

Simon Haren.

Nov. 15th 1999

My dear Teddy,

When I returned home from visiting close friends, one of the most interesting letters I ever received was waiting for me - yours with its enclosure, Bob's article -

You ask if it is fairly accurate. My answer is yes and no - more no than yes.

Certain things described were suggested by things that did happen -

In early life I knew nothing of - I heard of the trip around the world - when he was a fellow passenger of Alice Roosevelt, Nick Longworth etc -

As for the trip to De Luz - I never knew of Bob staying in the Fallbrook Hotel - owned and run at the time by Mr and Mrs Westfall. He owned and ran the only hardware store in town Mrs Westfall ran the hotel.

One time Bob did go for a walk - did see a mountain lion. Poor thing had stepped on a trap and was still caught in it. Bob ran down the side of the mountain - scared to death, yelling his head off - and he ran toward the house - as did I a. (Mrs Kate Sidle Regan) nesting

him with a gun - I do not recall - I will say this, if I did - and shot - she did not miss - As Bob said - she was a crack shot - A short time later we saw a rabbit up the road - a trap - and Mama took her gun - 16 gauge shot gun - went up to shoot it. The one and only time she did not pick up a couple of shells - and put in her pocket she saw the rabbit under a big clump of bushes and shot - you can imagine her startle surprise when the poor half starved mountain lion - jumped out of the bush - and ran from Mama as fast as it could on 3 legs - dragging the trap. That ended all lion hunting - fighting or leaving in De Leez - while we lived there I never heard of a lion being around the barn - if the barn doors were shut it was because the horses were to be worked the next day - and had been given a good feeding of grain. One morning home from the station, the train was late, we had to drive under a big sycamore tree - The horses began to act in an unusual way - our dog Rags was

was backing his ^{head} off, and we knew he had
killed something - He had - for once head
stretched out full length on a big limb
was a mountain lion. I think was low
enough - that I could have flicked it with
the whip. After we were a safe distance
from the tree - I stopped to call Rags - for
his safety - I could not leave him there alone.
Reluctantly he came to me - That ended all
experience with Mountain lions - This
was on Santa Margarita Ranch property -
3 miles from De Luz -

As for the Smith Boys - coming to see me -
Richard Smith Jr - I'd say was in his 40's - Mr
Jacome - who ran the ranch - was a middle
aged man - The Boys who did come to De Luz
were in a great while - were Carl and Kelly -
who worked for Mr Jacome - Carl drove for him
Kelly was the book keeper, both maybe in
their early twenties - Later the 2 opened a

general store in Capistrano - San Juan Capistrano
 to be correct, about the pool ever being used
 to water any one esp - that is Bob's imagination
 True there was a winery in De Luz - accessed by
 an Italian named Raboni - To have stopped
 there before coming to our house - one would
 have had to go from Fallbrook - to Rainbow
 (Viacitas) - to Temecula past three Temecula, go
 up over the mountains - on a washed out road
 see a locked gate - on the Vail Ranch - then
 drop down into De Luz Canyon - for the winery
 was about $1\frac{1}{2}$ or 2 miles N.E. of us - The Ranch
 house - Santa Margarita home of the Drills was
 S.W. of us -

The Santa Margarita River (Bob's mess up into
 De Luz - near our house - was De Luz Creek - it
 did run thru our 80 acre ranch - The river
 was six miles from the house - crossed once
 to leave De Luz area - not 15 times - We crossed
 the Creek 9 times to get to the RR Station and
 Point

To the best of my knowledge Mama never stayed at the Hotel Del Coronado at any time - occasionally at the Grant - but we usually stayed at a small family hotel - The Southern - a block north of the Grant. Later one on 6 + B - I think the street was - at another hotel

Bob recalls the house fairly well - the first or ground floor - was a big living room - across the front of the house - back of that was a dining room, and kitchen - up stairs were 5 bedrooms - in back of house down stairs or basement were 2 big rooms - one bed room one a store room - full of crated furniture.

When Mama bought the house there were 5 rooms on first floor - she had partitions removed between the 2 front rooms - removed the inside stairway to the second floor - and put it outside - on a large porch she had built around the front and 2 sides of the house. It was a 2 story porch - The post office was under the stair way - to the upper floor. At the time it was the smallest 4th class P.O.

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in the U.S. - Grand Day carried the mail - 3
was a week to first Fallbrook, later to the
rain - at De Luz Station. I do not recall any
road side mail delivery - We had to unlock
the P.O. door - go inside - lock the door open
a small wooden window - and hand out
the mail. A partition was taken out of the
2 small rooms in back of the living room to
make a good sized dining room - the north
outside wall was taken out to include the end
of the new porch - to enlarge the kitchen -

A colored man - Frank Peterson who worked
for us - for years - put in the gardens - as for
as the press water system used to irrigate the garden
in - all one had to do - was turn on the hose or
sprinklers - Water was from a big tank on the
roof - filled by either gravity water from a
good spring on upper end of ranch - or that
was shut off - and we started a gasoline
engine which pumped sulphur water from
a small rock enclosed spring - outside the
big bathing pool - there were 2 such springs at
either corner of the north side of the bath pool

Sulphur water did bubble up - through the sandy bottom of the big pool -

The pool was built by a "hobo" who walked into the yard one day - surprised to find any one living there. He had been told no one had lived there for years - the wonderful spring water would cure him. He was half sick from germs he had picked up working on a big engineering job in So. America - Mama told him he was welcome to stay. He soon began to feel well again - and one day - he came to the house - saying he'd like to talk to Mrs Regan - He said he had studied the land around the 3 existing pools and would like to build a big swimming pool - of Mama would furnish the material - He soon began a big job for one man - He dug down to bed rock - to lay the foundation - the reason for the unusual line of rock walls which he said "will last a life time". A platform was built at one side of the pool - steps into the water, and a 3 unit bath house put up -

No fence was ever built around the pool while we lived there - 1909 - to 1916 - when we moved to San Diego -

Bob has the family correct - only it was Miss Clough - who adopted a child - a girl not a boy. not my Aunt.

I do not know why Bob never mentioned his step mother - who was Helen Bossard - a sister of my cousin by marriage Florence B. Lawrence a newspaper woman - working first on the P.A. Herald - later for the Examiner - as its dramatic critic - later she was the Editor the only woman at that time of a Hearst paper. It was in her home - Bob met my Mother.

I had not heard of Bob for years - until a few years back. Florence's daughter Alice was visiting me in Panama City - Fla. and she said Bob was still living.

Sorry if I have shattered some of Bob's memories, but that's the way it was in the Regan's - back in those good old days - with the Regans -

Bob wishes to you and Alice

Sincerely

Wm. H. ...