#267

May 15, 1917

Mr. Austin B. Fletcher,
California Highway Commission,
Sacramento, California.

Dear Sir:-

I have your wire of May 10th relative to the mix to be used in concrete pavement and also under separate cover a copy of the specifications used in your most recent work in highway construction. I greatly appreciate this information as I realize it is your latest word on good practice.

The Del Mar - Escondido paved highway, up San Dieguito River Valley, as you probably know, has been a dream of Col. Ed Fletcher for a number of years and now more particularly because he is interested up the valley and in the water development at Bernardo.

Our next greatest difficulty will be in getting the District organized. The boundaries of the territory included in the District are somewhat limited and the people are inclined to oppose the high tax rate.

Thanking you again for this information, I am,

Very truly yours,

Assistant Engr Volcan Land & Water Co.
and
Engineer for the District.

TPE:K

CLASS OF SERVICE	
Fast Day Message	X
Day Letter	
Night Message	
Night Letter	

If no class of service is designated the telegram will be transmitted as a fast day message.

COPY OF WESTERN UNION TELEGRAM

Washington DC Feb 2-1918

Austin B Fletcher

Chief Engineer State Highway Commission
Sacramento Calif

Have had three conferences cut three yards red tape and if you will wire Page to put SanDiego ElCentro project number one one schedule Secretary Houston will sign measure and fight xxxxxx is won I want this done Monday Please wire today my address New Willard

Ed Fletcher

Willard

This very
important telegrams
see me
must be photographed
go with Houston

25

The New Willard Hotel,

Washington, D.C.

February 4, 1918.

Austin G. Fletcher Esq.,

State Highway Commission,

Sacramento. California.

My dear Fletcher,

Your telegram received. There is a row on between Page and the Solicitor General's office. Page told Pennypacker to tell Williams' attorney Lees, who made the numerous objections in a letter, that if Williams didn't come across, he would go direct to the Secretary of Agriculture and take it over his head. This precipitated a row, and I made up my mind to see Williams and get it straightened out, and believe I have done so. I asked Page to hold up things until I could see what I could accomplish.

Enclosed please find copy of letter to Williams, which I believe straightens things out.

Will also see Secretary Houston personally, and will have several Senators take the matter up.

I am not going to leave Washington until I come home with the bacon, and want to thank you for putting this #1 on the schedule.

With kind regards,

Very sincerely yours,

Cpy for Ch 2d Fletcher

September 7, 1920.

Mr. A. B. Fletcher,
Highway Engineer,
Forum Building,
Sacramento, Calif.

My dear Mr. Fletcher:

As you probably know, the Automobile Club of Southern California is engaged in the preparation of a report, based on an investigation of improved highways in the southern part of the state. The investigation is to embrace both county improved roads and state highways.

Conditions surrounding this investigation are so complicated that one cannot determine what the attitude of the final report will be, in relation to state highways. The consulting engineer of the Automobile Club, Mr. Lippincott, who has the matter in charge, states that he intends that the report shall be unbiased; shall not deprecate the work of the State Highway Commission, or any other road building body. The incentive behind the original idea for getting out such a report, however, was probably hostile to the State Highway Commission.

Mr. Lippincott seems to be a little at sea in regard to how to handle the investigation. He does not claim to be a road man, but I do not question his ability, and believe he desires to get out a fair and impartial report.

On account of not being familiar with road matters, also perhaps to lend more prestige to the final report, he desires to associate the county engineers of the southern part of the state with him in making the study. The interest of the county engineers is lagging, and only one or two are inclined to take the time and trouble to help the proposition.

It would seem that perhaps, on account of Mr. Lippincott's handicap, the final report will reflect the attitude of those who assist the consulting engineer in the investigation. So far as I have learned, Mr. Pettit, County Surveyor of Ventura County, and a man named East, are taking an active part in assisting him.

Mr. Lippincott has asked me to serve on a committee to investigate subgrade and foundations; also to prepare a signed article on this subject, as a contribution to the report. On account of doubt as to what may be finally written into the report, perhaps

even after it leaves Mr. Lippincott's hands, I am loath to take up with it.

It is possible that I might be able to influence to some extent the general attitude of the report. My idea would be to deal more in generalities, rather than in specific reports on each section of highway. Again, the situation might be such that my influence would amount to little in determining the general policy of the report, which might finally be determined by influential members of the Automobile Club.

I would like to have your ideas on this matter, if you care to express them, with particular reference to how you think I can be of best service to you and to the Highway Commission. Personally, I do not care to be connected with the matter in any way if the report is to be anything but constructive, and even if it should be constructive I would prefer to not participate unless I knew that a constructive report would be welcomed by the State Highway Commission.

Yours truly,

November 12, 1921.

Mr. A. B. Fletcher,
Forum Building,
Sacramento, California.

My dear Fletcher:

I am pleased to inform you that San Diego raised $6,500, Imperial Valley, $2,500, and the balance was raised by Yuma, and the $256,000 of Yuma bonds were sold this week, and money will be available in thirty days. This means the completion of the highway to the Pima County line, via the Ajo route. The state engineer expects with federal aid to rush the Phoenix-Yuma road to completion. Governor Campbell has promised it will be in good passable condition within a year and a half from date.

Pima County are circulating bonds for $250,000 bond issue to complete the highway to the Yuma County line. They have already spent nearly $600,000 on this road, I believe.

San Diego's dreams are gradually coming true for a transcontinental highway direct.

Very sincerely yours,

EF:AH

cc--Mr. Darlington
Mr. Whitmore
Mr. Mansfield
Dr. Howes

January
Ninth
1922

Mr. A. B. Fletcher, Chief,
Department of Public Words,
Sacramento, Calif.

My dear Fletcher:

Enclosed find copy of petition to the State Water Commission which is explanatory. Also clipping from the La Mesa Scout, also copies of resolutions from the City of El Cajon and La Mesa, all of which are explanatory.

I wish you would take them home and read them. I am coming to see you and talk this matter over with you at your convenience, for your advice.

With kindest regards, I am

Sincerely yours

EF:KLM

120-1
220-3

July 19, 1922.

Mr. A. B. Fletcher,
Dept. of Public Works,
Sacramento, Calif.

My dear Fletcher:

Inclosed find copies of my two letters from Governor Lugo which are explanatory and for your information.

Inclosed herewith also find copy of letter I have written the Highway Commission, and hope you will urge immediate action by the Commission.

Hoping you have the trip of your life, and that you get some rest out of it, but that is impossible for a Fletcher I guess,

Very sincerely yours,

EF:AH

230-✓

August 2 1922

Mr. A. B. Fletcher, Chief;
Department of Public Works,
Sacramento, California.

My dear A. B.:

Enclosed find copy of letters that are explanatory; probably you are entirely familiar with same.

Our friend R. E. Fishburn of Tucson is now a member of the International Boundary Commission, with headquarters at El Paso, and consulting engineer as well. He is still working, however, on the Ajo road.

I hope one of the first things you will do is to straighten out the highway commission and get them to agree to the paving thru the Yuma Indian Reservation. The method of procedure is herewith attached, altho I suppose you have already received same.

Enclosed find clipping relative to Tom Maddock, that will be of interest. Also article from the Los Angeles Examiner which was printed Sunday, the same day Maddock made the trip across the sandhills.

Yours sincerely,

EF:KLH

August 7, 1922.

A. B. Fletcher,
State Highway Engineer,
Sacramento, California.

Dear Sir:

We have just submitted our 7% system and are hoping for an early approval.

I am bothered about a State constitutional amendment providing for a paved highway between Phoenix and Los Angeles. The amount appropriated is not sufficient to pave the road, let alone to provide for a bridge at Ehrenberg, which would be almost impossible to construct until the installation of the Boulder Canyon Dam, or some other retaining reservoir to control the floods. I am extremely sorry that the location was not designated between Phoenix and Yuma, on which road we are a ready working and expect to have practically complete by the end of the coming winter season.

In returning to Phoenix from San Francisco, I rode overland from San Diego to Yuma. I was surprised to find as much hard surfaced road already completed. I sincerely hope that it will be possible for you to have the road in the Indian Reservation, from Yuma to the sand hills, paved at Federal expense as this is the worst portion of the entire distance in either Arizona or California; also that Federal Aid may be secured to augment the funds available for an extension of the paving east of Holtville, to the sand dunes.

I desire to thank you for the courtesies extended to me during my recent visit to San Francisco, where I believe a great deal of good was accomplished in bringing Mr. MacDonald into closer touch with the Western Highway officials.

Allow me to congratulate you on your personally conducted trip with him thru the West, which I think has no doubt impressed him with some of our difficulties.

Yours very truly,

Thos. Maddock,
State Engineer.

TM.RS.

October 19, 1922.

Personal

Mr. A. B. Fletcher,
2100 "G" Street,
Sacramento, Calif.

My dear Fletcher:

Just give me one more piece of advice. How on earth can I get that contract let through the Yuma Indian Reservation and put over before the first of January? Had I better go at it through Mr. MacDonald or will Dr. Hewes take the brunt of it, or had we better have all the chambers of commerce appeal to the secretary of agriculture? Any suggestion will be treated strictly confidential.

Yours very sincerely,

EF:AH

Form 1206A

CLASS OF SERVICE DESIRED	
Telegram	
Day Letter	
Night Message	
Night Letter	

Patrons should mark an X opposite the class of service desired; OTHERWISE THE MESSAGE WILL BE TRANSMITTED AS A FULL-RATE TELEGRAM

WESTERN UNION TELEGRAM

NEWCOMB CARLTON, PRESIDENT GEORGE W. E. ATKINS, FIRST VICE-PRESIDENT

Receiver's No.	
Check	
Time Filed	

COPY

Send the following message, subject to the terms on back hereof, which are hereby agreed to

sacramento, Calif Nov. 9, 1922

COL ED FLETCHER
SAN DIEGO CALIF

ANSWERING YOUR LETTER OF SIXTH I HAVE NEVER STATED THAT PRESENT PLANK ROAD BETWEEN EL CENTRO AND YUMA IS NOT PRACTI* CABLE AND I DO NOT BELIEVE ANY MEMBER OF HIGHWAY COMMISSION HAS DONE SO

A B FLETCHER

Austin B. Fletcher, M.Am.Soc.C.E.
Sacramento, California

December 23, 1922.

Dear Colonel:

At last, with your help and that of my brother, Charles R. of Hamburg, New York, I have found out that we are 7th. cousins and not 43rd. as you suspected.

Robert Fletcher, born somewhere in England in the year 1592, married (probably) _____ Hartwell and settled in Concord, Mass. He had four children, at least,

i Luke, B. in England, d. May 21, 1655
ii William, do. d. Nov 6, 1677
iii Samuel, d. Dec 9 1697 at Chelmsford
iv Francis, b at Concord in 1636 and d. there after 1704

Your line from the pioneer, Robert, is :-
Robert (1), Samuel (2), William (3), Samuel (4), Eleazer (5), Eleazer (6), Eleazer (7), Charles Kimball (8).

My line is:-
Robert (1), Francis (2), Samuel (3), Timothy (4), Ephraim (5), Ephraim (6), Quartus (7), Ruel Haseltine (8).

My brother is likely to write you for more information. He is perhaps more of a nut on genealogical matters than yours truly.

a B7

So much for that. I have not heard from you for some time. I suspect that you have been active however and that you perhaps had something to do with the matter which called for the following telegram which I sent to Morton today.

" While it seems almost too good to be true an apparently authentic report indicates your appointment to be my successor. You have my most sincere congratulations and if I can help please call on me. Merry Christmas "

Safe

AUSTIN B. FLETCHER
SACRAMENTO, CALIFORNIA

December 23, 1922.

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Robert (1), Francis (1), Samuel (3), Timothy (4), Ephraim (5), Ephraim (6), Quartus (7), Ruel Haseltine (8).

My brother is likely to write you for more inform - ation. He is perhaps more of a nut on genealogical matters than yours truly.

(Signed)
A. B. FLETCHER

Colonel Ed Fletcher,
San Diego, California.

My excellent friend, the governor-elect, must have been hard pressed before he made so good an appointment as that. I would like the story and I am guessing that you know it.

The rumor that he will also appoint McClellan, Toy and some unheard of person from Humboldt County as members of the Highway Commission is not so pleasing. That would be a farce-comedy considering the 'big men' Richardson has been talking about. The first-two-names are jokes and the last, while his name was mentioned, nobody in road work has ever heard of. I am sorry for Morton with such bosses.

It is to laugh, anyway. Notice the new suggestions of the Automobile Clubs that money be raised by a gasoline tax and by increasing the motor vehicle fees. The present commission has been yelling for these for four years and one of the arguments against Stephens in the Primary Campaign was that the Commission wanted a gasoline tax.

As for myself, I don't know where I am going, but I am on my way. It looks now as if I would be able to take the rest that I have wanted.

Merry Christmas, again.

Yours very truly,

ABFletcher

Colonel Ed Fletcher,
San Diego,
California.

December
Twenty-sixth
1922

Mr. A. B. Fletcher,
2100 G. Street,
Sacramento, California.

My dear Cousin:

Anything up to and including seventh cousins is mighty close. Thanks kindly for your letter of the 23d and my pedigree.

I am going to New York in January or February. Give me a letter of introduction to your brother. I suppose I ought to see A. B. Fletcher, as well. I have been to San Francisco twice the last four weeks and telephoned both times to Sacramento and found you in the East or out of town.

Yes, I have been active and will have a story to tell if Morton gets the appointment. Ha, Ha!

I expect to be in San Francisco on the 3d of January. When do you leave the employ of the state? Does it happen that you will be in San Francisco the 3d? Keep me posted as to your movements and plans I have a number of things to tell you that I do not care to put in writing.

I am deeply grateful that the Highway Commission has accepted the government's offer to build thru the Yuma Indian Reservation. I know you are behind that and do hope they will let the contracts today from the west end of the plank road to the Holtville connection.

Is there anything on earth that I can do for you. Do not hesitate to call on me.

Yours very sincerely,

EF:KLM

ESTATE OF
AUSTIN B. FLETCHER,
165 BROADWAY, NEW YORK.

November 5, 1926.

Mr. Ed. Fletcher,
920 Eighth Street,
San Diego,
California.

My dear Mr. Fletcher:

I regret the necessary delay in attempting to conform to your request for a copy of the Fletcher Coat of Arms. When you telephoned I was quite confident that I had nothing remaining in this office which would give me the necessary information but, as you will see by the enclosed copies of letters written to members of the Fletcher Family Reunion, I have suggested that if either person can give you the copy that he do so. I trust my efforts in your behalf will result in success.

Yours very truly,
Charles S. Chadwick
EXECUTOR.

CSC:EH

Mrs. E.F.

November 5, 1926.

Mrs. Ida Fletcher Crisp,
2914 Broadway,
New York City.

Dear Madam:

A short while ago I received from Mr. Ed. Fletcher, San Diego, California (920 Eighth Street) the following request.

"Confirming my telephone. Kindly let me know where I can get a copy of the Fletcher coat of arms and greatly oblige me."

Inasmuch as all of the papers which Mr. Austin B. Fletcher had accumulated in his capacity of president of the Fletcher Family Reunion were turned over to a succeeding official sometime ago I cannot answer Mr. Ed. Fletcher's question and write you in the hope that you can do so, suggesting that you correspond with him direct. I shall appreciate it if you are able to satisfy his desires.

Yours very truly,

EXECUTOR.

CSC:EH

EF

November 5, 1926.

Mr. Charles R. Fletcher,
Hamburg,
N.Y.

Dear Sir:

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Yours very truly,

EXECUTOR.

CSC:EH

Ed Fletcher Papers

1870-1955

MSS.81

Box: 8 Folder: 13

General Correspondence - Fletcher, Austin B.

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