

June 23, 1925.

Hon. Stephen T. Mather,
Director, National Park Service,
Washington, D.C.

My dear Sir:

During Mr. Hayden's stay in Phoenix, Mr. W. W. Bass, of Wickenburg, Arizona, called upon him and requested that he communicate with Mr. Hunter Clarkson in an effort to ascertain as to when he would receive the \$3500 promised him under a certain agreement. In accordance therewith Mr. Hayden wrote to Mr. Clarkson and on April 25, or shortly thereafter received a reply which reads as follows:

"On my return to the office I find your letter of April 20th. If I recollect rightly, when I saw you last I told you something of the difficulties we have had in connection with the Bass properties at Grand Canyon. After we took the option we discovered that the property was already subject to half a dozen different options, leases, etc., which had been placed of record but which no copies had been preserved, and of course the title had to be quieted before anything could be done.

"I personally have been in close touch with the matter throughout and can assure you there has been no unnecessary delay, except during the past week or ten days, when owing to a careless misunderstanding on the part of one of our departments here, a copy of the judgment quieting the title was held for six days pending my return to the office instead of being sent to me on the line, in which case I could have advised Mr. Bass that the money would be forthcoming at an early date. Mr. C.B. Wilson of Flagstaff is handling the matter for both parties and check in final settlement has been sent to him and is doubtless now in Mr. Bass' hands." etc. etc.

"We ourselves have no intention of purchasing the property and, as you know, took the option at Director Mather's

request in order to hold it until such time as Government funds were available to purchase same outright, also prompted by a desire on Mr. Harvey's part to do something for Mr. Bass. etc. etc.

"On June 9 Mr. Clarkson directed the following to Mr. W.W.

Bass:

"Thank you for your letter of May 29th which I received on my return to the office this morning *****

"I arranged with Mr. Shirley to let you have a truck without charge to move your effects from the house to the station, and as previously arranged if you will take the matter up with him at the Canyon, he will be glad to assist you in any way he possibly can.

"In regard to the purchase of your property: The matter, of course, now rests with Director Mather, and we are following it up with him consistently. We cannot, however, hold much hope for the immediate future, as you know these things take a great deal of time when they have to go through Congress. I expect to see Congressman Hayden this month and will mention the matter to him and obtain his views."

Under date of June 17, Mr. writes the Congressman as follows:

"I received your letter enclosing one from Clarkson, in due time and now have one from him which is a surprise to me, and no doubt will be to you as well. My plan is to sell to Harvey just to avoid the delay that this letter indicates will be imperative. You naturally would think I had received my money from Harvey from all that has been circulated regarding it, but this will show you the facts. The option of \$5,000 was paid in small installments, after the Railroad lawyer had succeeded in clearing title at a cost of \$200.00, not including taxes, which also was deducted to this date. Wilson, the lawyer, lost over three weeks at the start and did not advertise until I made a special trip to Flagstaff to see him, and another ten days was lost before Clarkson could be found to send the check, regardless of what his letter states about delay. Three or four weeks just at that time has amounted to a big loss to me here where I was trying to get my fruit trees set and garden planted, so as to meet the seasons requirements *****"

Now Mr. Bass is anxious to know if there is not some way in which this matter may be settled without further delay? Any information you can give me will be greatly appreciated.

Yours very respectfully,

(Mrs.) B. F. Gavin,
Assistant Secretary.