

COPY

Paihuano, March 19th, 1958.

Mr.
William P. Malloy, Esq.
Los Angeles, Calif.

Dear Sir:

First of all, I must beg your pardon for my interference in this law affair. I'll try to explain it to you in the best way my English can afford.

Montegrando is a small village - if a lot of scattered houses may be so called. It belongs to the group of nine little villages that lay within the boundaries of the catholic Parish of the Immaculate Conception of Paihuano.

According to the civil administrative chilean organization, Montegrando belongs to the Municipality of Paihuano, Department of Elqui, Province of Coquimbo. This Province of Coquimbo - the capital or head-town is La Serena - has six Departments: La Serena, Coquimbo, Elqui, Ovalle, Combarbala and Illapel. The Department of Elqui - the principal or capital town of which is Vicuna - has two Municipalities or "Comunas": Vicuna and Paihuano; it is situated at the northeastern corner of the Province of Coquimbo and is often known as "Valle de Elqui" on account of the main river - at times a mere brook - which, as it flows from Rivadavia to La Serena - a sea-side town of 100 kms. far from Rivadavia -, is named: "Elqui" or "Coquimbo".

The village of Rivadavia is the last Railways Station for the train that comes eastwards from La Serena. From Rivadavia passengers and mail are carried on an old bus twice or at least once a day to the villages of Paihuano, Montegrando and Pisco Elqui, that lay along a valley 8, 18 and 22 Lmts. to the south of Rivadavia. (Next time I'll send you a little map, if you will)

In this way arrived your letter mailed on February 28th, 1958 at Los Angeles, Calif. to Montegrando on March 7th, 1958. It was addressed to "Order of St. Francis, Valle de Elqui, Montegrando, Chile."

But... In Montegrando there is no resident priest or friar. Even more: in the whole Valley of Elqui you can't find any Friar of St. Francis. There are only three permanent secular - or diocesan - priests: two of them in the "Comuna" of Vicuna: the Parson of Vicuna and the Parson of Diaguitas, and one in the "Comuna" of Paihuano: the Parson of Paihuano. The last one is in charge of the catholic church of Montegrando, but lives in the village of Paihuano.

The first Franciscan Father in a zone of more than 100 Kmts. around Montegrando, may be found in La Serena, in a convent that belongs to the belgian Friars of St. Francis.

In the center and south of Chile there are two different chilean organizations of Franciscan Friars, which are both independent from the belgians, but all of them acknowledge one General Superior, who lives at Rome, Italy.

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[Carta] 1958 mar. 19, Paihuano, Chile [a] William P. Malloy, Los Angeles, California [manuscrito] Raúl Pinto A.

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