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South Texas Chautauqua Association

(INCORPORATED)

220 BINZ BUILDING

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PHONE PRESTON 5451

Houston, Texas

January 4th,
1917.

Mrs. Minnie Fisher Cunningham,
President Texas Equal Suffrage Ass'n.,
Austin, Texas.

Dear Friend:

I am writing you just a few lines to let you know what we have done toward getting ready for our 1917 season. We have definitely decided to go to Kemah, just across the Channel from Seabrook, on Trinity Bay, midway between Houston and Galveston.

This is an ideal location with its high beach, well protected from storms, its excellent boating, bathing and fishing, with Trinity Bay on the one side and Clear Lake on the other, and with five good roads leading into it. The Southern Pacific Railroad passes near the property and the Interurban, only a short distance away. I am sure we could not have found a better location,

We have been delayed somewhat in getting the deeds for this property, but have already secured the deeds for fifteen acres on the shore and expect to get twenty-two acres more. These deeds are conditional upon our holding an assembly there each year for five years. We must build a hotel of, at least, 200 rooms, and an auditorium, to seat, not less than, 4500 people.

In addition to these improvements, we intend to build a "U" pier extending into the Bay 1200 feet. This pier will be built on the same lines as the one at St. Mary's Seminary at La Porte which withstood the storm of 1915. This will be the only pier in South Texas providing for auto travel.

We will build a cheap bath house, containing 400 rooms, on the end of the pier. Of course, as great a storm as the one above referred to, would destroy this, but judging by the receipts of the one at La Porte and of another at Galveston, this would easily pay for itself in one season. This pier will be constructed on especially treated piling, well braced, and will be as permanent as a structure of this kind could be.

In Addition to this, we plan a library and art gallery combined and a music hall to be named in honor of Mme. Joahana Galski, the famous dramatic soprano, who, with her friends, will finance the building of this hall.

2. Mrs. M. F. Cunningham,
Jan. 4, 1917.

We also plan a number of cottages to be built of hollow tile, ultimately, we will have, at least, fifty of these. We have an artesian well on the adjoining property which we have leased for a term of years. There are about fifteen acres in this piece of ground. It is known as "the Bradford picnicking Grounds", and with a very little expenditure can be made one of the most delightful spots on the whole Southern Coast.

We shall install our own electric plant. And one of the most important features will be a modern sanitary system, something which is sadly lacking at most of our seaside resorts. Needless to say, that we will maintain the same order, in every way, that we have outlined in the various conversations we have had with you.

There will be no dancing permitted on the grounds, and we shall expressly reserve the right to control the crowds coming there. We have the informal assurances of the Railroad people that they will co-operate with us in every way in the matter of train service, advertising, etc. etc.

Early in this month, we intend to launch a membership campaign in both Houston and Galveston. At that time we will give the whole movement a great deal of publicity, until such time, kindly consider this letter as semi-confidential, as we are endeavoring to secure options on some of the adjoining lands at Kemah, and a newspaper campaign would make that very difficult for us.

It is our intention to keep all the Advisory Council fully informed as to each step we are taking. We have incorporated and have received a very liberal charter from the State. Our dates for 1917 are June 18 to July 8th. This will include a School of Missions, June 19th to 24th.

We have secured Mr. William J. Metzner of California as field Superintendent. Mr. Metzner is a man of large influence, has handled large amusement and resort propositions, and his acquisition to our permanent force cannot be over estimated. We have known him personally for some years and can unhesitatingly recommend him.

Inadvertently, the name of Rev. Samuel G. Porter, Rector of Trinity Church, Richmond, Texas, was left off this letter head, but he is one of our most active and enthusiastic workers.

At an early date, we expect to have a meeting of the Advisory Council, and want all present, if possible, as at that time, we shall definitely outline our program for 1917, and shall discuss the financial end of the proposition in a very definite way, until then, kindly tell all inquirers that we are making splendid progress and that we are more than satisfied with results thus far.

Yours sincerely,

James Lattimore Hinrod
SOUTH TEXAS CHAUTAUQUA ASSOCIATION.