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COPIES snet to DR. Beverley Barney Morgan, Ldo. E. Lopez Acosta Dr. Jose M. Rodriguez Quinones.

TO DEVELOP MAN'S HEALTH—PHYSICALLY, THEOLOGICALLY AND ECONOMICALLY

PAN AMERICAN CLINIC, INC.

JOHN WILLIAM HARRIS, PRESIDENT

PHONE 5F2

DILLEY, TEXAS

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P. O. BOX 156

Rev. Dr. Edward G. Seel, President,  
Polytechnic Institute  
San German Puerto Rico.

*copy 32  
College 16  
documents 23*

*go! Department!*

*copy  
9 copies  
P.O. Box  
156 Dilley, Texas*

Dear Dr. Seel:

Let me first confess my sins of omission of long standing. Years ago, Dr. John A Marquiz, Secretary of the Board of Nat. Mis. and also Secretary of the Poly Board asked me in one of our annual meetings to write out in detail all about the founding of Poly, which I did at the time, about 30 years ago. It was filed safely away and long since forgotten. More recently I wrote a fuller history in detail and founded on actual development step by step from my arriving in San German to 1937. I have been compelled to do the most necessary thing in the giving birth to my unborn baby, this PAC in Dilley, and it is so promising and urgent and my time is so filled with working out and presenting in a clear statement of what I am proposing here that I have not been able to carry out the printing of my history of Poly, RIDING AND ROPING as the title of the book. I have just employed a typist and she will make the printer's copy to be finished by middle of January. Then I shall have a 1000 copies printed. In this RIDING AND ROPING you will get the whole story of Poly... the steady but slow development of the idea which I got from my long sojourn in Park College, and which finally was born March 2 1912.

At this time I am sending you a synopsis of that story which I hope will help you to understand and will clear up all my years of brotherly and most friendly association with Don Juan Cancio Ortiz. It is

I wanted to develop another Park College in Texas after I graduated from Princeton in 1905, but JE McAfee Associate Secretary of the Home Mission Board and my very close friend thru college days and also my teacher, had me appointed to mission work in P. Rico. Dr. Chas L Thompson telegraphed me of the appointment and of my sailing date on July 6th 1906. In Nov. 1906 I appointed Miss Guillermina Nazario to teach after she could select a group of children in San German. I rented a side room of a poor amns dwelling for \$3. per month and paid Guillermina \$25 per month. She soon had her room full of 1st and 2d grade tots. I built later and paid for same by rent from the Board of Missions, a concrete house in Santa Rosa Barrio of the City of San German just back of the home of the boy who is now Licdo Eusebio Lopez Acosta. There the school soon outgrew its pants and I then bought out of my own money the acre of land back of and adjoining the grounds of t Pres. Ch. in San German as asite on which to begin my Park College ideal school. The mayor of San German offered to give me the old soldiers or army Barracks where the S. German H.S. now stands, The City Council approved unanimously but the President of the Council refused to sign the transfer. After several months the transfer of barracks to me fell thru. I returned to my acre back of the church in town. In 1909 Mrs Harris and I secured \$900. from friends in Kansas with which to build my college in P.R. It was ~~then~~ in 1910 in the month of July had material hauled to begin work on a concrete dormitory for my school; was laying of and the strings stretched for beginning work next day, when Don Cancio rode up on his horse and asked me not to use my money for buildings ~~that~~. His school in Lajas had closed down in June 1910. He offered to give me the buildings of his ~~old~~ school that had closed for my school which now numbered about 100 students. He stated that I could get more land, as much as I needed adjoining his defunct college. He was then Mayor of Lajas and also I had ordained him as Elder in the Presbyterian church there, and baptised all his family. After three

ACCOMMODATIONS—SINGLE ROOMS TO FAMILY SUITES; FARMS SMALL AND LARGE



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ario whom I employed for years as teacher in my school in San German . I never answered false statements ~~of~~ or criticisms at any time till recently when a lady was sent to P.R and wrote P.Rican Puzzles. And now this false stement gets on the Minutes of Our Board of our trustees and is recorded as true . It makes me boil. I protest that on this or any other Founders Day is not the time to honor him as the founder or the initiator of the idea of the Polytechnic. He was always a close and good friend of mine. He had a noble idea but had no co conception of how to realize it, but relied upon the Government for aid , and Superintendent of the San German and Lajas school districts at the time was his advisor in every thing about the Lajas set up. Most of the people in San German who knew intimately about my school over the years in Sa German are now dead. There is Don Juan Angel Tio, Ldo Eusebio Lopez Acosta, Don Abraham Toro Nazario, Lopez Acosta knew of my school for he was a mere lad and the concrete school house for Guillermina's school was just back of his home near by. There are many of the children who went to that school who are now old people and they can tell you ~~of~~ of my plans from the first. Ursula Nazario and Esperanza Acosta came to San German to enter my school there . Rdo and Mrs Jose A. Martinez can tell you where these last two live, and maybe give you names of people still living who will bear out what I have stated as true.

Morris made a big mistake in playing up Don Cancio for the sole purpose of getting a big donation from him.. which he never gave.

I baptised the whole family of Don Cancio including himself and his wife. We traveled over the pine apple hills of Palmarejo contry holding services at night in the homes of our church members for years, his children accompanying us. I took Mrs Ernestina Ortiz Pla when she was a little girl to New York and placed her in a school there. I hope you will not boost Don Cancio in this Founders Day for I do not want to see our love and friendship which has always till Don Cancio's death been a real joy to me. Ernestina is now a trustee of the First Presbyterian Church of Rio Piedras.

Will you please wiat for the fuller information that will be inmy history of Poly before you carry out anything like what was reported to recent meeting of the Bd of Trustess on Nov 26 1951, ~~wait~~ till you get full information about something that happened nearly fifty years ago. I am asking the Board to erase that mention of relationship of Poly and Don Cancio's school, so that futre generations may not be misled.

This is too long a letter but I hope you will study its contents closely and wait till fuller documented reports in my book are before you. I enclose a photostic of one of the things that kept me from getting the Barracks ,and also which brought Don Cancio over t to offer me for my school the building of his school that had closed. Mark Twain once sai said he could write history were he not so troubled with the facts. I know where the thin things eminate that are now confusing to you who have to take second hand information, for it has often appeared in the PR papers in recent years. But it never riled either Don Cancio or me, but now I see where I must speak up and demand truth that comes from know- ledge. I am glad it has come up before I too have passed on. I can now present the inside account as it grew over the years.

this one

NEXT DAY. Whenever I dictateed a letter like to Patria she al always made a copy and had me to read it over after a night's sleep -- a rule I have kept. In this case I just cannot rewrite this and get it to you by Christmas... and such a xmas letter! The protest and facts in the case I would not change in a thousand night's sleep, for they are simply factual statements from day to day as the incidents merited recording. One thing to remember that the Commissioner of Educ . of P.R. ~~is~~ E.G. Dexter helped out in the set up; the Inspector of Schools of San German District which included Lajas was Paul E. Taylor, chief director of don Cancio till his school failed, who saw to it that the school was tied up closely with and a part of the Public School system so far as teachers and classroom work was concerned. It was merely another Public School after the first year when the local rural school was united with it. All teachers were paid by the Dept of Educati tion in San Juan. I hope I can get down and expect to make every possible move so to do to with you and will be glad to read such portions of my book that apply to the case in your confusion at this time. By all means don't trade historical facts in exchange for popularity or possible public approval in your desire to raise money. A merry xmas to you and Mrs Seel faculty and students all.

Cordially yours,

J. Will Harris

*Witness Pla*