

J. Harvey McCarthy

Herman W. Hellman Bldg.
Los Angeles, California

March 4th, 1919.

Mr. Ed. Fletcher,
920 8th St.,
San Diego, Calif.

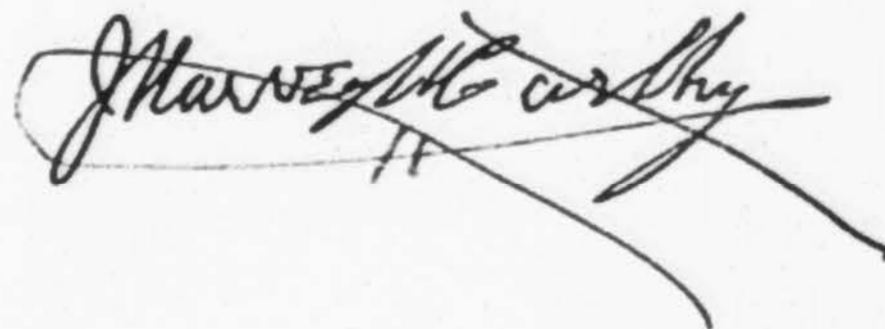
My dear Mr. Fletcher:-

Yours of February 20th received and would have been answered long before this but I have not been to my office in the last four or five months as I have been quite ill. As to the organization of the Mount Tecarte Land & Water Company, I have referred your letter to my fether D. O. McCarthy who resides at # 3170 San Marino St., this city. He will be glad to furnish you with the desired information.

Regretting that I am unable to give it to you,

I am as ever

Your friend,



MAR 5 1919

March 5, 1919.

Mr. D. O. McCarthy,
3170 San Marino Street,
Los Angeles, California.

Dear Mr. McCarthy:-

I am writing a history of the water development of San Diego County from the beginning. I have statements from T. S. Van Dyke, E. S. Babcock, Futerbaugh, Grant, McRae, Allison, Spreckels, and 50 or 60 others. As you know, I have been for years in the water development of San Diego County, and I am very anxious to get the history of your water development and your experiences, including the Tecate and Otay systems.

What I want particularly is an explanation of what your intentions were, also dates as to when you started, the parties that were associated with you, approximately what construction work was done, what opposition you met, who fought you, what your offer was to the city, and a complete early history with humorous incidents, all of which will be interesting reading. I would also like a photograph of you.

I have been working on this proposition for years and am putting a great deal of money in it. Any history that you know of, whether it failed or not, of San Diego County will be greatly appreciated.

Yours very truly,

EE-mlt

Miss Marshall.

Los Angeles, Calif.,
March 26th, 1919.

Edward Fletcher, Esq.,
920 Eighth St.,
San Diego, Calif.

Dear Mr. Fletcher:

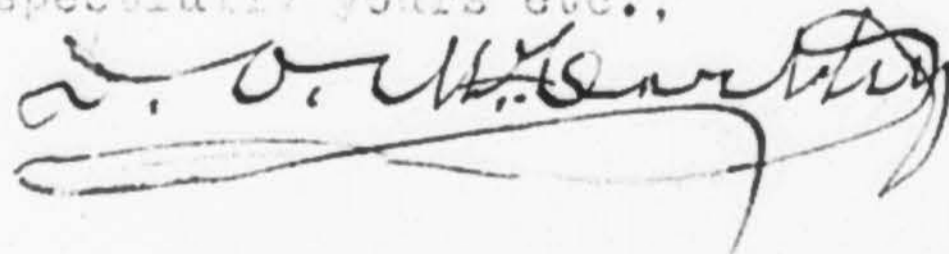
The enclosed is the first section explaining my efforts to obtain water for the city and county of San Diego in the early days. In my next I will explain how the water was carried across the Mesa from the San Diego river to what was then known as Barton's addition to San Diego, now the city of San Diego. After which I will then explain why and how the Mount Tecate Land and Water Company (now the Southern California Mountain Water Company) was organized, and my struggles with the same class of envious people that I encountered in my first efforts to give the county of San Diego the best irrigating system in the State of California which I then believed, as I do now, was all that was required to make San Diego county the most productive, beautiful, and desirable portion of California in which to live, and enjoy the best climate on this earth. This was the opinion expressed by Prof. Agassiz, the great naturalist at a railroad mass meeting in San Diego in 1874, who accompanied Theo. A. Scott, then president of the Pennsylvania Central Railroad Company, Hon. John Sherman, U. S. Senator of Ohio, John W. Forney, editor of the Philadelphia Press, who came to San Diego for the purpose of obtaining railroad facilities for the Texas Pacific railroad corporation.

You had better send me a small check for the purpose of paying the typist, etc.

Tell me whether or not you are in a hurry for the story.

With kindest regards, I am,

Respectfully yours etc.,



Address

3170 San Marino St.,
Los Angeles, Calif.

MAR 29

Los Angeles, Calif.,
March 26, 1919.

Edward Fletcher, Esq.,
920 Eighth St.,
San Diego, Cal.

My dear Mr. Fletcher:

At your request and my promise to you to give you a short history of my efforts to supply the city and county of San Diego with water for domestic and irrigating purposes I will state that in January 1870 I landed in the city of San Diego for the purpose of making it my permanent home. After looking over what was then called New Town and Old Town, both together having a small population at that time of about 3,000 people. I very soon concluded that the most important necessity for San Diego was water for all purposes. The supply of water for the city of San Diego at that time was by wells and buckets.

I think that it was in 1878 that I together with a few progressive old timers of San Diego organized a water company for irrigating purposes with this object in view we filed on all of the streams in the western part of San Diego county emptying into the Pacific ocean. We incorporated with our purposes elaborately stated in the articles, with articles of incorporation printed in large type easily read, we canvassed the entire county and interviewed every voter then residing in the county and obtained their signatures of endorsement recommending the legislature then in session to pass a law guaranteeing the interest on the bonds of the company with the proviso: If at any time the company failed to promptly pay the interest on the bonds, then and in that event the entire property should be taken over by the county and become the property of the county.

Soon after the petitions to the legislature were returned to our company we sent three of our most influential members of the water company to Sacramento for the purpose of explaining to the members of the legislature our financial ability to build and complete the water system proposed. This committee was headed by a prominent citizen who had represented San Diego county in the state senate, assisted by two other citizens of influence and prominence. There were at that time living in San Diego several envious, jealous people called "moss backs" who never do anything for the community in which they live, and always oppose every progressive enterprise undertaken by the more public spirited citizens.

MAR 29 1919

E. F. #2

3/26/19

These men organized and raised a large fund to be expended in the defeat of the bill then before the legislature with favorable chances for its passage. As soon as our water company learned that this gang of lobbyists were in Sacramento backed by a large corrupting purse of money, we directed our committee to withdraw our bill and to return home.

This ended all attempts of any one, or of organized capital to build a county irrigating system for San Diego county. Several local irrigating systems under state laws have since been undertaken, but none so far as I know have been successful.

Some year or two after this great enterprise was blocked by the "do nothings", I conceived the idea of supplying the city of San Diego with an abundance of pure water for domestic purposes by sinking an artesian well in the southwest corner of what you now call Falboe Park. I consulted some of my friends in regard to the proposition. Among them was one very learned practical mechanic whose opinion on such matters I valued very highly. This was Mr. William K. Gardner of Gardner's Addition to San Diego. He endorsed the scheme as feasible and expressed a willingness to join me in the enterprise. He admitted two other progressive citizens on equal terms with us who had the financial ability to pay their proportion of all the expense required to complete the enterprise. At the first regular session of the Board of City Trustees after our organization our plan of supplying the city of San Diego with water was explained and they without any delay granted the San Diego Water Company the privilege of boring a well in the park together with all the land required for buildings and other purposes for facilitating the work.

After three months hard work drilling we reached a depth of 360 feet. At this point the well borer lost the bit of his auger, and after working for more than a month for its recovery he failed to get it. He reported that when the bit was lost he had just bored through 15 feet of solid rock striking a swift stream of pure ice cold water which must have carried the bit of the auger out of their reach. In the mean time the water had risen in the pipe 300 feet, within 50 feet of the surface. This accident put a stop to our work, and we were in a quandary as to what we had better do. Finally after several meetings of the water company we decided to sink an open well 12 feet in diameter 100 feet deep leaving the water pipe of the artesian well standing in the center of the open well.

This open well was at once bricked up with hard burned glazed brick imbedded in cement on a foundation of solid cement which covered the entire bottom of the well 2 feet in depth. This ~~is~~ open-well gave ~~water~~ ^{water} 40 feet ~~depth~~ ^{depth} 12 feet in diameter into which there was a constant flow of pure soft water 40 feet in depth.

E. F. #3

3/26/19

We then sent an agent to San Francisco for the purpose of buying the latest improved deep well pump capable of throwing up the water as fast as it ran into the well. At the same time we had a force at work laying down water pipe through the streets and building a distributing reservoir. As soon as everything was ready we started up the big pump sending the water down through the pipe into almost every street in the city.

Right here to our great surprise, disappointment and misfortune we met with another disaster which was exceedingly discouraging. As soon as the water was drawn from the faucets it was jet black! Very soon we learned the cause of this: It was a mineral substance in the water which extracted the black out of the asphalt used in coating the iron water pipes put down in the streets. This misfortune was not caused by bad management or want of knowledge of how to prepare this asphaltum for coating of the iron pipe. An agent had been sent to Los Angeles where they were laying down the same kind of iron pipe dipped in a preparation of asphalt for their formula which was used by us in the same manner used by them. Something had to be done and quickly to overcome this difficulty; either we had to take up all of the water pipe then in the ground and recast it with cement, or bring the water from the San Diego river over the mesa a distance of about 4 miles.

Our final conclusion was the removal of the big pump to the San Diego river and building there another reservoir at the highest point on the mesa overlooking the river valley from which the water would be delivered to San Diego.

April 2, 1919.

Mr. D. W. Roberts,
3170 San Bruno St.,
Los Angeles, California.

My dear Mr. Roberts:

I thank you for your letter of the 26th.

It is just what I want.

Enclosed find check for ten dollars on account of stenog-
rapher. I would like to have the rest of the story within the
next thirty days if I can get it.

With kind personal regards.

Yours very truly,

Los Angeles Cal. April 24 1919
Edward Fletcher Esq.
920 Eighth Street
San Diego Cal.

My dear Mr. Fletcher

I have been a little
indisposed for the past two weeks, and
then the Easter festivities have de-
layed the story of San Diego's early
efforts to obtain a water supply
for City and County. I hope that
nothing will prevent me in the fu-
-ture from finishing it at an early
-day.

I think before the history is en-
-tially completed you will agree with
me that the "Mount Teacote Land
and Water" system was the very best
ever devised for San Diego, and
believe those of San Diego who un-

understand the wide scope and original intentions of the company will regret that it was never carried out in full. The present water supply of the city of San Diego is only a skeleton of what the "Mount Tebarte Land and Water Company" intended for San Diego.

Respectfully yours

D. O. W. W. W.

Address

3170 San Marino St.
Los Angeles Cal.

Go to photograph

May 15, 1919.

Mr. D. O. McCarthy,
3170 San Marino Street,
Los Angeles, California.

My dear Mr. McCarthy:-

I thank you kindly for your letter of May 15th. This information is just what I wanted and any further information you can write me will be appreciated. Who formed the original Mount Tecate Land and Water Company, who put up the money, and do you mind telling me how much you was paid by the Southern California Mountain Water Company and about when you sold out to them? Any expense you are put to I will be glad to pay.

I would also like to know about how much actual work was done by the Mount Tecate Land and Water Company, how many acres were acquired for dam sites or reservoir site.

I want all this simply as matter of historical record in writing up the early history of the water development of San Diego County.

Yours very truly,

EF-ink

[McCarthy, 00]

Los Angeles, Cal., May 15, 1919.

Edward Fletcher, Esq.,

920 Eighth Street,

San Diego, Cal.

My dear Mr. Fletcher:-

Soon after Chief Engineer Harris's report was made and adopted by the board of Directors of the Mount Tecarte Land and Water Company a large force of men were put to work at Dulzura Pass for the purpose of making a deep cut there, because it was found to be cheaper to make this cut than to run a tunnel through the pass for the flume conveying the water. For several months before this, operations were under way making excavations for a distributing dam at the head of the Otay Mesa. Being the Superintendent of the Company, I was kept busy from early morn until late in the evening between the two camps of laborers. For many months the president of the Company had been in correspondence with an English syndicate of capitalists, whose agent was on his way to San Diego, California, for the purpose of inspecting the Mount Tecarte Land and Water Company's drainage and reservoir sites. Our water shed had an area of 4700 square miles, which included the Cottonwood, Campo, Pine Valley, Tecarte and some territory south of the boundary line. After the report of the inspection had been made to the Syndicate, a deal was made for all the money that the Company might require for the rapid construction of the system provided we obtain the contemplated concession from the government of Mexico.

Early in April 1888 the Board of Directors decided to send a representative to the City of Mexico with full power to negotiate

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with the government for the concession desired, and as I was familiar with the Spanish language and well known to prominent influential Californians, among whom were my personal friends, Senator Leland Stanford, Governor Geo. C. Perkins, Governor Pio Pico, Congressman Rumaldo Percheco and C. P. Huntington, from whom I obtained letters of recommendation and endorsement. Soon after this the Directors requested me to proceed at my earliest convenience to the City of Mexico, accompanied by the Chief Engineer Lew B. Harris, taking all maps and other data that might be considered necessary for the occasion.

It was sometime in May 1888 that we left San Diego for the City of Mexico equipped as directed; we made the trip in good time which was pleasant and uneventful. Upon our arrival there we at once proceeded to business by employing Judge Ignacio Sepulveda as our attorney, who was the personal attorney of Gen. Porfirio Diaz, then president of Mexico. This eminent and distinguished lawyer I had known in California when he was District Judge in this State in the early days. The next day I called on the Minister of the United States, General Edward S. Bragg, and was introduced to him by Judge Sepulveda; General Bragg at once made an appointment to meet the President for the purpose of introducing him to me. I met the president a few days afterwards with our minister (who are now designated ambassador) whom I found very affable and agreeable. After I had stated at length the purpose of my visit to Mexico to which the President listened with apparent interest and patience said, "Mr. McCarthy, there will be no difficulty in you obtaining such a concession for your company, I can see at once the great advantages it would be to our people living on that frontier, and I will do all in my power to encourage granting such a Concession." Upon leaving,

MAY 15 1919

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the President took my hand and said, "Now, Mr. McCarthy, at any time you want to see me before your departure, send in your card and I will give you an audience at once." I met President Diaz, many times during my stay after this, sometimes with the United States minister, and I always found him the courteous elegant gentleman that he was when I first met him. Chief Engineer Harris finished his business with the government authorities in about six weeks after our arrival, and returned to San Diego, but I was detained there for nearly three months before I succeeded in securing the Concession which was a very liberal one, giving the Mount Tecarte Land and Water Company the right to build a portion of the Maron Dam South of the boundary line, as the line between the United States and Mexico ran almost directly through the center of the reservoir site. The aqueduct as proposed leading from this reservoir to the Otay Mesa crossed and recrossed the boundary line several times; this was because the line of the aqueduct was forced to pass down through a deep crooked precipitous canyon. All the material of every description that would be needed in the construction of this reservoir and the aqueduct to the Otay Mesa, any other lateral conduit or ditch extending on to and over any lands, or into any town or city in Lower California was to be admitted free of duty and importation tax. This Concession was said to be by those best informed on such matters the most liberal Concession ever granted to any Corporation by the Mexican Government. In my opinion it is the very best and most valuable asset the Southern California Mountain Water Company, the assignee of the Mount Tecarte Land and Water Company, has at this time, but they do not know its great value. There is a large acreage of the most fertile and most productive soil on the Mexican side of the boundary line and one or two towns that could be supplied with gravity water from this branch of their water system.

Respectfully yours,
D. O. McCarthy

Los Angeles Cal. May 29-1919
Ed Fletcher Esq.
920 Eighth St.
San Diego
Cal

My dear Mr. Fletcher

I am mailing you to day the two photographic views of the workman excavating for the site of the Otay Mesa Distributing dam as intended by the Mount Tecarte Land and Water Company for their system on that Mesa of about 15000 acres of rich agricultural land, also all farming land at the head of the San Diego Bay.

In one of your letters you asked for a photograph of myself which I am also sending you. This picture is as

I look to day and was taken two years ago for Mr. Ingersoll the Historian who is now engaged in getting up a history of Southern California. There is a steel engraving in the 2nd volume of the Annals of San Francisco published when I was publishing and editing a daily paper there during the civil war. This engraving is as it looked then.

In the organization of the "Mount De-
sert Land and Water Company", the president Mr. W. H. Barton insisted on spelling Decate with an r which you know is incorrect. I was often told by Spanish speaking people not only in the City of Mexico, but San Diego that it was a lamentable mistake to have been thus incorporated. I knew it at the time of course and fought against it, but the dear ^{man} was determined to have it as he wished, and I foolishly yielded.

I thought that you should understand why such a mistake was made.

As soon as possible I will send you the information that you asked for in a former letter.

Respectfully yours.

A. O. W. Carthy

Address

3170 San Marino St.
Los Angeles Cal.

San Diego, June 2nd, 1919 .

Mr. D. O. McCarthy,
5170 San Marino Street,
Los Angeles, California.

My dear Mr. McCarthy:

I thank you for your kind letter of the 29th and the pictures which you sent. I will return them a little later after I have had them photographed for reproduction purposes.

I certainly thank you for the information you have given me.

Yours very truly,

EF/bm

Ed Fletcher Papers

1870-1955

MSS.81

Box: 17 Folder: 25

General Correspondence - McCarthy, D.O.



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