

P. O. BOX
528

The Great Yuma Project
THE
Yuma Chamber of Commerce

TELEPHONE
216-W

HEADQUARTERS, ROOMS 2 AND 4 SHIELDS BUILDING
321 MAIN STREET

YUMA, ARIZONA Sept. 26, 1921.

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A. B. Ming, Vice-President
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J. S. Abbott
Bert Caudry

Col. Ed Fletcher,
Fletcher Building,
San Diego, Calif.

My dear Colonel Fletcher:--

I submitted your ideas, together with your copy of letter to Supervisors, to our Chamber of Commerce on Friday night and the Chamber stands ready to do all in its power to have Supervisors offer the \$250,000 bonds for sale. Chairman Downey says it will require ten days to advertise the bonds.

County Engineer Conway tells me he has written you in reply to your letter to the Supervisors, giving you all the data you may need to place the matter before your local Bankers, therefore it is unnecessary for me to do the same thing over again. However, if I can be of any help, as suggested by you in our conference, I will be glad to make a special trip over to San Diego and help along the good cause all I can. I await your suggestion in this regard and shall hold myself in readiness in I am needed over there.

This looks like the best chance we will ever have to complete our Yuma-Ajo-Tucson road at once. Let's all do all we can to push the matter through while we can. Our Supervisors are ready to act at any time you give the word that the bonds can be sold at PAR.

Awaiting your further pleasure, I beg to remain

Cordially and sincerely yours,

B. F. Fly

September
Twenty-Eighth
1921

Colonel B. F. Fly,
Yuma, Arizona.

My dear Colonel:

Was glad to hear from you under date of the 26th. I have just been informed that the banks of Yuma agreed to buy the bonds for 98, and that the Supervisors rejected it. Is this true? If not, what price did they bid, if any?

It will be easier for us to raise a bonus than to get San Diego banks to buy the bonds, in my opinion. However, let us work it both ways. I will say right now, San Diego and El Centro will raise one-half the bonus if Yuma will raise the other half the bonus, so that the Yuma Board of Supervisors can sell their bonds at par, which I understand, is a legal requirement. Cannot the Board of Supervisors of Yuma County advertise for bids to sell \$250,000 worth of bonds? Let us see what the highest bid is, and if it is not par, let me know what the amount of the loss is, and San Diego and Imperial Counties will raise at least half of the loss and possibly more on the understanding that the \$250,000 is spent in completing the road from the Pima County line to Stovall and from Stovall to Yuma.

I pledge you now that El Centro and San Diego will raise one-half of any loss and possibly two-thirds on the conditions above stated, if the loss is not too great.

I have sent a copy of this letter to Mr. Conway and a copy to Mr. Downey.

Yours very truly,

EF:AH

YUMA MESA
FROSTLESS FRUIT LANDS
ORANGES
GRAPE FRUIT
LEMONS
DATES
FIGS

OFFICE OF
BEN FRANKLIN FLY

YUMA, ARIZ., October 2, 1921.

YUMA VALLEY
FINEST GOVERNMENT IRRIGATION PROJECT IN UNITED STATES
COTTON
ALFALFA
CORN
VEGETABLES

Col. Ed Fletcher,
Fletcher Building,
San Diego, Calif.

My dear Colonel Fletcher:--

Your appreciated letter was duly received and would have had an answer earlier, had it not been that I was trying to "round up" our people and write you something quite definite.

You are laboring under a misapprehension about our local banks bidding 98 on our road bonds. No road bonds have been offered recently, but our Supervisors did ask for bids on some "refunding bonds".

One of our three County Supervisors is absent in California, sick. One of the other two is not disposed to offer the \$250,000 bonds, but I think is willing to offer \$250,000 for the Yuma-Phoenix-Ajo-Tucson good road, an equal amount for the North end of the county and \$88,000 for the Yuma Mesa. When the Board meets tomorrow I hope to appear before them and urge that the Yuma-Ajo-Tucson money be obtained at once, permitting the other to be advertised for later, except the Yuma Mesa part, which I want to see sold at the earliest possible moment.

The only reason, as I understand it, that the Board contemplates offering the north end of the county bonds at this time is that the people up there are making threats to tie the whole thing up with an injunction, if they are not treated exactly as the Yuma end of the county. Of course if there is no bid on the North end proposition things may be allowed to drift as we down here want them, and in that event I can almost assure you that the County of Yuma will meet you half way and stand part of the difference between the bid and PAR, as required by law. That is what one of our bankers assured me yesterday. So the matter does not look bad at all, but on the other hand it looks as though we will be able to pull the matter through.

I note by the papers that the contract has been let for the 10.7 miles of road out of Holtville, and for very much less than the estimate. That sounds good to me. I know you are keeping in touch with the matter and we over at this end have the utmost confidence in your ability to put the road through at the earliest possible moment.

A few days ago I had the pleasure of accompanying a committee over the two routes through the Indian Reservation. I am sure you will eventually agree with us that the road should be built the route we decided upon. To that end our committee from here will appear before the Imperial Supervisors tomorrow and ask for the change of route. It is by far the best, and though about three miles longer, yet I am sure it is the BEST and the cheapest. We are anxious for your cooperation in this change and if convenient hope you will back up our request for the change. Mr. Odle favors it, and so does every one else who has been over the two routes. I will advise you after tomorrow's board meeting what to expect over here.

Cordially and sincerely yours,

B. F. Fly

YUMA MESA
FROSTLESS FRUIT LANDS
ORANGES
GRAPE FRUIT
LEMONS
DATES
FIGS

OFFICE OF
BEN FRANKLIN FLY

YUMA, ARIZ., October 3, 1921.

YUMA VALLEY
FINEST GOVERNMENT IRRIGATION PROJECT IN UNITED STATES
COTTON
ALFALFA
CORN
VEGETABLES

Col. Ed Fletcher,
Fletcher Building,
San Diego, Calif.

My dear Colonel Fletcher:--

It was my pleasure this afternoon to telegraph you in the name of Judge J.H. Westover, president Chamber of Commerce, that our Board of Supervisors had ordered publication for bids for \$1,200,000 worth of bonds (Good Roads) the advertisement to read that bonds are to be sold in "lots" and not as an entire issue. It was deemed best to so advertise the whole issue instead of simply enough to complete our "good road" by way of Ajo-Tucson and Phoenix, as we had an intimation that the North end of the county would protest, and probably apply for an injunction. When we voted these bonds it was stated before the voters that \$250,000 would apply to the Yuma-Phoenix-Ajo-Tucson division, \$240,000 for the north end of the county, and the balance divided between Yuma Valley and the Yuma Mesa. It was so ordered by the Board today after my explanation of my very pleasant conference with you. The Board had your letter also, and after my full explanation of what I felt sure you and your San Diego "boosters" could do it was finally agreed that the bonds be advertised for sale beginning Wednesday.

Before we could get the Board to do this, however, I had to promise that I would be a committee of two or three to visit Los Angeles and see if we could induce Los Angeles to do the same for ~~the~~ the North End that you are trying to do for us. Judge Westover and I were appointed on the Committee.

Now you have the whole thing before you. The Bonds will be bid on in groups or any bidder can bid for the whole issue. That's the only way I could see how we could get OUR section of bonds before the bidders. I think it will work admirably. If Parker and that section can induce Los Angeles to come to the front, so much the better, for it will give that much more work for our people who are out of employment. Otherwise, if your section is the only one to bid, why, of course, the bonds will be awarded to you, provided, of course, that we can all get together and make up the difference between the bid and PAR. We will be able to raise some money here, but it will not be anything near the half, and I fear not a third, though a bunch of us will make a thorough canvass of the community between now and bidding time to see exactly what can be raised. I really think your banks should bid enough to make the difference very small. The bonds carry 5 1/2 per cent, and are not subject to Federal taxation, which is quite an item. If you think I can do any good by visiting San Diego to talk the matter over with your bankers and your Committee of the Chamber of Commerce a wire from you will bring me to you on the next day. I hope I will get the wire, for my dear little wife is still in your city, under Doctor's care, and I would like to be called.

With assurances of highest regards, and the double assurance that I have left nothing undone at this end of the line, I beg to remain,

Cordially and sincerely yours,

B. F. Fly

4 October 1921

Col. B. F. Fly,
Yuma Arizona.

My dear Colonel Fly:

Thank you for your long letter of explanation of the 2d inst. I am anxiously waiting to hear from you as to the best way to proceed.

I hope to bring Fletcher, the Chief Engineer over for a few days the last of this month, and we can take up all road matters at that time.

Yours sincerely,

EF:KLM

5 October 1921

Mr. B. F. Fly,
Yuma, Arizona.

My dear Colonel Fly:

Answering yours of October 3d, when you go to Los Angeles by all means you and Westover come to San Diego, and I will call a meeting of the banks of the city, the Chamber of Commerce, and you can have a conference on the subject. We are absolutely making no objections to Los Angeles buying part of the bonds and building the roads in which they are interested, but we want ours built, too, and I will help all I can.

Yours very sincerely,

EF:KLM

P. O. BOX
528

The Great Yuma Project
THE
Yuma Chamber of Commerce

TELEPHONE
216-W

HEADQUARTERS, ROOMS 2 AND 4 SHIELDS BUILDING
321 MAIN STREET

YUMA, ARIZONA Oct. 7, 1921.

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Bert Caudry

Colonel Ed. Fletcher,
Box 1412,
San Diego, California.

My dear Colonel Fletcher:

Yours of the 5th instant has just been received and after having submitted it to Judge Westover I hasten to say this:

Under the present condition of the bond market Judge Westover is of the opinion that we probably will receive a bid or bids for 95, although the bonds ought to bring more than that in the open market. We will do all we can here to obtain the best bid possible but, taking all things into consideration, I am of the firm opinion that if the matter is properly placed before your investing bankers that we probably could ^{get} better results in San Diego than through the regular bonding houses of the middle west or east.

To that end Judge Westover bids me say that if you will set a date when he and I can join you and appear before your bankers and Chamber of Commerce we will be very glad to go and we await your definite answer as to when you would like to have us visit San Diego.

Immediately after our meeting with the Board of Supervisors last Monday Judge Westover wrote the Northern Yuma County Chamber of Commerce at Parker quite fully and explained what we were anxious to do. We have not yet heard from Parker but regardless of whatever is done at Parker we hold ourselves in readiness to go to San Diego and join hands with you in the earnest effort to sell at least our part of the bond issue.

Trusting that I may have the pleasure of hearing from you at your earliest convenience, I beg to remain,

Cordially and sincerely yours,

B. F. Fly

11 October 1921

Mr. B. F. Fly,
Yuma, Arizona.

My dear Mr. Fly:

Answering yours of October 7th, will say I will get a line on the situation here and report shortly. Can you get me positive assurance that you can get a bid of 95 for the bonds? I do not believe we can get that here. If you can get 95 for the bonds, it is simply a matter then of our getting together and raising the money to make up the deficit.

Enclosed find copy of letter I sent Judge Westover, which is explanatory.

If we cannot do any more than sell \$50,000 worth of bonds to fix up the road from Stovall to the Pima County line, we will have accomplished our purpose, but I would rather sell \$250,000 worth of bonds, the money to be used from Yuma to the Pima County line. I can tell you right now, that if you can sell the bonds at 95, I will agree definitely to raise \$2500 necessary to make up the deficit. Please get someone to make a bid on \$50,000 worth of these bonds at par, and I will give them a personal guarantee, or better, put the money in their hands, if necessary, ahead of time. Now if we start out to sell the \$250,000 worth of bonds, and a bonus of \$12,500 is necessary, I feel sure I can raise at least \$5,000 or possible \$7500 here, if \$2500 is raised in Imperial Valley and \$2500 in Yuma.

Please let me hear from you by return mail.

Sincerely yours,

EF:KLM

Ed Fletcher Papers

1870-1955

MSS.81

Box: 8 Folder: 20

General Correspondence - Fly, Benjiman F.



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