

Yuma, Arizona,
Nov. 3, 1922.

Mr. J. E. Franklin,
Yuma, Arizona.

Dear Mr. Franklin:

As a result of the recent study made by Mr. McWilliams and myself pertaining to the needs of the Yuma Mesa Grape Fruit Syndicate land with reference to the water distributing system, consisting of approximately 4500 ft. 18 in. cement pipe, and 12,400 ft. cement flume 24 in. wide by 16 in. deep, the following estimate of cost is submitted:

The total figure \$28,082.70 is intended to be high and in all probability the job will be installed for considerable less money. However, for assessment purposes this figure should be used as sufficient money should be available to put this work thru by February 15, 1923, as the latest date and certain delays in the delivery of material and otherwise may occur outside our control which may necessitate rush work which may be expensive. However, should this occur the object to be achieved would justify the expense for this particular job must be finished by February 15, by reason of its relation to other matters following. The item of re-inforcing steel appears to be one likely to cause delay and this material should be ordered at once.

Yours truly,

Geo. M. Hill.

December 28, 1922

340-2

Mr. Geo. M. Hill,
Yuma, Arizona.

My dear Mr. Hill:

As a personal favor to me, and not as a matter for publication, will you kindly by return mail write me a letter telling me how many acres of grape fruit you planted, how old the trees are, the contract price for grapefruit that you sold at, and also how many pounds you are getting to the tree on an average and how many trees to the acre.

I have had some hard luck and simply must dispose of 10 acres of my holdings, and I would like a general statement from you regarding your gross revenue from the grapefruit also your gross revenue from your oranges.

I will consider this information a personal favor.

I have just had a talk with Mr. Franklin and he assured me you would be glad to furnish this information.

Yours very truly,

EF:KLM

Cc Franklin

(Copy)

YUMA MESA GRAPEFRUIT SYNDICATE

Yuma, Arizona

December
Thirtieth,
1922.

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

My dear Col. Fletcher:

I have your letter of the 28th, and assure you that I am please to give you the information requested.

Our home place here upon the Mesa is planted to 65% Marsh Seedless Grape Fruit, and 35% Washington Navel oranges; ninety trees to the acre, and now six years old. This block, this season, will make a return of about \$900.00 per acre, with an operating expense that will not exceed \$250.00. According to California standards of judgment this is a decidedly satisfactory return; indeed, it is quite remarkable, and the fact is that the results which we have gotten in this development certainly do not represent, by any means, the best that can be achieved here.

You are, I believe, familiar with the very serious handicaps placed upon our endeavors here in the form of a thoroughly unreliable and inefficient pumping plant the first three years. During this time it broke down completely two summers and on one occasion we hauled water from town in tank wagons to merely keep our trees alive, and upon the other occasion succeeded, after much damage had been done, to get into operation a small temporary plant which served the purpose only of keeping our trees alive for several months while we were awaiting the arrival of electric power, and during all this time, even when the plant was in operation, the service was so inefficient that we at no time had water enough. During the past three years, since the coming of electric power, which only largely straightened out our water troubles, it is perfectly within the fact to say that eighty per cent of our development has been made.

This brief outline of the material limitation placed upon our efforts makes it very apparent that the results we have been able to achieve in this citrus development can be only greatly improved upon where a reliable and sufficient water supply is available as in Unit B, for instance. To say that a return of from fifty to one hundred per cent more per acre than we are getting this year at six years of age, which in itself is decidedly satisfactory in comparison with other citrus territories, does appear to put us in the position of romancing, but the statement is well founded on fact.

Col. Ed. Fletcher -2.

December 30, 1922.

This block of grape fruit is averaging this year at least six boxes to the tree, with a net weight of more than forty pounds each, and the entire crop sold at 4¹/₂¢ per pound, and with ninety trees to the acre, it will be readily seen that the net return is not far from ten per cent on \$7000.00 per acre.

Yours truly,

GEO. M. HILL

Ed Fletcher Papers

1870-1955

MSS.81

Box: 12 Folder: 9

General Correspondence - Hill, George



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