

SAN DIEGO LUMBER CO.
WHOLESALE AND RETAIL
DEALERS IN LUMBER

WILLIAM W. CARSON, PRESIDENT, SAN FRANCISCO
WM. G. MURPHY, SECRETARY, SAN FRANCISCO
PHILIP MORSE, MANAGER, SAN DIEGO
C. S. DIXON, ASST. MANAGER

SAN DIEGO LUMBER CO.
WHOLESALE AND RETAIL
DEALERS IN LUMBER

WILLIAM W. CARSON, PRESIDENT, SAN FRANCISCO
WM. G. MURPHY, SECRETARY, SAN FRANCISCO
PHILIP MORSE, MANAGER, SAN DIEGO
C. S. DIXON, ASST. MANAGER

PRICES SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT NOTICE

PRICES SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT NOTICE

SAN DIEGO, CALIFORNIA,

Dec 26th 1918

SAN DIEGO, CALIFORNIA,

Jan 2d 1919

Mr Ed Fletcher,
San Diego, Cal.,
My dear Mr Fletcher:-

Yours of the 23d received, with copy of your letter to Mr Marston enclosed.

As I came to San Diego nearly fifty years ago, when there were not more than 200 people here including the population of Old San Diego, of course I have seen the water development from the beginning but only the prominent facts are clearly retained in my mind.

During the very early days of 1869 and the beginning of the next decade the water for the town was provided from a well on B st. near first, and was hauled in water carts to the houses and sold from buckets. Every one had a water barrel then, and many were provided with ollas for cooling the water. Joseph Tasker and a man named Hoke owned the well and distributed the water. You can find Tasker at present at 350 9th street, and he will interest you greatly in relating the early water history of San Diego, for he has been here longer than I have.

There were quite a number of wind mills in those early days, with tanks from which water was piped into the houses and gardens.

In the early seventies a well was dug or bored at the mouth of the 11th street canyon as you know, and water was pumped into a small reservoir and piped into the city. Along about 1877 a company was formed of which Jacob Gruendike was the president and principle owner and wells were sunk in the San Diego river and a pipe (probably a six inch one) laid up over the hill to a reservoir on fifth just south of the Choate residence near Hawthorn st. The city was supplied from this system for many years, until the San Diego flume was constructed. I do not remember just who the principals in the latter system were, but I know that Robinson and Theodore S Vandyke were actively interested in it. Probably Mr Marston may remember about this, and there must be data somewhere on file regarding all these matters.

I was in Arizona four years from 1879 until 1883, and am not informed as to the water question for that period, but am quite sure that the Gruendike system, which is referred to above, furnished all the water for the city during that time, and for a time later than that. I hope you will call on Mr Tasker, as he can tell you much of interest, especially of the very early days of San Diego.

Yours very truly,

Philip Morse

DEC 27 1918

Miss Morse

Col. Ed Fletcher,
San Diego, Cal.,

My dear Colonel:-

I am in receipt of your favor of the 27th ult.

Since writing you before I have consulted Smythe's History of San Diego, and find that the data I gave you was in the main correct. The first well was located on Front street and may have been on C st instead of B, but Mr Tasker can inform you about that. I think it was on B Street.

In regard to amusing incidents, I remember that on the occasion of the celebration of the advent of the flume water, a great crowd gathered up in the park and the force was turned on amid cheers and band music, and it came out later that the connection had not been completed, and it was the same old river water that was receiving the praises and plaudits of the crowd.

In referring to the poor quality of the water in early times, I told an original anecdote at an Exposition banquet one night

It was to the effect that the water was so inferior that we used to boil it a long time, and then filter it, and let it stand over night, and then drink something else.

If you will get Smythe's history at the library you will find in chapter 4 page 443 a detailed account of water development here.

It does not, I believe, take up the matter of the dams on the river, although I did not look into the subject in the book sufficiently to be sure about that.

Yours very truly Philip Morse

JAN 3 1919

Ed Fletcher Papers

1870-1955

MSS.81

Box: 72 Folder: 16

**Writings and Interviews - Water History - "Oldtimers"
interviews and letters re history (see also R. Choate
and T. Van Dyke correspondence) - Morse, Philip**



Copyright: UC Regents

Use: This work is available from the UC San Diego Libraries. This digital copy of the work is intended to support research, teaching, and private study.

Constraints: This work is protected by the U.S. Copyright Law (Title 17, U.S.C.). Use of this work beyond that allowed by "fair use" requires written permission of the UC Regents. Permission may be obtained from the UC San Diego Libraries department having custody of the work (<http://libraries.ucsd.edu/collections/mscl/>). Responsibility for obtaining permissions and any use and distribution of this work rests exclusively with the user and not the UC San Diego Libraries.