN I FINISH THIS I WILL SEND YOU THESE, AS THEY REALLY SHOW THE SPRINGS AND THE GREENERY AROUND THE PLACE. I TOLD BOB, THIS WAS ONE OF THE BEST RANCHES IN LINCOLN COUNTY AT ANY TIME, BECAUSE OF THE LIVING WATER WHICH NEVER DRIED UP. WE USED TO VISIT SOME FRIENDS ON A NEARBY RANCH, WHICH WAS LATER CALLED SANBORN, AND I THINK WE DROVE BY THERE IN THE 30'S WHICH IS PROBABLY THE ONLY TIME I EVER SAW THE RANCH UNTIL THE OTHER DAY. THE REMARK WAS MADE THAT IT WOULD BE NICE TO OWN THAT RANCH. IF YOU NOTICE THE TREES YOU WILL SEE THEY ARE HUGE AND OLD. THE RANCH IS NOW CALLED THE VALLEY SPRINGS RANCH AND IS APPROPRIATE, BECAUSE THE SPRINGS ARE IN THE VALLEY. IT IS A LOVELY PLACE.

MY TYPING, LIKE THE SNOWMAN, IS ABOMINABLE, AND I APOLOGIZE AND HOPE YOU CAN READ IT. I WAS GLAD TO GO THERE, AND I FELT I MADE A NEW YOUNG FRIEND IN BOB JONES. I LIKE TO BEFRIENDS WITH THE YOUNG PEOPLE AS I HAVE SEVERAL OF MY OWN. HOWEVER, THEY ARE ALL PAST THE STAGE OF DISSENT (I HOPE) BEING OVER THIRTY EXCEPT ONE AGED 28.

SUBCERELY,

Mary E Owen

MRS. JACK R. OWEN

The road from Hugo
to Donbora was used as early
as 1878 to carry mail by pack
and saddle. It then went on
to Colorado Springs. I marked
it lightly with red arrows.



LIVING SPRINGS

K 1 0 2 6 4 1

V over



This middle part is the
dining room which I
think was original part of
house. I may be able to
get Mr. Jones out to tell
me more. Will have to
take more pictures



K 1 0 2 6 4 1