

L. O. Reese

L.O. Reese letter to Mrs. Lintine M. Skinner, 1907 June 7
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Letter

Dear Mrs. Skinner:

Please pardon my failure to answer promptly; but I am building a log house and planting a strawberry bed and watching a hole in a tree wherein I saw some sort of a bug thing that licked two ants who tried to enter — and I am curious to see how it will all turn out.

I am guilty. But I needed a word of two syllables to make the line scan and I was in a hurry when I wrote it and I take it all back. If I ever say 'Frisco again — may the once more earthquaked [sic] plenty.

But the Argonauts — those sturdy old fellows we love to slap in the back and sing songs about, they called it — "Frisco." Pet name of the days of Forty-nine. How about that? Please pass it on to Mr. Phelan and the rest. Has San Francisco — the San Francisco of the brave old days — outgrown its old pet name? And is it trying to forget the Argonaut, the strong-hearted but uncouth old empire-builder, even as we, when we have grown rich with inherited money, try to forget the father who

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made it, but — horrors! Who ate pie with a knife?

Pass it on to the News Letter. I've a dark suspicion that the uncultured Argonauts, who nicknamed it "Frisco," chewed gum!

Seriously, I am glad the San Franciscans are showing fight. It indicates that there is still plenty of nerve tissue left in the shattered-and-grafted-to-death good old town. Build her up! Call her what you will, but build her up!

Thank you for your kind words and for remembering me. I do not know if I shall ever live in San Francisco again, but the pleasure will be all the keener when circumstances cause me to visit it.

More power to your Art League and Clubs. They help. Can't you broaden their scope and hang a few thieves? But thank God the vampires have not sucked the good red blood out of San Francisco.

By the way: I have a short toast-song "San Francisco Town," knocking about in my mind. Do you ever have occasion for such things in your San Francisco rebuilding crusade? I'll loan it to you if you want it. I do not know if it is any good — I am not a composer — but it might serve.

Sincerely Yours
L.O. Reese
Lake Alta.