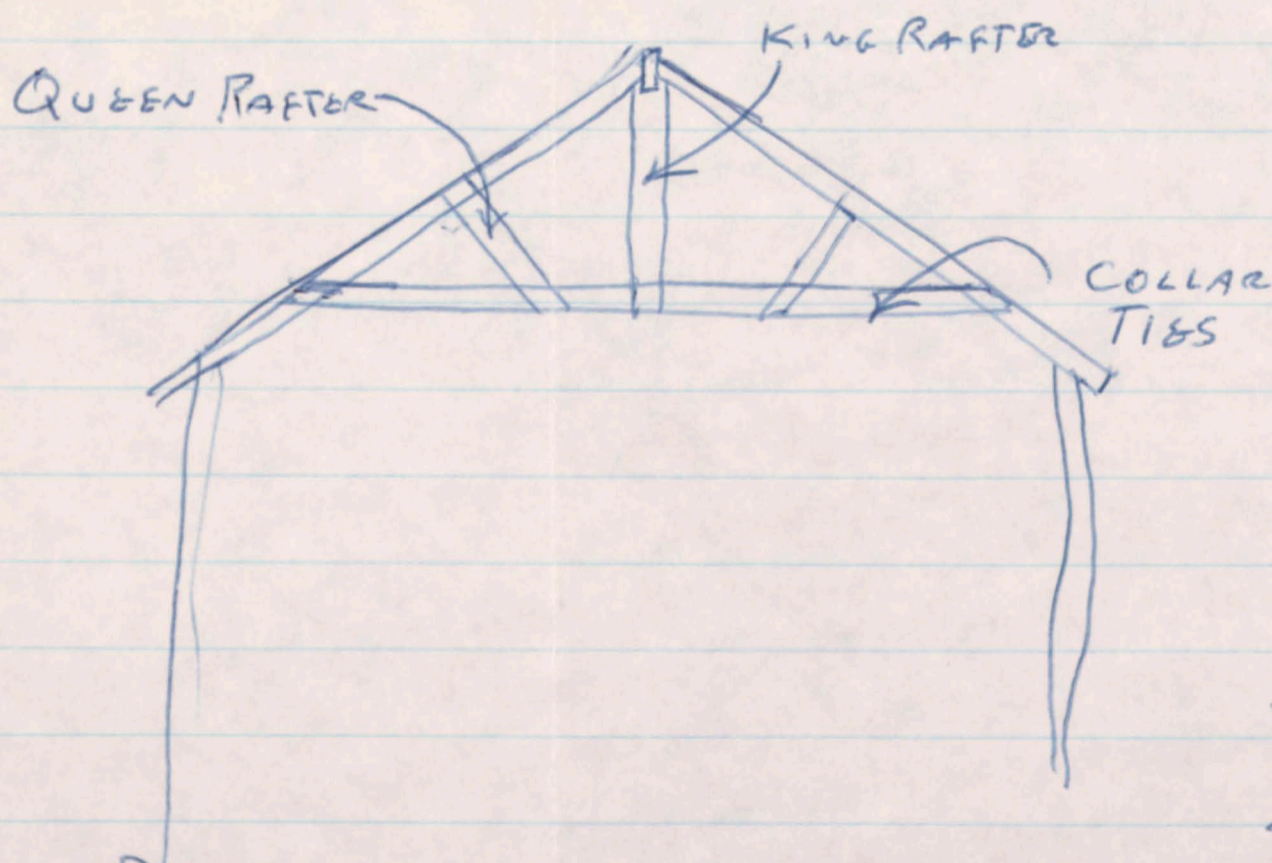


SPARROWHAWK COTTAGE
11/8/72 Box 54
SHEPHERD 95250

Hi SIB & FRED.

JUST FINISHED WRITING PATTY A LETTER & MY HAND IS SORT OF CRAMPED SO WILL PRINT YOU PEOPLE ONE & PERHAPS YOU CAN READ IT FOR A CHANGE.

SURE HAVE BEEN BUSY, I'VE BEEN WORKING FOR 'CALAVERAS TIMBER TRAINS' WHILE ON 'VACATION'. GUESS MA HAS SHOWED YOU THE LETTER I WROTE HER. YESTERDAY I HELPED LAY OUT 'CAMP SITES' FOR 2 HRS & IT WAS RAINING SO HARD THE BOSS QUIT DOING THAT & PUT ME TO WORK TEARING OUT SOME PANELING IN AN OLD BOY SCOUT BATHROOM & SHOWER ROOM, THEN WENT OVER TO THE 'COMMISARY BLDG' & HELPED MOVE IN SOME LUMBER.



TODAY I HELPED CUT & NAIL IN PLACE COLLAR TIES ONTO EVERY OTHER RAFTER, & PUT UP THE KINGS & QUEENS ONTO EVERY RAFTER (ABOUT 10 OR 12 SO FAR) THE BOY SCOUTS DIDNT BUILD TO SUIT THE COUNTY CODE SO IT HAS TO BE

REINFORCED - IT IS GOING TO BE A TEEN CENTER FOR PEOPLE THAT BUY IN THE 'PARK'. TOMORROW WE FINISH PUTTING UP THE KINGS & QUEENS & THEN GO UNDERNATH &

PUT IN SOME MORE CONCRETE PIERS ^{THAT WILL} ~~THE~~ SUPPORT
THE FLOOR JOISTS BETTER.

LAST NIGHT GEO. + I WENT TO MT RANCH SO THAT I COULD
VOTE + IT POURED DOWN SHEETS BOTH COMING + GOING. I TOOK
HIM WITH ME CAUSE HE CUT HIS FINGER SAWING WOOD + I
WAS CONSIDERING TAKING HIM TO S. ANDREAS TO THE DOCTOR, GLAD I
DIDNT CAUSE HE DOESNT SEEM TO COMPLAIN OF IT AT ALL EXCEPT
WHEN IT WAS TIME TO DO THE DISHES. HE HAS CONVINCED KATY
INTO DOING THEM FOR HIM + I PREDICT THAT IT WILL TAKE
THE REST OF THE WEEK (OF DISHES) TO HEAL.

IM PRETTY TIRED + TOMORROW IS ANOTHER WORK
DAY.

GOOD NIGHT + WRITE

LOVE

Lee

Nov 3 1972
Sparrowhawk Cottage
Sheepcreek Calif.

Hi Ma,

I've just taken a nice shower + am all clean + ready for bed. Just as I sat down a sudden hard shower hit + it sort of startled me. The week has been nice - warm in the daytime + a couple of frosty nights.

I should have written sooner but things were sort of up in the air over what I was going to do on the week of vacation that I'm taking next week.

I had today scheduled off + found a odd job with "Calaveras Timber Trails" They are a development company that has bought what was a Boy Scout camp. They are making many camp sites that they will now sell to the public as "private park". It's sort of a nice idea but a lot of money for a 40' x 100' campsite. Tomorrow I work for PT+T (time + a half). Sunday my vacation starts + I'm going to work (carpentry) for a guy that I've worked for before. Then Monday I go back to Timber Trails. (Mon thru Fri) I've really worked today, first loaded a pick up truck with some limbs + took them to the dump. Then filled it about 6 times with pine needles + took it to the dump, then dug about 15 or 20 feet of trench about a foot to 2 ft. deep + broke a plastic water pipe. That flooded the trench + stopped the digging for a while. ate lunch. Then cut about a

dozen 6" thick slabs of a log to make footings
footings to rest a trailer jacks on, loaded them
a a pile up ~~it~~ + put them under the trailer.
then swept a large building for about 2
hours. I imagine I'm going to be sore tomorrow

Tomorrow (for PTOT) I'm going to pick up
my green truck + drive it to Sonora + wash there
all day.

all the kids + Paty are at the football game
& homecoming done at the Ki school. The rain
seems to have stopped, hope they didn't get too wet.

Good night tell my sis to
write

Love

Lee

Sparrowhawk Cottage
Sheepsranch Calif.
Sept 12 1972

Hi Sis + Fred.

The kids + I have just finished shifting mattresses + springs between the two bedrooms. The twins have the front bed room now.

Kathy is the chief cook + a very good one so far. Nothing burned + a very good lasagna last night + tonight, also some left for tomorrow night. Also she makes delicious salads.

This really is a small world up here. Patty + I have looked a many houses to buy + today I installed a phone in one of them - got to talking with the lady of the house + asked what her husband did, she said that he was the new industrial arts teacher at Bret Hart Hi. The funny thing is I had had a chat with him in a coffee shop about the 1st or 2nd day of school. The way you keep running into more or less the same circle of people reminds me sort of the early days of installing phones in Drvington. For a few days I was moving firemen for the Dir of Forestry - one family would move + another family would move into the 1st house + then another day another fireman's family would move into the 2nd family's old house, all told about 5 or 6 families.

Last night Geo. + I repacked the front wheel-bearings on the Pontiac + tonight we changed the Oil + Oil filter.

I should wash out some sox but I don't think I will. Guess I'll write Patty + maybe read a little about the civil war "The 20th Maine".

The weather is turning cooler we had a fire in the trash burner yesterday + today - more for "kill" than for effect. Up in Arnold (4000 FT) they have had several nights of frost. This morn as I drove by the golf course just below 4000 FT it still had a lot of frost on it the sun hadn't hit yet.

Good night

Lee + kids

our address is

Sparks

P.O. Box 54

Shepherd

Calif 95250

SPARROWHAWK COTTAGE

SHEEPRAUNCH CALIF.

OCTOBER 14 1972

Hi YOU ALL,

How was your Friday ~~7:16~~ 13²⁴, I GOT THRU
MINE IN FINE SHAPE.

BEFORE I FORGET SEND ME MA'S ADDRESS IN
GRIDLEY, I KNOW SHE IS JUST DYING TO HEAR FROM ME.

NANCY JO IS VISITING A SCHOOL MATE IN MT. RANCH THIS
WEEKEND, KATHY IS IN THE LIVING ROOM LOOKING (DROOLING) OVER
THE X-MAS CATALOGS + PATTY, GEORGE, DIANE + I JUST FINISHED
A GAME OF HEARTS. PATTY WON + I CAME IN A POOR 2ND

I FIXED ANOTHER TURKEY THIS MORN, PATTY WORKED
IN THE FRONT YARD WITH THE KIDS HELPING HER.

CALAVERAS HI PLAYED JACKSON (FOOTBALL) LAST NIGHT +
WON BOTH GAMES - VARSITY 20 (SOMETHING) TO 8. PATTY +
I DID THE LAUNDRY - WALKED AROUND THE BUSINESS DIST TWICE
+ THEN WERE GOING TO WALK UP TO THE HIGH SCHOOL +
WATCH THE LAST PART OF THE GAME BUT IT STARTED
TO RAIN SO WE SAT IN THE CAR INSTEAD. THEN
IT QUIT RAINING SO WE WALKED UP + WATCHED THE
LAST 3 OR 4 MIN. OF THE VARSITY GAME. WE GOT
HOME ABOUT 11:30 + IT WAS A BEAUTIFUL NIGHT.

THE STARS WERE LIKE DIAMONDS IN A BLACK VELVET SKY.
(I KNOW I'M A PALAGARIST) I ALMOST HUNG OUT
THE WASIT BUT FIGURED THE WEATHER WOULD HOLD.

IT WOKE UP CLOUDY, WIND FROM THE SOUTH (WHERE
THE "OLD TIMERS" SAY THE STORMS COME FROM) + JUST REAL
NASTY. GEO, + I HUNG THE CLOTHES + THEY KATY KEPT
PULLING IN THE DRY ONES + HANGING WET ONES TO

REPLACE THEM & KEEP THE LINES FULL. WE CUT
DOWN THE HEDGE THAT SEPERATES THE UPPER
"PARKING LOT" FROM THE REST OF THE YARD & LOADED IT
ON THE TRUCK & ALSO ALL THOSE CUTTING & CLIPPINGS
THAT WERE BETWEEN THE BUTANE TANK & THE POOL
SITES & JUST AS WE WERE LOADING THE LAST OF
IT IT REALLY STARTED TO RAIN, KATY PULLED
IN THE REMAINDER OF THE CLOTHES & GEO & I TIED
ALL THE STUFF & JUNK ON THE TRUCK & THEN PUT
ON SOME DRY CLOTHES & THEN HE, PATTY & I DROVE
UP TO THE DUMP NR. AVERY & PUSHED IT OUT. HAD
TO STOP ONCE & GET IN THE CAB TO KEEP DRY.

I HAD LAST MONDAY OFF, BUT THE KIDS HAD TO
GO TO SCHOOL SO PATTY & I GOT ABOUT HALF A
TRUCK LOAD OF FIRE WOOD & JUST GENERALLY GOOFED
OFF. THE WEATHER IS SURE DIFFERENT THAN IT
WAS WHEN I GOT HERE. THE LEAVES ARE REALLY DROPPING
& SOME OF THE COLORS ARE FANTASTIC.

IT IS ALMOST 9:00 PM & TIME FOR YOUR
"RURAL REALITIES" TO HIT THE HAY

SEND THIS ON TO MA & SEND ME HER
ADDRESS

Love
Lil

Dear Ma and Pa, — and sis
I'm sorry to bother you
but I need a belt. Find
a black one that is pretty
narrow and awfully long. I
need it for my code. My
R.O. belt is too wide for the
belt loops. I can get along
with the belt from my
slacks but it looks funny.
Also please send that thing
that you use for archery or
that the bow string won't
hurt your fingers.

You'll probably find the
belt in my upper right
hand drawer the thing
for my fingers in one
of the two upper drawers
or the bottom one.

(over)

The weather is nice how
is it up there

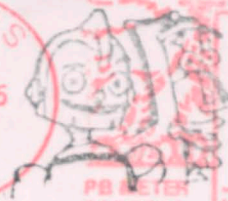
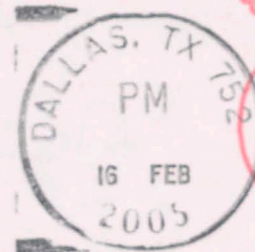
I hope dad and sis are o.k.
and not working too hard
How's your back and your
summits ma? Write me
once in a while.

Love

Lee



B. Abbott Sparks
1600 Pacific Ave. Ste. 2050
Dallas, TX 75201-3558

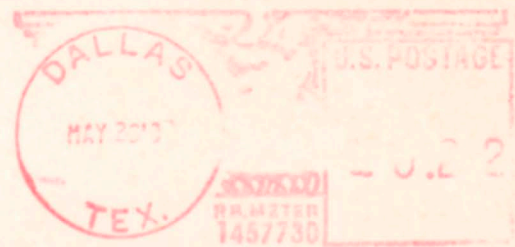
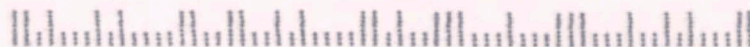


GREETINGS
ROONE
FENDER

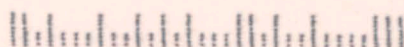
U.S. POSTAGE

Mr. Leland Sparks
6308 Blauer Lane
San Jose, CA 95135

95135+1407



Mr. Leland Sparks
40704 Robin Street
Freemont, Calif. 94538



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
SCIENCE AND EDUCATION ADMINISTRATION

AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH
WESTERN REGION

RENEWABLE RESOURCE CENTER
UNIVERSITY OF NEVADA
920 Valley Road
Reno, Nevada 89512

February 14, 1979

Mrs. Helen Sparks
1816 Devonshire Rd.
Sacramento, CA 95825

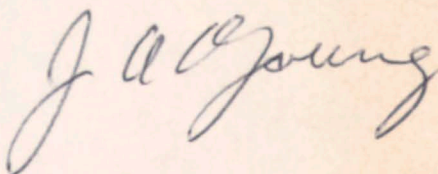
Thank you very much for replying to my letter. I will go to the library for the Life magazine. I was not aware of it before receiving your letter.

Later in the spring, I would like to visit you and examine the material you have collected. I will phone first to make sure the date and time is convenient for you. A research historian, Guy Rocha, with the Nevada Historical Society is very interested in the later stage of Governor Sparks' career and we trade information. We both will be very interested in the information you have collected.

Enclosed is a draft chronology I have prepared for Governor Sparks. It is to organize my thoughts and research activities and I have already changed some dates since it was typed. If there is any items on the chronology for which you would like more information, I have a file of the related references.

Thank you.

Sincerely,



James A. Young
Range Scientist

Enc. 1

cc: Guy Rocha

Draft Chronology - John Sparks

<u>Date</u>	<u>Sparks age</u>	<u>Event</u>
1828-29	--	Peter Skene Ogden bring Snake River Brigade-Hudson Bay Company through northeastern Nevada
1831	--	John Work - Snake River Brigade
1833-34	--	Joseph Walker of Bonneville Party
1841	--	Bidwell-Bartheson Party - first overland emigrants to California. Leave wagons at Johnson Springs, Toano Valley. Party had boat building tools to cross "Great Basin".
1843	0	John Sparks born in Mississippi August 30th
1843	0	Walker - Chiles Emigrant Party
1844	1	Stephens - Murphy - Townsent Party - Murphy later returns to found North Fork Ranch - Rancho Grande
1850-53	7-10	Great emigrant route along Humboldt
1854	11	Peter Haws establishes trading post near Wells NV - Carlos Murray settles in Thousand Springs Valley - Both outlaws (?)
1857	14	Sparks family moves to near Lampasas, Texas
1857	14	Sparks starts in cattle business picking up strays on Texas rangeland
1861-1865	18-22	Civil War - Sparks captain Confederate Army - Nevada mining booms
1865	22	First drives of Texas cattle north to Kansas
1868	25	Union Pacific reaches Cheyenne Wy. Texas cattle driven north to feed crews, agency indians, and stock ranges
1868	25	Sparks left Texas with crew of negro cowboys-drove cattle to Trout and Goose Creek, Idaho. Stayed year moved to Salmon Falls Creek. <u>No source reference</u>
1868	25	Man named Armstrong well established from Thousand Springs Valley to Winecup Field in Idaho. Owned Winecup brand bought H-D from Downing family.
1869	26	Central Pacific reaches Elko, Nevada

<u>Date</u>	<u>Sparks age</u>	<u>Event</u>
1869	26	Alvaro Evans reaches Elko with 1300 head of cattle driven from Texas.
1869	26	J.P. Moore arrived Elko with 800 head of cattle from Texas by way of Fort Laramie
1870	27	Bay State Company buys ranch on Lodgepole Creek Nebraska from John Sparks
1871	28	A.D. Norton & M.G. Robison establish small bunch of cattle on Deep (or Rock) Creek Id.
1871	28	David Shirk drove cattle from Wayahatchie Texas to Bruneau Valley Id., wintered Duck Valley
1872	29	A.J. "Barley" Harrell brought cattle to Goose Creek mountains. Texas cattle brought from Williamson County Texas by Snyder Brothers. Winter on Snake River side. J.E. Bower, foreman
1872	29	Sparks married Rachel Knight in Texas
1872-1882	29-39	A.J. Harrell developes Shoesole ranch in three watersheds Humboldt, Snake, Great Salt Lake
1872	29	Col. E.P. Hardesty brought Texas cattle to Bishop Creek near Wells, Nevada
1873	30	Elko county ranges considered fully stocked
1874	31	Sparks joining Wyoming Stock Growers Association
1874	31	A.H. Swan & Thomas Swan buy ranch on Chugwater River Wyoming from Sparks
1875	30	Started breeding purebred Herefords (?).
1877	34	Al Blocker delivered cattle to Sparks ranch in Wyoming
1878	35	Sparks buys 12,000 acres, Noauk, Texas
1879	36	Rachel Knight Sparks dies - Sparks married Nancy Elenor Knight
1879 (at least)	36	Sparks owns one half interest in Georgetown, Williamson County Texas Bank. Bank finances cotton crop - railroad reaches Georgetown. Frequent trips to Wyoming.

<u>Date</u>	<u>Sparks age</u>	<u>Event</u>
1880	37	Sparks and Tinnin buy Armstrong ranch Thousand Springs Valley NV
1882	39	Sparks and Tinnin bought Harrells Shoesole ranch Nevada and Idaho \$950,000. Previously bought Winecupe and H-D. (?)
1883	40	Sparks has trouble with fence cutters on Texas Ranch.
1884	41	Sparks and Tinnin holdings in Elko County valued \$101,625 taxes
1884	41	Three brands registered Wy (1) Sparks-Wy. (2) Sparks and Tinnin-Wy (3) Sparks and Tinnin, NV.
1885	42	Sparks and Tinnin buy W.F. McMillan estate (1st purchase in Nevada?) Elko County
1885	42	John Clay buys 3000 steers from Sparks and Tinnin, Nevada ranch.
1885	42	Central Pacific changes land policy - leases 500,000 acres Thousand Spring unit to Sparks and Tinnin
1885	42	Average calf crop 1880's - 9000 to 12,000 - 50,000 to 75,000 cows.
1885	42	Nevada remodels state-select-land-law. Ranchers can buy state land \$1.25/acre (\$2.50 within RR checkerboard) 20% down 50 years on balance 6¢/acre/year
1885	42	Introduced Hereford and Shorthorn bulls - brand 38,000 calves
1885	42	Try to reduce cattle numbers realize range is overgrazed
1889-90	46	Sparks and Tinnin have from 50 to 90% winter kill - many Elko county ranches go broke
1891	48	Sparks, Tinnin and Andrew Harrell meet on Cottonwood Cr. Id. Sparks buys out Tinnin with \$45,000 cash.
1892	49	Start extensive water development program on Nevada ranches to increase hay production
1893	50	Sparks exhibited registered Herefords at Chicago World Fair

<u>Date</u>	<u>Sparks age</u>	<u>Event</u>
1894	51	Sparks founded Alamo Stock farm
1894	51	Sparks purchases Herefords from C.H. Elmendorf
1896	53	Sparks still considered owner of Sparks - Harrell. No date available for when Harrell purchases Sparks interest in northeastern Nevada
1896	53	Diamondfield Jack case - shooting of sheepmen
1897	54	Sparks decided to import Herefords from England
1899		No <u>Bromus tectorum</u> Elko County - Kennedy
1899	56	Sparks active in Texas Chautauqua Assembly
1899	56	Jane Wilson, Secretary of Agric., visits Alamo Ranch
1899	56	Sparks Herefords bring highest prices at Great National Kansas City
1900	57	Sparks sends Ed Morgan to England with \$10,000 draft to buy Herefords
1900	57	Sparks pays record price for bull
1901	58	Sparks complains his stock assessed to low in Washoe County
1902	59	Sparks President American Hereford Association
1902	59	Sparks elected governor
1903	60	Sparks involved in Wedekind Mine Lost huge amounts of money
1903	60	Newlands water project Fallon NV
1903	60	Sparks 400 registered Herefords at Alamo
1904	61	Sparks provides foundation stock for Cazier and Son registered Herefords, Wells NV.
1904	61	President Theodore Roosevelt visits Alamo Ranch
1904	61	Democratic candidate for U.S. Senate - badly defeated
1904	61	Sparks host party at his home Georgetown Texas for Texas governor

<u>Date</u>	<u>Sparks age</u>	<u>Event</u>
1904	61	Andrew Harrell after buying out John Sparks (no date) experiments with Russian steppegrass - possibly Siberian wheatgrass.
1906	63	Sparks reelected governor
1906	63	National Forest Reserves established in Nevada
1906	63	<u>Bromus tectorum</u> introduced to Elko County
1907	64	Sparks calls for Federal troops to put down labor troubles in Goldfield
1908	65	Sparks dies at home in Reno. Apparently bankrupt.
1907	--	Andrew Harrell dies August 1907
1908		Sparks land in Texas subdivided
1908		David Ecoles owns Sparks and Harrell
1909		Vineyard Land and Stock Company
19--		Utah Construction buy out Vineyard
1911		W.H. Moffal buys Alamo Ranch home
19--		Irrigation projects start in southern Idaho
1917		U.C. starts feed yard at Twinfalls at Amalgamated Sugar
192-		Nigger Henery Harris dies age 69 - came to Nevada age 17 with first Sparks range. Year he died would help establish when Sparks came to Nevada
1925		Nevada passes 3 mile limit in attempt to give proessory interest to grazing on pulbic lands
1934		President Roosevelt withdraws vacant land from homesteading
1935		Grazing service established end of open range
1937		First experiments with crested wheatgrass in Nevada
1945		Utah Construction sells. Old Sparks ranches in Northeastern Nevada subdivided



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Agricultural
Research
Service

Mountain States Area

920 Valley Road
Reno, Nevada 89512

March 7, 1986

SUBJECT: Sparks Photographs

TO: Mr. and Mrs. Leland John Sparks
40704 Robin Street
Fremont, California 94538

Enclosed are the photographs Abbott sent along with an electrostatic copy for identification and my comments. The comments are based on the collective opinions of several knowledgeable individuals I had examine the prints. We found them very interesting. Some of the ranch photographs are classic.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "J. A. Young".

James A. Young
Range Scientist

Enclosures

#1 This is probably a haying camp, based on the vegetation. Juniper post suit must be northeastern Nevada. There appears to be the outline of a lady on the rightside. May have been a picnic stop at a haying camp.

#2 Sparks boys and pup. House? Not Alamo house. CHARLES ON RT.; PROBABLY LELAND ON L.

#3 The hot springs at HD Ranch. Woven willow walls and willow-cottonwood thatch roof.

#4 Henry Harris! Four horse team hooked to roundup chuck wagon. Note the bedrolls in wagon. This is a great photograph.

#5 Building in background of photo #4. The door is propped open with a branding iron, but the brand end is hidden. Henry Harris at right. Road or dutch plow is leaning against a building. What are animal skins on roof? Note dirt roof on cabin. Who is the man with a tie on the left. Note long quantlet gloves. Vertical logs in cabin.

#6 This must have been John Sparks special made vehicle. Note fancy spring arrangement. Brakes! One hell of a goodlooking team. Driver a younger John Sparks.

#7. Lady? WE DON'T THINK IT IS THE SAME LADY AS IN #10

#8 Younger Harrell? Five dogs. Alamo Stock Farm?

#9 Elk cow and calf - Alamo Stock Farm.

#10 Two ladies and man. Great wicker chairs. Lady on left of his whip? LADY ON LEFT
POSSIBLY MAUD SPARKS

#11 Cook. Dog and cat. Indian, negro, oriental, or all three?

#12 Two cowboys in front of hutch rail. Show a lot of character. Northeastern Nevada. Photograph must have been taken from same structure? Why hitch rail in middle of nowhere? SNOWING?

#13 Blurred photo of mean mutt.

#14 Jasper Harrell

#15 Pack and saddle horses in high mountains. Lodge pole and western white pine, so has to be Sierra Nevada - high elevation.

#16 Snow field and Talus slope.

#17 Hereford steer.

#18 Hereford steer with redneck - brand?

#19 Barn at Alamo Stock Farm.

#20 Old farm house - not Alamo Stock Farm, picket fence.

#21 Very short or humpbacked old timer on very large horse in snow. Poor quality, but great photo. VERY PROBABLY MY UNCLE CHARLIE

- #22 Sparks and other children? ^{5TH FROM L. (IN WESTERN HAT) UNCLE CHARLES SPARKS}
^{2ND FROM R. (GIRL STRAW HAT) AUNT MAUD SPARKS MACKENZIE}
- #23 Buggy with flag attached. Different vehicle from #6. Not Alamo Stock Farm.
- #24 Small boy with hat? HAMMOCK IN BACKGROUND
- #25 Baby on porch of weathered house?
- #26 Different view of barn at Alamo Stock Farm.
- #27 Children?
- #28 Same boy as #24.
- #29 Hot spring at HD Ranch.
- #30 Buggy and surrey in front of board barn.
- #31 Durham cow along river. Salt grass on river bank. Trees do not look like cottonwood.
 Texas?
- #32 Same rig as #6.
- #33 Very dark photo of old house with front porch and end fire place. Texas?
- #34 Old two story house?
- #35 Lady and boy - hot springs HD Ranch.
- #36 Tall boy and mutt. Note beef killing windlass in background. WHAT IS A KILLING WINDLASS?
- #37 School children?
- #38 Raccoon.
- #39 Baling fence and haystack?
- #40 Couple on large timber above stream; note boots on lady.
- #41 Hereford steer.
- #42 Boy bareback on large horse. Hills indicate northeastern Nevada.
- #43 Back of two story house. SIMILAR TO WHAT I REMEMBER SEE OF THE BACK
 OF ALAMO - ON S. VIRGINIA STREET BUT NOT SURE
- #44 Lady in massive chair.
- #45 Horse born at Alamo Stock Farm.
- #46 Old log cabin with dirt roof. Interesting wagon in background.
- #47 Boy with massive, mean dog.

B. Abbott Sparks

1600 PACIFIC AVE., SUITE 2050, DALLAS, TEXAS 75201

February 9, 2005

Dear Leland:

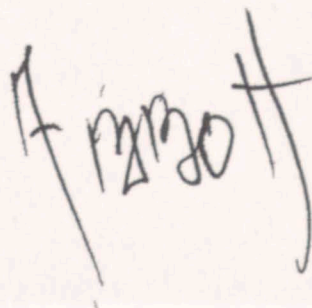
I can't imagine anything tougher than what you told me about your kids. I'm not familiar with the disease you tell me about, but what a difficult time for all of you.

I will be going up to see Dr. DeWitt in March, and will find out if he spent some time at your college in Fremont. And yes, what a coincidence that would be.

Over the years of knowing you, Leland, I have seen the characteristics that you and I have recognized in the Sparks family over the years. We come from a family of honest, hard working, and dedicated people, and although they have scattered far and wide in the U.S., I have often been inspired by the kind of people they are and the lives they lead.

I'll get back to you after I see Dr. DeWitt.

Best wishes,



AS/lb1

Mr. Leland J. Sparks
6308 Blauer Lane
San Jose, CA 95135

CRANE & CREST

100% COTTON

B. Abbott Sparks

1600 PACIFIC AVE., SUITE 2050, DALLAS, TEXAS 75201

January 14, 2005

Dear Leland:

We appreciated your Joyous Merry Christmas card. It had a special touch in that it appeared to be "Sparks-made."

Lee, I have talked with a half-dozen prospective authors for a book on your grandfather's life, and have talked to several successful people, but haven't found one that wants to tackle the prospect to my satisfaction.

So I have decided to move my entire collection, which constitutes about 4½ lineal feet of catalogued data and notebooks, to the Western History Collections at the University of Oklahoma, which has become one of the nation's premier university library historical collections on the Great Plains, American Southwest and Far West. There are only a handful of distinguished university libraries focusing on the American West, of which this is one. The Director is Donald L. DeWitt, and he has expressed sincere and continued interest in this work on John Sparks.

There is a bust of John Sparks in the Cowboy Hall of Fame in Oklahoma City, but with it no indication of how it got there.

I have not been overly impressed with the quality level of the two editions printed by the University of Nevada, but "Cattle in the Cold Desert" continues as a textbook in a dozen universities.

I'm not as satisfied as I would like to be with this final resolution, but at 85 think it's best that I do something with it before it's taken out of my hands. If you have any further suggestions, or wish to refer the collection to other parties interested in your grandfather, please feel free to do so.

All best wishes for the New Year,

M Abbott

AS/lbl

CRANE'S CREST

B. Abbott Sparks

1600 PACIFIC AVE., SUITE 2050, DALLAS, TEXAS 75201

September 28, 2004

Mr. Leland John Sparks
6308 Blauer Lane
San Jose, CA 95135

Dear Leland:

Some time ago I think I told you that there is a gentleman in Nevada who is doing a great job of extending and enhancing Nevada's memories of your Grandfather John. Some years ago I visited him and his lovely wife where they have a home set against the mountains around Gardnerville, Nevada. Michael Fisher has done at least as much research, and possibly more with it, than I have done regarding "Uncle John."

I will enclose a couple articles that will tell you more about Dr. Fisher's endeavors in behalf of Governor John Sparks in the State of Nevada. Michael's research has discovered different things than mine, and the work he is doing in his depiction of John's life has been presented over the years to many audiences in Nevada.

I have told Michael about some of the material you have on your Grandfather in the possibility that he might call you with some questions or come and see the material you have. He is a guy with an impressive track record whose efforts, I think, have honored your Granddad, and I would hope you would lend him a hand in his research when and if he contacts you.

Although I bought 20 copies of the original hardback printing of "Cattle in the Cold Desert," I wish I had bought another 50, as it is selling for well over \$100 when it is available from rare book collectors. The two additional printings by Utah State and Nevada are not as nice or complete, but are still being used as a text by a number of universities.

At 84 I am still working a couple days a week, but slowing down faster than I am picking up speed. I hope this letter finds you and Shirley well and happy in all respects, and that we can get together one of these days. I have had two grandsons graduate from Stanford, but they are now pursuing their lives - one in Nashville and the other all over the country.

Warm best wishes,

Abbott

AS/lb1

P.S. I may have sent you the attached, but thought you would like to know a little more about your distant cousin.

cc: Dr. Michael Fisher
P.O. Box 700
Minden, NV 89423

STRAIGHT BOND

OPAQUE

25% COTTON FIBER USA

B. Abbott Sparks

P.O. Box 50089, DALLAS, TEXAS 75250

April 11, 2001

Mr. L. J. Sparks
6308 Blauer Ln.
San Jose CA 95135

Dear Leland:

Thanks so much for your interesting set of data from the turn of the century on John and some of his adventures. I didn't know that "Armour Rose" proved to be barren, but some of his gold mine stocks were just about the same, huh? Boy, he was a real big-time spender and swinger in investment terms, as well as competitive. Example, the \$2500 for Armour Rose, where he out-bid Mr. Rockefeller.

I have the feeling had John devoted his life to any one thing -- whether rancher, breeder, politician, developer, whatever -- he could have "cleaned the table," but he saw each different direction as a new challenge.

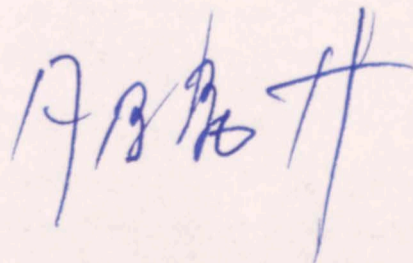
I'm sure you're right about the room number, from looking at the envelope, and as I remember, their men's bar is named something like "Bull & Bear," and they put a full bottle of whatever your liquor is on the table when you have lunch. His kind of place, huh?

It's too bad he didn't stay in ranching, in which case you'd own a small county in Nevada.

Lee, I've forgotten if you told me where John's rifle is, or whether you even know. What was the "name" he had carved in the stock? Do you have a photograph of the rifle or him with it, by any chance? Appreciate any thoughts you have on those items.

All the best,

AS/lbl



B. Abbott Sparks

P.O. Box 50089, DALLAS, TEXAS 75250

May 15, 2001

Mr. Leland J. Sparks
6308 Blauer Ln.
San Jose, CA 95135

Hey Lee:

You are something else for saving, accumulating, copying, and sending all this historic data! I'm with you; one could sit down for two days to decipher and interpret all these relationships.

I have seen the name Frank Hubbs somewhere, and will hope I can recover it, but was especially interested to see that Henry Harris was one of the witnesses to that gold and silver pistol. And like you, I wonder where that is, but I also wonder if A. J. Harrell delivered it, as this was in the late and somewhat hectic period of your grandad's life. I have never tried to contact any of the Harrell descendents but that could be interesting.

I'm a little "put out" with the University of Nevada's Publication Department, as every exchange I've had with them has been very, very slow. Dr. Young and I felt we should get our responsibilities out of the way with regard to the reprint of "Cattle in the Cold Desert," before proceeding to the other book. But the Publishing Department powers that be seem to be out more than they are in, with on-going delays. As I think you know, this would be the third printing of "Cattle," but at this pace, I'll be surprised if it's out by next spring. I am concerned enough that I may have to go by Reno to make sure I understand the situation before diving into the very large task regarding John Sparks.

Wish we could sit down and visit about some of this material, and that opportunity might present at some point. Keep up the good work.

All best wishes,

AS/lb1

A/13/2001

B. Abbott Sparks

7528 BAXTERSHIRE • DALLAS, TEXAS 75230

May 26, 1987

Dear Leland:

This is something I've been trying to think to ask you for some time, and it goes back to a number of the Sparks photographs I saw with you and Pat -- in the "antique mystery pile file"!

It has to do with the husband of John Sparks' daughter, Madge. As I recall, she lived at Pebble Beach, and her husband's name was MacKenzie, and he was from England.

Please note the attached pages from a recent issue of The New Yorker, which credits one Alister MacKenzie with the golf course design of Pebble Beach in California, and also the quite famous Augusta National Golf Club in Atlanta.

Is there anything you can tell me about whether the Alister MacKenzie mentioned in this article was ~~indeed~~ John's daughter's husband? And if so, I wonder if you would be so kind as to send me the pictures of him that I recall we found in the material. I would have them copied and send them to a friend of mine who ~~are~~ *is a* members of the Augusta National.

And though I am not sure what he had to do with Pebble Beach, I would imagine that was what brought him there, and I have seen his name mentioned in connection with Pebble Beach.

Hope things are going well with you and Pat, and would be very interested to hear your thoughts on the question. Best wishes to you all for a pleasant summer.

Sincerely,

Sparks

AS/lbl

cc: Mary Matthews

Mr. Leland Sparks
40704 Robin Street
Freemont, Calif. 94538

W

B. Abbott Sparks

7528 BAXTERSHIRE • DALLAS, TEXAS 75230

April 30, 1986

Dear Lee and Patty:

At long last, here is the return of your very nice photographs. I have had copies made of each of these, and when I got the bill, I observed what looks to be a pretty good way to make money! I can't believe what some people charge these days.

At any rate, thanks for letting me use them, and we will pack them carefully and try to get them back to you intact.

Things going pleasantly with our weather and otherwise here these days. Texas hardly even had any winter, so the spring is getting longer and longer.

Hope to see you again one of these days, and also to have another run at that "family box"!

All best wishes,

Abbott

AS/lbl
enc.

Mr. & Mrs. Leland Sparks
40704 Robin Street
Freemont, Calif. 94538



Mr. Leland Sparks
40704 Robin Street
Freemont, Calif. 94538



B. Abbott Sparks

7528 BAXTERSHIRE • DALLAS, TEXAS 75230

April 25, 1988

Dear Lee:

I certainly appreciate the thoughtful note about the loss of Helen.

I certainly appreciate your role and its importance in that situation. Seems to be our time of life for that. And from what I've seen of life's ending process, she was fortunate and you handled it as well as you could have. It doesn't always go as anyone involved would prefer.

I spent last week in Arizona around the Carefree area. It's about 3,000 feet of altitude, dry and cool. I have become a real fan of that climate and that area.

We buried Uncle Van in Pauls Valley just a couple weeks ago. My children, Brady and his wife, Andrea and her husband, Vicki and I all went up for several days. He is survived by his wife Fan, who is 90, and is reluctant to leave the 200 acre farm on which they have lived the last 16 years. Also attending the funeral were my Aunt Nora Sparks Warren's daughter Jo Layne and her husband, then Aunt Ima Sparks Lamb's daughter Christine and her husband. Uncle Van was a special person. I'm sure I told you he had registered 20-some-odd patents for compressor valves, and spent most of his career as Vice President of Frick Refrigeration in Williamsboro, Pa. During his retirement years in Pauls Valley, he made a great contribution to that community, where he also supervised the construction of Pauls Valley's new Nora Sparks Warren's Library, about a \$600,000 facility that was given the community by Nora's husband Bill Warren.

Van had visited a number of the Sparks in the west, including those around American Falls, Idaho, and some of your other relatives in that part of the world, as you may know. He was my favorite uncle, and we had a special relationship of many years standing. As it happens, this is the first time since 1895 that there ~~has not been~~ a Sparks residing in Pauls Valley, Oklahoma, (even since it was Indian Territory.)

You might be interested to hear we are setting up a small scholarship at Pauls Valley High School as a memorial to my dad, Abbott Sparks Sr. He represented many good things about that community, and of course spent his life there, working at First National Bank for 64 years. Hopefully this little scholarship will encourage some small-town kids with potential.

** WYNEBORO, PA.*



Mr. Leland Sparks
40704 Robin Street
Freemont, Calif. 94538



B. Abbott Sparks

7528 BAXTERSHIRE • DALLAS, TEXAS 75230

4/25/88

Always glad to hear from you, and will hope we have another chance to get together before long. Give my warm best regards to Patty.

AS

AS/1b1

CRANE'S CREST



Mr. Leland Sparks
40704 Robin St.
Fremont, CA 94538



B. Abbott Sparks

7528 BAXTERSHIRE • DALLAS, TEXAS 75230

January 25, 1988

Dear Leland:

Sure appreciate your nice and newsy letter of January 5.

Vicki, Ryan, and I just returned from a nice trip to Kauai Ohau. On Kauai we spent a few days at the Westin Kauai and then a few days at a place on the beach called Hanalei Colony Bay -- much to my liking, because it was practically in the surf! Then we spent a couple days on Ohau, where we visited with Dallas friends in their home. I was able to talk my way into Pearl Harbor Navy Base, which I was in and out of for a couple years during the 40's! Ryan greatly enjoyed a tour around inside the base, looking at the many war ships, and we even got to go aboard one of them, where the "Office of the Deck" couldn't have been nicer. We really enjoyed that.

Sounds like a lot goes on most of the time with your and Patty's goodly family. All those kids and grandkids have to lead to a lot of interesting action! You were brave to go up to your cottage on New Year's Eve in that weather. Not the best place for you Californians.

We're back here to enjoy some peace and quiet for a few months, hopefully, and don't have another trip for several months. No telling what I'll get into in that period, but for now a little plain, ordinary living sounds pretty exciting.

All best wishes to you all, and we'll be in touch.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "B. Abbott Sparks".

AS/lbl

B. Abbott Sparks

7528 BAXTERSHIRE • DALLAS, TEXAS 75230

September 16, 1987

Dear Leland:

What a nice letter from you, describing your trip -- and what a big trip it was!

We've been out of town a month -- went to our house in Arizona for a little golf and a little mountain fishing and picnicking, and it worked out very well. We've just been back a couple of days and are scrambling to get all the bases covered, Ryan back in school, the mail answered, etc., etc. -- you know the routine!

On this trip I ran across the enclosed article talking about Alister MacKenzie, and it also showed his picture. This was the one that was somewhat mindful of the MacKenzie picture you had in that big bag of old Sparks family items.

So before giving up on the possibility, I wanted to have you look at his picture, take a look at this article, and make sure that he was not the guy who married your Aunt Maude!

Interestingly enough, the guy who wrote the article, Rob Saltzstein, is the son of a friend of mine.

The fact that the Maude's MacKenzie was an engineer and was from Scotland, and was in the northern California area when all this was happening is the part that made me tenacious about it.

Do take a look and shoot the article back to me in the enclosed envelope, as it belongs to a friend who has a collection.

I'm hoping to get back out your northern California way one of these days, and will sure tag up with you and Patty. Hope things are going well with you and all your youngsters.

Best from all of us,

AS

AS/lbl

FROM THE DESK OF

B. Abbott Sparks

PRESIDENT/PUBLISHER

11/9/87

Hey Leland:

I really appreciate your sending along the pictures of your Auntie Maud's house at Pebble Beach. Gosh, what a lovely layout and what an impressive thing to do long years ago. Do you know what green that is just in front of her house? I have played that course a number of times, and should I do so again, I would love to be able to identify the place. It looks like one of the first 4 or 5 holes at Pebble Beach. Do you happen to know?

I thought seriously of buying a lot in Del Monte in the 1950's when she was still there -- although I didn't know it. Wish I had, as they were about \$5,000 then, and now I guess they're half a million or more.

I surely did enjoy seeing these pictures, and do appreciate them. I'm going to try to copy 3 or 4 of them on our machine here, but am returning them herewith. Thanks so much for the picture of Martin Van Buren Sparks. I'd only seen a very poor picture of him once before -- so it's very important to get this one for our files. He's not a very agreeable looking old chap, is he?

Hope things are going well with you guys, and will be in touch again before long.

All best wishes,

B. Abbott

B. Abbott Sparks

7528 BAXTERSHIRE • DALLAS, TEXAS 75230

January 9, 1985

Dear Patty and Lee:

Thanks for your nice note and for sending me the two clippings I had requested.

The paper I am to present in Salt Lake City has a few errors that I need to clean up, but I'm going to go ahead and send you a copy, as I know you'll be interested.

And yes I'll be interested to see what Lee finds out when he does get to check the gun.

My year has started off more crowded than I had expected -- but sometime by the middle of the year I will hope very much to call you and arrange to come out for a visit and a good look-see through that box!

Warm best wishes to you and yours.

Sincerely,

Abbott

AS/lbl
enc.

Mr. & Mrs. Leland J. Sparks
40704 Robin Street
Freemont, Calif.

*P.S. would appreciate to
any corrections or
thoughts you may
have after reading -
the manuscript -
Please*



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101 WEST FOURTH STREET
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June 30, 1965

Mr. Benton K. Sparks
%Libby, McNeill & Libby
3900 Florin - Perkins Road
Sacramento, California

Dear Mr. Sparks:

We have received the cremains of your brother John Sparks but find it necessary to have more complete data for the cemetery before interment can take place.

We are enclosing a form for you to fill out and return to us in the self-addressed envelope that we have enclosed.

Very truly yours,

ROSS-BURKE COMPANY

Silas E. Ross, President

SER:bw
Encl.

Please extend my best wishes to Benton Sr. & Deland
Si

Mr. Vesco - Compton