



Hunt Institute for Botanical Documentation
5th Floor, Hunt Library
Carnegie Mellon University
4909 Frew Street
Pittsburgh, PA 15213-3890
Contact: Archives
Telephone: 412-268-2434
Email: huntinst@andrew.cmu.edu
Web site: www.huntbotanical.org

The Hunt Institute is committed to making its collections accessible for research. We are pleased to offer this digitized version of an item from our Archives.

Usage guidelines

We have provided this low-resolution, digitized version for research purposes. To inquire about publishing any images from this item, please contact the Institute.

About the Institute

The Hunt Institute for Botanical Documentation, a research division of Carnegie Mellon University, specializes in the history of botany and all aspects of plant science and serves the international scientific community through research and documentation. To this end, the Institute acquires and maintains authoritative collections of books, plant images, manuscripts, portraits and data files, and provides publications and other modes of information service. The Institute meets the reference needs of botanists, biologists, historians, conservationists, librarians, bibliographers and the public at large, especially those concerned with any aspect of the North American flora.

Hunt Institute was dedicated in 1961 as the Rachel McMasters Miller Hunt Botanical Library, an international center for bibliographical research and service in the interests of botany and horticulture, as well as a center for the study of all aspects of the history of the plant sciences. By 1971 the Library's activities had so diversified that the name was changed to Hunt Institute for Botanical Documentation. Growth in collections and research projects led to the establishment of four programmatic departments: Archives, Art, Bibliography and the Library.

Antigua, Guatemala 18 January 1973

Dear Josephine:

At last! The boys in town got around to registering your escritura, and the lawyer gave it back to us a couple of days ago, along a bill for \$27.50 which the money you left with him hands covered, so I paid it and you send me a check when you get around to it.

Alice and I then went up against the tax problem. The National Government has to have a record of the transfer of title, and the City government ditto. But we remembered talking with doña Alice de Cobar and the tax business so I says to my Alice, w will go up and see doña Alicia before we go down to the City Hall and stand in line for 45 mins. so we did, and ran into her nice husband, - really a high class guatemalteco - who was at that precise moment finishing a letter to you, in good English. I was under the impression that doña Alicia had told you they would handle your axes along with their own and that is just what they are going to do. Or rather, have done! For they had recorded the property in your name and since City taxes (which to me are rather surprisingly high) and are payable once a month, they had made the January payment, and the National taxes which are "three mills" and are payable every three months - uess they had paid them too. Alicia's husband was a bit worried about his letter to you; said he did not know if you would understand what he meant by the word "drainage" which is one thing you pay for. That's what you pay for use of the city sewer. You pay for lighting the city streets (I get hit hard on that, because of the long street frontage) and you pay for water, according to how much you use. I guess you arent paying for water yet because you dont get any, but you have to pay for right to one cubic meter of water per day plus excess. I guess for the moment you will never hit you very hard.

I asked if he could me an approximate figure regarding what you would have to pay per annum, all taxes, national and city, and he figured it would be in the neighborhood of \$48. I suppose it will go up a bit when you build a house on the property but in recent year the tremendous jump in real estate values here in Antigua has resulted in their basing the national tax, to a considerable extent, on the value of the land per square meter, and this varies in different parts of the city, and we happened to live in the most expensive part. On our old house - the restoration - I used to pay \$60 a year and now I am going to pay \$280. The property is valued at \$38,000. When we bought the old ruin 40 years ago we paid \$2 a year, but the property was only valued - or rather, I paid for the old ruin, \$2000.

I would rather not risk the escritura to the mails and since it is 6 foolscap pages it will cost quite a bit to get a Xerox copy made I guess we better just keep it in our safe along with the titles to the other three houses we own here. The little one where Alice and I sleep, which is just a block from our library in the old house where we ought to live but get tangled up too often with the long-haired tourists, was valued at \$4500 (just what it cost) until this year when they got the idea of basing the tax largely on the amount of land you have so now that little \$4500 house is valued at \$14,000 and I will pay at the rate of 3 mills on that. If a house is valued at more than \$20,000 the rate jumps to six mills; which is guess is fair enough: if a fellow can afford to live in a \$20,000 house he can afford to pay a higher tax rate and have a television set.

I havent time today to touch on personal matters, nor have we time to write that dear Vera. When you next have her on the telephone please give her our love and tell her we will get around to writing soon. Alice joins in affection and always at your service

SCHOOL OF EUROPEAN EMBROIDERY

710 SOUTH OAK KNOLL AVENUE
PASADENA, CALIFORNIA 91106Jan 22nd 1973

Dear Wilson,

Thank you very much indeed for your most explicit letter. I think your idea of keeping the escutera in your box is a very good ~~idea~~^{one} as things + letters go astray in the mail, Our mail service here is slow and quite inefficient in my mind. I enclosed a check for \$28⁰²/₁₀₀ and hope that will cover the cost of your paying it into your bank, thank you so much for doing this for me.

Yesterday I received a very nice letter from Dona Alicia de Bobar who writes she has paid the taxes and has sent me a Xerox copy of what she has paid so I can put it in my files. She and her husband seem to be such nice good people and I feel as if I were the pussy-cat who has landed on all four feet, as it really is most kind and considerate of them to do this to a complete stranger.

All this makes me feel as if I am really getting on to go + build. I hope to come to Antigua at the end of August or beginning of September, and with plans in my head and perhaps some rough sketches of what would be suitable to build.

Last week I called Vera to find out about the report from her two doctors, she tells me they are very good indeed, ^{the reports} and I think now that she is getting near to the finish of the probate she is feeling more relaxed, and that will be a great help to complete recovery.

I am trying to sell Vera on the idea of that jeep + canoe trip through the jungle but as yet have not convinced her how interesting it will be + fun. She has had printed for me a photo of the sabel tree that Ralph took when they were down in Antigua, I think she is going to send you one too.

The sudden death of President Johnson has just come over the radio.

Do you know if the babas are going to build on the other side of the finca? It sounded like that in her letter to me.

They want me to have the light and water put on, but light means only the street light doesn't it? As things take a long time it might be a good thing to get going on this, and they are willing to see about it.

We have been having one of the coldest winters since I have been in So Calif frosts every night and Tulare county has been declared a disaster area.

Where do you buy your plants and shrubs for your garden, do roses do well in the sunshine? Your lilies were magnificent can you buy the bulbs in Guatemala.

My love to you and Alice and many many thanks for all you are doing for me

Josephine

teenie
weenies



35 HB 304
MARLIN



[March 1973]

Happy Birthday
and
have a happy day!

+ with love

Josephine

710 So Bab Knall
Pasadena 91106

June 16th 1973

Dearest Alice,

So very many thanks for your lovely long letter and to hear all your news, but I am sorry to hear that Costa Rica did not work out well for Sally. So glad to hear that you have at last had hair; as there is a Spanish woman in the French class who has an aunt in Guatemala City and she said that this winter they were short of water and that it was quite serious so I wondered how you fared through the drought.

I am hoping to get down to Antigua at the beginning of September and our anxieties to get some kind of a plan for the house and estimates on how much the building will be and to see how it will all work out. Do I owe Wilson any money if so please let me know. ~~and~~ For some time there has been no word from Señora Babar and I am certain that taxes will be round again. How they seem to come thick + fast the whole time.

Vera is learning how to take photographs. I see her quite frequently at classes and we are all going to a dinner party with some mutual friends on June 23rd

She does not think that she can get away before
Sep 10th so I am going to go on ahead of her. I
have persuaded her to venture on the canoe trip they
advertise and hike in the jungle.

What would you like especially from U.S.A. please
write and let me know. As the little night lights
never arrived would you like some?

Margaret Fish whom you met has been instrumental
in obtaining ^{for me} a really large commission for a leaf
Church in Beverly Hills and we are going out together
to measure the eeshuans + kneelers on Monday afternoon
and to discuss with the rector what he would like.
They are all going to be washed by the women of the
church.

Everyone here is discussing the Water gate Scandal
more and more people seem to get involved. I only
wish they would hurry and get the whole business over.
Los Angeles elected its first black mayor but we all
think that he will be good for the city. He has been
on the City Board for many years and ^{knows how it}
should be run and how the city should be ~~run~~
he seems quite impartial to all colours.

The heat has at last arrived and to-day here in
Pasadena it has been 100° which is really warm for
this part of the country

Please let us know your needs from U.S.A.
My love to you + Wilson as always Josephine

Antigua, 24 June 1973

Dear Josephine:

Alice is frightfully busy getting ready for guests (several) which are coming this week, so I will take the liberty of replying to your letter of the 16th.

Yes, we have been having rain and lots of it, and it is true that Guatemala City suffered badly for lack of water this past year, which, however, was the driest we have had in half a century, they say. The problem has been the tremendously rapid growth of the City. We did not really suffer here in Antigua and never have, though sometimes we have held ^{to} down a bit on the use of water for the garden during March, April and part of May.

We think you are wise to get started on your building program this year as we think costs (which have been going up rapidly for years) are almost certain to continue, especially if the country should change its policy regarding parity with the dollar. We are glad you are coming in September, though you run into some wet weather. We have just gone through a week or so. No, you don't owe me anything, and I don't think you need to worry about the taxes. The Cobars' taxes were of course due at the same time as yours and they would have paid yours along with theirs. I will try to drop by and check up, but I am sure you don't need to worry. Most of us are often slow in paying - we have been so, many times, and haven't had any trouble about it. I believe there was some delay regarding the time the last taxes were due - they were making some adjustments in the rates here in Antigua.

The only thing we would ~~want~~ like you to bring us is a box of those delicious See's chocolates.-----Right here I found Concha and asked her about the taxes. She says it is true that the government has made a readjustment has lowered the taxes on the higher priced properties - we will get a refund of about \$8 on ours for this past quarter. As you know the taxes are payable every quarter. She said the next payment will be due in July - the last was in March. And another point: on the smaller properties is "three mills" (tres por millar) while on the more valuable - I seem to recall if a property is assessed at more than \$20,000 the tax is twice as high, six mills (seis por millar). You don't need to bother about the tax business until you come down.

But what I do think will be wise is for you to be thinking about the house you want to build. And then small building for servants quarters and garage. One of the mistakes we made when we built the school over in Honduras was in having the kitchen in the same building with our bedroom etc. There will always be one to three illegitimate babies in the kitchen. and we are just reaching the point here where we are going to have to face illegitimate grandchildren. There is no end to it. Put the kitchen 40 feet or so from the house.

We have just come back from the open-air market up at San Bartolomé on the road to Guatemala City. Wonderful morning, wonderful. Alice loaded down for our guests of this week. Wonderful lot of fruit (which I like) and green peas and celery and summer squash and pineapples fresh from the coast and muskmelons and sugar baby watermelons. And so on.

Much love from us both,

SCHOOL OF EUROPEAN EMBROIDERY

710 SOUTH OAK KNOLL AVENUE
PASADENA, CALIFORNIA 91106July 11th 1973

My dear Alice + Wilson,

Thank you so very much for your nice long letter.

Vera came in to-day and we discussed plans but she cannot leave as soon as I, and, as it is definitely no holiday unless I leave home, am going to depart in advance. So am hoping to arrive either Aug 30th or Sep 3rd. We are both very relieved that no cholera shots are necessary. Vera will write and tell you her date of arrival & we could start discussing plans for the house and what is suitable for the climate & also the costs of building.

I wonder if Mrs Bobar has done anything about the light & the water. She has been so helpful about the taxes that I would very much like to bring her a little gift of some kind. What is the correct procedure re gifts in Central America to people who are almost strangers. Alice please have a flash of genius and tell me what to bring.

We have been suffering from a heat wave and my poor roses look like over cooked fried eggs. One day

we had 108° which is really hot for Pasadena but luckily the nights are cool.

The fruit you brought back from the market sounds simply mouth watering, I never thought the time would come in So Calif to have to think twice before buying plums but 60^{cts} a lb is prohibitive.

Water gate affair is on every ones mind, if only they would get over with it and then business would settle down again.

Much love to both of you and am very much looking forward to seeing you both again soon.
Josephine

P.S. How is Charlie?

710 So Bab Knoll

Pasadena 91106

Aug 15 1973

Calif U.S.A.

My dears Alice + Wilson,

So very many thanks for your last two letters, I am desolate over the demise of Charlie ^(?) but delighted to hear the good news of the nine little dillies ^(?) may they all grow up into fine ducklings.

All being well I arrive on Aug 31 ⁱⁿ ~~and~~ the Pan Am plane flight 515 which is due to arrive at 3.15 P.M. Now I know the ropes I can take a taxi at the air port and bargain with the driver to take me up to Antigua. The plane may be late and you would be round the air port champagne at the hit.

It will be wonderful to see you all again, and I am looking forward to getting the plans for the house underway.

Poor Vera has to wait for a wedding and I am sorry that we are not travelling together, but she feels it her duty to go to this function; but

she has had excellent reports from her doctors &
is greatly cheered up. She said she must not forget to
bring back your basket

We are busier than bird dogs trying to
get everything finished up before leaving &
to get someone to water the garden and to
feed the cats. What a responsibility animals
are but life without them is quite bleak.

With love all round
and asta la vista

Josephine

Antigua, 20 August 1973

Dear Josephine:

On coming back from three days in the highlands last night we found your letter of the 15th,

I have put you on the calendar pad as "due to arrive on Pan Am flight 515 on August 31st." We will hope to meet you at the airport; if we cant get away we will try to send our Volkswagen for you; and if everything fails you can grab a taxi at the airport - or a taxi will grab you, to put it more accurately - and bring you right to our house. I think I wrote you that thr right price is ten Quetzales but usually ask twelve and get it.

Since 515 is a direct flight from Los Angeles, non-stop, it usually comes thru on time. I assume you will come on a Tourist Card which makes your stay here simpler than if you come on a visa but at the same time it is always well to have a pas port in your possession but not necessary to show it at the Immigration desk in the airport unless they ask for it.

We are sorry Vera is not coming with you but hope she will not be delayed very long.

Hastily but with much love in which Alice joins,



USA
postage 15c

P2 + Mrs Wilson Popenoe
Apostado 208.
Antigua
Guatemala

Central America

AEROGramme • VIA AIR MAIL • PAR AVION

② Second fold

~~P2 + Mrs Wilson P~~
Mrs John E Gardner
710 So Oak Road
Pasadena 91106
U.S.A.



Additional message area

This will be the first sewers convention that they
have ever held at the Sherrington and they are
being held by 180 women all wielding needles furiously
Have a lovely visit to Honduras.
Many many thanks for all you did for us and for the
wonderful holiday. My very best love to both of you
Josephine

710 So Oak Knoll

Pasadena 91106

Oct 2nd 1973

My dearests Alice + Wilson,

Here we are back in the land of snow + bustle, and at the moment we are wondering ^{from} where our next drop of gasoline is coming.

I never can thank you both enough for the perfectly marvelous holiday and for all the help you have so willingly and graciously given towards the construction of the new home in Antigua. It will certainly be a thrilling day when the first brick is laid. You just don't know how I appreciate everything as I could not have accomplished it by myself. Thank you Thank you Thank you.

I hope by this time Sally has got rid of her hoarseness enough + cold and is hopping round like a giant refreshed with wine.

The customs men were so flabbergasted at the cardoman's seal, that they hustled us through the customs in nothing flat; he took a very casual glance at Vera's luggage + never even opened mine, and was thankful to get rid of us. So here we are back in the USA as my sister calls it with a bit of cardoman all ready to get going on the floor tortillas.

We were a bit late on arriving in Los Angeles but we managed to get a taxi which we shared with a very nice gentleman from Brazil. He was going later to a convention at Las Vegas.

I am starting on Thursday to take a Spanish class at the high school in Alhambra, but it will be difficult to get down to brass tacks until the Seminar at the Huntington is over which is at the end of this month.

710 So Oak Knoll

Pasadena 91106 Calif USA

Nov: 14 (1973)

My dearests Alice + Wilson,

Thank you Wilson for your nice letter and my bank statement which was most kind of you to send. I have filed it with my other papers in the Guatemalan "Estate"!! So glad to hear that you both enjoyed your journey to Honduras. I know that Vera wrote to you 3 days before I packed mine so you should have received her letter before mine, I had a long conversation with Vera this P.M. on the phone but I did not tell her her letter had gone astray as it would upset her, & she is still struggling with the Estate. She told me that the Lica photos are really quite good and she thinks you will be able to have some P.C.s made from the films. With the other camera she also obtained a wonderful picture of the serpentine garden. — If your grand-daughter is going to fly down to see you at Christmas she could take the gladstone lilies with her and so if you would be so kind as to send me her address ^{at night} I will get Bushbuds to ship them to her. They are with love from Vera & myself. 1/10 people. Please rds yellow etc. — At the Alhambra High School Adult education I have found a very good Spanish teacher who speaks in Spanish the whole time. The suit & jacket arrived from Maup's yesterday and look very nice ~~but~~ Now it has turned cold and is pouring with rain a good thing as the forest fires have been horrendous, and thank heaven it will save me from ~~wondering~~ ^{wondering} tomorrow.

We have just finished a weeks Seminar at the Huntington Hotel. Two of the permanent guests rode up in the elevator with one of the servers, ^{1st} p 9 to the other. "A woman's convention and they are all seeing", "yes" replied the other "but they are really quite nice people". Well we all worked so hard that there was not any other time to be anything but nice.

Watergate continues to plague us, but we are now immersed in a gas crisis and have been asked to keep our houses at 68 as I always keep mine at 78 reducing to 72 seems to me to be sitting in the freezing cold.

Next week is Thanksgiving so that seems to make a short week and things get turned around. Vera is going to her old friend of her childhood Teddy Graham and I am going to some friends near Itzadeva. We are always had a communal dinner - but Robert Jameson who is inviting us wants to do it all himself. Vera may come to me for Christmas if she does not go to visit Ralph's sister up North.

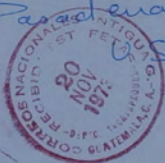
Please send the name + address of the grand-daughter

With love as always

Josephine

Additional message area

From Mrs John & Jardine
710 So Bab Ruell
Pasadena 91106



② Second fold

AEROGARAME • VIA AIR MAIL • PAR AVION

Admora

Central

Guatemala

Antigua

Apartado 208

Dr + Mrs Wilson Reforosa

postage 15c



710 So Oak Knoll

Pasadena 91106

USA

Dec 22 nd 1973

Alice My Dearest,

I have found someone who is leaving
here for a caravan trip to Panama City on
January 11th 1974, and they will bring anything
you wish. We are sending the gladiolus corms
by them - incidentally I don't know their names;
but they are either the Great Grand parents or G P's
of this child who is a pupil of mine. What else
do you want. Please reply as soon as possible as they
live in Placentia & we have to get the stuff to
them.

Best of Christmas love to all

Josephine



USA
postage 15c

Mrs Wilson Popenoe
Aparado 208
Antigua
Guatemala Central America

AEROGARME • VIA AIR MAIL • PAR AVION

② Second fold

U.S.A.

91106

Paradise

50 Oak Knoll

Dr. Popenoe



Additional message area

710 So Oak Knoll

Pasadena 91106 U.S.A.

Jan 13 1974.

My dear Wilson,

Thank you so very much for your letter. I am so sorry to hear you have been in the hospital and hope by this time you are well on your way to a complete recovery. — The gladiolas were packed in a handcar basket and given to the grand daughters of a Mr + Mrs (halfhouse) who are at the moment wending their way down through Mexico to Panama, they are due to pass through Guatemala and I only hope they know all the ropes to get them safely through the customs. If they are next able to get to Antigua then (Vera it was who had this flash of genius) they are going to be left at the Water Travel Agency and they will send you a card when they arrive. Keep your fingers crossed.

We have had torrents + torrents of rain causing mud slides and the roads closed due to heavy snows. But the day was gorgeous and I was able to get out and work in the garden which is my Sunday chore. I expect Vera will write to you about the amusing experience meeting the man who had worked with you and he went to Babeen + Tu Tui. He informed his anchors that they had not heard of the place. Vera stepped up after the lecture and informed him to the contrary. He was surprised that Mrs Lulu Thompson was alive + well. P + I had such nice letters from the

priest who was so good to us at Babar
His Babar has never sent me a bill for the draughting of
the plans for the house. I wonder if you would be so
kind as to ask her for account. I was thinking of
making the 2nd bedroom a little larger and I could
use it as a den and have a Seminals sofa bed ~~and~~ but
would have to put all the junk away neatly when
my relations or friends come to stay. Would it be
possible for you to send me a Xerox copy, if they are
obtainable in Ambique. — We have to cut our
light by 10% which is difficult for me, as having no
television nor hi fi, and only an electric toaster it
makes cutting down on electricity very difficult.
Luckily the gas is not rationed; but what we are
going to do about gasoline no one knows. Mayor
Bradley of L.A. flew to Washington to try to
obtain 75 gals a month per car. The car pools do not
seem to be going very well everyone seems to be going
in different directions; quite a lot of people think it is
something concocted by the big oil companies this shortage.

Next Wednesday am leaving to teach for 4 days at Tuscon
it will be interesting, as it is my first visit to that
part of the country. I have been told it is very chilly
this time of year and frightful & gusty winds.

I do hope you are feeling really well again, take
care, and please do not have to go to the hospital
again.

With much love to you and Alice.
Josephine

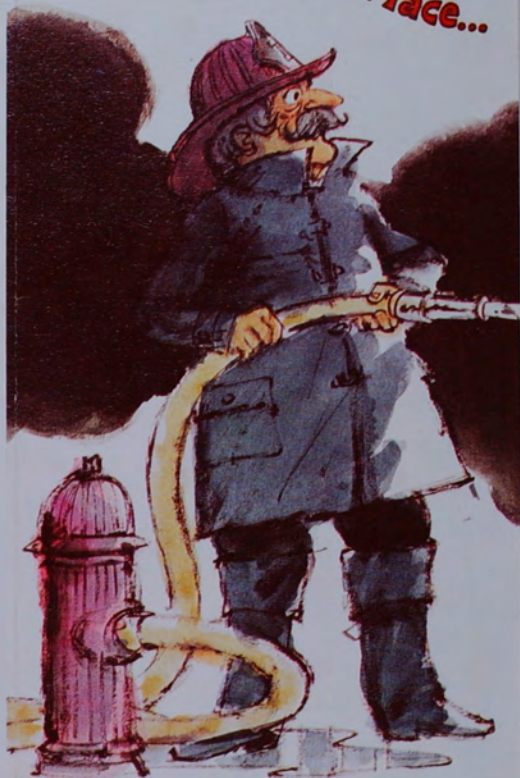

punchlines™

American Greetings®

© AMERICAN GREETINGS CORP.
CLEVELAND, U.S.A. W000001

25B 421E

This must be the Place...



[March 1974]



© A.G.

Inside

My dear Wilson

A very happy birthday to you,
and may you keep fit + well have
good + loving friends and a 100
birthdays.

The glacioler bryozoa are a
present from Vera + Anne. I saw
her today and she's a rather nice
sent you the photos that will be
suitable (she thinks and her
photographer instructor also) to
have post cards made of them.

Mr + Mrs^o Hawthorn who are
the grandparents of one of my
pupils wrote the most
enthusiastic letter of how much
they and Alice were to them;
and the lovely roset chicken
dinner they had in your house.
He also criticized his day with
you blow by blow, and the
nice linen they are taking home
with them. Thank you + Alice
so much for being so hospitable

and kind to complete changes.
I had been meaning for a long
time to write to thank you
for the September letter with the
plan of the house. I have
decided to cut down the size
of the living room and make
the bedroom der larger + to
have the extra bath. I am
going to try to find a draughts -
man here, but at the present
moment am so desperately busy
that no time has been found
to go in search of one.

I am going to have an introduction
to some people here who had a
fincha and then left Guatemala
but are now going back. They
have built themselves a house
on Lake Itz'abon and will soon
be moving down there.

I meant to tell you some time
in my last letter, that the couple
I had thought about for Sally

have moved away from San Marino.

I have thought up a good plan for the inventory which is still on my mind; and when I come down to start (lets hope) the building next January if that is the time to begin, I can do a certain amount ^{of inventories} every day. And Vera when she comes can take photos of the most valuable objects and have them all together in one book.

Am sorry to hear about Mrs Baber, and hope she is better and will keep well to enjoy her new home.

What is the duck situation?

Must get this into the mail or you will not receive it on your birthday.

My dearest love to you + Alice

+ Happy birthday

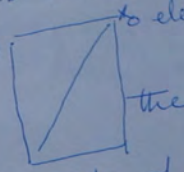
Josephine

710 So Oak Road

Pasadena 91106 U.S.A.

April 4th 1974

My dear Wilson,

Mr. Morse the architect, who is grappling with the house plans would very much like to know the elevation of the back of the property  the elevation.

Then the next thing he wants is width of the sidewalk and the height of the curb. He is coming over next Thursday to show me the plans. He has drawn up tentatively

also he wants to know about how much per sq foot or cubic foot or meter ~~the~~ buildings cost. He is ~~and the distance~~ taking the greatest interest in this & seems to get a great kick out of it, and has all kinds of bright ideas.

I hope you are all well in Casa del Bido and that everything is running smoothly.

He wants to know if you can build right up to the neighbour's property line.

Must get this to the 6 P.M. mail or it will not go out until the next morning.

My love as always to you & Alice

Josephine



D^r Wilson Popenoe
Aportado 208
Antigua
Guatemala
Central America



AEROGARME • VIA AIRMAIL • PAR AVION

② Second fold

No Sesuvium from rear to
front of lot
Land level about 36 ins above
street
sidewalk will be about 36"
wide - curb about 8" above
cobblestone street

Additional message area

1 710 So Oak Knoll
Pasadena
Calif 91106 USA

July 27th 1974

My dearests Alice + Wilson,

Thank you for your last two letters. The latter received to-day. Your letter re the electric blanket has arrived at the right time as Rohmsons', which I expect you remember, is having their yearly sale + reduction. I will get a single bed blanket for dolls \$1.10 that I have in my house here and I imagine that you have the same in Guatemala.

I gave up teaching at the end of June and my pupils gave me the most lovely reception at the San Gabriel Bouquet Club. The architect who has drawn up the plans for the house I want, there are only a few minor alterations to be made same and took innumerable photos. He got an excellent one of Vera; and I am doing it up in a sturdy envelope tomorrow and am mailing it to you, I am certain you will agree with me that it is an excellent likeness. They also presented me with a good fat cheque so I can splurge on a really lovely door that I would not have thought possible otherwise.

It seems that when you lived in Altadena you + your father used to present a doctor Morlan (who lived next door) with innumerable avocados and all you asked was for the pits back. Incidentally his daughter Mrs. Middleton is a great friend of mine. She told me this story and said that these lavish gifts of fruit have given her the expensive tastes in avocados. She was always all about you, and has wonderful childhood self on avocados + sapotes brought

over by your family.

I don't quite know as yet what time in October I will be able to get to Antigua. Two things are holding me back. (1) I am still waiting for vital information from the Bank in England. (2) A friend of mine Mollie Stephens fell in her kitchen + completely smashed her shoulder and have all the nerves, the surgeon told her now the bone has healed that it was only touch and go that they did not have to amputate. She came to be with me at the beginning of this month and is remaining until her sister comes back from England. She the sister married a Canadian and they live in Vancouver. Mollie will go up to Vancouver when the sister comes from England she is due back on Sep 22nd. So she ought to have her husband settled in their apartment and should be down here about Oct 1st so I hope I may be able to come down about Oct 10th. At present poor Mollie is quite incapacitated and has absolutely no use of her arm nor hand. All her food has to be cut up for her and she has to be helped in + out of her slings and what is more suffers terrible pain. So as you can see at the moment I am rather tied here - But that too will pass.

When I was with you last September I gave Smr Bobar a cheque for \$1100⁰⁰ to keep him going. I do so hope he is not out of pocket on the taxes + clearing the land etc etc. They have been most considerate as you know; and I hate to think they would be out of pocket over anything. If he feels he does not want to build + wants to sell the property would they give me the first refusal?

Do you think it would be a good thing if you were to approach

he stands on the time element³

July 29th 1974

Have just received your letter saying Alice wants a pink
chevrolet and so tomorrow Monday I will call some more
Shaws. I called 3 to-day Sunday and none of them had any pink
ones but I am certain that Robinsons will have everything + I
will call tomorrow when they will be open;

No I would never contemplate buying a 2nd hand car,
it is too great a risk for a woman who knows nothing about cars.

Please put on your thinking caps + let me know if there is
anything else you want me to bring down when I come, it
seems as if October is far off but time passes so rapidly

Bob Maise dictated me a letter when he came last
about payments of the architect in U.S.A. I will send you a copy of
what he ~~wrote~~ dictated, but as Guatemala is different I don't think
it is very important + it can wait.

There is no hurry for the family in the rear of the lot to move on
yet. All the plans will have to be approved + permits granted and an
architect produced all that takes time so why not let the people go on until
something definite is settled.

The heat + the smog have been most oppressive this year - it turned
hot at the beginning of July + has not let up.

My dearest love to you + Alice + thanks a thousand times for all
the trouble you are taking without you this project could never be
accomplished

Josephine

Antigua, 17 August 1974

Josephine dear,

I hope you will pardon my delay in replying to your good letters of July 27 and 29. I could not answer until I had talked with don Carlos Cobar, which I have done this morning. He has been after me to take my soil auger and go over his part and your part of the property, to see if there were any old constructions covered by the silt from the Pensative which has accumulated during the past 200 years. We found nothing of any importance; if there were buildings on the property we figure the foundations have been covered by about three feet of silt, as this is the elevation of the land over the street level and we think the latter is about what it was in 1773. While we were on this job I had just the right opportunity to ask him if he was sure he was going to build on his share of the property, now that construction costs have gone up so much (I think I had written you that the papers announce that there has been a rise of 50% but I would think it nearer 25 - perhaps 3% at most. The increase is more in the cost of cement than anything else.

Well, he said that it would be up to his wife (this is the way they always start!) but they might consider selling and I told him in that case you might be interested in buying. I left it that way, thinking I would give him time to think it over. I have a hunch they might raise the price to \$6900 or even 7000 dollars, because everything is going up all the time, but if I were you I would think seriously of buying at \$6000 or even \$6500. I believe you really need more room than you now have and the price isn't out of line with what other folks are paying.

I haven't talked to Carlos Hegel the architect, because I think we may do better to work through Cobar who is well known here and may have

ways of getting around some of the problems which have been raised by the consejo. You are not going to want an architect to start from scratch and design a house. What you will really need is someone to supervise the construction which only an architect licensed to practice in Antigua can do. I really feel you ought to be able to get by at 10% of the final cost. In any case, I feel we will do better to wait until you get here before going into this matter.

If you stick to the original purchase I think you are going to need a new wall on the East and West sides of the property, and of course along the street also. This is going to be quite an expense but unavoidable.

As for a small car, there seem to be two options - in the opinion of my friends - a Volkswagen or a Japanese Toyota. Both makes are about the same size and the same price; practically \$4000 for a new. There is a possibility that you might be able to get one of our friends a used car which would be a safe bet, and cost considerable less. I would only want a used car if I bought it from a friend who be honest about its history.

Thanks for keeping Alice's electric blanket in mind. We don't have to have one but she would like it, for use of guests.

Sr. C6 an doesn't want you to give him any more cash until you come down. He seems to be an expert accountant and has your affairs in apple pie order.

Inflation is the plato del dia here. It all started with the gasoline business but everybody follows suit. Concha just came in to say the native cheese we have always bought at \$1 a pound is now \$1.45 and it is all working just as it has in the States; they jump the prices then labor goes on strike and they have to jump the wages then it begins all over again. But we are not so badly off here as

you are in the States as yet.

Alice joins in much love to you and Vera.

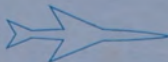
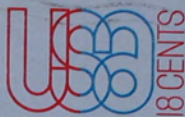
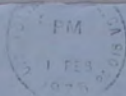
Pasadena 91106

USA Jan 31st 1975

Dearest Alice,

So very many thanks for your lovely letter - I do appreciate your having written to me as I know how busy and occupied you are with running the Casa Bider and what a full time occupation ^{it is}. Also so many thanks for sending the flowers to the Babas. I had a note from her saying how delighted they were with them - Please let me know if the magazines do not arrive regularly. The mails are desperately slow here and a letter posted in England before Christmas never arrived until Jan 21st - On Sunday I hope to get a letter off to Wilson, but tell him not to worry about expediting the building as I want whatever plans they are going to pass, passed first, so as then I shall know exactly where I am. - Also this Summer it will be quite necessary to go to England ~~and~~ my sister is going to be 80 in March and a visit with her is most necessary. So sorry to hear about Sally, two weeks in bed is very weakening, but anything to do with ones back is so painful - My friend Molly Stephens fell and broke her wrist on the arm she broke last Easter, she was in the hospital and then came to me for a fortnight before her sister came down from Canada to look after her in her apartment, where she was delighted to return and to be among her own belongings - We were having a delightfully mild winter and all the plants etc were coming up and now it has turned bitterly cold & it is agony to get up in the morning - It ~~is~~ ^{is} must ex. exting about the pipe from the Dominican friary running through the property and the Babas erecting steps, but at a depth of 6 to 10 ft impossible to preserve all the relations whether come to stay would be tumbling into post holes. - One of the stray cats hit my next door neighbour, he has bitten too

From Mrs John E Jardine
710 So Oak Knoll
Pasadena quad. U.S.A.



Mrs Wilson Defense
Apostado 208
Antigua Guatemala
Central America.

AEROGRAMME • VIA AIRMAIL • PAR AVION

② Second fold



many people for safety and the poor dear will have to be taken to
the Humane Society to be put to sleep, a terrible thing to have
to do - Have not seen much of Vera lately she is busy with
the bankruptcy case and filing with the Inland Revenue
Service & also giving lectures & giving to lectures in L.A. Angeles.
FR Biggins whom we met at Boston must have got the
man who does the weaving, to weave me 6 yds for a puppet of mine
and is sending it by some friends of his when they return to
Hishigan in February. My dearest love to you + Wilson
and I do appreciate all you are doing for me
Josephine