

COPY FOR DR. HECTOR GARCIA ✓

August 19, 1971

Mr. Gilberto R. Oropez
1526 - 19th Street
Corpus Christi, Texas 78404

Dear Mr. Oropez:

I greatly appreciated hearing from you as well as being informed with regard to your family's tragic experience insofar as their property was concerned on the Cayo Del Oso. Many injustices, I know, have occurred in our area with regard to property rights and ownership. Do you have any recollection of how your father acquired his ranch and from whom and whether the deed was recorded. Of course, this is all past history now, unfortunately, and wrongs at this late date cannot be righted but the facts should be known.

I, too, once raised the question as to how the University of Corpus Christi acquired the property that it now has. As I understand, the University is not situated on the Cayo Del Oso which has in the past been considered state land but is located on what is known as Ward Island. Around the time of World War II, Ward Island was acquired by the Federal Government from those then holding title "under its right of eminent domain" and was then used as a Marine Radar School. After the Radar school was moved and the site abandoned by the government, Ward Island was put up for sale. It is a requirement that when federal lands are put up for sale, other government entities have the first right to make purchase and then after government entities - "non-profit or charitable organizations can apply." It is my understanding that the University of Corpus Christi, which was then a private Baptist school in Beeville, with support from the city in some manner which I am not clear on, acquired the property. I am not clear on this either, but it

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was my understanding that it was sold for a dollar an acre

I will appreciate hearing from you as to any further details or information that you may have in connection with this property.

Sincerely,

Frances Tarlton Farenthold

FTF:fl

cc: Mr. Bob Armstrong
Land Commissioner