

1571 Madrono ave  
Palo alto  
Calif



Mr Benton K Sparks  
1816 Devonshire Road  
Sacramento  
California

1571 Madrono ave

Palo Alto

March 2, 66 Calif

Dear Mr Sparks -

When I sat down to write this I was doubtful if I had thanked you for your prompt reply to my letter. But I now remember telling you I had met Henry Harris at the H D on the day in 1901 when I was leaving the range for the last time. In your letter you said he was 72 in 1934 and looked 50. In 1901 he must have been about 40. He was then boss of a shal sole outfit at the H.D. I remember how all the men of my outfit - the northern shal sole - admired + respected him. I said he was a "cowman right". I never met any of his outfit but I understood it was all negro. That was unusual in that country but I supposed that Sparks + being a Texan had brought that there were very many negro cow boys in the south west. That two of the great drives from Texas to Kansas were bossed by negros.

I also want to thank you for being so prompt in contacting.

Miss Velma Truett, about two days after I received your letter I had a telephone call from Miss Truett in Reno. She was very much excited and grateful for your letter. Learning that your father & Uncle were alive was very important to her.

My outfit had winter quarters at Rock creek in Idaho. I came very near going there. We were at the long field at the junction of Big Creek & Shoshone creek <sup>and Idaho</sup>. It was the last day of branding. We had had a couple of snow flurries but nothing bad. I did not take my stecher that morning. Just a light canvas coat. It started to rain & my coat got soaked. Just when I reached the point on Galia mountain where I turned & drove back it got cold fast & began to snow. I kicked up my cows & met the others on the flat about a mile from camp. I was snowing too hard to brand. ~~we~~ I left the cows & raced to camp. They would not go back on the mountain in that storm. When I got to camp my coat was stiff & in the morning I had a pain in my side. The storm & passed & finished the branding.

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They the boys hit out for winter  
quarters at Rock Creek. The wagon  
to follow in two or three days.  
I staid with the wagon. My side  
got worse. I got scared. Thought  
I was getting pneumonia. I told  
Rowberry I did not feel good & was  
going down the railroad & would  
probably winter in Arizona but would  
be back when the outfit broke out of  
winter quarters. He said, "All right.  
your job will be waiting for you.  
you have the making of a good hand."  
As he had taken me on as a green  
hand a few months before that was  
quite a compliment. So I saddled up  
& rode by a group of fellows playing  
"So long" & that was the end of my  
corner as a cow boy.

There was another Rock Creek  
near the head of Thousand Spring  
valley about a days ride from  
S.H.D.

Had a letter from Mrs Tomelt  
yesterday. She said that when the  
the weather cleared she was coming  
to the boy area to thank you & Bill  
& me & try to visit your father  
& Uncle.  
I think I gave you Bill's  
address. Edward & Price

over

I hope you can bring your Father down.  
I doubt that he is any deafier than I  
am. We ought to have a firm. I  
think that among the pictures I sent  
Miss Truett there was one of him on  
a horse, about twelve year old, also  
one of Leland & a friend on horses. That  
was on my first hunting trip with  
Sparks. In 1896.

By the way you spoke of your  
uncle Lee; Is that a contraction of  
Leland?

EEO