

August 10, 1933

My dear Brother Julius:

Have not contacted with Brother Michael yet; he is out most of the time. But I have thought much of your suggestion that St. Mary's University might interest itself in this local (San Antonio and Spanish South Texas) history as St. Edward's works in the Texas-wide avenues it follows. There is remarkably interesting local research work to be carried thru....many angles of it is even now considerably studied by local persons. It is the question of drawing these people together at some headquarters, pooling their knowledge and strengthening their work by cooperation. I shall submit to Brother Michael some interesting suggestions when I get with him. Sorry Father Babe not here now; I knew him well.

In the brochure you gave me (page 5) it is stated Brother Edel retired to Mission Concepcion in 1666, raised produced, and boated it to San Antonio by river then navigable. This interests me, and the source material may give some desired information.

That he boated by river seems doubtful. Will not the source material show that he boated by the Mission Concepcion acequia? The river, before the city became so large, was quite deep; it would have been navigable except for strong currents and sharp curves.....difficult in consequence to work a boat up by hand and dangerous to run the currents and curves downward. There are vague suggestions that in Spanish times boats were used.....and possibly used from San Antonio to La Bahia (Colled) mission, but we have not yet been able to put our fingers on definite evidence. At San Antonio there is also the question of the mill dams, but we are not sure when they were put in.

On the other hand, Corner's history (1890) says there is a legend the Concepcion acequia was so broad the padres used a boat on it. This acequia was still in service in 1860, and I believe in 1874-76 for Col. A. J. Walton, Sr. was ditch commissioner then.

Whatever there is definite in that source material, whether river or acequia, it represents desirable historical information.

Instead of your replying by mail, would prefer to phone you some days later, and if there is information available will call. I appreciated the booklet; read it carefully, and noted several items of historical value.

Sincerely,

(Gunter Hotel)