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*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.

ARIZONA STATE  
UNIVERSITY

TEMPE, ARIZONA 85281

DIVISION OF AGRICULTURE

October 21, 1968

Dr. Wilson Popenoe  
Casa de Popenoe  
Antigua, Guatemala C.A.

Dear Dr. Popenoe:

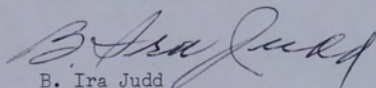
Enclosed herewith is a copy of our interview with you last June. For some reason not a picture we took came out.

We wish to do an article on you for possible publication based on the interview. Do you have pictures of yourself or of your medals that we might use to illustrate the manuscript? If you have pictures, but no negatives, we could have these copied and return the originals.

What a rare privilege it was to meet you and your charming daughter.

Again thanking you for your kindnesses and courtesies, and with warm personal regards, I am

Gratefully yours,



B. Ira Judd  
Professor of Agronomy

BIJ/csr

Dr. Wilson Popenoe Interview  
by Melvin J. Frost; B. Ira Judd; and Carl Jacob  
Antigua, Guatemala--June 1, 1968--tape recorded

The subjects discussed by Dr. Wilson Popenoe are of temperate latitude fruits, experiences as a plant explorer in Latin America, and medals and citations that have been given him.

Po--We have to work on varieties of temperate latitude fruits from the standpoint of adaption to this climate of no cold winters. That is where we are stuck.

Fr--Normally, these apples are used to a dormant period are they not? And the problem now is to get good quality without this dormant period.

Po--Get a fruit that will take a mild winter. It is a curious thing, the Siberian crabs, you know what a Siberian crab is, it comes from the coldest climate in the world, but it has the lowest chilling requirement. A Siberian crab will grow here at 4000 feet and it will grow in North Dakota. This variety has  $\frac{1}{4}$  Siberian crab blood. That's why we can grow this variety here at an elevation of 6000 feet. Well, we pomologists like to use that term "blood" as a ratio or a species genetic or life.

Ja--When you are saying palmologist do you mean pomologist? Pom meaning apple?

Po--No. Pome is a stone fruit. Pome also is any fruit. I remember a story one time about a fellow who bought a dictionary, (he bought it volume by volume) and in the first place, he thought he'd look up apple, and it said apple, see pome. Pome came in the ninth volume, and he didn't have it. Pome really in a broad sense is a fruit, although morphologically the pome fruits are the apples and pears and the drupe fruits are the peaches and plums. They have a large seed and apples have several small seeds.

Ja--What about this apple, you mentioned this crab apple around here. Is it good for dehydrating?

Po--No. These apples we have grown here are of course nearly all apples that have come from the States and they have had to work here by trial and error to find out the apple that had what they call the lowest chilling requirement. Northern Spy, for example, have to have a very cold winter. The apples that we grow here, since we don't have cold winters, have to be apples that will grow and produce fruit with a mild winter. That's the problem also in California, and in the Southern United States. We the people here have planted apples for the last hundred years, which really began in Spanish-Colonial times. But it really got its big start during the 1880's and 90's when we had these European immigrants from Switzerland and Germany who brought in their varieties. Later, beginning about 1900, came the apples from the States, and they have been planted all over the highlands here in Guatemala. Trees are found here and there but you

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never get an orchard formed really, but trees in the dooryard. And now we have these trees all over the country here. Some of them have failed and passed out of the picture. Others are bearing, some have done well at one place, some have done well in another and our job is to run these down and see what the variety is and where it has grown well. With that information we are now able to recommend and propagate the varieties that we can grow here and that are good. Now you know in the states 65% of your apples are of the variety of "Delicious" sometimes called Red Delicious. That variety you can grow here, but it requires a colder climate and higher altitude. Our climate here depends on altitude so that the Delicious apple has to grow at about 7500 feet. Quezaltenango has about 7500 feet. Delicious will grow there but we have another variety called Winter Banana, which is a horrible name for a good apple. Winter Banana is our strongest grower with the lowest chilling requirement. It is a pretty good apple, so now 3/4 of the apples being planted today here are Winter Banana, and that variety is commercial here in the Quezaltenango region and in a few other areas in the highlands.

Ja--Are there any orchards?

Po--There are very few orchards in Guatemala. There are no orchards over 15 or 20 acres, and only two or three of that size. Most of the apples here are in small plantings, well, mostly in Indian gardens around Chichicastenango. All that mountainside there that's around 6500 and 7500 feet you'll see the trees growing in the Indian's dooryards and gardens on a mountainside among the corn plants. And that's mostly Winter Banana. And from that, those scattered plantings, comes most of fruit that is now being shipped to Costa Rica by truck.

Ja--Well then there could very well be a considerable amount of orchards here in Guatemala even with the known species?

Po--Yes, that's what they do in India. They count the individual trees and convert that into terms of acres, say 50 trees per acre.

Ja--Orchards would be commercially feasible here wouldn't they?

Po--That's what's coming right now. They are planting orchards. The good ones were planted several years ago into small orchards.

Ja--How long does it take an apple tree to mature?

Po--In this climate of highland elevation, it takes five years to begin to get a commercial crop. At least five years, sometimes it depends on the variety.

Ja--Now, is this Winter Banana apple a good apple for cooking?

Po--Fortunately, that apple is an all-purpose apple. It's pretty good for what we call a dessert apple, for eating, and it's a good cooking apple. You know, most apples are one or the other. For example, the Delicious, the

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main apple in the States is not a cooking apple. We use Rome Beauty and York Imperial and other varieties for baking and cooking. And we use Delicious and Golden Delicious and Mackintosh and Cortland and Jonathan as a dessert apple.

Ja--Now this Winter Banana would dehydrate well-- wouldn't it?

Po--I suppose so, we have not gone that far yet.

Ja--I'm interested in an activity where we may set up an industry for dehydration of fruits and vegetables.

Po--Well, that's fine, because you see, Guatemala can produce a tremendous lot of vegetables and temperate zone fruits. Of course I've spent most of my life in tropical fruits. But, I started out in the temperate zone fruit 35 years ago, experimentally of course. Guatemala has a pretty big business now in vegetables and is exporting to other countries, primarily in Salvador. Every Thursday in Tunillo in Quezaltenango, they load up a large number of trucks to carry vegetables down to San Salvador.

Ja--So the dehydrating business, then, could of course expand this market?

Po--Oh yes, and of course also we're just starting in now to producing canned foods, and as I told you a little while ago, to produce juices, which we call nectars here. But they haven't gone far in juices and nectars but they are turning out some pear nectar, and of course the main thing is tomato juice and pineapple juice. As we go along we'll develop the canned fruits. That's what I'm interested in now is canned pears. You know you take those Bartlett pears from California. This pear will make a pretty fair competitor for Bartlett pears.

Ja--But it's pretty hard to eat isn't it?

Po--No, not if you handle it properly. You know, pears are the most difficult fruit to ripen properly. The big mistake we make here and have made is letting them stay on the tree too long. That's well known in the States, they harvest them there. Now this is just right. But that pear would normally be left on the tree for another month, then when it's taken off and sold and softens and will be brown at the core, and will be called brown core rot.

Ja--Yes, so taken at this age, how long does it take to ripen?

Po--A week to ten days.

Ja--Now, when was this picked?

Po--It was picked last week on Saturday.

Ja--So, it will take another week to ten days?

Po--Yes, it will take a total of ten days. Probably, that will vary

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according to the temperature, but the pears should be ripened at a temperature between 65 and 70 degrees F. That is how the people here have it. You see they have never gone into this thing. The Indians pick them when they're green and they don't ripen up properly and they wait until they're too ripe and they're too mature and they spoil before they go on the market. They haven't learned yet to handle these fruit properly. But the apples, the trouble here is they start picking the apples when they're 2/3 grown to put them on the market.

Ja--Yes, so they pick the apples too early and the pears too late. What about the peaches? I don't think much of the peaches that are grown here.

Po--Well now, the peaches we have here are practically all seedling peaches that we call the Spanish race. That's a peach that was brought over from Spain as a seed and not grafted here and almost all peaches we get in this country are seedlings. Consequently, they are quite variable in quality, and they are not the best because they haven't been improved by vegetative propagation, selected and propagated by grafting as are the peaches from the States, Elberta and those peaches of the other types that grow in the Northern States do not succeed in Guatemala.

Ja--Why not?

Po--Because of the different race that requires more cold. That's a race from North China which requires more cold than we can give them here. If you go up too high here, then it's too cold and you get the flowers are all frosted, and the trees don't bear. Or if you go down a little lower then they don't grow here. I planted these peaches from the states a dozen varieties for the last 35 years. They don't bear here. So we have to use what we call the South China race of peaches which is a honey peach. In the States the honey peaches only grow in the Southern United States, in Florida especially, and now to a certain extent in Southern California. The South China peaches will grow in this climate. So what we're doing here now in Guatemala is primarily to import these two varieties which are being produced in Southern United States, because they thrive in this climate.

Ja--You still have to graft them?

Po--Yes, and the seedlings we have here, now we're working also on the selection of local seedlings. This is an example there, and we have some good ones, but it takes time to go over the whole field and find the best ones and then propagate them and test them commercially. This peach production is going to be our next best field here. We have not worked on that very much yet. I'm speaking of we Guatemalans.

Ja--Is this being done in an organized way?

Po--To a certain extent. The government has taken a tremendous interest in this in the last ten years, and has a crash project on it by the Ministry of Agriculture.

Ja--Are you working with the Ministry of Agriculture?

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Po--No, I'm working only in a personal-cooperative way. I'm retired officially, but I can't leave things alone. I came to Guatemala 52 years ago. I haven't been in Guatemala all that time, but I've had my roots here.

Ja--Why did you come to Guatemala 52 years ago?

Po--I was with the U.S. Department of Agriculture, and they sent me down to hunt for avocados to grow in California and Florida. I spent two years here the first time. I rode 3,000 miles on horseback, we had no roads then. I got blisters every time I was out two weeks but came back to town and sat it out. I just loved that travel by horseback. And I sent home a good many varieties of avocados, of which several are now commercially important all over the world. They originated here in Guatemala. One of the best was right here in Antigua, a little finca down six blocks from here, a variety we call Nabal. It is one of the major varieties of Israel, one of the major varieties of South Africa, one of the major varieties of Australia, and one of the major varieties in Hawaii.

Ja--Does it still have the same name, nebal?

Po--Yes, they call it navel but it's nabel. Naval means abundant producer. Unfortunately, these Guatemalan avocados are alternate bearers. You only get a good crop every second year of most varieties. That isn't true of all of them, but it's true of most Guatemalan avocados.

Ja--But you think that peaches will come into their own?

Po--Oh, absolutely. I'm not talking now only of Guatemala, because I've worked all around tropical America. I've worked in all but three Latin-American countries, Tropical American Countries.

Ja--You liked it so much when you came, you decided to stay?

Po--Yes, I had to come back.

Ja--Were you married at the time?

Po--No, I came down as a single man. I was a kid practically, as you can see by the fact that I've been here 52 years. I was 24 when I came to Guatemala. I traveled for the Department of Agriculture all the way from Mexico to Chile, hunting for avocados and other economic plants. I was what they call an agricultural explorer, sent out by the department of agriculture. I traveled for 12 years in that capacity, and then I went back to Washington and married. I was headquartered in Washington and I couldn't travel any more or anything like that, so I decided to move down here. When I came down, the United Fruit Company decided to have me establish an experiment station in Honduras, to introduce new crop plants for Tropical America.

Ja--What year did you come to Honduras?

Po--In 1925. And one of the things we introduced in that station which we

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established in 1925 is the African Oil Palm of which there are now about 35,000 acres and it's booming. 35,000 acres isn't small either.

Ja--Did your wife love it here too?

Po--Yes, my first wife died in Honduras in 1932, and I carried on alone, then I married again in 1939 and my second wife died here in 1961. She was the one that really finished the restoration of this house and developed it. She had worked in the Chicago Art Institute and studied Spanish Colonial Art. That's why I developed this place as a Colonial museum.

Ja--Had you lived in this house a long time before that?

Po--We had not lived here, but this had been our home, and we spent our vacations here and came over, especially my wife since 1935 or 36 this had been our home. You see we bought this as a ruin, absolute ruin. All this roof was gone. These corridors you see all gone. I can show you some photographs which prove that, and the floors were gone. There was only one door left of the house and no window shutters. Of the woodwork, just two pillars were lying on the ground. There was just enough left so we could copy this accurately and faithfully. This house was built in 1632 by a Spanish nobleman who was a chief justice of the Supreme Court here. The Supreme Court then was the Supreme Court for all Central America and Southern Mexico. This man came out from Spain, a graduate of a law school in Salamanca which is 700 years old now and he was of a noble family. He built this place. He had plenty of money at that time. He lost it later, he got into a political row with the government and got into trouble and finally was kicked upstairs, sent to Mexico to a minor job, but he left this house which is very Moorish in its feeling, because he came from the Moorish part of Spain. That arch over there, the windows, and the whole house has a great deal of Moorish Spain in it.

Ja--How many children do you have, Dr. Popenoe?

Po--Four, two born in Honduras and two born in Guatemala. Three girls and a boy. The three girls are all married. Two of them have lost their husbands. One lost her husband, a colonel in the Marine corps, in Vietnam three months ago. Another one lost her husband in atomic energy work in Utah--National Defense. My son is at the University of Florida where his field is in tropical soils and tropical farm management. He's the director of the Center for Tropical Agriculture at the University of Florida. They have all stuck to the tropics as far as they could. They all call this home. This daughter here now lives in San Francisco. She just came down for a vacation because she was born here and she calls this home.

Ja--Is Paul your brother?

Po--Paul is my brother. He is three years older than I am. His department is psychology--he calls it just a marriage counselor.

Ja--How's he made out on his own marriage?



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Po--He was lucky. He has four children. His wife is some younger than he, but they've stayed married. His four sons are all married. He has about ten grand children. So you can't throw anything in his face about marriage.

Ja--How many other brothers do you have?

Po--I have one younger brother who is an educational psychologist, now retired. He was with the Los Angeles City schools for a long time. His first name is Herbert. He lives in Pasadena, so does Paul. There are just three brothers. Our family comes from France originally, French Huguenot. The first Popenoe was properly spelled "Papineau." It still exists. It is not a rare name in France. They came over from LaRochelle in France to New Rochelle in New York about 1690, and the family has always been nomadic, they have always gone west. Every generation has moved one step further west, and my generation hit the ocean and had to turn South.

Ja--Have the others visited you down here very much?

Po--Yes, they've not been down often, but they've all been down several times. Of course we became Californians. My brothers and myself were born in Kansas in Topeka, and we moved to California when I was 13. My brother and I left California in 1912 when I was twenty and we went over to Arabia to get date palms to plant in Southern California. That's Paul. We spent a year in Arabia and North Africa. We bought back 16,000 date palms, 17 car loads out of Houston for California, out of Galveston for California. That started the date industry really in California because they had only a few date palms and date palms are slow to propagate, you have to use the suckers. You can't use seed. It's very slow to build up an industry on suckers from 100 palms. We brought back 16,000 which was on contract. We sold them. They were on contract and went into Coachella and Imperial Valley and a few to Arizona.

Ja--Then yours was the first introduction of any importance?

Po--Yes, of commercial importance. They had been introduced before. The Department of Agriculture had been bringing in palms for 25 years experimentally on a very small scale. They had enough in Coachella and Arizona to show that dates were successful and that created a demand for them. My father who had a nursery in Pasadena, that's where we started the avocado, he made up a program and got contracts with people there, orders, and we imported those 16,000 palms. That was a stroke of luck too, how we ever got by with that I don't know. Just two kids over there--my brother got typhoid fever and almost died, and I got malaria and dysentery. I didn't die, but I wished I had because they gave me 60 grains of quinine a day.

Fr--Well, this date industry in Arizona and also in California is slowing up pretty much. They're not replanting and so on. It's too bad.

Po--Yes, it is too bad. I guess it's because of labor cost?

Fr--Labor cost. Also I wonder if they can't do something for plant

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propagation. I guess the date is pretty hard to do anything with. If they could get a date that would not grow high, so fast, and the whole cluster would ripen nearly the same time, this would cut down the labor cost in two ways.

Po--You know the story better than I do and I think this thing of getting a dwarf date is going to be difficult. I believe the ripening part could be handled by selecting the varieties.

Fr--The Medjool seems to be the one that is hanging on. That's the high priced one, the big one, the biggest date that I've seen. They call it the Medjool.

Po--I believe the Medjool is from Egypt. We didn't get the Medjool in our trip, we bought back mainly from Arabia, the Halawy, the Khadrawy the two majors varieties, and about ten others, Zahidi which is pretty good in California and Barhey and Zamor and then we went over to North Africa and got Degletnoor and a few others.

Fr--I would like myself to just do a little backyard planting of the Mejoos and see what I could do with them. I've also talked to Dr. Hilgeman, is it, over at the University of Arizona experimental farm. He's I guess our date expert in the area.

Po--Some of our first palms went to Tempe, I think. But most of them went right around the Coachella. Indio at that time wasn't very important. We missed the boat by buying land right out of Coachella and planting a lot of our own palms. We planted fourteen acres of palm on our own land on a shoestring. We didn't have any money. We were on a shoestring, and maybe the shoestring broke. We bought land there, thinking it was going to become real estate right at the edge of Coachella town, it didn't come soon enough. You know everything went to Indio.

Ja--Then if you had gone to Indio you would have become a millionaire?

Po--That's right, then I wouldn't have done anything else.

Fr--This leads to my next question, Dr. Popenoe. Maybe you've already answered it while I was taking pictures. What really got you started into this work in horticulture?

Po--I grew up in it. The Popenoes have horticulture in their genes. The Popenoe genes are horticulture genes. My uncle was one of the first professors at the Kansas State Agriculture College. The Popenoe family have been horticulturist from way back. I just grew into it naturally, couldn't help it. My father had the nursery. We moved out from Kansas to Pasadena in 1906 and then later started this nursery. See we had been in Costa Rica. My father thought he was going to make a million dollars in a gold mine in Costa Rica. He didn't lose quite a million dollars, but he lost all he had. We lived in Costa Rica for a year. I was 8 years old then. I became interested in avocados while I was in Costa Rica at 8 years of age.

Ja--You learned Spanish in Costa Rica?

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Po--Some, not too much. I learned my Spanish later, mainly when I came down here the first time. We started this nursery when my father moved to California for reasons of health. He was interested in horticulture, see all Popenoe's are, most of them. We started a nursery there, and I did the propagation. We introduced the Fuerte avocado. The Fuerte Avocado, that tree right there in the courtyard, it represents about 65% of the world's commercial avocado production. We introduced that from Mexico in 1911, and we propagated that and several trees from California.

Ja--Did you go down to Mexico to get the trees?

Po--No, we sent a young fellow, a friend of ours and he traveled around Mexico and sent back budwood of about 25 varieties. Just by luck, you know, that is one thing I love about plant introduction and agricultural exploration, there's alot of luck involved in agriculture exploration. Like playing poker, exactly, it takes alot of luck. Only it is more profitable in the long run. It was our own family enterprise. We lost our shirts in that because after we introduced these avocados from Mexico, the Fuerte, which had become at that time, but we didn't know anything about it of course, (the most important). In 1917 I had already gone, left there, but my father kept the nursery going. He had a nice stock of avocados going, getting ready for sale in the spring and they all froze in February. And that put him out of business. That was the end of our nursery. We did introduce and I propagated this variety of the Fuerte which has become the world's greatest avocado.

Fr--This leads us into another question I'd like to ask Dr. Popenoe. Of all these introductions you've made and the comings and goings and the perseverance, I am sure, of what do you think has been the biggest contribution you've made to humanity and the world--which one has given you the most satisfaction?

Po--Well, I haven't made a biggest--but I suppose the Fuerte avocado because it's become a pretty big industry. I don't know beyond that. I haven't made any great contributions. I think my contribution has been mainly, I'd like to say that I'm a pioneer, that is all.

Ja--And pioneers don't make big contributions, they just merely expose things and other people come along and reap the harvest, is that is?

Po--I hope that's true, I'm not interested in reaping the financial harvest. I'd like to think that some of my contributions have become useful, for example that African Oil Palm which really was done by United Fruit Company, but I was the one that really started that while I was stationed at Honduras. That's going to be a big thing and some other fruits I worked on are important, but I don't want to say that I have made any great contribution. All my contributions have been in the form of pioneering in a lot of tropical crops, and sub-tropical crops too.

Ja--What crop do you think holds the greatest future for Guatemala?

Po--Peaches and apples are coming up.

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Ja--What crop could be introduced in Guatemala that would accomplish alot?

Po--You be the pioneer and tell me and I will do it and make the money. It's hard to say what crop will be the most valuable in the future. I hope you make a lot of money. We can't expect that these fruit crops we're working on now will be too important because they are limited in their area, very definitely. We can't expect to export apples in any form to the rest of the world. We will probably supply Central America with apples and apple products, and we will probably supply certain areas with canned fruits--apples, pears, peaches. We're working right now on getting a peach that will look just like a Del Monte California cling peach. We've got it really now, but not commercially.

Ja--What kind of peach was it called? What's the name of it?

Po--The varieties change from 5 years to 5 years in California, but what we're working on here we have. See we can't go to California cling peaches here so we're picking out our seedlings here which are old Spanish seedlings, and we have them just as good as far as you can see and then eat, but we don't know yet which one of those seedlings were good and that's what the government's working on now and I'm trying to help, and then we will graft these varieties commercially on an orchard basis.

Ja--In what departments will these grow in mainly?

Po--Mainly in Quezaltenango, Totonicapan, Solola, Chimaltenango, and Sacatepequey, and I forgot 'Quiche' is one of the biggest. Quiche has a lot of high land, by the way, there's a department that's got a lot of future too. Now I am a little bit enthusiastic about the future of two departments here--agriculture at Quiche and Petén. Quiche has been slow in developing because it doesn't have the nice large area of flat land. You see that Tecpán plain, that is the finest piece of land in Guatemala, I was just over there last Friday. For temperate zone agriculture, for cereals, and then you have that lovely Quezaltenango Valley that is grand. But Quiche is mostly rough you know. The thing is we've got to learn to use those hillside lands. That's what they've done in Asia. We are going to have to terrace a lot of those lands. We're going to have to use some fertilizer. And when we do--those Indians are terracing a little already, with little contour terraces made with a hoe. Eventually, I think this idea about we're going to starve to death, I don't fall for that, because we've just got to work harder. Look what they did in Peru, those Incas around Cuzco. Look what they've done in the Philippines with terracing lands, and elsewhere in Central Asia. We are going to have to terrace these Latin American and Tropical American mountainsides. We can do it, but it's hard work. We will have to terrace them by building up stone walls, we have plenty of stones. Stone walls and terraces like they built in Peru 15 to 20 feet wide. Then maybe improving the soil on those terraces. It takes work, but we can do it. I think the future of Quiche lies in terracing, eventually terracing those mountains. Right now of course, we don't terrace them. It's a curious thing, that these volcanic soils don't erode like the clay soils do. You look at those wonderful mountainsides in Quiche and at Quezaltenango, Totonicapan where they're planting corn and wheat. They have been planting those

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mountain sides for years, and they are just terraced for one row of terraces done by the hoe. That is the future of Quiche.

Fr--What are two or three of the most important needs you think in tropical agriculture? In other words, in Petén what are two or three of the most important things we must watch for if we're going to have tropical agriculture down there?

Po--We talked about Petén the other day, and I just want to make one point today. First of all, I just mentioned the other day, that most of the good part of Petén lies north of the lake. I haven't been over that, my son, Hugh, has. He knows Petén pretty well. He's terribly interested in Petén. His field is tropical soil and land management. He's been working in the Amazon basin for the same study. What are we going to do with the Amazon? How are we going to develop it? I think we should emphasize the region north of the lake there and town of Flores. Next I think of course, is get communication, get roads in there. And then the other day we talked about settling in that area, getting it developed, putting in small farms, getting farmers in there, and in thinking it over more, I believe you've got to start out with a nucleus of large farms. I don't believe that the small farmer can go in there alone. Of course we could put him there and back him with equipment and money to live on until he gets a crop. I believe the best way is to get not too large, but larger farmers because they can handle the thing, they have the organization and ability to handle a larger farm. But a little fellow who goes in there on 20 acres we'll say, unless they are an awful lot of them--together they can have a cooperative, but that takes time, and a lot of hard work and I don't know whether the government can finance them all. I believe that the hope there lies in getting in some roads and in the first place, put them on the right soil. We make the mistake every time of not considering enough the agriculture potentiality of the area. Put them on good land. On land that isn't going to be swamped for half the year and dried out for half the year. Use the better land and the better areas. Get the larger farms started then bring in the smaller fellows.

Fr--How about fertilizers now?

Po--That's the two big things in Latin America are irrigation and fertilizer. That's the biggest hope we have is irrigation and fertilizers. Of course we don't want irrigation every where. You know with my boys over in Honduras, see I ran that school ever there for 17 years and we had students from 14 countries, called Escuela Agrícola Panamericana, founded by United Fruit Company, I founded it for them in 1941 at Zamorano. I ran that for 17 years. I picked out a pasture over there we thought was good, and we bought it and built that school. It turned out 1,058 mighty good boys. 95% of them are in agriculture. I consider that the best thing I've ever done because that's been something that is human, it has affected people you know.

Fr--Anything else on tropical agriculture that we need to make it go, we need to watch to make it go? How about introducing rice as a main crop instead of corn? Would it go?

Po--Well I don't know why we should make it a main crop instead of corn. Of

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course I hope we can produce more per acre. But I'm not so sure about that point, whether we ought to. I don't think we want to switch over to rice really. A lot of people like corn, you see.

Ja--Of course a lot of rice is coming in, it is a heavy producer.

Po--The point about this cereal crop, rice, that worries me is that we can produce here in Tropical America much more than we can consume. And that's what they've been talking about recently is who's going to buy our production? You see the people over in the far East that we're feeding now can't buy this stuff with cash, and the Guatemalans can't afford to grow rice to give it away.

Fr--One of our main purposes in coming over, Dr. Popenoe, was to get your special awards and medals, story and it might be that the sun will be going down here pretty soon. Would it be too much trouble to get those out and take a picture of them?

Po--We'll get them out, sure.

Fr--We will get them out and then perhaps you can start relating the various occasions under which you received these.

Po--Well, I hate to do that, but I'll do it.

Fr--Well, maybe you could let a little of your pride come to the surface and put your modesty in the background a little bit here.

Po--Well, bring them out and we will talk it over and see.

Ja--What is that?

Po--That's the Interamericane Diploma del Merito Agriola La Medalla Agricola Interamericana es el mas alta comision establecida en America para establecer y estimular publica internacionalmente la obra y las meritos sobresaliente de quienes consagran a trabajos por el desarrollo del agricultura y al desarrollo en el continente Diploma del Merito Agriola.

Ja--Where did that come from?

Po--That was given by the Organization of American States through the Turrialba Institute by the American Institute of Agricultural Sciences.

Ja--Which one of the medals is that?

Po--That in a box. That is just a medal, it is not a decoration really. They call it a decoration but it is really a medal.

Ja--And they call it a diploma de Merito. Is that the diploma de Merito?

Po--The diploma is separate. These things all come with a diploma. They give you a diploma you can hang on the wall. I have some of them here and some over in what I call my shack.

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Ja--So this one in the middle is medal de Diploma? The Organization of American States, right?

Po--That should go first I guess because it is of all over the States.

Ja--When did you get that Dr. Popenoe?

Po--Doggone it, I was trying to figure. It must have been about 1960. They gave it to me in Florida. I think about 1962. But the donors of it were the Organization of American States through the Interamerican Institute of Agricultural Services which is Turrialba, you know.

Ja--Is that in your opinion an efficient school, Turrialba?

Po--It is a fine institution. They have had a terrible time because of lack of funds and trying to cover the 12 nations that subscribe to the institute and covering its expenses but they are doing a fine job. They've changed their program from time to time. They started out primarily on research and post-graduate students, and then they've shifted over now to extension and education.

Fr--Now what is next?

Po--I think we might take them in chronological order. For example, this Order of America from Chile was the first decoration established in the new world. Founded by Bernardo O'Higgins, a dictator of Chile whose father had been viceroy of Peru before him. Bernardo O'Higgins founded this first decoration in 1812. That's why I think it so interesting because it was the first honor and decoration in the Americas. They call it Order al Merito. Order of Merit of Chile. I have the diploma on my wall over there. You see that is officially from the Chilean Government. The Diploma is signed by Arturo Alesandre, one of the great presidents of Chile. This was given because when down to Chile for the Department of Agriculture during 1920, I tried to, and later on arranged from Washington to send down a good lot of new seeds and plant material for the government. See I went down to hunt for fruit crop for the United States, and then in return was getting material sent down from Washington and for that they gave me that decoration.

Ja--How many years were you there?

Po--I was only there part of a year. They were pretty good to me.

Ja--That was a great accomplishment in part of a year to get the medal, now the rest are chronologically?

Po--The next one I think is this, the Honorary Doctorate in Natural Sciences Facultad de Ciencias from the University of San Marcos in Peru. There are three universities who all claim to be the oldest in the new world. San Marcos is considered to really have the oldest, because San Marcos was opened in 1555 and has never been closed. There were three of them, San Marcos of Peru, Santo Domingo and Mexico. The Mexicans claims to be the oldest because it was founded the same year. Maybe a few months earlier. But they opened,

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then they closed for a while. Then Santa Domingo didn't open for a few years. I think they were all chartered by the King of Spain in 1555. So I say you Harvard guys are young upstarts.

Ja--So you have a doctorate from University of San Marcos.

Po--This is the Doctorate from University of San Marcos, and Harvard didn't start until 1635. I kid them about being young upstarts.

Ju--They love you for that don't they?

Po--Let's take Guatemala next. The order of the Quetzal. That's a decoration given by Guatemala I don't know when that was established, but it's not recent. Sylvanus Morley, who was one of my dear friends, an archeologist, got that in about 1925 or so. That's not a new decoration, but it is not an early one. But that's the order Quetzal of Guatemala.

Ja--That was given by the president, was it? Which President?

Po--Yidigoras Fuentes, but I had already received the award earlier from Castillas Armas, but he conferred it on me. That was in about 1959. And by the way, several of these decorations were given to me primarily because of the work of that school, you see. It was more of an honor to the school than it was to me personally. Yes, given to me, but really for what the school had done. This is the Order of Morosand of Honduras, which really was given to me because of what the school had done for Honduras. That was about 1955.

Ja--Now is that little piece down there part of it?

Po--That is you wear. You know, if you don't have room all your medals you wear the little ones. That is part of the Marasan, and you have a little rosette you can wear in your lapel. Those we're supposed to wear all the time, but we never do. It seems a little bit vain to wear those all the time.

Ju--Well, great men are usually modest.

Po--These things are swell when you go to the inauguration of a new president or something like that. Then you have a real ball.

Ja--Well, then, what is next?

Po--This is the Order of Reuben Gorillo given to me by my good friend Pancho Samosa. He was a great supporter of our school. He use to worry me to death telling me you've got to take another Nicaraguan this year, I recommend him, so I took him.

Ja--Did he help out on donstions too?

Po--No, not at all. Nobody ever gave donations to the school. In those days we didn't need donations. In my time the United Fruit Company paid all the bills. We had an endowment which now is over 6 million dollars for that school. It is not quite self sustaining because costs have gone up so much.



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Now we get quite a lot of help out of AID. We had help from the Rockefeller Foundation and various ways.

Ja--Then you ran that school for 17 years? When did you start?

Po--I moved over to Honduras to start the school on January 1, 1941. Of course we didn't get it going until we built it in 1943. I was called off during that time by the Navy. I was in the naval reserve and I was called off by Foreign Economic Administration to help get quinine.

Fr--Did you work with Mr. Bump of United Fruit on Quinine?

Po--Yes. Bump was one of my colleagues in the company. Bump, Taillon and I joined the company in 1925 at the same time. Now this very handsome one is the Order of Agriculture of Merit from Ecuador. It was given me about 1950.

Ja--What were you doing in Ecuador?

Po--Well, I was down there for a year hunting for avocados and other things as agricultural explorer for the U.S. Department. Not only avocados, but I got corn and potatoes and other things to send to the states.

Ja--Was that potatoes to send to the states?

Po--Yes, wild potatoes for breeding work. They use these potatoes for breeding some. Nothing particularly comes out of it yet these things sometimes show up later. This work I did for the department of agriculture was a mutual exchange. I would get things to send back and then we'd send things to them. And they gave me this decoration based upon that part of the work.

Ja--Incidentally, what do you think of the potato here in Guatemala? They are improving a lot aren't they?

Po--Yes, the potatoes here are all right if they plant good seed. They usually save the small ones for seed here.

Ja--How do you think the Idaho Russets would do here?

Po--I don't know anything about that here. They have tried a lot of varieties from Mexico. The Rockefeller Foundation has been active in that you know. They have done a lot of experimental work on potatoes here and I think they have been getting good results. Then there is the Order of Balboa from Panama. This one down here, that's Balboa.

Ja--When did you get the Order of Balboa?

Po--Oh, about 1960 I guess, some time around there.

Ja--Were you with the U.S. Department of Agriculture then?

Po--No, I was with the State Department. This came as a result of working with the school. That was really rough because we had taken so many Panamanians to the school that the government recognized what we had done for Panama through the school. And this is an Order of Agricultural and Industrial Merit from Cuba.

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Ja--Were you in Cuba?

Po--I've worked in Cuba off and on quite a lot. See I have worked in all these countries. I was in Cuba the last time for the Department of State, 1941, to study the needs of an Agricultural loan for Cuba. I was on a committee of five to study the agricultural needs. And I, that is really where I got this. Although I had worked in Cuba before. Called the Orden del Merito Agricola Industrial. There is no date on it but I think that it was about 1945 about the time of Bautista. Now, this medal was given to me in 1946, a little gold medal given me by the city of Antigua. "In Recognition of my work in favor of the city of Antigua." In other words, what I'd done to help Antigua.

Ja--Specifically for what you did in the restoration of your home and the museum and things like that?

Po--Yes, that and the work I did here in agriculture. I helped to develop some improved practices here in coffee cultivation and I brought in some sugar cane varieties and two or three new fruits. Now those are the only important ones. This is the Wilder Medal of the American Pomological Society, which is one of the highest honors in the States for work on fruit varieties. It says, "To Mr. Wilson Popenoe for Leadership in Tropical and Sub-Tropical Fruits." That was about 1960. Maybe February of 1956 or 58. And this is the Frank and Marin Medal for foreign plant introduction, given by the American Genetic Association for work in plant introduction. It's a very handsome medal. Then I'm sorry I don't have here the George Robert White Medal of Honor of the Massachusetts Horticulture Society. It is the only Society of Horticulture in the U.S. and a very important organization. They give medals every year. This George Robert White Medal is just this size in solid gold. It is pretty fine thing so I left that in a lock box up in the States.

Ju--Don't let them know you have it or they will want it.

Po--This is a medal of honor of the California Avocado Association given for work in connection with the avocado industry.

Fr--I see now what I should do. Take a close up picture of each one of these medals.

Po--Oh. Don't do that, it is too much work. You don't need it.

Fr--Let's see, you picked this up once and laid it down. I am interested in farming and can see that is a plow and I can recognize it.

Po--This was given to me by the first graduating class in our school at Honduras, which was the class of 1946. When they came back for a class reunion, at one time they gave me this medal.

Ja--How many were in the class?

Po--74 in that first class. You see we didn't have any second or third years. We started out with nobody in the dormitories. We had 74 in first

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dormitory. We've never had more than 60 after that. Yes, the first class was the largest. I wished we could have kept up that same type. In other classes we had more students, but we didn't have dormitory space for them.

Fr--How about the gold one here?

Po--This is that gold one here. Oh, this was from Ecuador. This was the Order of Merit from Ecuador. But, look, this was superceded by this bigger one so I wouldn't mention this. This is just the Order of Merit from Ecuador, but this is a higher honor from the same country.

Ja--Well, I think the one given you by your students is important because the students appreciate you, and that shows you're a good teacher.

Po--Not necessarily. They appreciated me, that shows they're just nice kids.

Ja--If they were nice to you, that shows you were nice to them.

Po--I have often wondered about that. Sometimes when I meet the old graduates and some of them that graduated 15 years ago, I say I can't expell you now from the school now you have graduated. You can go and go out into the world and meet people. What did they think of me as a director, was I too tough? They said you were tough, but you were fair. It does me good. Anywhere I go, half the time I don't recognize them. They've got mustaches and they're wearing black suits and all, they used to wear khakies and they are all dressed up, and I hardly recognize them, but they all come up and greet me as though they like me and I appreciate that very much. This says, "A tribute from your students who have made your teaching bear fruit." That was the students from 1946 to 1953 in our school in Honduras, Escuela Agricola Panamericana at Zamorano. You know I knew when we named it that way, they would never call it that, but you know it has always been called Zamorano by the students.

Ja--I always thought it was St. Morano before I got over there, but it is Zamorano. Who's the director now?

Po--Robert P. Arnold Armor, a very fine Scotchman. He came out with me to our station. You see we founded the Maset Treaty Experiment Station. The company did, and I was a full advocate for it to found that station in Honduras. I ran it for seven years, then they asked me to work on banana cultivation and on the banana problems in seven countries. I traveled around all the time, practically. I then brought out Bob Arnold as we called him. He ran the station for eight years, and then he went to Salvador and worked for San Francisco de Sola on introducing new crops over there and developing new crops where he worked six years. Then he went up to Florida to take further academic education. He got his Master's Degree there. Then we brought him back to the school as assistant director because the director was retiring last year. See we had the rule in the United Fruit Company which we carried out in the school. The school was based entirely on United Fruit Company policies and practices from the start. It is an autonomous school. We're a corporation under the laws of Delaware, but United Fruit Company founded the school and supported it for the first 15 years or more

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and Arnold took over when Albert Muller, who followed me (not directly). Dr. Paddock followed me for 5 years, then Muller, then Arnold took over this year.

Ja--I met Arnold. I had dinner with him. He is a fine fellow.

Fr--I think we overlooked a very important one here. At least I don't have it.

Po--No, that's not important, it's pretty. I would not put it down really because it has no official status. This is the Eloyd Farrel International Foundation, which really isn't official. It was given for what I had done in Ecuador. I made quite a study. See, I was there over a year. I studied and published an extensive paper on the fruits of Ecuador. It was then published by the Smithsonian Institution in Washington.

Ju--When I was over there, they had retired an old, old tractor that they had, and I think they called it Payaso.

Po--That's right, and it is a John Deer Tractor. That Tractor started life here in Bananera in the Fruit company, and then went over to Tiquisate where it worked for seven years and then when I started to school 25 or 26 years ago, I had to have equipment. You see the United Fruit Company supplied us everything and then we got lots of their used materials in construction and all and they gave me that tractor from Tiquisate. That tractor must be 35 years old now. You know we had a terrible time when we started the school during the war, and we couldn't get supplies and we were a little bit peeved because the U.S. government said that that school wasn't connected with the war effort. So they wouldn't let us buy anything in the States. So we had to get all our equipment, all our materials, pipe, round iron, and everything. We bought everything we used to get nails from Mexico and had 12 kegs stolen on the frontier too. We bought everything there was in Costa Rica, everything there was in Honduras, and Guatemala, and some from Mexico. We had to get stuff from anywhere. We got our bath tubs from Mexico. Nothing from the States.

Ja--Who wouldn't let you, the government?

Po--Yes, the government because we weren't connected with the war effort.

Fr--Dr. Judd and I wondered if you have any particular approach that you have when you work on a job. How do you go at it? Do you have any definite goals or definite guidelines when you start on a job? Like temperate fruits or avocados.

Po--Yes, well, the whole program simple. I just get out there and look. I get in the field and look for the things.

Fr--In other words, then you expose yourself to the problem and it motivates you then to whatever you're going to do?

Po--Yes, I get out in the field and go to work on the thing. This is a perfect example here: I go out and look for these fruits and see where

they grow. When I come back, I look them up in the books and I read the literature on the cultivation of the fruits in every country to what ideas I could get to apply to the fruits here. That's about all there is to it. Course the hard part is to get other folks to apply and care for these trees.

Fr--You aren't worried about a lot of details, plans, and programs and itineraries, etc.

Po--I have sworn I'll never make another survey or write another program. I've been in this thing so many years that I've made lots of programs and made lots of surveys. The thing is they put them in the files. You've got to get the work done, you have got to implement these things and that is what is so hard to do. You have a change in the administration, a change in the administrator, or a change in the techniques of any company or individual and the hard part is to have continuity. That's why I'm doing this work myself. If I had said to the government here I'll take a contract with you to develop this fruit program, and if the administrator was enthusiastic, they'd say, "Why sure, we'll give you so much a month, and so on." If I had gotten busy on it, then in six months or a year, they change the administrator or they change the program and I would drop it and I wouldn't be able to carry it on if I had to do it all by salary you see. The way I am able to do it now is I'm on my own expense. By the mercy of God, I've saved enough money when I was with the fruit company to be able to carry on this work you see.

Fr--What were you hired by the U.S. Department of Agriculture then later the United Fruit Company, or were you traded back and forth?

Po--No, I was hired by the Department of Agriculture in 1913. When I came back from Arabia on that date palm bit, the day after I arrived in New York I was on the payroll in Washington. I got \$150 a month as an agricultural explorer. I stayed on that payroll, I ended up with \$3600 a year after 13 years. Then I went over to the United Fruit Company. You see I'd been traveling down here for the Department of Agriculture and the Fruit Company. I went to them and they gave their letters of introduction to the managers down here. So I went to one of their divisions, the division in Costa Rica. The manager there, George Chittenden, was later on my chief, and I just loved him. He was a Yale man and he had been coxswain of the Yale crew, and you see that I couldn't tell what his character was. I went in to present my letter. He said, "Well, what can I do for you?" I said that isn't the question, "You're paying my salary, the question is what can I do for you?" He liked that. That was in 1935.

Fr--What caused you to change or maybe you explained the change from Department of Agriculture to United Fruit?

Po--I did mention that, that I had been traveling for 13 years, I was single. I went back to Washington. I use to come off with 6 months to 2 years on those trips down here in Latin America all of them in Latin America, hunting for new plants as an agriculture explorer. And I went back to Washington,

and I met the girl that I married. I didn't want to go on that traveling work, I didn't want to leave my wife. I wanted to have a home. One of the times when I was in Boston in connection with my trips down here, the president of the United Fruit Company told me that when I got tired of working for the government, that I should come up and talk to him and we should have a job for you. So I went up to see him, after I was married. He said, we will send you down to Honduras to start an experiment station, and introduce new crops to take over the use of old banana lands and to improve agriculture in South America in general. It was not a purely selfish motive, we did slot for tropical America through that station--we developed new crops and new techniques of crop production.

Ju--Where did you say that station was?

Po--At Tela, Honduras. That's right on the coast. Tela is a banana port. It is between Puerto Cortez and La Cerba on the coast of Honduras.

Fr--Well, now while you've been going around here and you have had a lot of work in the country have you had some unusual experiences from these governments that are probably amusing?

Po--Yes, but that is too long of a story. I've had lots of unusual experiences, but I can't possibly go into that. I've lectured a number of times on these trips of mine down here. I'm very fond of funny stories and anecdotes, and I collect them. I think the people say I have an uncanny memory for remembering those kind of things. I say I can remember all those stories but don't remember anything useful.

Ja--Well, what's your most interesting anecdote?

Po--Oh, I don't think I have any one that I could say is the most interesting.

Ju--Just name one, any one, whether the most or not.

Ja--Well, have you ever been with any president when he was kicked out?

Po--I don't believe I have. That is I don't think so. You see this is the thing with me. I have known professionally and rather intimately about four of these Central American Presidents. Ubico in Guatemala, Carias in Honduras, Juan Manuel Galvez in Honduras, Techo Semosa in Nicaragua, and an old general Maxamillo Martinez Hernandez in Salvador. He was the most interesting to me of the whole bunch. That fellow, he was a fascinating character. I knew him when he was president, and I knew him after because he came over to Honduras when he was in exile and lived not far from me. He used to come in and talk to me at the school. He went over and went in to farming at Banlee. He had a farm at Hamistran Valley. He was a very fine character. He was a theopist you know. When I came down with a group from Washington looking for a site at Turrialba, they named a committee of three. I was one of them to go and hunt for a site. We went all the way from Mexico down to Peru looking for the Turrialba site as we called it. When we got around to Salvador, the General went with us. He got out a bottle of Buchanan Scotch when we stopped for lunch. He said if you want a drink of that stuff you can have it, but it's poison. But he was a very grand character over there in Granlee

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Valley. He was very old, already about ninety. But it was a dirty trick. His chauffeur murdered him.

Ja--Yes, I read about it. I was in Salvador at the time. What about Ubico? Both of these are dictators now you're talking about.

Po--Yes, Sir. If you will turn that machine off, I'll--You can't talk about Ubico, you know, I must not talk about Ubico because it is a very sore spot here, we better not talk about him. I will talk about Tacho (Samosa). I just loved that fellow you know. Now this is the old Tacho. He was the great Tacho. The junior Tacho was not anything extra-ordinary. The old Tacho what should I say, he was the most sympatico, and the best political figure I've ever known in Central America. He had personality plus. He was well, I'll tell you how good he was when he gave me this medal. He was a great showman you know. He invited me, that is the ambassador at Honduras, his ambassador, Dr. Shaquera came around and said that the President wanted me to come down and receive this decoration. He said, bring your wife with you, of course. So we went down and we were met by Tacho himself which was rather unusual, I thought. He said, "Now tomorrow I will send down for you and at the palace we will have the presentation of the medal. So next day, he sent down for us and had a motorcycle escort for us with the sirens blowing all the way up to his palace. We got up there and Tacho came down the steps with this beautiful white uniform with beautiful medals all over him, and up on the top of the steps was his diplomatic corps also in morning coats. And he came down and said, "Hello Doc, how's every little thing?" In English, you see he spoke English perfectly. He worked 8 years in Philadelphia, when he was a youngster. I said, "Fine," and we went up and they had this ceremony in the Ambassadorial Hall there. He tied this thing around my neck here. Then he said "Let's go up and have a cup of champagne." We went out on the veranda and I am afraid, had two or three, I am not sure about that. Then he said, "You know, Doc, this has given me great pleasure." He said, "You know, I founded this decoration. This is only the third time I've bestowed it, but it's the first time I've been able to bestow it personally. Because the first two had to be given it absentia. They went to Juan B. Peron and Generalissimo Trujillo." Oh, he was wonderful. The next day he came and got us. That thrilled my wife no end to think that he should come down, you know, and get us at the hotel and took us out to one of his farms. He got us down in the lagoon there, an inlet and took us in his motor boat and drove us all around the inlet. And another time when I went to see him, he was down at one of his farms. I had been out to his farms before. And Luis, his son who died, but who was President before he died, was graduated in Agriculture in Cornell. And I went out to his farm with his cousin who had been an overseer on one of our banana farms and then he'd been in exile. Then he went back and he was minister of communications. He took me out of the finca with Lolo Garcia. He took me out to see Tacho. We got out there, and there was a barbed wire fence up there and a couple of soldiers beside it, and they let us in because they knew Lolo. We got up on one of these great big thatched houses, and Luis was there on the porch and said, "Come on in, Dad is back there getting shade" and I could see him lying in the hammock. So pretty soon the old general got up and came out. He was in riding britches with a Colt .45 on his side. When he came out he said, "Well, Hello Doc, how about a little highball." He was great fun.

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Ja--How long was he in power?

Po--I think about 16 to 18 years.

Ja--This was about when he was at his peak was it?

Po--Yes, he was right at his peak then.

Ja--You have got an interesting history. You should write history according to Popenoe.

Po--I have thought seriously, and I may do it yet. If I ever get time, I think I'll write some personal impressions and recollections of five Central American Presidents.

Fr--You know we have the "Incidents of Travel in Yucatan" by Stevens. Couldn't we have some incidence of travel of Popenoe in Central America?

Po--Well, it wouldn't be as good as Stevens. Incidentally, Stevens, you see met Rafael Carrera and Morasan and knew them both, and then another man who came down here, Brigham wrote Guatemala the Land of the Quetzal. Brigham knew Justo Rafino Barrios well. From three of those men we have personal accounts of three of the most outstanding and most interesting figures in Central America and Guatemala history.

Fr--Well, I think we have pretty well covered this. We certainly appreciate the information and your kind reception. I hope we haven't tired you too much.

Po--I just want to ask you if there's anything on that tape there, that I shouldn't have said, well just scratch it out.

Ja--I don't think you said anything you shouldn't, as long as you didn't comment on Guatemalan politics.

Po--If I can help you in the future, I would like to in connection with the Petén Project. I wish you'd let me know.

Fr--We've had a very interesting trip out there. We have quite a bit of literature by FYDEP. We will be going out to Coban tomorrow and look around. I believe that they are sort of going in lines that you suggested, and that's big plots of ground.



Antigua, Guatemala, 18 November 1968

Professor B. Ira Judd,  
Division of Agriculture  
Arizona State University  
Tempe, Arizona

Dear Professor Judd:

Many thanks for sending the copy of the interview we had here in Antigua last June. I have never yet been able to do a taped interview that seemed to make sense, and this is no exception, but I have no doubt that you can work up an article which will sound allright, if you have time to do it. I do not have any pictures of the medals, which I think is just as well! I enclose a couple of myself which were taken recently, one in front of a Haden mango tree over at Escuela Agricola Panamericana, and the other a month ago at Finca San Sebastian, near Antigua, looking at a very interesting hybrid pear, Tennessee 37-20, from the Tennessee Experiment Station.

If I can be of further assistance, please let me know.

Cordially yours,

Wilson Popenoe  
Director Emeritus

ARIZONA STATE  
UNIVERSITY

TEMPE, ARIZONA 85281

DIVISION OF AGRICULTURE

January 14, 1969

Dr. Wilson Popenoe  
Casa Popenoe  
Antigua, Guatemala  
CENTRAL AMERICA

Dear Dr. Popenoe:

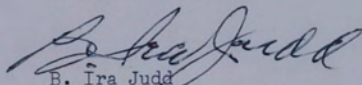
This is to thank you for your letter of November 18, 1968 and the enclosed pictures. We greatly appreciate your courtesies.

If convenient, could you send me more details of your contribution to the establishment of the "Instituto Interamericano de Ciencias Agricolas"?

I feel most fortunate in having had the privilege of meeting you. The visit and interview at Antigua were the highlights of the trip to Guatemala last June.

Again thanking you and may 1969 continue to bring you health, happiness, achievements and the fulfillment of your most cherished dreams.

Gratefully yours,



B. Ira Judd  
Professor of Agronomy

BIJ/csr

Antigua, Guatemala, 20 January 1969

Professor B. Ira Judd  
Arizona State University  
Tempe.

Dear Professor Judd:

Replying to your letter of the 14th, here is the story:

I think you know that Henry A. Wallace was really the father of the Instituto Interamericano de Ciencias Agrícolas. At least that has always been my understanding. The folks in Washington name a Committee of three to look over sites that were offered and made a recommendation. This committee consisted of Ralph Allee, who was with the Office of Foreign Agricultural Relations of the USDA (if I recall correctly); George Boyd, Assistant Chief of the Bureau of Agricultural Engineering (I believe it was known by that name) and myself.

I seem to recall that we first visited a site offered by the government of Honduras. It did not meet our requirements. Then a fine piece of land in El Salvador; then Costa Rica; then Venezuela. I don't recall any in Nicaragua or Colombia; I may have forgotten one.

I was strongly in favor of Costa Rica, for these reasons among others: The government offered a fine piece of land at Turrialba, elevation about 1900 feet. This site is only an hours ride on the train or track car (maybe they now have an automobile highway, I don't know) from the tropical rain forest region, which to my mind is the zone which offers more agricultural problems than any other in Tropical America, and is a huge zone extending from Mexico all around the

Caribbean littoral to Brazil, and some on the Pacific side from Costa Rica to Colombia. I felt that this zone was the one which most needed attention, and the other members of the committee agreed. Then Turrialba was also close to a highland region, right in Costa Rica, where some work could also be done. It was near San José, one of the nicest little cities in tropical America. And the Costa Rican government was willing to cooperate fully, and did.

(I failed to mention above that we also visited a site in Brazil, at Belem do Para; it was too far from highlands, and we wanted to have different climates close by the Institute as we did in Costa Rica.)

Mr. Wallace obtained a grant from President Roosevelt, if I recall correctly, and Earl Bressman was named as the first Director of the Institute, with José Colom (a Puerto Rican) as Secretary, to be stationed in Washington. I accompanied Earl to Turrialba to introduce him to the people there - I had known most of the interested ones, since I had worked in Costa Rica quite a bit.

I have always felt satisfied with the choice of the site, and I think most others have, though when I have gone there I have heard complaints from some of the technicians (or more properly, their families) that the climate is pretty wet. They referred to personal comfort, not agriculture.

With best regards,

Faithfully yours,

Wilson Popenoe  
Director Emeritus

March 17, 1969

Prof. B. Ira Judd  
Professor of Agronomy  
Arizona State University  
Tempe, Arizona 85281

Dear Prof. Judd:

Replying to your letter of the 11th, it is practically impossible to obtain a copy of my "Manual of Tropical and Subtropical Fruits", but you can get a xero/edition (in which the pictures are no good) for about \$20 from Dr. Edwin A. Menninger, Stuart, Florida.

As for Charles Wilson's "Empire of Green and Gold" I would think your local bookstore could order it for you through one of the New York or Boston houses that deal in second hand books if it is already out of print.

With best regards,

Faithfully yours,

Wilson Popenoe

ARIZONA STATE  
UNIVERSITY

TEMPE, ARIZONA 85281

DIVISION OF AGRICULTURE

March 11, 1969

Dr. Wilson F. Popenoe  
Escuela Agricola Panamericana  
Apt 93  
Tegucigalpa, Honduras  
C. A.

Dear Dr. Popenoe:

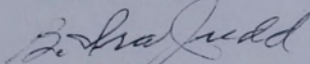
This is to thank you for your letter of March 6. Am pleased to know that you are enjoying a visit to the Escuela Agricola Panamericana. You deserve to view the fruition of your great works frequently.

Have been trying to purchase copies of:

1. Your book "Manual of Tropical and Subtropical Fruits"
2. "Empire in Green and Gold" by Wilson.

Do you have any suggestions were I might locate these? Thanking you for your many courtesies and for your friendship, I am

Gratefully yours,



B. Ira Judd  
Professor of Agronomy

BIJ/jkc

AIR MAIL

April 15, 1971

Dr. F. William Popenoe  
Casa Popenoe  
Antigua, Guatemala  
Central America

Dear Dr. Popenoe

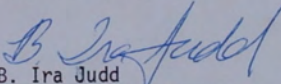
At long last, the interview with you has been published. Enclosed herewith is a reprint. What a privilege and a pleasure to have made your acquaintance. I can imagine that in the sunset of life, you can look back over the journey with much satisfaction.

How was the last trip to Spain?

Dr. Frost sends his regards.

Thanking you for your friendship and courtesies and with cordial best wishes, I am

Gratefully yours,

  
B. Ira Judd  
Professor of Agronomy

enc:  
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ARIZONA STATE  
UNIVERSITY

TEMPE, ARIZONA 85281

DIVISION OF AGRICULTURE

May 22, 1974

Dr. F. Wilson Popenoe  
Casa Popenoe  
Antigua, Guatamala,  
Centra America

Dear Dr. Popenoe:

If present plans are carried out, my son, Larry and I shall arrive in Guatamala City June 12. We will be there for about two weeks. I certainly want to visit with you at Antigua.

Would appreciate knowing when between June 12-25 that you will be there. If not convenient to notify me here before we depart. Please leave word at the Maya Excelsior Hotel.

With all good wishes and looking forward to seeing you, I am

Cordially yours,

*B. Ira Judd*

B. Ira Judd  
Professor of  
Emeritus

wfj