

[CAULDWELL, O.R.]

July 17, 1944

General Caldwell  
Commanding Officer  
Fleet Marine Force  
Camp Pendleton, California

My dear General Caldwell:

I happened to take my wife and family for a picnic up in the mountains last Thursday and to my amazement I found your Marines had seized the camp and water and were taking possession of everything; also I saw by the newspapers that you were taking in all of the North Peak of Cuyamaca and surrounding territory.

We own three or four thousand acres there and two miles of Cedar Creek, we own Azalea Creek, the top of North Peak (excepting 50 or 75 acres on Azalea Creek that the government owns) and I see notices for us to stay out and keep out of our own property, one man passed us up and gave us hell for going over our own road on our own property. How come?

I want to play the game with you—but you can get more with molasses than you can with vinegar.

I am writing this letter as a matter of record to find out just what you are going to do up there and how you are going to handle it. We will be glad to lease you the property on some mutually satisfactory arrangement. I want to play the game with you. Four of our sons are now in the service and one of them has been decorated—so I want you to know that my heart is in the right place.

I am speaking for the Ed Fletcher Company, the children own the property, and for the Cuyamaca Water Company, and would like to know who I can see down here to find out what I can and can't do.

With kindest regards, I am,

Very sincerely yours,

IN REPLYING  
REFER TO NO.



ORC/wr

UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS  
HEADQUARTERS, TRAINING COMMAND,  
FLEET MARINE FORCE, SAN DIEGO AREA,  
CAMP JOSEPH H. PENDLETON, OCEANSIDE, CALIFORNIA.

27 July, 1944.

Senator Ed Fletcher,  
1020 Ninth Avenue  
San Diego, California.

Dear Senator Fletcher:

I wish to apologize for the actions of my men in ordering people off of your property. I am very sorry that this occurred. I am enclosing a copy of an order which I have sent to the officer who will be in charge of the Cuyamaca area. If you have any more difficulty, let me know, and I will straighten it out immediately.

I talked to Mr. Fisher who, I believe, will be charged with the fire protection. We will use the bulldozer wherever he says. We are sending out a large size bulldozer and we want to take all possible preventative measures to avoid fire.

I hope to see you again some of these days and renew past pleasant relations.

With kindest regards, I am,

Sincerely yours,

*O. R. Caldwell*  
O. R. CAULDWELL,  
Brigadier General, USMC,  
Commanding.



JNF/WT

HEADQUARTERS, TRAINING COMMAND,  
FLEET MARINE FORCE, SAN DIEGO AREA,  
CAMP JOSEPH H. PENDLETON, OCEANSIDE, CALIFORNIA.

5140

26 July 1944.

MEMORANDUM TO: The Commanding Officer, Infantry Training  
Regiment.

1. The General directs that orders be issued to let all property owners and tenants, and other people who have business which is legitimate, enter the area at Cuyamaca loaned and leased to us.

J. H. FRISBIE,  
Colonel, USMC,  
Chief of Staff.

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August 2, 1944

General O. R. Caldwell, Commanding  
Headquarters, Training Command,  
Fleet Marine Force, San Diego Area  
Camp Joseph H. Pendleton, Oceanside, California

My dear General:

I really felt chagrined to have you write me a letter of apology under date of July 27th—you know you don't have to do it. Although it was darned embarrassing to have eastern friends there and be ordered off our own property—but let's forget it.

Someday next week I want you, if you will, to meet me at Warners Hot Springs at 12 o'clock—4½ miles from there I have a little 60-foot dam and lake among the oaks and pines and I promise to let you catch some trout and take them home for brook trout dinner—12 to 16 inches long. From there we can go over to Cuyamaca Lake where there are two or three matters I want to show you.

I have also written to General Price and asked him to go and I hope that you two can come together.

If you want to I can bring up one or two mutual friends from town, or if you would rather we can make it alone. Set the day—any day but Tuesday or Wednesday, the 3th and 9th, will be agreeable.

You understand that this is strictly a business trip, but I will be mighty glad to renew acquaintance.

Very sincerely yours,



**Ed Fletcher Papers**

**1870-1955**

**MSS.81**

**Box: 4 Folder: 28**

**General Correspondence - Cauldwell, Brig. Gen. O.R.**



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