

April 10-49
Boron, Cal.

Dear Miss Woodman -

Your letter arrived when I was away on a business trip in Utah and Wyoming, therefore the delay.

When I went to Lang in November 1916 Ed Stewart was Supt. and Roy Osborne was asst. Supt. Tom Thorkildsen was the manager of the mine. Stephen Mathe manager of the Refinery at New Brighton N. J.

Thorkildsen used to come up to the mine quite often and I knew him fairly well. He was a big rough rather coarse man, while Mr. Mather whom I met a number of times was just the opposite. You asked about the railroad, this was narrow gauge and ran from the mine down to Lang, about four miles, where all of the ore as well as incoming freight had to be transferred from the Southern Pacific. The track in front

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of the office was a
5% grade and above the
office there, the cut
was a 7% grade. We
had three runaways
during my eight years
at Lang. One time the
engineer lost control
and set the engine
brakes and jumped off
the brakeman stuck
with the train, set the
hand brakes on the
cars and brought the
train to a stop about a
mile down the canyon
with no damage.

Another time the train
ran away and left the

4

tracks below the office,
the engine turned on its
side and the cars or
piled up in the old
corral with the brakeman
landing in the hay
rack where the mules
used to be fed. The
engineer jumped when
it first hit the cut.

We used to hold
dances Saturday night
in the boarding house
and later in the new
school house on the
hill above the camp.
Local talent furnished
the music. People
came from great distance

All of our drinking water was hauled from Lang by train. The families living below camp carried their water on their backs with a Chinese yoke - with a five gallon oil can on each end. There were wells in camp which furnished water for washing.

These wells had the old hand ~~pup~~ pumps. We had one in our yard.

The company had a alfalfa ranch about three miles north of the camp where they raised hay

for the mules. There were springs there, also plenty of quail, dove, and rabbits - hunting was very good. We used to get a deer there once in a while

There were a lot of rattler snakes there one morning I opened our front door, it opened hard & there was a large rattler coiled under the door, another time I heard a woman scream I hurried over to her and there was a 5ft. rattler about

ten feet from her two year old boy. The mother could not move she was so frightened.

There was only one automobile in camp so when the fellows wanted to go to Los Angeles Friday night they had to go by way of the Southern Pacific. There was a small flat car which they used to get down to hang, it was quiet a grade down the canyon but the last half mile was

a little up hill. So unless they wanted to walk a way, they had to let the car travel at a good rate of speed. It jumped the track a number of times which always met no trip to town. The car was pulled back to camp by train the next day.

In the early days at Lang the miners worked underground by candle light, the candles were held by a holder which had a very sharp point, about 6 in long which

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was stuck in the timber
most of the miners were
Irish ~~and~~ as we had
a Irish foreman but
the muckers were
spanish and very
hot headed and used
the candle sticks as
weapons which resulted
in a number of bad
cutting or, ~~staring~~ scrapes.

I am enclosing
a number of photos
which might be of
interest to you, they
need not be returned
I do hope you
can obtain some help
from this. If there

is anything else
I can help with
please do not hesitate
to write me and I
will try to be more
prompt

Best regards
Norman E. Ross