

September 13, 1923.

U. S. National Bank,  
San Diego, Calif.

Attention: Mr. James R. Russell

Gentlemen:

This is probably the last time I am going to ask you for money on national highway work.

I have been, within the last two weeks, over to Arizona on business and while there went over the road situation. Phoenix has been industriously working for a direct highway to Blythe marked in red. A bunch of public spirited citizens of Southern Arizona are determined to outwit Phoenix at her own game and they have prepared a map similar to the one herewith enclosed.

Enclosed herewith find copy of letter from Mr. Hunt that is explanatory. This money must be raised. I am giving \$100 myself toward this expense and ask that you sent me \$25 to \$50 for the good of the cause to complete the building of the road Gila Bend to Casa Grande along the Southern Pacific Railroad. It is practically as short a route as the Ajo, and is more attractive to the Eastern tourists on account of its following the Southern Pacific Railroad the entire distance. It gives them a safer feeling.

The highway is already built in good shape from El Paso via Lordsburg to Douglas, Tombstone and Casa Grande. It is all built and in good condition from El Paso via Globe and Superior to Casa Grande. It is already completed or under contract from Gila Bend to Yuma, a magnificent highway, which I went over the other day. The connecting link between Gila Bend and Casa Grande is mostly in Maricopa County, dominated by Phoenix, with the result that not one dollar will be spent by Maricopa supervisors to build the Gila Bend, Maricopa Casa Grande road and it all must be done by private subscription.

San Diego will then get its share of the travel without a doubt, when the road is built, and this is the best money we can ever spend.

Our activities in helping Southern Arizona get a highway direct to Yuma have borne wonderful results. We have many friends and the San Diego & Arizona Railroad is getting a tremendous benefit on account of the friendliness of Southern Arizona toward San Diego.

This money must be raised immediately. We propose to have the work completed in 90 days and I hope to have a check from you by return mail for whatever you can afford to give, made payable to J. E. Franklin, President of the Yuma National Bank, who is custodian of the funds.

With the completion of a good passable road San Diego to El Paso, my highway work is completed.

I want to thank you for the hearty cooperation I have received from you in the past. Our work is bearing fruit. Nearly 100 machines a day are coming thru Yuma now to El Centro. With the work completed you will soon see three to five hundred machines a day coming thru Yuma to the coast. This is the number of machines that are now coming thru Needles and by Barstow. The Chamber of Commerce should immediately take steps to put up proper signs at advantageous points between Holtville and Phoenix and all the way to El Paso, telling of the advantages of San Diego.

Thanking you again for your kind cooperation,

I am

Sincerely yours,

RF:KLM

September 28, 1923.

U. S. National Bank,  
San Diego, Calif.

Gentlemen:

Colonel Fletcher wrote your bank, attention Mr. James R. Russell, relative to the Gila Bend-Casa Grande road in Pinal County, Arizona, but as we have not heard from you it may be that Mr. Russell was out of the city.

Mr. Smith, the county engineer in charge of the work writes that it is progressing in good shape, which means that any money San Diego citizens are donating for the good of the cause must be sent them at once. Mr. Fletcher promised that he would raise \$1000 or \$1500 in San Diego, and inasmuch as this cut-off will divert much travel our way and will rebound to the benefit of San Diego City he felt sure he would meet with prompt response to his request.

Ex Governor Campbell of Arizona went over this road on his way back to Phoenix and was surprised to see with what ease a good passable road can be constructed.

If you have already sent your check to Mr. Clement, direct, will you please telephone to this office that we may keep a record of same? If not, we would like to have a check for whatever amount you can give for this work, made payable to Mr. Clement, treasurer, that we may send it to him promptly.

Thanking you, we are

Yours sincerely,

ED FLETCHER COMPANY

By

KLM

P. S. Mr. Fletcher is in the East and we are writing this in his absence for the reason that it is necessary that the money be raised as quickly as possible.

*The United States National Bank  
of San Diego*

UNITED STATES DEPOSITARY  
September 29, 1923.

Office of  
JAMES R. RUSSELL,  
PRESIDENT

Mr. Ed Fletcher,  
San Diego, Calif.

Dear Mr. Fletcher:

I am pleased to enclose check for \$15.00 to be applied toward expense in making the road from Casa Grande to Gila Bend.

A movement should be initiated by Californians for the purpose of obtaining the cooperation of the Federal Government and the various States through which the Lincoln Highway passes to insure the early completion of the paving of said Highway from New York City to San Francisco with a diverging road from Salt Lake City to Los Angeles via San Bernardino. I know of nothing which would contribute so much to our wealth and development as the paving of this highway.

Yours very truly,

*James R. Russell.*  
James R. Russell,  
President.

JRR.T

October 5, 1923.

Mr. James R. Russell, Pres.,  
The United States National Bank,  
San Diego, California.

My dear Mr. Russell:

I found your letter with check for \$15.00 to apply on the road from Casa Grande to Gila Bend, on my return from New York, and assure you your cooperation is greatly appreciated and I thank you for your subscription.

I am in hearty sympathy with all road development for the more good roads we have into California, the faster development takes place. Statistics show that more people are coming into the State of California via automobile than by train at the present time, and with good roads the percentage of automobile travel will increase steadily.

Yours sincerely,

KLM

**Ed Fletcher Papers**

**1870-1955**

**MSS.81**

**Box: 23 Folder: 9**

**General Correspondence - Russell, James R.**



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