

Typical
Rumor in
land writing. Better
get her to type this so
as you will be able to read
it. She is a Jewell.
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Room 219
Hotel Seville
WADSWORTH AVENUE AND TWENTY-NINTH STREET
NEW YORK

30
Very E
has written
such a long letter.
Starts out so I mean
salute - and!

Dec 16 - 1955

Dear Mr. Bauer:
my expectancy ran high of seeing
you here last week. I would so much
rather to talk than to write in my
expression of joy in your being elected
President of Poly. I, like Paul of old, was
never elected and never resigned. You
are in that far ahead of me. May
God give you a daily supply of wisdom
and strength in the leadership of
Poly into an institution big and
qualified for the increasing de-
mands of higher Christian educa-
tion. I trust you will set no
limit in your supply of the
need - 800 is a good beginning but
if you can keep growing in number
of faculty, in enrollment of students
and on strong religious life of all -
the sky is the limit. And God bless you.
A word about our previous building
They were erected entirely by student
labor... those who could pay nothing
were given additional daily hours of
work not as a penalty for not paying

be as a privilege and honor in achieving and paying for their education. This lifted them above those who had parents who paid all the costs. It worked. Student-direction in work needs careful planning and supervision. That does not mean a supervisor will stand over and watch the student. The student must know what he is to do and HOW. We found that college grade students could read the blue prints and learn easily just how to erect a building.

We started out with concrete blocks because I had a \$40 = concrete machine, plenty of sand and gravel and did not have money to buy forms for concrete and steel rods. I built the first block house in San Herman - and changed to reinforced concrete when finances permitted such. I first tried with board forms. Then turned to 6" channels, cut in several standard lengths with which we built the permanent building in Paly. These forms were stored away by Pasa Morris. I think he told me they are in the Barracks below Pleasure. The channels were held in place by braces made of two angle-irons between which rods passed for keeping the channels firm. In moving, these channels were, up after being filled. The bolts were loosened, the angle-irons moved up and then the channels one by one lifted into place above for refilling. To do this



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work no hired labor was needed - only checking to see that it was plumb by brother Clarence. One of the ex-students remember how it was done for they did it all. Bro. Luis Angel Toro and hundreds of others did the work over the years from '22-'37. The channels were used on all building but Clarence Harris Hall and Loma Vista. We used lumber forms on Loma Vista -- found it very costly - and turned to the channels.

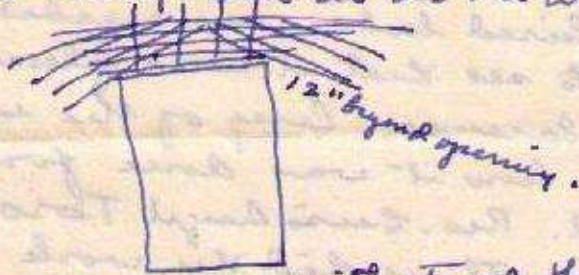
The channels were cut to fit the rooms of Science Hall, and dormitories. No wood was used except for the corners.

2" x 3" were used as braces to hold the forms plumb - also in support of floors and roofs. These supports can be bought with adjustable heights and are cheapest in long run.

Reinforcements are most important, and building like Science or Clarence have heavier rebar rods for two first stories. It does not pay to make walls under 6" or 8" for economy comes also in dropping large stones in the center of freshly poured concrete. We got our sand and gravel from the Rio Grande near R.W. Loma station and hauled same in a truck. Felipe

Buyale once, drove our Ford trucks.

Put upright sides $1\frac{1}{2}$ " back of frame forms. Heavy rods ~~and~~ upright on both interior and exterior sides of the walls, held in place by $3\frac{1}{8}$ " cross rods. The windows doors etc must have strong reinforcement. Twice as many rods as do the walls, like this



All this is done to withstand the earth quakes and hurricanes that come once in about every 33 years.

Do not use blocks-construction - the labor has to be skilled labor, for concrete the students can do all the work under supervision. Victor Capriles is good at plumbing. I taught him electric light installation and he did it well. Of course the architects have given detailed plans for all plumbing & electric wiring. All reinforcements, plumbing work and electric wires or pipes have to be installed ahead of the pouring of concrete.

Maybe our steel tower for concrete pouring and concrete mixer - ought to be around some place. Using your own machinery the students can and did erect the building for less than half of contractors. Thus too many poor boys can work their way through college.

By all teaching students working atleast

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1 hour daily - creates a sense of belong-
 ing to the life of the college.
 I believe the steel beam construction used
 in N.Y. would be gutted by an earthquake
 was in California and Japan about 1915
 Rods hold a building together better than
 big steel beams. Don't follow N.Y.
 engineers for reinforcements. We
 were ordered to do so by Pres. Bd. of
 Miss. who paid for 3 Hall. Result
 we had to put two big columns in
 the big rooms afterwards to take the
 sway out of the floors. N.Y. Engineers
 had my architect remove beams set
 at six feet apart. We knew it would
 sway but N.Y. workers were sure it would
 hold up the floor. Consequences - those
 big, ugly, columns inside the end
 rooms of Science Hall.

I saw that Morris had taken some
 of those 6" channels for uprights in the
 Cow sheds. Hope the others are there. If
 they have been sold. You can get
 much better forms made to order in
 sheet metal - which will fit in all

future construction.

I might say I had the designed number of reinforcing doubled that is for every rod engineers planned, & put in another. You can turn Boringum over and roll it down the hill - maybe you could not!

The beauty of concrete is that you can have molds made to make cornices etc which blocks do not permit.

I hope you can improve on what we in pioneer days tried our best to build for all time. Much is now known that then was not known.

The change of location in chapel to East side of West square from the West side, I think is a better site. Remember the center line of the Academic Grounds runs from the Flag Pole (if it still stands) to the center of the Steps and on to the center of the Auditorium across the Harris Ave. I would suggest

that the chapel be so constructed as to permit ^{during the} 100 years from now additional units to the main auditorium - as needs may demand. Poly should have now 3000 enrolled and would have had but switchee slept on the "Water". You will see it in your day 3000 easily - for Poly is the only school in all the West Indies. The door is open to

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and the horizons are the limit of
our possibilities. A big college can
be made just as easy as a small
college into a fervent Christ-like
institution if multitudes do not
over shadow the individuals. Like
a home a per capita cost is decreased
by the additional numbers who eat
at the table. A small college
will in time become - like the
small farms - impossible to
maintain - once jet air planes
surpass the present air planes.

Puerto Rican climate cuts out
all air conditioning. What it costs
to "Harvard" Col. would maintain
a like institution in Puerto Rico.

That is why I say plan the
College for large numbers - possibly
10,000 students in time. If Poly can
offer the highest standards - students
will eventually choose to live in
that heavenly climate, to which
they can fly in an hour at low costs

and enjoy fresh air and of equal
climate. Everything favors Poly
It will become a great institution
of worldwide Christian culture on highest
academic and spiritual attainments
as, I think, God wills it to become.
Push on to the high mark.

I forgot to say that when I sell
my ranch in Texas to P.A.C. I hope
to put ~~on~~ a Pabillon over The Steps
in memory of Eunice White Harris.

You may want to make the Steps
into the pulpit of the Chapel - since
it stands in the center of Academic
court - if you do as desire I shall
be glad to make my donation to
that end. I should be able to dispose
of my ranch in the near future.

May God be allowed to
lead us all into the now un-
realized possibilities of our
day.

I hope I may see you in Texas
some day. I shall be here till I
can present my application per-
sonally to the Ford Foundation. I
am so rejoiced for Poly's \$100,000.00 from
Ford, F. Remember the ball of a rifle
rises high or falls to the earth - depending
on how it is pointed.

God bless you and Poly -
I Will Harris