

OFFICE OF THE COMMANDING GENERAL  
FLEET MARINE FORCE, SAN DIEGO AREA  
AND  
CAMP JOSEPH H. PENDLETON  
OCEANSIDE, CALIFORNIA

24 July, 1944.

Senator Ed Fletcher  
1020 Ninth Avenue  
San Diego, California

My dear Senator Fletcher:

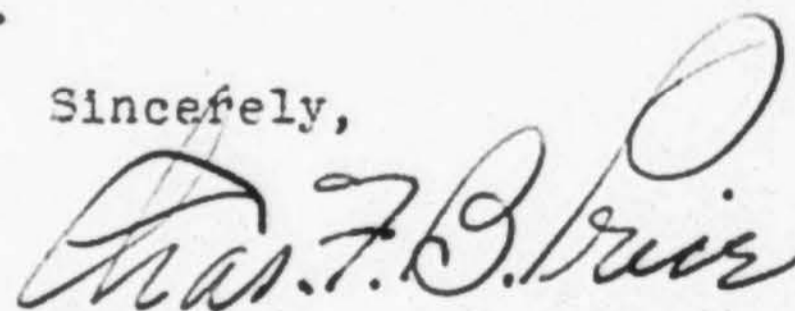
I have seen your letter of 17 July to Brigadier General Cauldwell, commanding the Training Command, Fleet Marine Force, at Camp Pendleton.

I regret exceedingly the inconvenience caused you and your family through the stupidity of some of my personnel. I appreciate your generous attitude in the matter.

The area in question has been leased by the Navy through its agencies in the Eleventh Naval District for use by the Training Command for instruction in jungle warfare only. It was the only area accessible to us which was sufficiently wooded to afford some semblance of jungle conditions. There will be no construction there and no firing and, I expect, only slight traffic from time to time.

The Training Command will answer your letter direct but I wish to take this opportunity to express my apology for the inconvenience caused you.

Sincerely,



CHAS. F. B. PRICE  
Major General, U. S. Marines

CFBP:srf

July 25, 1944

Major General Charles F.B. Price,  
Commanding General  
Camp Pendleton,  
Oceanside, California

My dear General:

Thanks for your kind letter of the 24th. There has been some more stupidity on the part of your men. I sent up a dear friend allowing him to inspect some of our property which he is seriously considering buying, having already purchased other property. They drove him off and a good prospect has been lost.

Take it between the U.S. Forest Service and your men they surely are keeping civilians off their own property without proper notice unless we are in a war zone and martial law prevails, which I understand is not the case.

However, I am not mad. We have four sons in the service, one of them has just been decorated by the British Empire--a Colonel in the U.S. Air Corps and three of them officers in the Navy and a son-in-law an Annapolis graduate and a grandson soon to be an officer in the Army. I was in the Spanish War and in World War #1 as a judge on the Board of Appeals from the local boards, then 45 years of age--so you see I am trying to do my part and it would seem to me that the courteous thing would have been for those in charge of location to at least inquire and notify us what was going to be done rather than to find it out in such a brutal way the other day when I went to look at our own property.

We have owned this property for 30 or 40 years--several thousand acres running clear over to Pine Hills, taking in Cedar Creek, with a thousand acres on the north slope, 600 or 800 acres on the west slope and 160 acres of the finest timber and jungle property right near the top of the east slope of North Peak. We want to cooperate in every way. The U.S. Forest representative, Mr. Fisher said that he was expecting from you a couple of bulldozers and equipment to do some road work. There should be a road built up into that 160 acre tract--nothing in Southern California would beat it.

A lease should be made as has been done in every other case. Let us have some idea of what our compensation is to be for the rental of the property. Seven or eight property owners have homes up there and we are giving water to them free from our spring and you step in and without consulting them or us and seize the water supply and it surely does not make us friends



August 16, 1944

August 2, 1944

Major General Charles F.B. Price,  
Office of the Commanding General  
Fleet Marine Force, San Diego Area  
Marine Corps Base  
San Diego, California

My dear General:

Your sweet letter of the 23th received and I thank you for your promptness. Everything is working smoothly.

I want you, and I am sending a letter inviting General Caldwell, to meet me at Warners Hot Springs at 12 o'clock, any day next week, excepting Tuesday and Wednesday, the 5th and 9th. 4 1/2 miles from there is my Eagles Nest among the oak and pines and I promise you will catch trout 12 to 16 inches long, catching one every three or four minutes. We have a 60-foot dam and water fall--a beautiful spot. You can bring the trout back to camp and have them for dinner.

From there I would like to have you go over to Cuyamaca Lake through our property--I have several suggestions to make that may be interesting regarding your camp up there and it will be a pleasure to renew acquaintance. You can easily get back to camp before six o'clock.

Very sincerely yours,

Major General Charles F.B. Price,  
Office of the Commanding Officer  
Marine Corps Base  
San Diego, California

My dear General:

I did have a happy afternoon with you. It was a pleasure to renew acquaintance. Mary and I are going up there next Saturday to spend a week. If you and the good lady want to come up there for either luncheon or dinner with us we would be glad to have you any day you say.

By the way, enclosed find definite offer I made the State of California through the State Fish and Game Commission. It was just a thought of mine that you might want to do one or both suggestions in the interests of the State, ie, rough out a road with the bulldozer for about three-quarters of a mile up Cedar Creek so that you can make the jungle easily accessible, or, second, build a dam 25 feet high or its full height of 50 feet for a little lake for the boys to swim in. The State will furnish the engineering. It is mostly hand labor that we need. The cement would not cost to exceed, I should say, \$2000 or \$3000.

Also, just below the falls there is another damsite and that only needs to be raised 20 feet, it might serve the purpose just as well and with 30 or 40 men it could be built in two weeks. I could have our engineer furnish all the engineering if desired. The cement and reinforcement would not cost to exceed \$750.00.

If you are interested at all in this matter let me know.

With kindest regards, I am,

Very sincerely yours,

August 21, 1944

Charles F. B. Price, Major General  
United States Marine Corps  
Marine Corps Base  
San Diego, California

My dear General:

Mighty glad to get your letter of the 18th. I will contact Col. Whaling as suggested.

Regarding the swimming hole—your information from the U.S. Forest Service is incorrect—those instructions only apply to public land in the Cleveland National Forest under the complete jurisdiction of the U.S. Forest Service—they have no rights or authority on private streams owned by private individuals. The property and Cedar Creek and the so-called swimming holes are on our own property, with no incumbrances and taxes paid and you can do business with us direct, if you call a poll of water 400 feet long and 20 to 25 feet deep a swimming hole—so be it—~~o~~ with the entire Cedar Creek running in and out of the swimming hole at all times. The water, after it leaves the swimming hole does not reach El Capitan dam for 11 or 12 miles and the water is aerated by a drop of 3000 feet in the 11 or 12 miles; then the water goes for 15 miles through the El Capitan to the damsite and then the water is chlorinated as it goes into the pipe. You can rest assured nobody will stop you and I could not understand why you had not made arrangements to give those boys a chance to have an honest to goodness swimming pool. Will be glad to discuss this matter with you at any time.

Mrs. Fletcher and I hope that you and the good wife will come up this week to Warners Springs for lunch with us and discuss these matters and if you want the good lady to see Eagles Nest we will be pleased to drive you up in our car. Also if you care to go on the ground again in relation to the swimming hole, don't hesitate to call—we can follow you over and come back to Eagles Nest. Please telephone the office, Franklin 6204 when you are going to be at Warners Springs and they will pass the word on to us, or if you want to telephone direct our number is Warners Springs 3-8-4.

It was a pleasure to renew acquaintance the other day. By the way, on September 6th, Mr. S.B. Show, the U.S. Regional Forester, General Hannum, for 20 odd years with the Army Engineers and now Director of the Department of Natural Resources and three or four other state officials are making a three day trip with me a couple of hundred miles down in Mexico.

General Price--#2

I would love personally to have you make the trip. We will leave here at 1 o'clock on September 6th. We are going to have a little fishing and hunting. It will be de luxe so that you won't be straining yourself and getting tired out in any way and I would love to have you go. If you prefer to bring a car and driver, OK with me but please understand this is a personal invitation and you can't pay a cent while you are in Mexico as my guest and I promise you something different. You can dress up in civilian clothes, you will be asked whether you are an American citizen or not and "are you bringing home any liquor and if so to what extent". You had better get the size of your wife's stockings because we will get some silk stockings for her while in Mexico. I have already had to buy about 20 pair.

Excuse this rambling letter but I am leaving for Eagles Nest again in a few minutes, this Monday morning. I had to come down on important business and I want to get back where we can get away from the telephone. With kindest personal regards, I am,

Very sincerely yours,

Mrs. Fletcher and I hope that you and the good wife will come up this week to Warner Springs for lunch with us and discuss these matters and if you want the good lady to see Eagles Nest we will be pleased to drive you up in our car. Also if you care to go on the ground again in relation to the swimming hole, don't hesitate to call--we can follow you over and come back to Eagles Nest. Please telephone the office, Franklin 6202 when you are going to be at Warner Springs and they will pass the word on to us, or if you want to telephone direct our number in Warner Springs.

It was a pleasure to renew acquaintance the other day. By the way, on September 6th, Mr. E. B. Snow, the U.S. Regional Forester, General Manager for 20 odd years with the Army Engineers and now Director of the Department of Natural Resources and three or four other state officials are making a three day trip with me a couple of hundred miles down in Mexico.

OFFICE OF THE COMMANDING GENERAL  
FLEET MARINE FORCE, SAN DIEGO AREA  
MARINE CORPS BASE  
SAN DIEGO, 40, CALIFORNIA

29 August, 1944.

My dear Senator Fletcher:

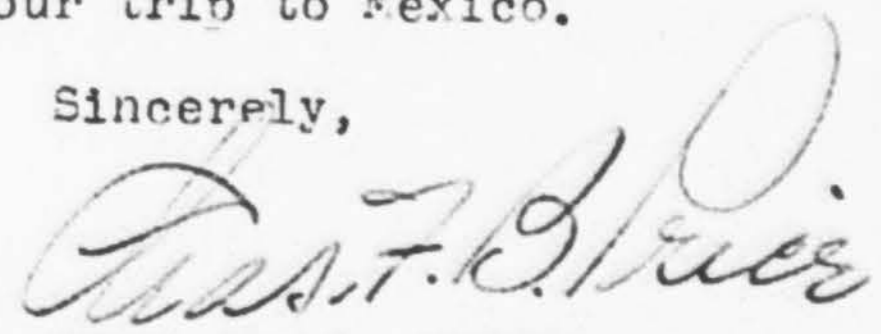
Yours of 21 August received. Sorry Mrs. Price and I could not get up to Eagles Nest while you and Mrs. Fletcher were there. Better luck some other time.

Your invitation for a three day's trip to Mexico is most exciting--sorry, not a chance for me to do that just now.

The next time I go up to see my boys at Cedar Creek I will look into the swimming hole problem.

Best of luck on your trip to Mexico.

Sincerely,



CHAS. F. B. PRICE  
Major General, U. S. Marinee

Senator Ed Fletcher  
1020 Ninth Avenue  
San Diego 1, California

CFBP:kms

September 1, 1944

Major General Charles F. B. Price  
United States Marines  
Office of the Commanding General  
Fleet Marine Force, San Diego Area  
Marine Corps Base  
San Diego, 40, California

My dear General:

Answering yours of the 29th, there is no reason on earth why the boys can't go down and swim in that big pool now--so many at a time and nothing to stop them. But to do the thing right the little 20 or 25 foot dam should be built and then 300 can go in at a time.

I am almost tempted to furnish the material and engineers if you will furnish the labor. If you want to furnish the engineering--so much the better.

Talk the matter over and let me know.

With kindest personal regards, I am,

Very sincerely yours,

October 7, 1944

October 7, 1944

Major General Charles F. B. Price  
Office of the Commanding General  
Fleet Marine Force, San Diego Area  
Marine Corps Base  
San Diego, California

My dear General:

At the suggestion of Col. Parson's we write to confirm the arrangement whereby permission is given by the Ed Fletcher Company to the United States Government, without cost, the unrestricted use for the duration of the war and six months thereafter of lands that will be flooded by the construction of a dam by you, at your own expense and responsibility, not exceeding 24½ feet in height, on the following described property:

E½ of the SE¼ of Section 23, T 13 S R 3 E, SBM

on Cedar Creek at the point just above the falls, and as selected by your Col. Parsons.

This permit also includes ingress and egress and the necessary lands on the 80 acres above described for camp purposes.

It is further understood and agreed that the government, will, at its own expense, properly cut to within two feet of the ground, or less, all timber and brush that will be flooded by the construction of the dam 24½ feet high, you to have the logs if desired for your own use and benefit, and you agree to burn up the small branches and brush, under the supervision of the U.S. Forest Service. If you don't wish the logs we will, at our own expense remove same, the understanding being that the logs will be cut up in lengths not to exceed 8 or 10 feet.

As stated to Col. Parsons, we will furnish the sand free, the government to haul same, and if any re-inforcement is desired, secondhand steel or iron, for the dam, we will furnish same, also free of charge, you to do the hauling.

We will be glad to cooperate with you in every way possible, leaving it entirely in your hands as to type of construction of the dam, all we ask is that the width of the top be a minimum of three feet of concrete so that we may have a foot path across the top of the dam.

When the lease expires and the property is vacated it is understood it is to be left in clean conditions and any improvements made by you

Major General Price--#2

shall revert to the property without expense to us

October 7, 1941  
October 7, 1941

Major General Charles F. Price  
Office of the Commanding General  
Fleet Marine Force, San Diego Area  
Marine Corps Base  
San Diego, California

My dear General:

At the suggestion of Col. Parsons we write to confirm the agreement whereby permission is given by the Ed Fletcher Company to the United States Government, without cost, the unrestricted use for the duration of the war and six months thereafter of lands that will be flooded by the construction of a dam by you, at your own expense and responsibility, not exceeding 24 1/2 feet in height, on the following described property:

Part of the SW 1/4 of Section 22, T 13 N, R 12 E, S 14

on Cedar Creek at the point just above the falls, and as indicated by your Col. Parsons.

This permit also includes ingress and egress and the necessary easements on the 80 acres above described for camp purposes.

It is further understood and agreed that the Government will, at its own expense, properly cut to within two feet of the ground, or less, all timber and brush that will be flooded by the construction of the dam 24 1/2 feet high, you to have the logs if desired for your own use and benefit, and you agree to burn up the small branches and brush under the supervision of the U.S. Forest Service. If you don't wish the logs we will, at our own expense remove same, the understanding being that the logs will be cut up in lengths not to exceed 8 or 10 feet.

As stated to Col. Parsons, we will furnish the same type, the Government to haul same, and if any re-inforcement is desired, reinforcing steel or iron, for the dam, we will furnish same, also free of charge, you to do the hauling.

We will be glad to cooperate with you in every way possible, leaving it entirely in your hands as to type of construction of the dam, all we ask is that the width of the top be a minimum of three feet or more so that we may have a foot path across the top of the dam.

When the lease expires and the property is vacated it is understood it is to be left in clean condition and any improvements made by you

Major General Price--#2

shall revert to the property without expense to us, unless it is stipulated and agreed upon in writing in advance of construction.

Permission is hereby given also to clear off a strip of land 50 feet in width around the proposed lake immediately above and adjacent to the 24 1/2 foot contour, all without expense to us.

It is understood and agreed that actual possession of the property will be given to us at no later date than when it is vacated by you, or, in any event within six months after the duration of the war.

If I have left out anything, or it is not according to your understanding, please let me know, and in any event, kindly confirm if agreeable.

I have a letter from the State Engineer of California to the effect that he will be glad to cooperate with you in any way where he can be of assistance.

Very sincerely yours,

THE ED FLETCHER COMPANY

By \_\_\_\_\_

October 26, 1944

Major General Charles F. B. Price,  
Commanding Officer  
Fleet Marine Force San Diego Area  
Marine Corps Base  
San Diego, California

My dear General:

I am glad you are in control of our 3000 to 4000 acres of land between Cuyamaca Lake and Julian and have a particular reason. For many years we have donated Christmas trees to the Naval Training Center and the Marine Base--three to four to each, and without charge--large trees. But the last three or four years many hundreds of trees have been stolen and even the State Forest Service were in there and cut a truck load of small trees without our knowledge or consent, in addition Camp Callan sent 10 or 15 trucks up and without our consent took many hundreds of trees.

Our whole idea was only to cut surplus trees where they are in clusters or too close together, but instead of that they have gone in there and cleaned them out ruthlessly.

I am asking you now to forbid anyone to go into our land and cut a tree except with our written consent and hope that your men will recognize only our written permission and they must have your permission as well to go onto the property--this applies to that entire tract between Pine Hills and Cuyamaca Lake. I am asking if you will cooperate with us in this matter.

I would like to give the Naval Training Center and the Marine Base, if they want it, permission to cut big trees that are needed but I don't want to be worked to a finish and be so ill treated as we have been in the past. Lt. J. L. Godwin, assistant Maintenance officer, Naval Training Center, has promised that he will personally supervise the cutting of 3 or 9 trees that the Training Center will need and we shall be glad to give our permission if it is agreeable to you. May I hear from you at an early date?

With kindest personal regards, I am,

Very sincerely yours,

PS: If anybody does go in there and steal our trees shoot them at sunrise. I know you will understand. And if you want some trees, general, let me know.

November 4, 1944

Major General Charles F. B. Price  
Office of Commanding General  
Fleet Marine Force  
Marine Corps Base  
San Diego, California

My dear General:

Thanks for yours of the 31st. The only reason for the permit was that you are in possession of the property and the State wanted permission to go on the land simply to make the surveys of the necessary connecting roads and the three dam sites and reservoir sites.

We own the property, it is free and clear of encumbrances and our permit gives you the right to do any blooming thing that you want in connection with the swimming pool and you are under no responsibility of any kind; we will assume full responsibility for anything that the government may undertake to do there in connection with building a dam 24½ feet high.

I know what Col. Parsons and his engineer have in mind and it is approved by me personally. Anything you do is simply helping the State of California when they take over the property as a gift from us.

Regarding the Christmas trees--we have given from 10 to 30 big trees each year to the Navy, some of the trees as high as 50 feet, for the last 25 years, but we don't want unauthorized people to go in there and steal our trees. They stole nearly 1000 trees from us last year as near as we can find out. All we ask is that no trees be cut or anyone allowed to go on our property and cut trees without written permit, and each permit will be specific. It is a pleasure to cooperate with you in this matter and we appreciate your cooperation.

Won't you please talk to Mrs. Price and let me know what Saturday you can get off and the four of us go down to Escondido for luncheon or dinner--it is a beautiful trip and we can leave here at 2 o'clock, have dinner at six and leave there at eight and be home by ten or eleven the same evening--or if you prefer, we can go to Eagles Nest. Just let me know.

With kindest personal regards, I am,

Very sincerely yours,



November 6, 1944

Major General Charles F. B. Price,  
Office of Commanding General  
Fleet Marine Force  
Marine Corps Base  
San Diego, California

My dear General:

You mentioned something about your possibly not being able to get the cement to build the swimming pool on Cedar Creek.

Rather than not see your plan not completed we will furnish the cement. We have shown you where you can get the sand free of charge and I understand you have a portable rock crusher that can crush the rock right there on the ground, so it is really a matter practically of hand labor.

A representative of the State Engineer will leave with Col. Parsons a sketch of the proposed dam and has located same on the ground. I understand it will only be six feet thick at the base and three feet at the top.

When are the four of us going to get together for that trip to Ensenada?

With the kindest personal regards, I am,

Very sincerely yours,

December 3, 1944

General Charles F. B. Price,  
Office of the Commanding General  
Fleet Marine Force, San Diego Area  
Marine Corps Base  
San Diego 40, California

My dear General: Thanks for your letter of the 6th. Private parties were charging the Camp Miramar men \$30.00 for a 25-foot tree, so I gave them an order for one yesterday with our compliments. If you want three or four big trees at Camp Elliott and Camp Pendleton we will be glad to furnish them.

Referring to the dam on Cedar Creek, we never had had any thought of you building a 50 foot dam, or any height other than you desire. It was a suggestion of the State Engineer that while you are doing the work, what little you do do should be permanent work and a dam built at the proper location, this being wholly in the interest of the State of California and the public, so the State Engineer made the surveys, located the dam on the ground, staked it out and Col. Parsons has the plans. As the width of the dam is only 6 1/2 feet at the bottom and 3 feet at the top, while you are building the forms, I was hoping that you would start and do something permanent and hope that you will build the dam at least 24 feet high. I offered to furnish the cement if there was any embarrassment and there isn't any other expenditure excepting labor and I should think with the boys it would be a labor of love so that they could have a swimming pool with the water 24 feet deep. All the other material is donated. The sand is there today to build a dam 24 feet high; the rock is there on the ground; you have a rock crusher and the plans to go by. Anything that you can do in this matter is for a worthy cause--so let your conscience be your guide and build it as high or as low as you want to. I am very appreciative of the cooperation of Col. Parsons on all matters.

By the way, we put 1200 9-inch trout in the Lake at Eagles Nest this week. Mrs. Fletcher and I would love to take you and the good wife any afternoon up to Eagles Nest. We can leave here at 2:30 or 3:00, be there in two hours, catch a nice mess of trout and have dinner on the way home somewhere. I promise you lobster if you like it. How about a week from next Saturday afternoon? The Legislature is in session commencing January 8th and I will be gone for four months. I hope we can get together before Mrs. Fletcher and I leave for Sacramento on the 7th. If you can't make the trip in the back country, Mary and I would like to have

General Charles F.B. Price--#2

you over for six o'clock dinner at our house any evening that you can find free.

I am leaving by machine at 7 o'clock tomorrow morning, Saturday, attending a state meeting in Los Angeles. I am a member of Governor Warren's California Commission on Interstate Cooperation and we are meeting in Phoenix next Monday and Tuesday with the Commissions of the 11 western states, so I won't be home until next Wednesday. Anytime after that that suits your convenience will suit ours.

My son Eugene has returned after 2 1/2 years in Europe, bringing home a Presidential citation, decorated by three foreign countries, the Distinguished Flying Cross, Silver Star, Oak Leaf Clusters, medals and ribbons galore--we are sure proud of him. The gas ration board saw fit to give us enough gas to attend the three state meetings so I am taking Eugene and his wife and Mrs. Fletcher on this trip to Los Angeles and Phoenix and am looking forward to it with a great deal of pleasure. I am enclosing clipping.

With kindest personal regards, I am,

Very sincerely yours,

Referring to the dam on Cedar Creek, we never had the dam built at the proper location, this being wholly in the interest of the State of California and the public, so the State Engineer made the survey, located the dam on the ground, staked it out and Col. Parsons was the plans. As the width of the dam is only 6 feet at the bottom and 3 feet at the top, which you are building the dam, I was hoping that you would start and do something permanent and hope that you will build the dam at least 24 feet high. I offered to furnish the cement if there was any embarrassment and there isn't any other expenditure excepting labor and I should think with the boys it would be a labor of love so that they could have a swimming pool with the water 24 feet deep. All the other material is donated. The sand is there today to build a dam 24 feet high; the rock is there on the ground; you have a rock crusher and the plans to go by. Anything that you can do in this matter is for a worthy cause--so let your conscience be your guide and build it as high or as low as you want to. I am very appreciative of the cooperation of Col. Parsons on all matters.

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**Ed Fletcher Papers**

**1870-1955**

**MSS.81**

**Box: 22 Folder: 3**

**General Correspondence - Price, Charles F.B.**



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