

2014.045

May 27, 2014

Dr. Joe Cook
Curator of Mammals
University of New Mexico Museum of Southwestern Biology

Subject: Leopard skin

To Whom It May Concern:

The history of this leopard skin begins in our family before my early memories. My grandparents, Silas and Dorothy Lewis, built a cabin in the Sierra Nevada mountains of California in 1934. The leopard skin was a gift from my uncle, Robert E. Lewis to my grandparents in 1933. The leopard skin hung in our cabin throughout our ownership. As seen in photos provided, the leopard skin was displayed in the cabin when it was christened in August 1934. Another family photo of note was one dated in 1937. Those present include my father, my grandmother and grandfather, my aunt and uncle. The 1937 photo was sent to Joe Cook in April of this year. The skin was transferred to my care in 1966. My parents retired from their business to travel the world. The skin was displayed in our home for a brief time, but has mainly been packaged in storage. It is time for the skin to find a new home.

My uncle, Robert E. Lewis worked for YMCA in China from the turn of the century through the late 1920's. His family was born and raised during his years in China. Robert went to Shanghi, China in 1898 as an international YMCA representative. Lewis came to Cleveland, Ohio YMCA 1909-1929. There he worked with city's social settlements and welfare agencies. During this era Lewis maintained his connection with China serving as secretary of international committee YMCA Shanghai. Robert E. Lewis left Cleveland to become advisor to Chinas foreign minister 1930-1935. The pelt has smeared Chinese markings on its reverse side.

I have contacted Joe Cook at the museum of Southwest Biology with the intention of donating this beautiful specimen to be utilized for its highest and best use: research and/or public display.

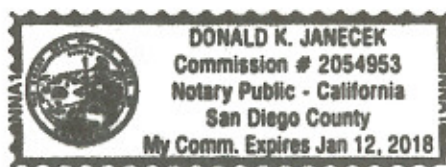
With appreciation,

Deralyn Kaheny
Deralyn Kaheny

state of California, County of San Diego
Subscribed and sworn to (or affirmed) before me
on this 27 day of May, 2014.
by Deralyn Kaheny,
proved to me on the basis of satisfactory evidence
to be the person(s) who appeared before me.

Signature: *DJ*

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