

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

GRAND CANYON NATIONAL PARK

GRAND CANYON, ARIZ.

OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

July 3, 1924.

JRE/iih

Hon. Carl Hayden,
House of Representatives,
Washington, D. C.

My dear Mr. Hayden:

Further replying to your letter of May 12th, - on July 2nd, in company with Mr. W. W. Bass, I visited Bass Camp and spent the entire day looking over his properties in that vicinity. It is my understanding, from personal talks with you in your office in Washington and from your letters, that you wish to introduce a bill in Congress to reimburse Mr. Bass for the roads, trails, etc., that he had constructed in Grand Canyon National Park. Mr. Bass stated that in his talks that he had had with you, he had informed you that he would not accept a penny less than \$25,000. I attempted to convince him that if this amount were considerably reduced, it would have a better chance of passing Congress. The old gentleman became greatly excited and flatly announced that it was \$25,000. or nothing.

Upon listing the roads, trails and miscellaneous features that are of benefit to the Park and which Mr. Bass constructed and are of great benefit to the Park at present, I was rather surprised that this sum could be easily justified. In my opinion, these structures could not be built in the present day for twice the valuation. Considering that Mr. Bass had to haul water great distances, it will be readily seen that these structures cost considerably more than twice the valuation.

Of the 58 miles of trail constructed by Mr. Bass, only 28 miles are listed as being important to the Park Service. The other mileage, however, will be of considerable use to the Park Service in the future. An idea of the reasonableness of the valuation of the trail can be gotten from the fact that 28 miles of trail are listed at \$225.00 per mile, the total valuation given as \$6,300.00. Every inch of these trails are typical Canyon trail construction. It would cost many times \$225.00 per mile to duplicate these trails.

The 37 miles of road at \$400.00 per mile, aggregating \$14,800, is also extremely reasonable. These roads are all being used at present by the Park Service in our various activities and by some tourists. They will be of more importance to the Park, as that section of the Park is developed for tourist travel.

Mr. Bass has constructed 7 dams or tanks and 3 cisterns which are valued at \$200.00 each. They cost greatly in excess of that, and are, at present in this dry weather, the only source of water for wild life in

area. The cisterns are the only source of drinking water in that area. They are extremely valuable to the Park Service.

The house and out-buildings are listed at \$1,000.00. They are worth far more to us than that, as a source of salvage for building materials, etc.

The cable crossing (ferry) where Bass Canyon strikes the Colorado River is listed at \$900.00. Mr. Bass informed me that this cable ferry alone cost him \$3,000.00. It is apparently as good as new and with minor repairs will before long, be extremely valuable to the Park Service.

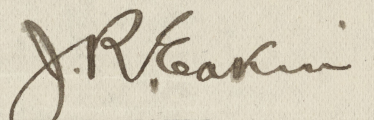
You will note that Mr. Bass' mining claims and mill sites are not listed as they are not patented. It is my opinion, however, that if the General Land Office were to investigate the validity of these claims that some of them at any rate, would be held to be valid claims. As Bass Camp is filed as a mill site, if any of these claims in the Canyon were declared valid, it would automatically make Bass Camp Mill Site valid.

For your information, it is stated that in my opinion, Bass Camp is one of the most interesting points along the Rim and will, before many years, be a center of great tourist activities.

Attached hereto, you will find a list of the roads, trails and miscellaneous structures which Mr. Bass constructed. As stated before, Mr. Bass will give a quit claim to all these structures and all his mining and mill site claims in Grand Canyon National Park for the sum of \$25,000.00.

If we can, at any time, give you additional information on this or any other subject, or can serve you in any way, do not hesitate to command us.

Cordially yours,


J. R. EAKIN,
Superintendent.

1 Incl.

LIST OF ROADS, TRAILS AND OTHER FEATURES CONSTRUCTED BY
W. W. BASS IN GRAND CANYON NATIONAL PARK.

ROADS

Sheep Tank to Bass Camp	10 miles
From Bench Mark 6519 to Bench Mark 6302 and up Pasture Wash to Bass Camp	9 miles
Bass Camp to Havasupai Point	4 miles
Pasture Wash to Hilltop	<u>14 miles</u>
TOTAL	37 miles

TRAILS

Bass Camp to Muave Saddle, by way of Bass Canyon, Shinumo Creek and Muave Canyon	18 miles
Muave Saddle to Dutton Point	5 miles
Muave Saddle to Point Sublime	9 miles
Shinumo Creek to Asbestos Canyon	6 miles
Bass Canyon to Garnet Canyon	10 miles
Shinumo Trail to Flint Creek	4 miles
Hilltop to Junction Lee and Cataract Canyons	<u>5 miles</u>
TOTAL	57 miles

DAMS AND CISTERNS

7 Mile Dam; Red Dam; Bass Dam; 2 dams near Havasupai Point; 1 cistern on Rim,
and 2 cisterns south of Bass Camp.

MISCELLANEOUS

Bass Camp, out-buildings and equipment; corrals near 7 Mile Dam; cable crossing
at Shinumo Creek.

VALUATION

28 miles of trail at \$225.00	\$ 6,300.00
37 miles Road at \$400.00	14,800.00
7 dams at \$200.00	1,400.00
3 cisterns at \$200.00	600.00
House and outbuildings	1,000.00
Cable Crossing	<u>900.00</u>
TOTAL	\$25,000.00

In addition, 30 miles of trail constructed by not included in
inventory.