

E. P. Lamborn correspondence and research papers

Section 7, Pages 181 - 210

This collection reflects E. P. Lamborn's life long interest in crime, criminals and law officers. E. P. Lamborn was an amateur historian and collector of sources on crime and criminals of the Middle West in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. His interests ranged from bandits, peace officers, famous detectives, and buffalo hunters. The Correspondence and Research section, presented here, contains much information on these topics from friends, relatives, companies, law officers, etc., who had some connection or dealings with these individuals. The arrangement for this section, generally, is alphabetical by last name of the correspondent. A detailed, searchable calendar of correspondents is available by clicking on "Text Version" below or by accessing the full collection finding aid in the link below. A transcription of this correspondence is not yet available. This series comprises boxes 2 and 3 of the E. P. Lamborn collection. You can find individual items in the order they are described in the "calendar of correspondents" by using the page selection feature available when you are looking at a full sized page image.

Creator: Lamborn, E. P. (Edward Parker), 1890-1978

Date: 1915-1965

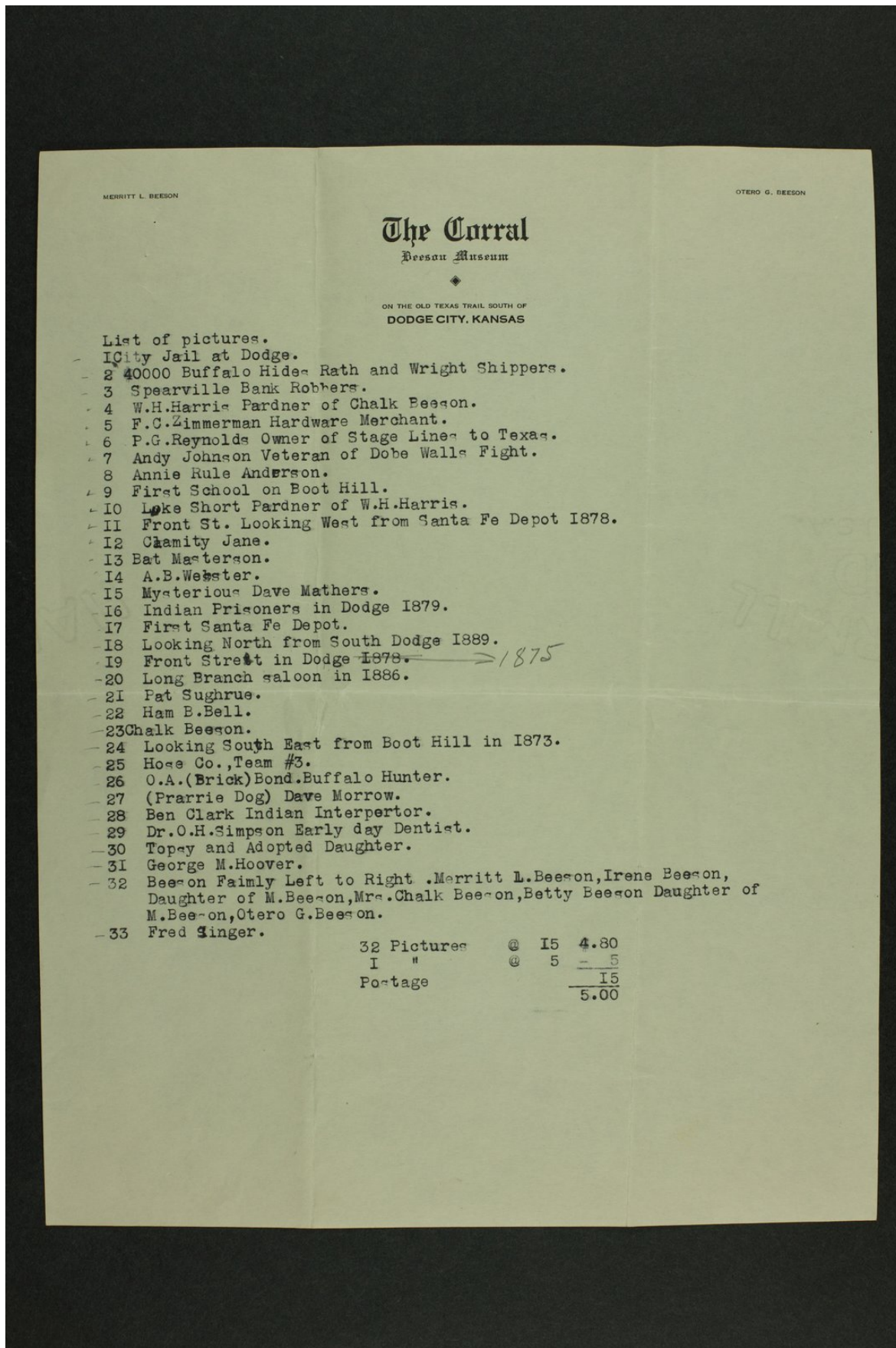
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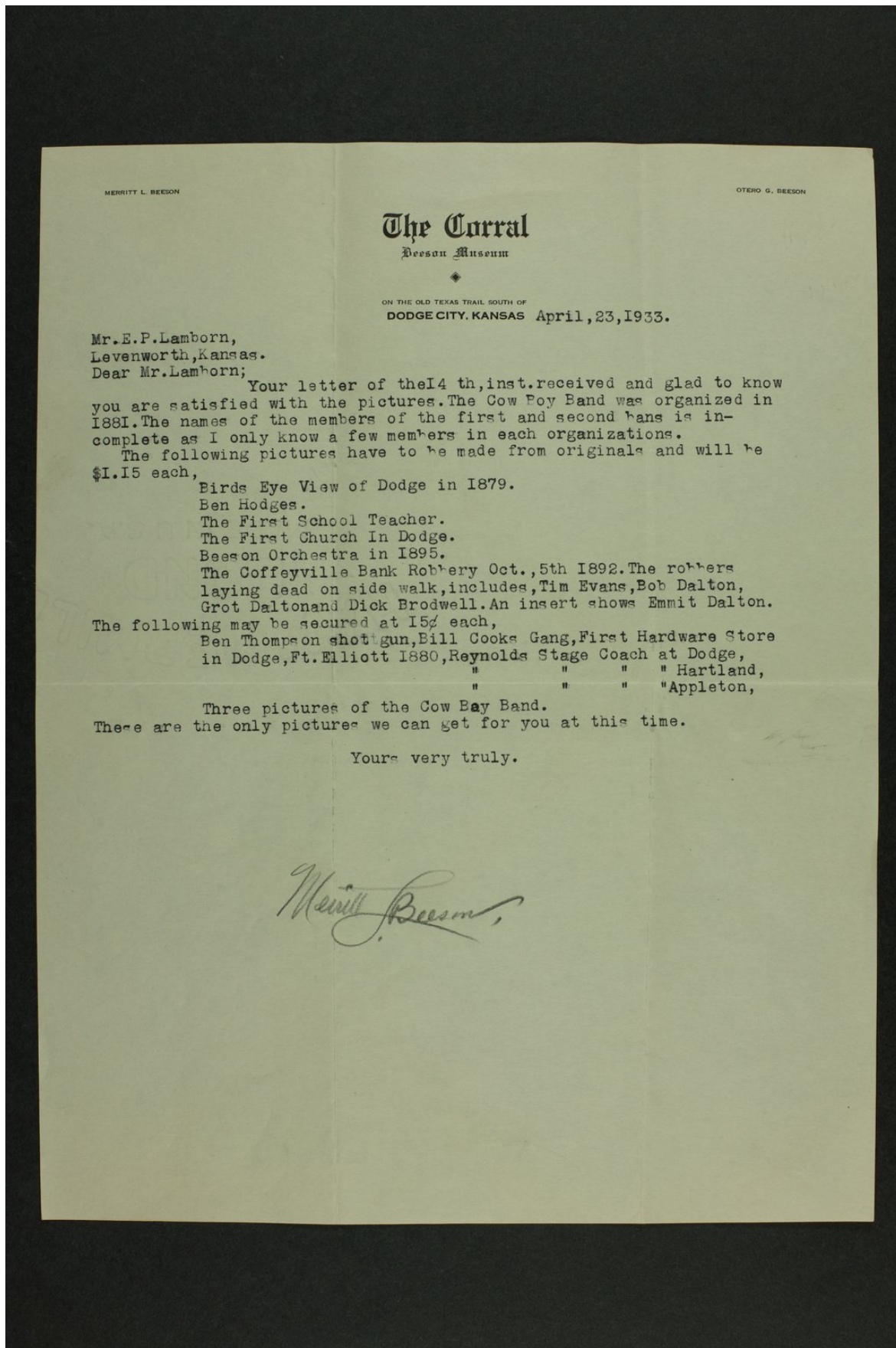
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Cowboy Band 3 different pictures
Fort Elliott 1880
Peter Beamer
Reynolds stage taken at
Appleton.
Reynolds stage taken at
Hartland Kansas
Beeson & orchestra
Reynolds staged at home
= House where Meritt
Beeson was born
on site where First National
bank now stands
First school teacher
First church
Picture of shotgun that
was pawned to C M Beeson

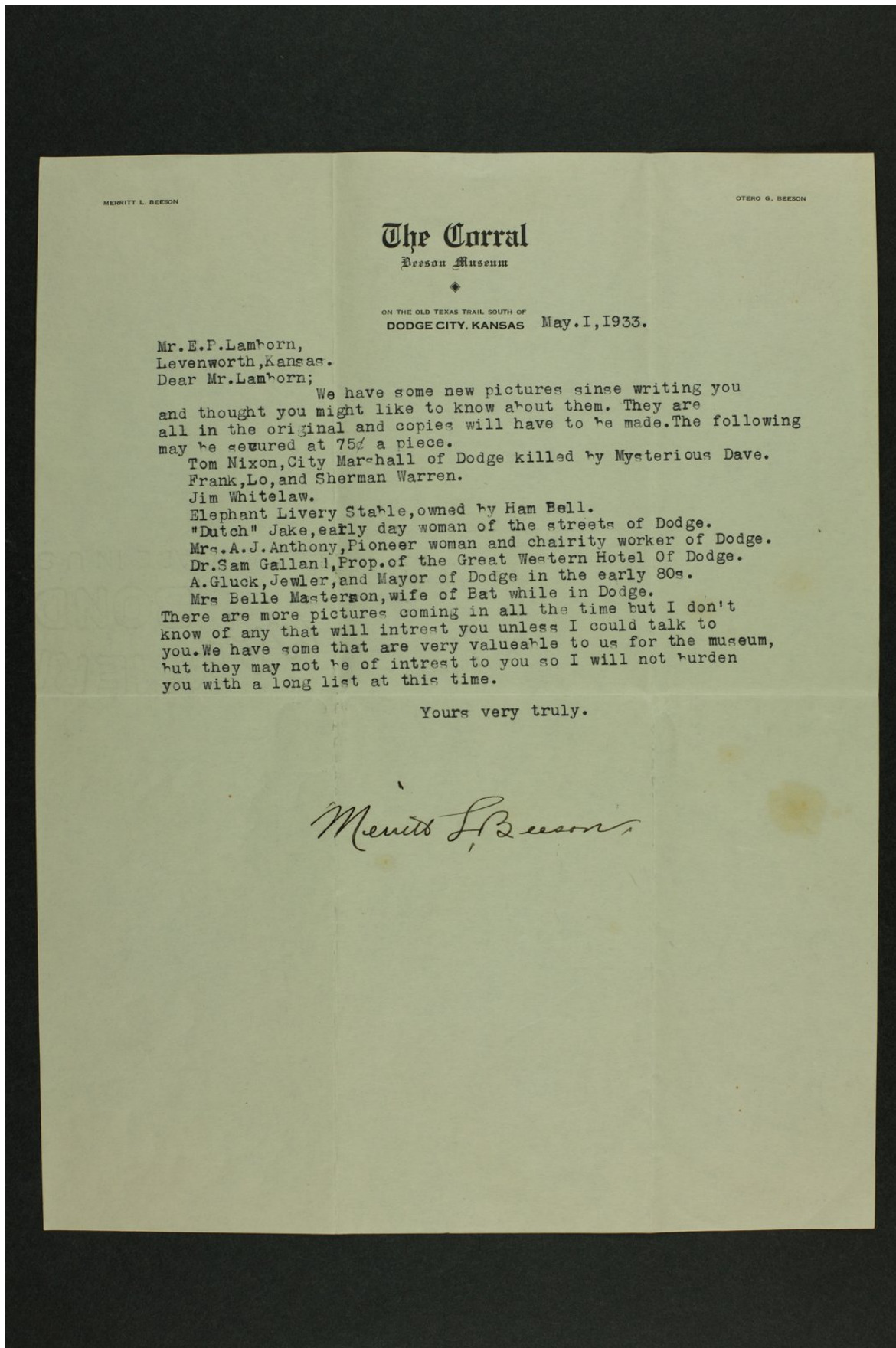
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by Ben Thompson for
75.00
Dalton Gang.
Ben Hodge
some of these will have
to have be made from
original photo so of
course will cost more
but just don't know
how much extra they
would cost

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MERRITT L. BEESON

OTERO G. BEESON

The Corral

Beeson Museum

ON THE OLD TEXAS TRAIL SOUTH OF
DODGE CITY, KANSAS May 1, 1933.

Mr. E. P. Lamborn,
Leavenworth, Kansas.
Dear Mr. Lamborn;

We have some new pictures since writing you and thought you might like to know about them. They are all in the original and copies will have to be made. The following may be secured at 75¢ a piece.

Tom Nixon, City Marshall of Dodge killed by Mysterious Dave.
Frank, Lo, and Sherman Warren.
Jim Whitelaw.

Elephant Livery Stable, owned by Ham Bell.

"Dutch" Jake, early day woman of the streets of Dodge.

Mrs. A. J. Anthony, Pioneer woman and chairity worker of Dodge.

Dr. Sam Gallant, Prop. of the Great Western Hotel Of Dodge.

A. Gluck, Jewler, and Mayor of Dodge in the early 80s.

Mrs. Belle Masterson, wife of Bat while in Dodge.

There are more pictures coming in all the time but I don't know of any that will intrest you unless I could talk to you. We have some that are very valueable to us for the museum, but they may not be of intrest to you so I will not burden you with a long list at this time.

Yours very truly.

Merritt L. Beeson

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MERRITT L. BEESON

OTERO G. BEESON

The Corral Beeson Museum

ON THE OLD TEXAS TRAIL SOUTH OF
DODGE CITY, KANSAS May, 21, 1933.

Mr. E. P. Lamborn,
Leavenworth, Kansas.
Dear Mr. Lamborn;

Enclosed under seperate cover we are sending you
the last order you gave us. There had to be made 2 negatives 60¢ -1.20
6 pictures 15¢ - .90
2.10

The Cow-boy Band #1 picture is the original band. 1880. The front row
Left to right, 2nd man seated, Will H. Ly Brand. 3rd. Frank Warren. 4th
Chalk Beeson. Middle row, Geo. Horder, is the 4th man. 5th man is Ed
Hall. Top row, Man with horns is Geo. Potter.

Band picture #2. Top Row, 3 man, Lou A. Lauber, 4th, Capt. J. S. Welsh, 5th,
Chas. Otero, 7th, Roy Drake.
2nd. Row, 1st, Prof. Eastman, 2nd, Prof. Miller, 4th, Geo. Meserloe, 7th, Frank
warren, (This man is alive)
Front Row. 2nd. Chalk Beeson. 3 man, Geo. Horder, 4th, Wm. Visquesney, (
(Lives in Kansas City and is still alive)

Band Picture #3. Standing, L. A. Lauber, Jay Drake, Chas. Otero, Chas.
Makepeace, Roy Drake, Capt. J. S. Welsh, Jack Sinclair, _____
Geo. Horder, Estil Reamer, _____,
Next row seated, _____, _____, Ed Sheldon, Arthur Marsh,
Chalk Beeson.
Front row, Prof. Miller, _____, Boy, _____, George Meserole.

We are sorry to have kept you waiting this long. Should we find
any new pictures will let you know,

Yours very truly.

Merritt L. Beeson

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HEWITT L. REESON
OTERO G. REESON

The Corral
Deesau Museum
+
ON THE OLD TEXAS TRAIL SOUTH OF
DODGE CITY, KANSAS

Nov 13 - 33

Dear Mr Lamborn,

as yet have not been able to find out from Fred Sutton about the allison picture however he did send us a pictures of Wild Bill Hickock Bill Tilghman + picture of Wyatt Earp taken when he was about 65 years old. we also have a picture of Billy Dixon guess I told you we have a small picture of Billy Brooks. we are trying to get a picture of Bill Cody.

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the museum is growing right along
we are getting some wonderful things
we think. if we should be able to get
the picture you want will let you
know.

Your Friend

Meritt L. Beeson.

Forgot to say Sutton has pictures of
Ben Thompson Bob Wright Dodge Peace
Commission. I think these pictures
can be bought for around \$4.00
each.

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MERRITT L. BEESON

OTERO G. BEESON

The Corral Beeson Museum

ON THE OLD TEXAS TRAIL SOUTH OF
DODGE CITY, KANSAS

May, 6, 1934.

Mr. E. P. Lamborn,
Leavenworth, Kansas.
Dear Mr. Lamborn:-

I wish to thank you for your kindly letter of March, 30. and your interest in our museum. I have not answered it before now account of Mrs. Beeson not being able to get a price on the pictures you are interested in. The best arrangement we able to get from the photographers is, 60¢ for copying and 25¢ per print, total 85¢.

I believe here is a list of pictures you might be interested in and will give a short sketch on them;

Larry Deger, Mayor of Dodge, had charge of Gov't. Warehouse.

Robt. M. Wright, Dodge's pioneer merchant.

Billy Brooks, Marshall in Dodge 1874.

D. W. (Doc) Barton, First cattleman in this country.

Wyatt Earp, 1883. and one when he was 65 years old.

Wild Bill Hickok

Bill Tilghman

The Mexican Bull Fighters in Dodge, July, 4, 1884.

Billy Dixon,

Charlie Rath, Pioneer Dodge Merchant,

William S. Hart.

A. J. Anthony, Stage driver from Leavenworth to Ft. Bent.

The Toll Bridge at Dodge, built in 1873.

City Drug Store, Dr. T. L. McCarty Proprietor.

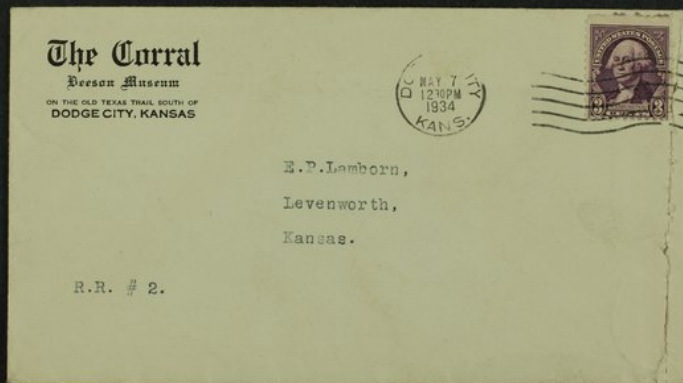
I have not been able to get Mr. Fred Sutton interested in letting me have any of the pictures you are interested in. Doc Barton has been in this part of the State since 1872 and a book can be written about him. I know every inch of the entire part of the land known as his ranch. In the first cattle venture he and his brothers were engaged in, their range was from The Arkansas to the Canadian, they being the first big outfit to operate here. In the big snow and storm of 1886 he lost nearly every thing he had and never recuperated his lost fortune. He is now 84 years old and his mind is as clear as a crystal and is enjoying very good health. I see him every month or so.

There is of course many pictures you have we would like to have but unless we could see them I don't believe I could say that I would want to have them copied. I appreciate your interest in our museum and if you will give me a list and a short description of the pictures you think we might want I will take the opportunity at some time to impose upon you.

Yours very truly.

Merritt L. Beeson

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H. B. BELL, Chairman

Dr. H. O. SIMPSON, Vice Chairman

H. F. SCHMIDT, Secretary

The
Old West
to Live
Again

"The Last Round-up" at Dodge City Monday, November 4

A
Program
Honoring the
Pioneers

Dear Sir:

On Monday, November 4th, Dodge City will lay the corner stone of its beautiful new City Hall, built on the crest of the famous old "Boot Hill," and unveil the O. H. Simpson Cowboy Statue.

This ceremony will be preceded by a monster parade, headed by the Dodge City Cowboy Band, in which all the old timers of southwest Kansas and former residents of Dodge City are invited and urged to attend. This would not be complete without your presence, so dust off your old Ten Gallon Hat, polish your boots, step on the gas, and start over the Old Trail that leads to Dodge City. Tell your neighbors about this and urge them to join you in this the "Last Round-up."

In this connection a word about Boot Hill might be proper. This was Dodge City's pioneer burial ground, where some forty odd plainsmen, who were too slow on the draw, found eternal rest. Later this site was used for school purposes, and here hundreds of citizens of Dodge City and the United States, learned the A. B. C's. of life. Every teacher who taught here and every pupil who attended this school is invited and urged to help us celebrate this event. Come all ye Boot Hill kids, let's have one grand reunion.

Dodge City of the historical past, Dodge City of the glorious present, extends to you the warm hand of western hospitality. Come be our guest and live over again the old days now gone, never to return. Come clasp the friendly hand of Ham, Hank, George, Joe and all that host of genial spirits, before we start over the Last Long Trail, that leads us West.

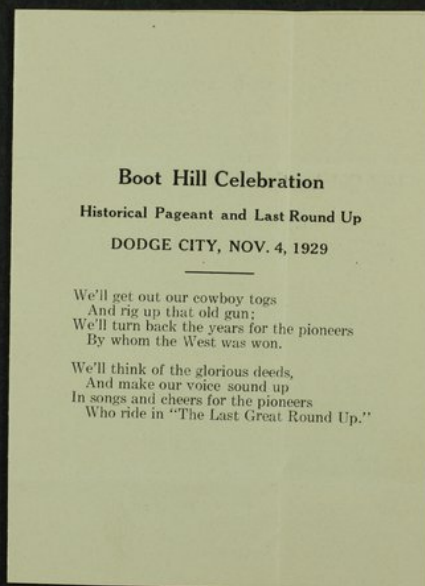


Yours very truly,

THE BOOT HILL ROUND-UP COMMITTEE.

By H. B. (Ham) Bell, Chairman

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BOOT HILL (Dodge City)

Dedicated to those Brave Spirits of the Old West

Old Timers named this hill "Boot Hill"
For the men that were buried here
With their boots on and wearing a gun
The style of the gay frontier.

It was in the days of the cowboy
When the horse was the king of speed,
When there were rustlers of cattle and many a
battle
With gangs of the renegade breed.

The saloons were then the he-man's club
And in "The First" or the "Last Chance"
Keeping time to the roars of the Colt Forty-Fours
The tenderfoot learned to dance.

This was the hi-day of the gamblers,
Marked cards or dice filled with lead
Caused many a fight, and then thru the night
Old Boot Hill would gather her dead.

Old-Timers fought Indians and outlaws
And the wild beasts of the west,
Those brave pioneers pushed back the frontiers,
Their courage stood every test.

Buffalo Bill, Wild Bill, and Bill Tilghman,
Heroes of early day strife,
Of grit these were fond, their word was their bond,
Their honor more sacred than life.

These old scouts had iron nerves,
And they were quick on the draw,
They were quick and sure, and they made life
secure

For those men who loved the law.

The prairie schooner was blazing trails
For the stage coach and the trains;
Then men did not try to ride in the sky,
But rode, content on the plains.

More than a million buffalo hides
Were shipped from the west one year;
Men came from the east to slaughter wild beasts,
The buffalo, the bear, and the deer.

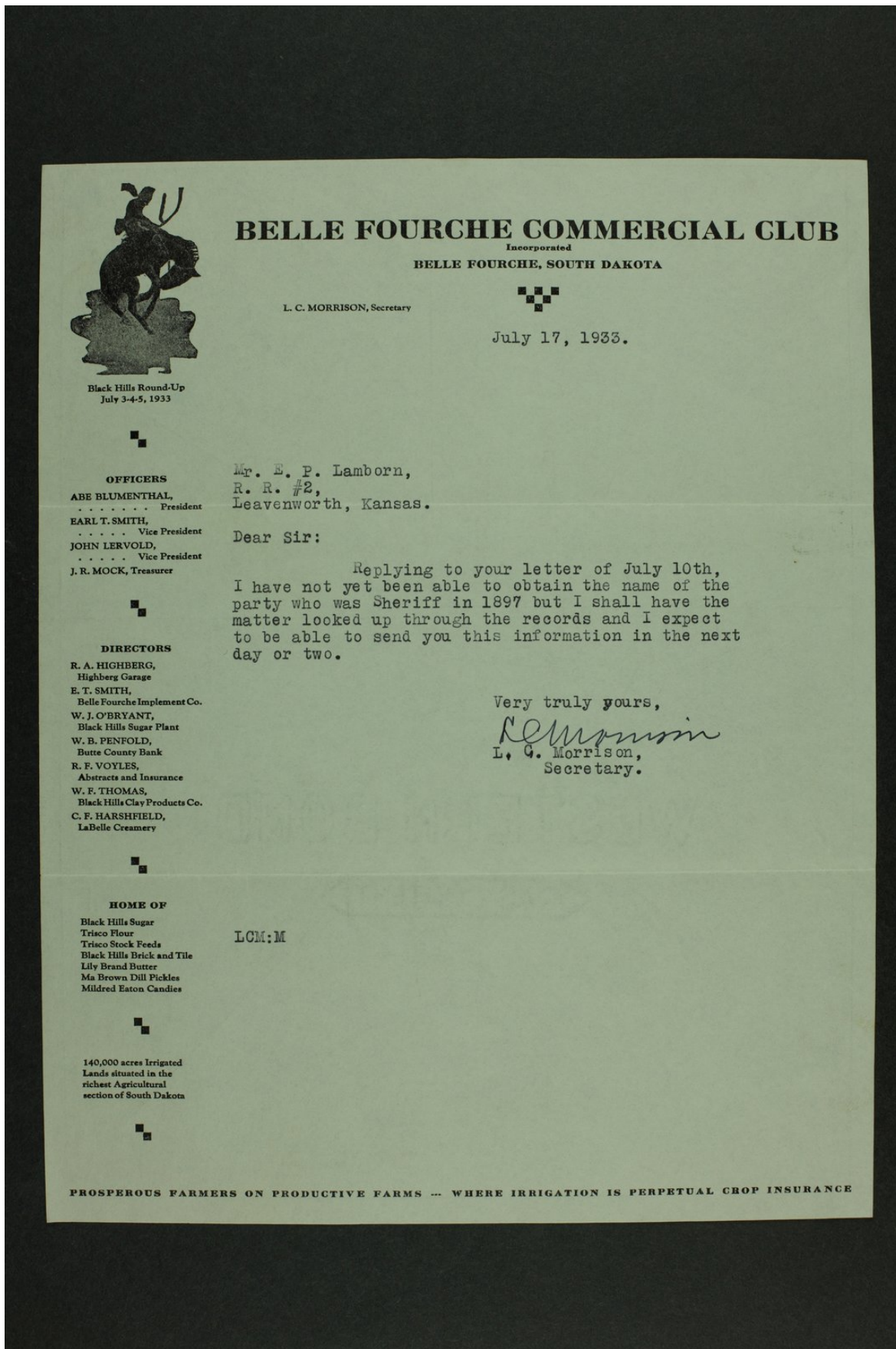
In those old days the Cowboy Band
Played many a lively tune,
While some gent would call in the old dance hall
At the rear of Ryan's saloon.

Then Old Boot Hill gave up her graves,
For a better day had come;
Here men built a school, and the golden rule
Replaced the rule of the gun.

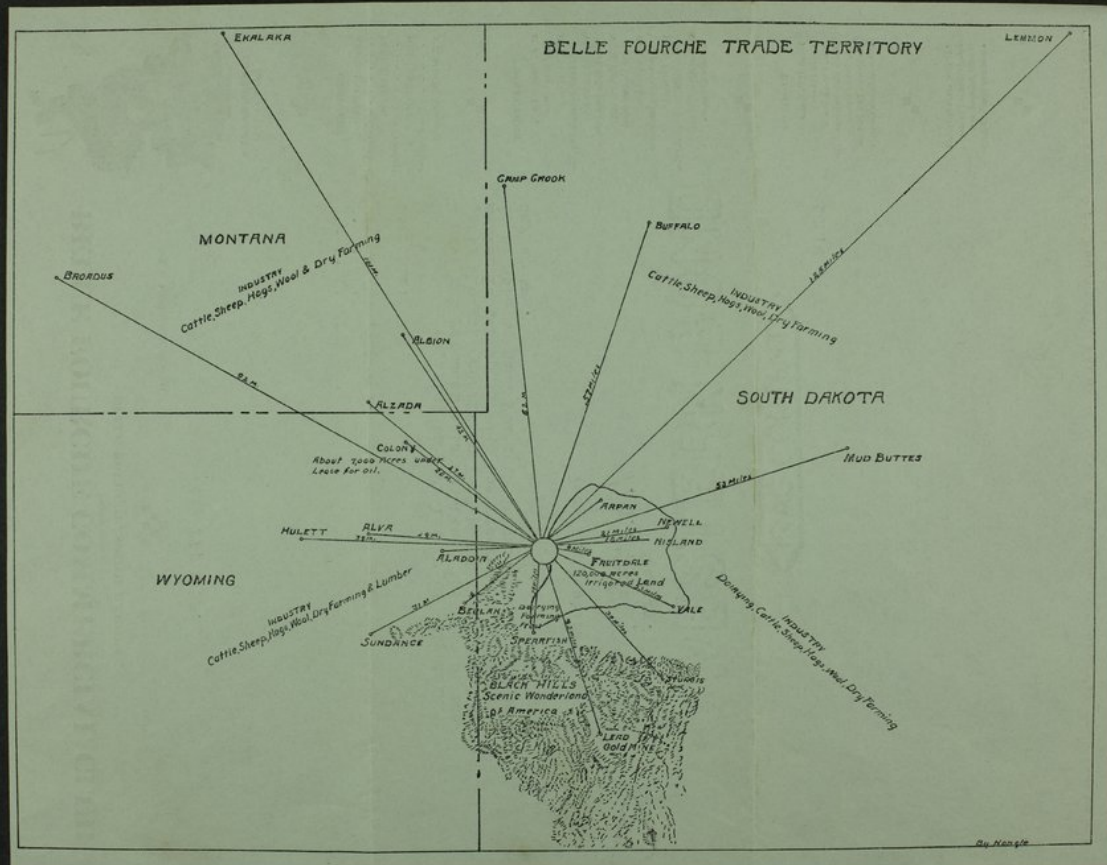
There are heroes in every clime
Of every race, of every creed,
But the world loves best those men of Our West
Who did such glorious deeds.

Then Old Boot Hill gave up her school
But there on that famous ground
By our city hall and a cowboy tall
Man's Grit, His Honor, is crowned.

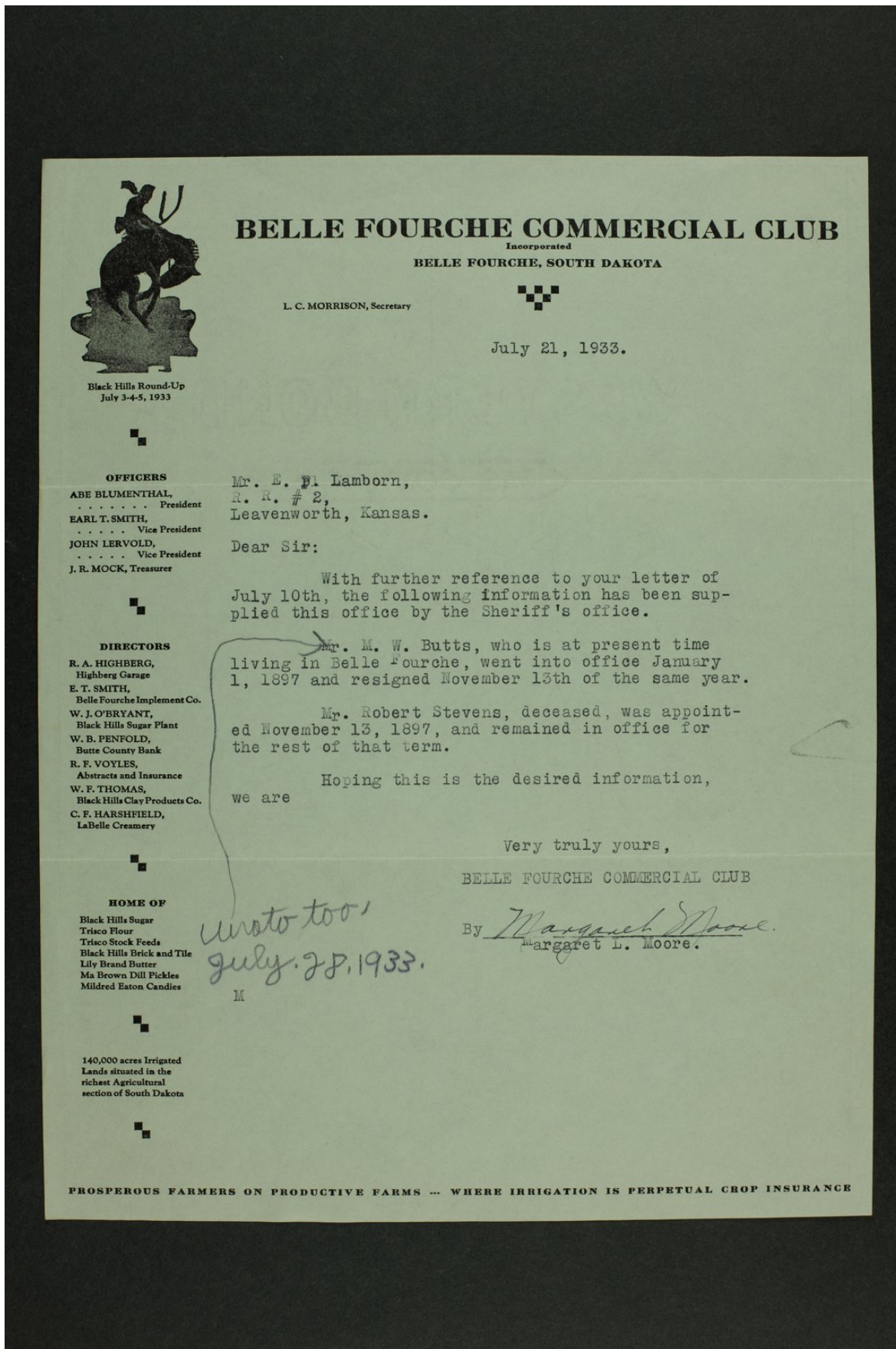
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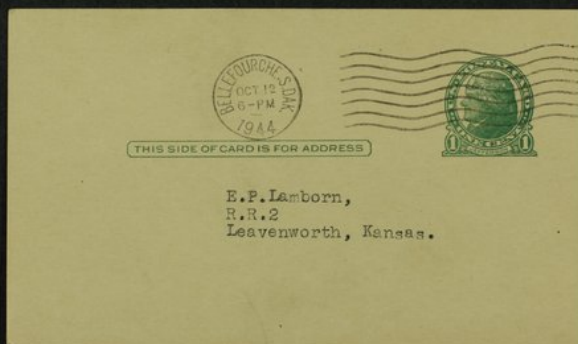


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The map is a hand-drawn diagram titled "BELLE FOURCHE TRADE TERRITORY". It is oriented with North at the top. The territory is bounded by dashed lines representing state borders: Montana to the northwest, South Dakota to the northeast, and Wyoming to the southwest. A central point, likely representing Belle Fourche, has lines radiating from it to various locations. These locations include Ekalaka, Camp Crook, Buffalo, Mud Buttes, Spearfish, Sundance, Alameda, Albia, and Albia. The map also includes labels for industries: "INDUSTRY Cattle, Sheep, Hogs, Wool & Dry Farming" in Montana and South Dakota, and "INDUSTRY Cattle, Sheep, Hogs, Wool, Dry Farming & Lumber" in Wyoming. Other labels include "About 7000 Horses used here at least for oil" near Alameda, "100,000 acres irrigated land" near Spearfish, and "Black Hills Scenic Wonderland of America" near Sundance. The map is signed "By Hangle" in the bottom right corner.

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Fellow Scribe: Oct. 12, 1944
There is no one left around here who can recall
who the sheriffs were back in 1897-98-99.
One of the old time sheriffs, Billy Moses was
shot in Montana about 1911, his daughter lives
here now, address Mrs. Nellie Payton, School
Nurse, Belle Fourche, S.D.
The newspaper files burned up in a long ago
fire and that source of information is not to
be had. It might be that if you wrote to the
office deputy, Rosanna Gilbert, that she might
browse through Sheriff Office records and trace
back who the sheriffs were. Her address is
Butte County Court House, Belle Fourche, S.D.
Joe Keller, Secretary
C of C. Belle Fourche, S.D.

wrote to Oct 23-1944

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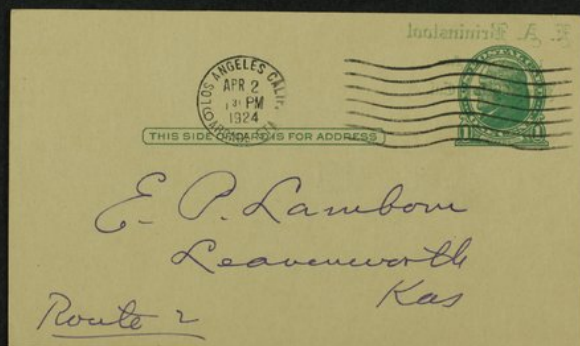
Dryhead, Mont.
Aug. 12, 1933
Mr. E. P. Lamborn,
Leavenworth, Kansas.
Dear sir, -
Received your letter asking
about pictures of men captured by
Mr. Berkley & posse. Am sorry to say
I know nothing about said
pictures, having never seen them.
The old time photographers are
gone from Billings, so the only
place I know of where you
might find out about them is

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to write to the County Court House at
Billings. They might have them
on file there.
Mr. Berky did not keep any
photographs to my knowledge.
If I can give you any help
in your work, I would be glad
to do so. So many years have
passed that I have forgotten
many things.

I am
respectfully
Yours,
Mrs. Geo. A. Barber,
Omaha,
Nebr.

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E. A. Briminstool *apl 1/2 4*
1428 Norton Ave.
Los Angeles, Cal. *I can quote you!*
"Life of George Sontag, former
member notorious Sontag & Evans
gang & train robbers; by O. L. Warner,
211 pp, \$3.40. Just located this & see
you asked for book on Sontag & Evans
train bandits. Fine copy. Advise
at once. Very truly,
E. A. Briminstool

E. P. Lamborn correspondence and research papers

Lovington, N.M.

Oct. 29, 1941.

Mr. E.P. Lamborn.

Leavenworth Kan.

Dear Sir-

In reply to your letter of Oct. 27th, I will say that I knew a lot of the men you mention in your letter, though I was not so well acquainted with Clay Allison, though I knew a lot about him through friends and acquaintances of his and mine, many of them life long friends to us both, a wagon ran over him, on the old Hashknife flat, west of the Pecos river, north of Pecos Tex., and killed him who had been shot at, by the Yankees, during the Civil war, and a lot of gun men of the west had tried their hand at killing him, but without any luck.

I have a lot of dope from his friends, and enemies, as to his early life in the western country, most of it reliable.

At one time Tom Ketchum, worked for the same cow outfit I did, but I never knew Carver, though I have saw Sam Ketchum, and Berry Ketchum, I never knew them as well as I did Tom, they was raised mostly around San Angelo country in Tex.

I knew Jim Miller, for many years, and knew of many of his killings, he was hung at Ada Oklahoma, together with three other men, I have a photo and account of his hanging, showing the old white horse in the barn, that was led out from under all four of them and shows them hanging to the joist in the barn.

Yes I knew Barney Riggs, of Pecos, his step son killed him several years ago, I also know how Barney was pardoned out of the pen, in Arizona, and how it came about.

I never knew Col. Fountain, but I have had his friends and enemies to tell me a lot about what became of him, one of his most bitterest enemies, is one of the best of friends to me, and I guess he knows more about what became of the Col, than any one else, but he will never mention it, and I will never mention it to him, but many others, have told me their views of the matter, and I have my own notions, regarding same, New Mexico has many such crimes to her credit, many of them will never be known, to the world, while I have helped to solve many of them, many of which I made public, and some I let bygones be bygones as all concerned in the killing had passed on, and I did not wish to air the matter before their relatives, who knew nothing of the cause.

Yes I knew Les Dow, and knew the men who killed him, one of his sons is an Atty, at Roswell N.M. and one is on the Govt Farm Program, at Amarillo Texas, both are close friends of mine, and both are very able attorneys.

I have never met Mr. Marvin J. Hunter, but read his paper, I aim to visit him this winter if possible, as I want to go to San Antonio and Austin this winter sometime.

I don't know of any photos you mention, that would do to take duplicate from, most of them are to dim.

I have many photos scattered around, at different places, where I have sent them, and they are not returned.

I am sending you one of my little books, that is history that will never be repeated, have sent them all over the USA, to old boys I knew and had punched cows with, can furnish any one a copy of same, on the receipt, of one dollar, this goes to my little blind Grandson who is in the school for the blind at Austin, he is now six years old, and smart as he can be.

I believe this is about the answer to all the questions in your letter, to me, and hope it what you asked for, except, my version as to what ever became of Col. Fountain, and what I know is all hearsay, and could not be relied upon, of course I have my mind made up as to what became of him, but past is gone forever, and none of it can be undone at this late date, I have enough dope on this disappearance to fill a good size book, but a lot of those peoples kin folks are still living, and like a lot of other crimes, it will never be aired out.

One of the most baffling cases, in N.M., is the murder of those Tourist, a few years ago, and an other case, of the Home Women, being murdered east of Van Horn, Texas, a few years ago, the trouble now is, politics, Officers don't want to make voters mad, and a lot of times crime rings, run into to many highup Officials, your courts are now being run by crime rings, and they throw to much protection around the criminal, the last case I worked on, they tried me before the jury, instead of the men indicted, and I told people I was passed from that day on.

That never again would I go out and hunt criminals, for no one, as I had to watch the officers I worked the country for closer than I did the criminals.

I was offered the Home case, and the Blanton case on the Rio Grand at the King ranch, but I told the public never again for me, I would just live in a house beside the road, and be a friend to mankind from now on.

Glad to hear from you and anything I can do for you.

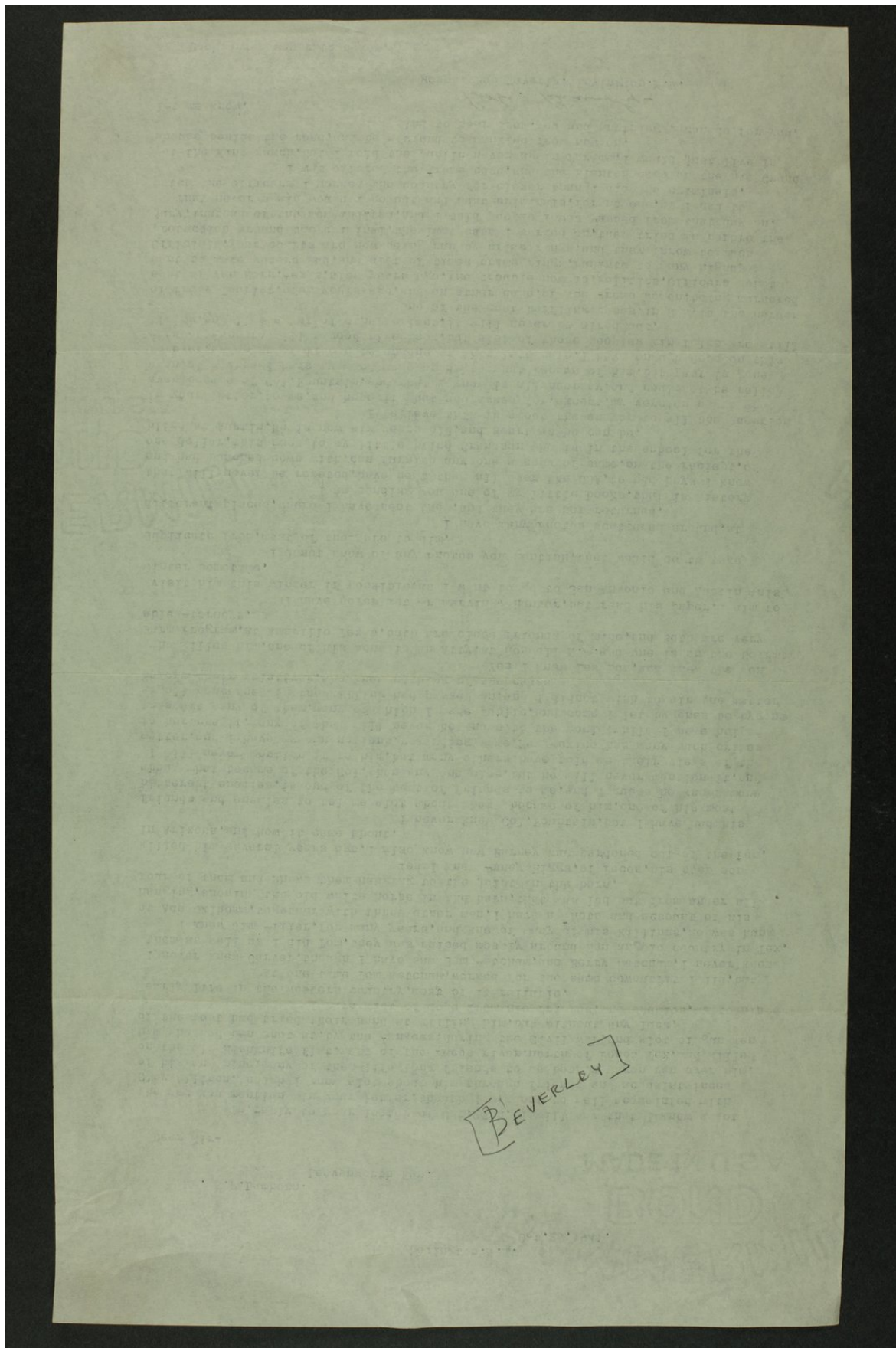
Let me know,

Bob Beverly

Respt, Bob Beverly, Lovington, N.M.

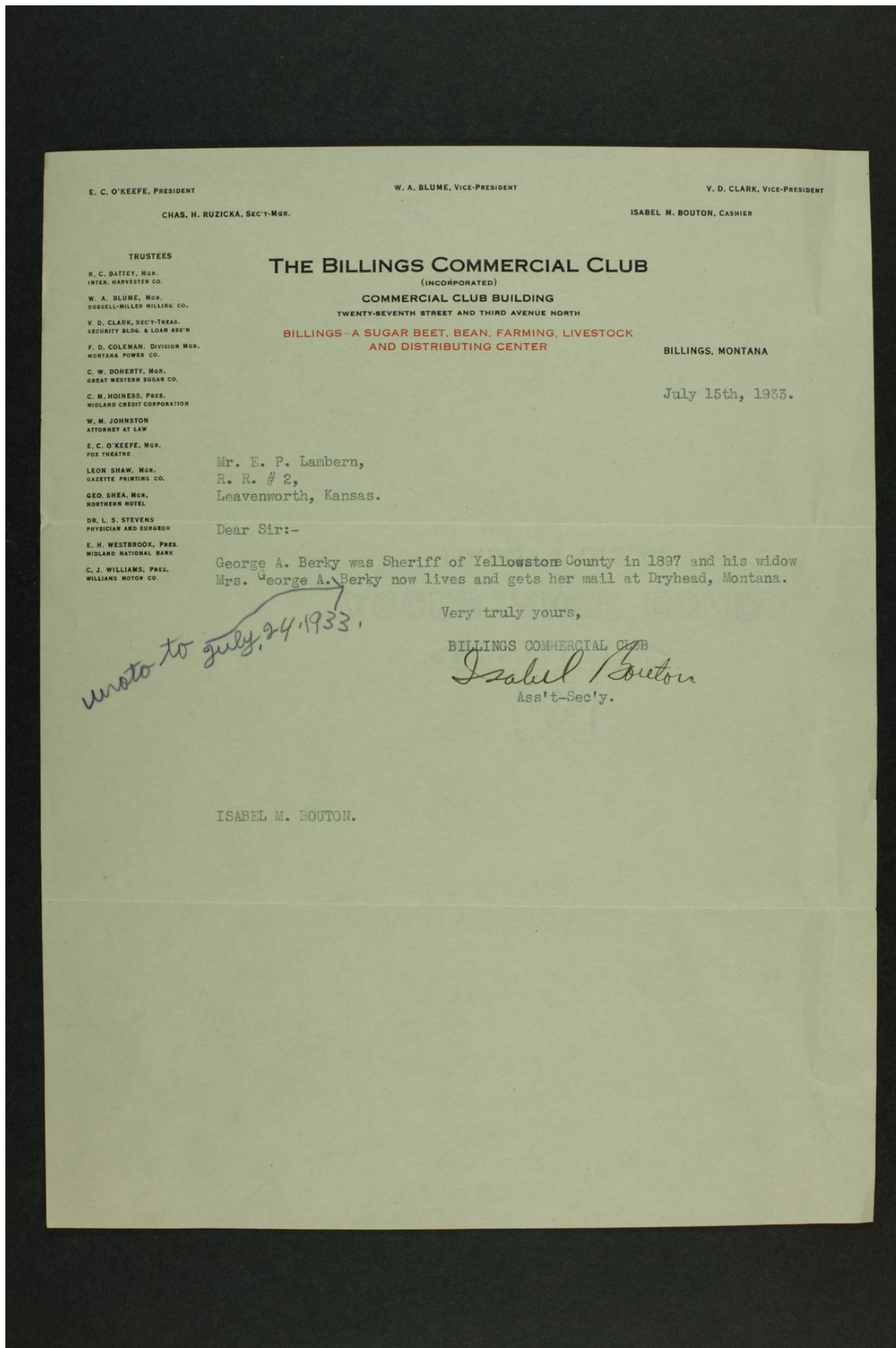
Book, under separate cover,

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[BLAKE]

21 Green Point Av Bklyn NY Nov 9 27
Mr E. P. Lamborn Leavenworth Kas:-

Dear Sir:-

of I.C..

Mr R W Thorp

wrote some letters in Sept - which have come to my notice. In one dated 19th especially about one of June 5th don't get lost one unnoticed. Believing it will interest you I beg to say, the photos original not copies of Black Jack Ketchum were originally © by White. They are for sale for 25¢ each by the maker - who alone has the negatives - Mr H. L. Rives Clayton N. Mex. He has 2 different views of Mr Gray - both standing at the grave. The stuff I read written by Thorp ref Black Jack Ketchum is all Bull. Thorp got the tintype to copy from the owner and was obliged to return it - Thorp has no original to sell and can't have sold one. The copies sell for 25¢ here in N. Y. Thorp wrote on one "Copyright by R W Thorp" It's a fraud. Ref Dr. Carver. of whom Thorp writes I may say Carver was my friend. To me was given his typed manuscripts and collection of photos -

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2 He died Aug 31 in Sacramento and the last word he rec'd by mail was a letter from me. Mr Thorp wrote he was authorized to write the Biography of Pawnee Bill - He claims Carver - and Mr Nordus of Omaha and Dr ^{McC} who post-mortemed Cal Joe are "friends" of his. I believe he also included Buffalo Bill! I have read the list Thorp offers for sale. None cost over 50¢ and of none has he the Original negative. You can get all the Dodge City & Kas photos @ 50¢ from the Hebrew Studio Dodge Kas - All the Arizona ones from N H Rose Box 463 San Antonio Tex - and as for celebrated men like Carver Cody - Wild Bill - Calamity Jane - etc Rose has them - I have 2800 and supply Rose. I am surprised to read such letters as Thorp wrote - and can prove there is much in them not 62 1/2 to the bushel - If you collect photos you need recent ones of Dr Carver - Capt North Pawnee Bill - Deadwood Dick (R W Clark) Dragoon Dick (Dr R Tanner) Boney Earnest etc - All of

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3

These men (Carver excepted being dead) are my "friends"
not the kind of "friends" Thorp writes. and they
all regularly write me - If you are interested
write Mr L D Wallers 325 N 2^d St Tucson
Arizona or Mr M L Weaver Visalia Calif.
or Capt L H North 15th St Columbus Neb^s
or Maj G W Little Pawnee Okla
or Boney Earnest Alcoa Wyo
or Dr Jauner Neb^s or Mr McGuire Editor
"Outdoor Life" Denver Colo - Look at the 4 photos
in "March issue" American Rifleman Wash D.C in
article "The truth about Ned Bill - See Dec issue
'Outdoor Life'. The Editor paid me to write a few lines
re Dr Carver & I furnished the photo - which the Editor
writes will appear in Dec issue - Write any of the
above regarding me - Ask them if I am square?
Ask Rose if I am. Rose has the recent photos of
Carver - North. Pawnee Bill
Boney Earnest - Brandt Dick
Deadwood Dick
Selah Bill etc all
sent by me given me
by them. Taken in June 27

Yours Sincerely
Herbert Cody Blake -

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I have 26 photos
of Carver -

Over 200 of body

2800 in all -

I write for magazines

I do not sell photos -

I do hate a liar & trust I've put you on
your guard

Read

Norton Kay

"Champion"

issues Oct 13 - Nov 3rd

I recd a letter on ^{some} mail with these facts re Thorp
from Mr Lockhart who wrote the Oct 13 article
"Dr Carver & others" - and it was so rotten I

was forced to reply to it -

Notice please errors in Nov 3 -

Diamonds Jack should be Diamond Dick

& one line is omitted. "Capt North who is not as
Lockhart wrote 87 but 82. Editor makes it read I am 82

Carver was 87 -