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ESCUELA AGRICOLA PANAMERICANA

APARTADO 93

TEGUCIGALPA, HONDURAS
Antigua, Guatemala, 10 Feb 1960

Dr George M Kessler
Dept of Horticulture, Michigan State Univ
East Lansing, Michigan

Dear Doctor Kessler:

Back in 1917 I was Chairman of the Committee on Tropical Fruits of the American Pomological Society. Many years later - not more than ten years ago - the Society awarded me a Wilder medal. I had been under the impression that the Society was no longer in existence - that it had merged with the American Society for Horticultural Science.

At the Subtropical Experiment Station in Homestead, Florida I saw last week a copy of the Journal - I think it was Vol 14 No 1. It contained an article on strawberries by my old friend and colleague George Darrow.

I would like to renew my affiliation with the American Pomological Society. I enclose herewith my check for \$3 which I believe covers the annual dues. If more is required, let me know. And please start me off with the abovementioned number of the journal if possible. Address as below.

Sincerely

Wilson Popenoe

WILSON POPENOE
Antigua, Guatemala
Central America

AMERICAN POMOLOGICAL SOCIETY

Founded in 1848 and Devoted to

Fruit Variety Improvement

February 16, 1960

1958

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**FRUIT VARIETIES AND
HORTICULTURAL DIGEST**

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Dr. Wilson Popenoe
Antigua, Guatemala
Central America

Dear Dr. Popenoe:

Thank you for your check for membership dues in the American Pomological Society. We are very happy to have back as a member such a distinguished horticulturist as yourself.

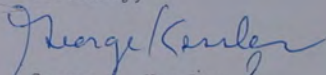
It is true that the A. P. S. almost slipped into oblivion. However, thanks to the efforts of people like H. B. Tukey, Stanley Johnston, Paul Stark, Sr. and others, who saw a great untapped potential in our society, A. P. S. is slowly gaining its strength back. Our aims are now narrowed down to the area of variety improvement. We now have some 400 members in all states in the Union, and its territories and a number of foreign countries.

You will be interested to know that John Popenoe will have an article on plums in the next issue of our publication.

I am sending you Vol. 14 No. 1 and No. 2 under separate cover as requested.

Let me reiterate that I am very pleased to have one of our Wildler Award winners back in the fold.

Cordially,


George M. Kessler
Secretary-Treasurer

GMK:bm

Antigua, Guatemala, 15 May 1960

Dr George M. Kessler, Secy^yTreas,
American Pomological Society
East Lansing, Michigan.

Dear Doctor Kessler:

Many thanks for your letter of 16 February.

Indeed I am glad to be back in the fold; as I wrote you, for many years I didnt think there was a fold any more.

I am delighted to see that the principal objective of the Society is "Fruit Variety Improvement". This is as it should be. We here in tropical America, members of ASHS (Caribbean Region) have been trying to do something along this line. We are a small group - about 50 - and of course various interests are represented.

What I now want to ask is this: Way back in those dear dead days beyond recall, we used to have a tropical fruit committee in the American Pomological Society. It was concerned with propagation, classification, varieties and to a more limited extent, culture. What about setting up such a committee again? As Chairman there are to my mind several good prospects: Professor Herbert S. Wolfe of the University of Florida, who has had a lot of experience with tropical fruits; Dr. C A Schroeder of the University of California at Los Angeles, who has for years been keenly interested in avocados and several other subtropicals, and my nephew John Popenoe, now horticulturist at the Subtropical Experiment Station, Homestead, Florida. John worked with me a year in Honduras, and is now in close contact with tropical fruits at Homestead - perhaps the most important center, so far as varieties are concerned, which exists today.

Sincerely,

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Wilson Popenoe

American Pomological Society

Founded in 1848 and Devoted to

FRUIT VARIETY IMPROVEMENT

1960

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Dr. Wilson Popenoe
Antigua
Guatemala

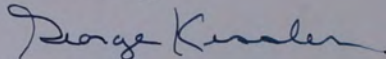
Dear Dr. Popenoe:

I received your May 15 letter, but I was unable to answer sooner, because I was away in California on an extended vacation. By the way, while in California, I was fortunate in being able to visit with Art Schroeder at UCLA and saw the fine collection they have there of subtropical fruits.

Your suggestion that the American Pomological Society consider forming a Tropical Fruit Committee once again is certainly worth considering. I appreciate this suggestion and will circulate it among our officers for their reaction. If anything should come of it I shall certainly be glad to let you know of it. Perhaps you would even like to participate as a member of such a committee.

I hope to hear from you again in the future. With best regards.

Cordially,



George M. Kessler
Secretary-Treasurer

GMK:bm

Antigua Guatemala, 27 Junio 1960

Dr. George M. Kessler,
Secretary-Treasurer
American Pomological Society,
Michigan State University,
Department of Horticulture,
East Lansing, Michigan.

Dear Dr. Kessler:

Many thanks for your letter of the 22nd. I am glad to know you had an opportunity to visit with Art Schroeder in California.

I'm glad that you think well of my suggestion regarding a tropical fruit Committee. I would indeed be happy to serve as a member of such a committee. I believe I made a few suggestions regarding chairmanship. I'm not sure that I mentioned professor Herbert S. Wolfe of the University of Florida who has for many years taken a leading part in the development of tropical fruits in Florida and also has made several trips to tropical America. I would most certainly suggest Dr. George D. Ruehle of the Subtropical Experiment Station at Homestead, were not for the fact that he has been in pretty poor health recently and when I saw him in February he told me he might think of retiring before long.

The interest in tropical fruits which is being developed through our Caribbean region of the American Society for Horticultural Sciences, really justifies, I believe, a committee of the American Pomological Society to keep up with the matter of varieties.

Sincerely yours,

Wilson Popenoe

ESCUELA AGRICOLA PANAMERICANA

APARTADO 93

TEGUCIGALPA, HONDURAS
CENTRO AMERICA

Antigua, Guatemala, 26 Feb 1961

Dr. George M Kessler
Michigan State University, East Lansing.

Dear Doctor Kessler:

Thirty five years ago I brought a young man who had worked with me in Ecuador, when I was an agricultural explorer for the USDA. I trained him at Lancetilla Experiment Station and I have no hesitation in saying he is now one of the very best horticulturists in Central America. He is working for the Ministry of Agriculture here in Guatemala, turning out some 50,000 grafted fruit trees every year. He knows fruit varieties and their requirements of soil and climate. I enclose my check for \$3 and will thank you to make him a member of the American Pomological Society, with the following address:

JORGE M. BENITEZ
Instituto Nacional Agropecuario
La Aurora, Guatemala Ciudad
Guatemala, Centro America.

I have your letter about the tropical fruit committee, and am happy to see that my nephew John Popenoe is to have a hand in this. I am flying up to Florida in two weeks for the annual meeting of the Caribbean Region, ASHS, and will spend some time with John. I believe the moment has arrived when we are going to see an increase of interest in tropical fruits. What we need is more attention to varieties and to propagation. And we are just about to tackle problems of temperate zone fruits in tropical America.

Sincerely,

Antigua, Guatemala, 26 July 1962

Dr George M Kessler
Dept of Horticulture
Michigan State University
East Lansing, Mich, E U A

Dear Doctor Kessler:

You probably heard that our recent meeting of the Caribbean Region ASHS was held here in Antigua and devoted primarily to Temperate Zone Fruits and their behavior in the Tropics. Since that meeting, and previously as well, some of us have been actively interested in this general subject, and among other things, we believe we can push the lower level of apple production in this neck of the woods, from 6500 feet to about 4000 feet, by using plenty of crabapple blood.

We want to get started with some trials of existing crabapples and hybrids, and the few US nurserymen's catalogs ^{we have} do not list many. Roeding at Niles, Calif (know him and knew his father before him) offers Red Siberian Yellow Siberian and Transcendent, all of which we have obtained. But - and now here comes your part of the job, since you must have all the trade catalogs neatly filed in your office - where can we get other varieties., e.g., some of those in S.A. Beach, vol. II, The Apples of New York - such as Excelsior (especially), Florence, Gibb, Hyslop and so on; and there are probably newer and better ones too; and where can we get Wealthy apple which Chandler says is Half crab?

Many thanks in advance for any tips you can give us.

Sincerely,

Wilson Popence

4 November 1963

Dr George M Kessler,
Michigan State University
East Lansing, Mich.

Dear Doctor Kessler:

Back in 1929-32, when Marston Bates, Jorge Benitez, Gabriel de Bonald and myself ran a little project over in Guatemala which we called the "Servicio Técnico de Cooperación Agrícola", we introduced quite a few Temperate Zone fruit varieties from California and Florida. Later, around 1950-53, we started a more extensive collection here at Escuela Agrícola Panamericana. And a few years later, we cooperated with Don Francisco de Sola in establishing a fine planting at his Finca Los Andes, in El Salvador.

If you have looked over the Proceedings of the Antigua meeting, 1962, Caribbean Region, ASHS, you will have noted that there has been a considerable awakening of interest in these fruits, not only here but in other parts of tropical America. At that meeting, Ernest Casseres held one of his regular short courses under Project 39, Organization of American States. This was in conjunction with the Caribbean Region meeting and resulted in a considerable amount of material which Ernest proposes to issue shortly in permanent form. In this connection, he asked that we prepare some comments on Temperate Zone fruit varieties in this part of the world.

As a result of his request, we have prepared the enclosed, which I hope may be of interest to you. When I return to my base at Antigua, Guatemala, next week, I am thinking of preparing a short paper, based on the enclosed, for your consideration in connection with "Fruit Varieties and Horticultural Digest". If you think this would not fall within the scope of that excellent little journal, now is the time to stop me!

Furthermore, if you have any criticisms or suggestions, I would be delighted to have them. My address for the next month or so will be the usual one, simply Antigua, Guatemala, C.A.

Faithfully yours,

Wilson Popenoe
Director Emeritus

American Pomological Society

Founded in 1848 and Devoted to

FRUIT VARIETY IMPROVEMENT

November 14, 1963
48823

1963

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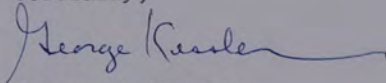
Dr. Wilson Popenoe
Director Emeritus
Antigua, Guatemala, C. A.

Dear Dr. Popenoe:

Thank you very much for your November 4 letter. I was most interested in your comments, and I was also very impressed with the report that you sent me on horticultural varieties of fruits cultivated in Central America. I do believe that this material lends itself very nicely to use in our Quarterly Journal. However, I would hate to see you condense it too much. I wonder if we could possibly use the information in the form of a series of articles. I can see where we could easily make three articles out of this report. And the first could possibly be on the Pome Fruits.

I appreciate your interest. With best regards.

Cordially,



George M. Kessler
Secretary-Treasurer

GMK:bm

Answer Jan 10 1964

Antigua, Guatemala, 25 July 1964

Dr George M Kessler
Michigan State University,
East Lansing.

Dear Doctor Kessler:

May I propose for membership in the American Pomological Society my friend and colleague:

Robert P. Armour, Assistant Director,
Escuela Agricola Panamericana,
Apartado 93,
Tegucigalpa, HONDURAS, C.A.

Mr Armour was trained at Edinburgh Botanical Garden. We brought him to Honduras years ago; he was for eight years in charge of Lancetilla Experiment Station which I founded in 1925. He then worked for Don Francisco de Sola in El Salvador for six years; thought he wanted to go back to Scotland. Did, and soon changed his mind. Came back to the University of Florida where he spent three years and got his Master's in horticulture. And now we have him lined up at Escuela Agricola Panamericana for the rest of his life, I hope. He is an excellent horticulturist and will be doing a lot of work on tropical fruits and Temperate Zone fruits in the tropical American highlands.

I enclose three dollars for his 1964 dues. And what about The American Fruit Grower? I do not seem to be receiving it any more, and I seem to recall that it no longer goes with our APS dues. Both Bob Armour and I want to receive it. I am enclosing my check made to your order in the amount of ten dollars. Will you please, after deducting Mr Armour's dues, use this to put both he and myself on the subscription list for American Fruit Grower. If there is anything left over, credit it to my APS dues. I don't recall when I last paid them.

Jorge Benitez and I are spending much time this summer continuing our work on temperate zone fruits in the Central American highlands. We are getting a lot of observations and are identifying quite a few varieties which are growing here but lost to systematic pomology. By the end of summer I feel sure we can send you a nice little article for Fruit Varieties and Horticultural Digest.

Cordially yours,

American Pomological Society

Founded in 1848 and Devoted to
FRUIT VARIETY IMPROVEMENT

1966

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March 13, 1967

Dr. Wilson Popenoe
Escuela Agricola Panamericana
Tegucigalpa, Antigua
Honduras, Guatemala

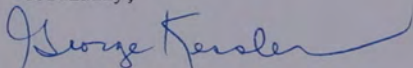
Dear Dr. Popenoe:

Thank you for your recent letter and check for membership in the American Pomological Society for Mr. Falla. He sounds like a very promising young man, and it is good of you to encourage him the way you are.

I'm pleased to learn of the progress you are managing to make in the growing of fruits in Guatemala at high elevations. It would be nice to receive an article from you someday telling of your experiences and progress along these lines.

It is always a pleasure hearing from you.

Cordially,



George M. Kessler
President and Editor

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