

December 5, 1923

Mr. M. C. Blanchard,  
c/o First National Bank,  
Holtville, California.

My dear Mr. Blanchard:

Mr. D. Hunt is boosting the S. P. cut off. He has put six or eight weeks of his time in this proposition at his own expense. He is doing a wonderful work.

The main people who are promoting this short cut, which cuts off one hundred miles across the continent, are W. P. Clement, President of the Casa Grande Valley Bank of Casa Grande, Arizona, also W. C. Smith, County Engineer of Pinal County. They have spent thousands of dollars building a road from Casa Grande via Maricopa to Gila Bend, a distance of sixty or seventy miles, mostly by private subscription. It follows the Southern Pacific the entire distance.

We are vitally interested in this short cut. San Diego subscribed nearly \$1600.00. The Clearing House Banks of this city gave \$500.00. I think it is very important to help out on this proposition. Before doing so I would write, if I were you, to Mr. Clement or to Mr. Smith, the County Engineer of Pinal County. But better still, a committee from Imperial Valley should go up there and look it over and see what they are attempting to do and what they are doing and then make up their minds what they should do. As a personal favor to me I wish you would invite one person from El Centro, one from Calexico, one from Imperial, and possibly one from Brawley. I will have a committee of prominent citizens meet you at Gila Bend and show you over the work and what they are intending to do. Let me know if you can arrange this.

It is absolutely necessary that this letter be kept personal and no publicity given as Phoenix would be wild and for the first time Phoenix is showing a little more friendliness toward San Diego.

With kind personal regards,

Very sincerely yours,

EF:ME

9770

# FIRST NATIONAL BANK

OF HOLTVILLE

CAPITAL \$ 50,000.00  
SURPLUS \$ 35,000.00

HOLTVILLE, CAL.

December 28th 1923.

Colonel Ed. Fletcher,  
920 Eighth Street,  
San Diego, Cal.

Dear Mr. Fletcher:

Your letter of the 24th inst received, and am taking it up with Mr. Shaw and Traversa, and also one in each one of the other towns to see if they cannot get out and quietly raise at lease \$1000 from the Imperial Valley which we hope to be able to send to Mr. Clements by the first of January.

Have noticed the meetings of the parties concerned on the Phoenix and Los Route, and have formed the same conclusion as you, concerning the work. As a matter of information, would appreciate knowing what has become of the Ajo cut off from Tucson to Yuma, as it was talked of two years ago. Has this been abandoned or are they still working on the same. A number of people I have spoken to have asked me this question and I have been unable to get any satisfactory information.

Assuring you we will do our best,

I am,

Very truly yours,





December 31, 1923.

Mr. M. C. Blanchard,  
First National Bank,  
Holtville, California.

My dear Mr. Blanchard:

Answering yours of the 28th, I do think it imperative that you send at least \$1,000 to help them out. They are thoroughly responsible men, are carrying a heavy load on their shoulders, and by private subscription or at the expense of Pinal County they have just completed a cracker-jack road covering 35 miles from Casa Grande to Maricopa, and it is the 38 miles in another county for which this money is being raised.

Regarding the Ajo cut off - that is killed. The Copper Co. killed it by refusing to build to the Yuma County line with the result that Yuma County would not build its 25 miles to the Pinal County line for Stoval. However, the railroad is four miles shorter from Yuma to Tucson following the railroad than to go by way of Ajo, and we are accomplishing the same purpose when we help to complete this S. P. cut off. It also eliminates all grades not to exceed a 2% grade on the way from Yuma to Tucson via Gila Bend and Casa Grande. Then again it is better to have the route follow the railroad because people travelling East and West feel safer to be nearer a road. There is no danger to life, and it is along the line of least resistance.

With kindest personal regards, and wishing you a Happy New Year,

Yours very truly,

EF:AH

LEROY HOLT  
PRESIDENT  
M. C. BLANCHARD  
VICE-PRESIDENT  
E. E. HARDEN  
VICE-PRESIDENT & CASHIER  
F. JOY THOMPSON  
ASSISTANT CASHIER

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**FIRST NATIONAL BANK**

OF HOLTVILLE

CAPITAL \$ 50,000.00  
SURPLUS \$ 35,000.00

**HOLTVILLE, CAL.**

January 5th 1924.

Colonel Ed. Fletcher,  
920 Eighth Street  
San Diego, Calif.

Dear Mr. Fletcher:

Sorry that I was not at home on the first inst when you called and am sorry that we have not been able to get the other towns started on raising the money regarding the S.P. Cut-Off but we are forwarding \$200 from Holtville today as our portion of the valley donation. I saw several parties in Brawley and El Centro last night who say that they would see what they could do towards raising at least that much which will be forwarded in the very near future.

Certainly hope that the good work can be kept going until it is finished, as, no doubt we will have a very slim chance to get the people back from Phoenix after the Ehrenburg Road is put in shape.

Sincerely yours,



MCB/BHT.



January 21, 1924.

Mr. H. C. Blanchard,  
First National Bank,  
Holtville, California.

My dear Blanchard:

It is imperative that Smith and Clements are backing up financially on that cut-off. Yuma has already sent over \$435, and I believe has pledged as much more.

Phoenix is scared to death, and through a friend of mine, I found out that they are now planning to complete a bridge over the Gillespie Dam within the next twelve months or pave from Hassayampa to Gila Bend in order to divert the Eastern travel into Phoenix. Before we get through with them they will pave to Yuma or know the reason why.

What is Imperial Valley doing? Won't you please stir them up?

With kind regards,

Very sincerely yours,

EF:AH

LEROY HOLT  
PRESIDENT  
H. C. BLANCHARD  
VICE-PRESIDENT  
E. E. HARDEN  
VICE-PRESIDENT & CASHIER  
F. ROY THOMPSON  
ASSISTANT CASHIER

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**FIRST NATIONAL BANK**

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**HOLTVILLE, CAL.**

January 22nd 1924.

Colonel Ed. Fletcher,  
920 Eighth Street,  
San Diego, Calif.

Dear Mr. Fletcher:

Your letter of the 21st inst received, and also copy of letter written by Mr. Smith to you.

Seem to be making very little headway in the other towns. Wish you would write a letter to Captain Worthington, Calaveras, and to J.P. Travers of El Centro, and Mr. R.W. Watson, Manager of the Southern Trust Bank at Brawley, making the necessity of them getting out and raising this money as strong as you can, as they seem to be resting on the job.

The business houses in Holtville were very glad to make their subscription when the facts were presented to them and feel sure that the other towns will do likewise if someone would only take it in hand. I am sending copy of Mr. Smith's letter to you, to each one of these parties which they will be in receipt of by the time a letter from you would reach them.

Very truly yours,

*H. C. Blanchard*  
Vice-President.

MOB/BHT.



January 26, 1924.

Mr. M. C. Blanchard,  
First National Bank,  
Holtville, California.

My dear Mr. Blanchard:

Answering your letter of January 22d, I  
had already written to Calxico and Travers, as well  
as several others when your letter was received.  
However, am writing Mr. Watson today and do hope  
they will get busy.

Just got word this morning that the Barbara  
Worth Hotel made a fine subscription to the fund and  
was sending the money direct to Mr. Clements.

Yours very truly,

KLM

February 8, 1924.

Mr. M. C. Blanchard,  
First National Bank,  
Holtville, Calif.

My dear Mr. Blanchard:

Answering yours of the 2nd, will say I raised  
\$500 at the luncheon at El Centro yesterday, and they  
are going to get \$300 from Calxico. Each bank gave  
\$50 in El Centro yesterday.

The \$500 from El Centro is in addition to the \$150  
I have already secured heretofore.

I hope you can raise \$100 more and send to Mr.  
Clements. I feel it well worth your while.

I am sorry I could not see more of you, but I  
had a hard time keeping dates.

With kind personal regards,

Very sincerely yours,

EF:AH



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# FIRST NATIONAL BANK

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SURPLUS \$ 35,000.00

HOLTVILLE, CAL.

LEROY HOLT  
PRESIDENT  
M. C. BLANCHARD  
VICE-PRESIDENT  
E. E. HARDEN  
VICE-PRESIDENT & CASHIER  
P. ROY THOMPSON  
ASSISTANT CASHIER

February 14th 1924.

Colonel Ed. Fletcher,  
920 Eighth Street,  
San Diego, Calif.

My Dear Mr. Fletcher:

I beg to acknowledge receipt of your letter and am glad to know that you met with such good success at El Centro, and, while it is pretty hard to go back and raise an additional sum of money for this road, when you get returns of what the other towns have raised, and write me a letter stating how much is needed, may be able to secure the additional \$100 but am not making this a positive promise.

Very truly yours,

*M. C. Blanchard*  
Vice President.

MCB/BHT

February 18, 1924.

Mr. M. C. Blanchard,  
First National Bank,  
Holtville, California.

My dear Mr. Blanchard:

Answering yours of February 14th,

I appreciate your spirit of good will.

The El Centro Chamber of Commerce sent \$500 the day before yesterday to Mr. Clements. Inclosed find copy of the Chamber of Commerce letter which is explanatory. Yuma has sent \$300 more. I suggest that nothing more be done by Holtville until the emergency demands it.

With kind regards,

Very sincerely yours,

EF:AH



**Ed Fletcher Papers**

**1870-1955**

**MSS.81**

**Box: 2 Folder: 16**

**General Correspondence - Blanchard, M.C.**



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