

May 28, 1946

SCHWABE "COLL 3"

Mr. George R. Coney, President  
Pryor Chamber of Commerce  
Pryor, Oklahoma

Dear Mr. Coney:

I have your letter of the 24th instant relative to the prisoners of war camp near your city. You refer to the suggestion which has been made that the Church of Christ might be interested in organizing a college there, using the dormitories for that purpose. This strikes me as being a wonderful idea, and a practical one, if it can be worked out.

You also quote a telegram from the Federal Land Bank of Wichita. Apparently, from my investigation here, they have given you the correct information. I took this matter up on your behalf this morning, with the Deputy Governor of the Farm Credit Administration of the Department of Agriculture. He stated that surplus property is turned over by the Army to the War Assets Administration, which looks it over, classifies it and decides whether it falls within the classification of forestry-agricultural lands, or industrial. This is undoubtedly classified as agricultural, for it was transferred to the Farm Credit Administration, who have turned it over to the Federal Farm Mortgage Corporation. The Federal Farm Mortgage Corporation has no field offices, and for that reason, such properties are placed in the hands of the Federal Land Banks for supervision of the disposal of the same in the field.

The Farm Credit Administration then goes in upon the property and makes appraisal. After that, the priority system established by Congress some time ago, becomes effective. The federal departments and agencies have first priority, the states second, and municipalities third, etc.

I note in the wire which you quote from the Federal Land Bank of Wichita that they have on file two federal priorities covering this entire camp. This would indicate that those having first priority have filed two applications to acquire this property, and of course they come ahead of municipalities. However, it does not necessarily follow



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that the federal agencies will exercise their priority and it does not follow that they will acquire the property. I therefore suggest that you keep in touch with the Federal Land Bank of Wichita and press your desires with them. In their wire they told you that appraisal work will start soon and that representatives from that office will contact you at that time. It is likely that they will; but I suggest that you remind them periodically of your interest, in order that they may not lose sight of it. In this connection, you might contact them again immediately, and try to ascertain just when the appraisal work will begin and who will be in charge of it, etc., in order that you may try to work out the proposition at closer range.

You may rest assured that I am always glad to be of every possible assistance, and shall be glad to continue with you on this project; but I believe that it is your move at this time, and that you should follow the suggestions I have made.

With all good wishes, I am

Sincerely yours,

George B. Schwabe, M.C.

GS:LW

May 28, 1946

Talked with J. E. Wells, Jr., Ext. 3740  
Deputy Governor, Farm Credit Administration  
Department of Agriculture

Stated that: Such surplus property is turned  
over by the Army to the War Assets Administration

War Assets looks it over and decides whether it  
is forestry and agricultural lands, or  
whether it is industrial.

If it is industrial it goes to R. F. C.

If classified as forestry and agricultural  
lands, it is transferred to Farm Credit  
Administration of Dept. of Agriculture, who  
then turn it over to Federal Farm Mortgage  
Corporation. The Federal Farm Mortgage Corp.  
has no field offices, so it is placed in the  
hands of the Federal Land Bank people to  
handle in the field.

Now, the Farm Credit Adm. is to go into the  
field and make appraisal, after which the  
priority system steps in - first Federal,  
then State and Municipal, etc.

L.W.

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# The Pryor Chamber of Commerce, Incorporated

BILL McCALIB, Secretary

## MAYES COUNTY

Home of \$23,000,000 Pensacola Grand River Dam

Site of Approved \$14,000,000 Markham Ferry Dam  
Spavinaw Lake

Unexcelled Agricultural and Industrial Advantages

GATEWAY TO  
VACATIONER'S  
PARADISE

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State Highway 20 to Grand River Dam and Spavinaw Lake

Pryor, Oklahoma

May 24, 1946

GEORGE R. CONEY  
President

TRENDLEY DOUGHERTY  
Vice-President

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Hon. George B. Schwabe, M.C.  
House Office Building  
Washington, D.C.

Dear Congressman Schwabe:

We are very grateful for the many favors you have shown Pryor in the past and now we want to ask one more of you.

Since January we have been working with Oklahoma A & M College in an effort to secure the former Prisoner of War Camp near here for their use. Apparently they will take over Glennan Hospital at Okmulgee, therefore we should like to have the dormitories here utilized by some organization.

It has been suggested that the Church of Christ with 628 churches in the state and the only large denomination without a college in Oklahoma might be interested in organizing a college here. Several meetings have been held and everybody is very favorable toward the idea.

It has been proposed that the City of Pryor purchase the camp and donate it to the Church of Christ. We contacted Mr. F.L. Kokrda, Federal Land Bank, Wichita, Kansas, telling him of our interest in purchasing the dormitories and received the following wire in reply, "Prisoner Camp under our control. Have on file two federal priorities covering the entire camp. Appraisal work will start soon and representatives from this office will contact you at that time. Signed, F.L. Kokrda."

M. K. & T. Railroad  
U. S. Highway 69 - - - Direct Route - Kansas City - Dallas - State Highway 2



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If you can assist us in this endeavor, residents of Mayes County and northeast Oklahoma will be deeply indebted to you because any use that can be made of the buildings on the site will be a boon to this area.

Yours very truly,

*George R. Coney*  
George R. Coney  
President