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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.

2 May 1963

Mrs. W. J. Krome  
Box 596  
Homestead, Florida

Dear Isabel:

It has been very interesting to come here and find mangos depending from every bough, as the poet hath it. I went over the collection yesterday afternoon with Mike Morales, and I was out again this morning at six to clarify a few points. (now, when I mention that hour, dont ask me "What had you been doing all forenoon?"). I am going to take the liberty to put down a few notes and comments, and ask you and Bill if you will devote sufficient of your valiosisimo tiempo to give me a few answers; and I will send a copy of this to Johnny with the same request, hoping it will reach him before he moves up to Coconut Grove and devotes himself exclusively to entertaining royalty and making the big decisions.

Comments based mainly on our collection of varieties which was established in August 1959. We find there are quite a few trees wrongly named or not named at all - which is preferable. But I shall stick in the main to varieties I feel sure about.

ZILL. I have never sampled this mango. Some of the trees are carrying good crops, others nil. What do you think of Zill? Is it a comer? Should we propagate it to any extent? And this latter is the principal thing I have in mind today, in re all of the newer varieties. We are going to grow and distribute several thousand trees a year and we want to place our bets on the most promising horses. I think that is a good way to put it, because you never really know that Dan Patch is going down in history as the greatest pacer of his day until he has paced for quite a few years.

DAVIS HADEN. Seems to me I recall that this ripens earlier or later than Haden proper. Am I right? Strange thing is, most of our 14 trees are just coming into bloom. There are some fruits from blossoms produced at the normal season. How much would you place on this horse?

IRWIN. Fine crop hanging on most of the trees. I believe you rank this among the more promising of those South Dads Favorite Sons. Sorry we dont have Carrie, which Nixon swears is just about the eatingest of the newer mangos.

SENSATION. The only sensational thing about it is that it doesnt taste like a mango. Reminds me of numerous young ladies I met in those dear dead days beyond recall - beautiful, y nada mas. What shall we do with the bountiful crops it is carrying? Engordar cerdos?

KENT. Looks awful good to us latinos because it is so big. I havent tasted it up to now, and probably wont get a chance to this year as no mango this big is going to escape detection at the hands of 165 youthful fruit fanciers. Bearing pretty good crops, well scattered over the rather vigorous trees.

LIPPENS. More fruits hanging per tree than on most other varieties. If it is good enough in quality it ought to prove valuable here. How much Paris Mutuel money shall we put on it?

SPRINGFELS. Fair crops. The boys here dont seem to have any comments and I have never seen a ripe fruit.

TOLBERT. This is the colt that is leading on the home stretch at the moment. Mike says the boys will get up at three o'clock in the morning to sneak out in the orchard and swipe them. And our 12 or 14 trees are bearing fine big crops. As far as I can gather, the boys like it because it is the sweetest of all - with the possible exception of Julie. And like the latter they say it is resistant to attacks of the Anastrephas. I couldnt seem to get any information about this variety out of the técnicos at Gainesville. What do you all think of it? .

FASCELLE. Rather a large fruit; looks to me as tho it had some Sandersha blood - which reminds me to add that where you know the parentage of any of the newer varieties I am mentioning, I would be grateful if you would jot down the facts. I wont be surprised if you can only mention the maternal parent - I am sorter used to this.

MULGOBA. Fourteen trees with a total of 14 fruits this year. Nice shade trees, and this is one of the few varieties I figure I can identify without seeing the fruit, just as I flatter myself I can usually spot a Fuerte avocado tree as far as I can see it. We have had some fair crops on Mulgobas in our old orchard, from time to time, but the fruits seem to be hard hit by anthracnose and the fruit flies simply adore them. I reckon we will just keep our trees as historical monuments.

ANDI. Now my dear Isabel, you will be delighted to learn that our boys simply do not care for my pet, and in fact you can often find fallen fruits on the ground, which tells the story better than any words I can call to mind at the moment. They allege that the fruit is too acid, but I deny the allegation and defy the allegators.



JULIE. The old reliable. The most intelligent mango tree in the catalog. When anthracnose hits it and it loses all its early bloom, it girds up its loins and comes right back with another crop of flowers, and so ad infinitum. As you know, you never get a big crop, but you always get at least a few rather unattractive but very sweet fruits, which makes them popular with us latinos. Personally I am not sure I would plant it in my own dooryard; maybe I would choose your Carrie instead, which I seem to recall has some Julie blood on the maternal side. I think Julie belongs in the same category as the bottle of Port I bought from the Chinaman in Panama City. It was labelled (I later observed) "Made in Oporto, Spain" and the word made, at least, was right. Next day I said "Charley (all Chinamen are Charley south of the Rio Grande) that Port wine was pretty bad". To which Charley replied "Some folks like it".

HADEN. And now, dear friends, into the breach we go. This is the outstandingest mango in all our collection and has been for nigh onto twenty years. I shall shortly have Pelen take a photo of the tree I planted in front of the first house we built on this campus, just 21 years ago. It is carrying a perfectly magnificent crop and does so almost every year. I suggest Doña Isabel buy a papel sellado de a cuatro reales, and make out a statement I can show to our Hadens - here and elsewhere in tropical America - that by orden superior they are only permitted to produce 10 fruits per tree per annum after they have attained 15 years in age. The damn fools dont seem to have heard of this dictamen handed down by the Mango Forum some years ago.

Now for the cats and dogs. We have a variety here which we seem to have acquired under the name Fairchild. This is not quite a Cambodiana, but it comes pretty close to being one. I would suspect it of having Cambodiana blood on its pappy's side, since the Cambodians are polyembryonic. It is a good eating mango; tastes like any other mango of the Philippine group, but is fatter than Cambodiana and not quite so long. Color green, turning to yellow if the boys leave it long enough on the tree which they dont. No fiber at all. Does this sound like Fairchild?

Fruits are hanging on some of those Java mangos this year - first time I have seen two of them in bearing. As John knows, we are supposed to have Golek, Aroemanis, Madoe and Gadoeng. Golek has borne fruit here for years; it is a weak tree, producing fruits which the good Lord in His infinite wisdom intended to be S-shaped but which about half the time are crooked and undersized. I understand this and Aroemanis are considered to be two of the best Java Mangos. Sounds like Java isnt much of a mango country. Golek is fairly free from fiber, not as good in flavor as Carabao or the Manila mangos of Mexico though it bears a family resemblance. Aroemanis as I recall it is nearer Cambodiana than anything else but not nearly as good. Madoe and Gadoeng definitely inferior; Madoe a very strong grower for which reason it may be a good rootstock as is claimed by J. J. Ochse. But if it doesnt bear any bigger crops than we have had up to now, one could not develop

Mrs. W. J. Krome

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2 May 1963

a nursery very fast. All these Java mangos seem to me to have close affinities with the Philippine race, as I call it, meaning such varieties as Carabao, Cambodiana, and the Manila mangos of Mexico, than which there are no than whicher.

Affectionate greetings to all my mango logical friends, and when they ask if I expect to return to Florida this summer, tell them I expect to return cuando San Juan baje el dedo.

Ever yours,

Wilson Popenoe

cc: Dr. John Popenoe  
Nixon Sadley Esq.



Dear Wilson:

Homestead, May 23, 1963.

I do not know anything about that poet but do not doubt that you remember verse and line. Not a mango depends from MY trees except from Kampong No. 2. In spite of having lower branches killed by the December freeze, the top has a good crop. It never fails and the quality is good enough for anyone. It is a sweet, plump Saigon seedling that Dr. Fairchild said was Barbara's favorite. She does not remember anything about it. It won't ship but it will bear. If one is looking for a Saigon-type it is worth considering. I like Cambodiana better but Kampong No. 2 works a lot harder.

ZILL: I like Zill but would not recommend it. Its too small and too apt to produce poor crops. Unless given proper care the trees are inclined to be spindling. The wood is brittle, too.

DAVIS\*HADEN: I would not bet a cent on that horse. Big, coarse, ugly-purple. Its probably a Haden seedling but many worthy people have sorry children. Don't pay any attention to the nonsense about its being a "sport."

IRWIN: Irwin is well thought of hereabouts. Certainly its an improvement upon its unspeakable parent, Lippens. I do not care for it but will admit that it is a fairSECOND CLASS fruit with commercial possibilities. I don't see why you would bother with it.

Sensation!!! MY pigs would not eat it. Usually the color is as ugly as that of Davis-Haden. It "carries" wonderfully but when it gets to destination it does not ripen even tho mature. Such a mess! And I paid Carmichael ten dollars for my little tree.

KENT. I have a great respect for Kent. It has quality (not in the class with the Indians of course). It matures later than Haden and the tree usually is vigorous. The fact that it tastes so much like raw starch before maturity might induce your boys to let it hang on the tree a while longer.

LIPPENS -- SPRINGFELS      Forget them.

TOLBERT. J. Lynch and I used to visit the parent tree, but I did not know that it is being propagated. We liked it. You would need to know a lot that I can't tell you about this variety.

FASCELLE. Yes, Fascelle has Sandersha parentage. Its a seedling of Brooke and it is a seedling of Sandersha. Its poor quality and poor tree. Even Mike became disappointed with it.

MULGOBA      Dear, dear Mulgoba! Alas that there is nothing ~~that~~ you can do with the most delicious of all fruits produced on this earth.

AMINI      Now if your boys ate with their nose, all would be well.

JULIE      I like Julie but it might be better for you to go to the grandchild - CARRIE. I believe its a little better than Julie and even sweeter. The tree seems inclined to have grandmother's stature and it is a generous producer. Sophie Fry, Carrie's mother, was a lovely fruit too. Lawrence Zill's tree likely is the only one left. (Did Lawrence tell me that S. Fry was lost in a storm? I believe so.) Carrie has to ripen on the tree. Here it has no commercial possibilities.

HADEN: Since Hadens do as they do in Honduras I simply cannot see why you look any further for a suitable mango. Except for Mulgoba its better than any of the others - far better - and certainly the most beautiful of all.

JAVA MANGOS. Those that I have seen are not worthy of mention.

EDWARD - Named as you know for Edw. Simmonds and originated by him. Dr. Ledin placed it at the top of the list. If you do not have this variety perhaps you should. It does not bear satisfactorily here but, like Haden, it may do better there. I bet the fruit flies would love it.

MORRIS. Of course Nixon Smiley has told you of this variety. It is one of the very few locally originated ones that I think is tops. If you do not have it, you should. If you are planning to propagate any cats and dogs, Edward and Morris are best of the class.

I overlooked in first paragraph saying that Kampong No. 2 must ripen on the tree. Perhaps that holds for all Saigon and Manila type. No it isn't for the Manilas one sees in Mexico certainly are picked green. My Cecil has a couple of bushels on the West side. They are beginning to ripen. The Mulgoba in the yard has a few still hanging and I look forward to eating them with no help from anyone. I've had lots of grumachamas and pitombas and now the red Ceylon peaches are ripening and I am happy.

The pictures you sent on the 17th were most interesting. How beautifully that Granada hat shows up against that 21-year old Haden. I will take the letter and pictures to Bill but will be obliged to tell him that a Corobés hat is not for him; he is not tall enough to wear one.

This morning I went to a Lime and Avocado Institute at the Experiment Station. Gerald Norman showed pictures of Bill's new lime grove that were very impressive. By the way, Norman said that anyone who would send to Box 41 Winter Haven and ask for them would receive 25 bud eyes of disease free Persian Lime wood. I do not remember a thing about limes at Zamorana.. Disease-free Murcott wood would be a good thing. Your Laténcs would love Murcotts.

Ever yours

*Isabelle Krome*

Homestead Aug 24-65

Box 596

Dear Wilson

Hace varias semanas Mr  
Friedman sent me a nice copy  
of "The House in Antigua" with bill  
for five dollars, which I promptly  
paid. (The last phrase is included that  
you may not worry.) It is a nice  
copy. In front, written in an angular  
hand, is the word Stoutemeyer, June  
29, 1938. At your convenience advise  
me whether to keep, send, or what.  
Learn the matter of the five bill I see  
you. Mr F. plans to find more, as  
I told him to look for half a dozen.  
We hear nothing of you and we  
do not expect to see you right away.



The Hottest weather is raised and  
Gainesville's is bound to be worse.

Loos and Eds were here on Friday  
and they had no news of you. You  
must be writing a book and too busy  
to bother with people.

Sunday, Bill, Medora and I went  
to a party at Islamorada given for  
the Carrs. Mrs C and Sam David  
drove down from Miccosukee and Archie  
came up from Costa Rica. All the guests,  
with a couple of exceptions, were important  
and interesting - most of them working  
for the National Geographic - it seemed.  
Dr Carr showed a picture taken in  
1947 by a Mexican and only recently  
made known to him, showing  
hundreds of ridleys going ashore in  
brood daylight on a sand beach thirty  
miles north of Tampico. The most-

amazing picture! "The Windward Road" would have been a quite different book if the Mexican had appreciated the significance of his film.

Bice took to the party a dozen huge Wilam avocados, a half bushel of Persian <sup>one</sup> limes and a Keitt mango. Both Wilam and Keitt weighed three pounds apiece - gross things. You laced me with no enthusiasm of eating a Carrie mango. I was a little surprised that John P. or Nixon S. would have given you this fruit in May. The first typical one, on my tree, ripened in August. Better forget your first impression of this truly good fruit. And speaking of mangos as occasionally we do - in looking up T. Raeph Robinson's story of the Perrine massacre in the Hort. Society's 1937

issue I came across Dr Woelf's statement-  
on page 73 that "the U.S.D.A. had imported  
several unarched specimens of Mulgoba"

My backyard tree had only a few  
this year, all soft around the seed and all  
the best tasting things on earth. I  
knew this tho I'm just in the house  
from eating the last of the Scuppernongs.

I'm having a tree man prune the  
big Incida in the front yard and  
the enormous ficus in back, prepar-  
ing for a hurricane. Its about one year.

Of course Hugh or someone told you  
of the death of Clarissa Roefs in Porto  
Alegre Brazil in May. Recoveries from  
Cancer seem very few.

Bill and Phoebe join me in affec-  
tionate greetings and we all look forward  
to seeing you when fall becomes  
endurable in Florida.

Ever yours  
D.B.S.



Antigua, Guatemala, 30 August 1965

Dear Isabel (properly Ysabel, for so wrote it la Reina Católica):

Bill once told me that if I didnt put your box number, I mean P.O.Box, you had to go into the Postoffice at Homestead and ask, Is there any mail for Krome, K-R-O-M-E, the address is corner of Krome Avenue and Avocado Drive. So I put your box number of the envelop in which this goes to you.

Dropping this facetious point, I take my pen in hand (sensu latu) to thank you warmly for your good letter, postmarked very clearly at Homestead, 26 August 1965, and to tell you the only reason you havent heard from me earlier is that for three months I have had from 5 to 7 Popenoes and matrimonially descended gente in this house, and you can imagine I have been rather fully occupied. Just wait until some of Bill's grandchildren come along and you will see.

Please hang onto that copy of The House in Antigua for me. Being like our good friends the Nationalist Chinamen in one respect, I enclose my check in the amt of five bucks, U.S.cy. You might as well keep the copy there until I show up, as I recently have obtained several (I need them and more), but at higher prices - the last one was \$8.60. It seems that some of the folks who bought this book when first published have gone to their Great Reward and their heirs and assigns are cashing in on the assets of the respective estates.

I have been wanting and intending to write you about several horticultural matters. In the first place, I have been reading the 1911 Proceedings of the Am Zoological Soc, which was held at Tampa.

Were you among those present? Even if so, I bet you havent look ov er

the Proceedings of that meeting in the last month or two. C L Taber was vice-president, and on the Committee, Tropical and Subtropical Fruits, were such old friends of ours as J L Higgins, P J Wester and Mrs Florence Haden. Beginning on P. 34 there is a lengthy article by P H Rolfs on "The Mango in Florida". In the Discussion which followed, H C Renricksen of Cuba (I bet you knew him; I did) remarks that the mango "isnt worth much in India, outside of botanical gardens". Beg pardon, this remark followed the paper by John B. Beach, "Mango Culture in Florida".

It is this paper by John B. which I want to call to your attention. Does the Florida Mango Forum still set out publications? If it does, you ought to see that the paper by Beach is reproduced. I think it is a very important part of the history of mango growing in Florida and I feel sure it has been overlooked in recent years. I suppose you knew Beach pretty well. I visited his little nursery at West Palm Beach - it must have been on my first trip to Florida in 1913.

Now here is my question: Dont you think Beach deserves a little more credit than he has received in recent literature? I wouldnt want to detract from the credit given Gellon, who really put the mango (and the avocado) on its feet commercially, but as I remember Beach he was a very retiring modest fellow, something of a dabbler perhaps, but I wonder if he wasnt the first one to propagate Mulgoaba?



How I wish I could have been you on that party at Ees-lamorada! You mention that several people were from the Geographic. The following has nothing to do with the case, of course, but how often I have had people come to our house, saying "I am writing an article for the National Geographic, and want information about your house." And then I had to take them all thru while they shot photos and sit down on the fountain while they shot me, and - total nada. I believe I later learned that Gilbert Grosvenor followed the very sound practice of telling folks who wrote in, saying they were going to Guatemala or Tierra del Fuego or Timbuctoo, and wished to be commissioned to write an article for the Geographic, that he was happy they were going to one of the aforesaid places, or any other, and when they came home he would be glad to see their photographs and any article they might have written. That was all, and just right. I never saw an article appear which had photos of our house in it.

Say, dont think I dont go along with you about the Carrie mango. I have eaten one or two which are good enough for me. Except of course I would always take an Amini first. Incidentally, Amini is one of the most consistent bearers and one of the most productive, - if not the most productive - of the East Indian mangos at Zamorano. And speaking of productivity, I have just been going back thru the history of Sandersha. It was hard to beat, as a regular bearer of pretty good crops. Of course I understand why is has been dropped, just as I understand why Amini has been dropped. Its taste is not just people want. But Amini seems to be popular in India, from all I have been able to read, and 350,000,000 East Indians cant be wrong.



But we are not in East India, and you know my formula for a popular fruit of any kind, in Latin America: Big, showy, and sweet. Just sweet, I dont mean highly flavoured, like Anini.

Thanks for the reference to Herb Wolfe's mention of the importation of Mulgoba (sic) mango. I believe his argument nowadays is that the Mulgoba of Florida doesnt answer the description of Mulgoba in India, but is Mullgoa. I remember we had a mango under the latter name at Brickell Avenue, but I dont recall the fruit very well. I cited Herb three East Indian publications in which the Mulgoba mango is cited, from Bangalore, but he still insists that we do not have the Mulgoba of India - if it ever existed. You might as well argue that Palri is not Peheri and Pirie and Peary. Ed Simmonds kept himself in the clear by pronouncing it always, Pah-heer-eye. Just like he made it a point to say Magnifica indica.

I learned of the death of Clarissa from Bert Muller. I didnt think she could last many years when I saw her in the hospital at Gainesville and knew what a major operation it had been. I feel that she lived a very useful life right up to the end.

I dont know yet just when I will fly up to Miami once more, but it wont be before the frost is on the pumpkin and the fodder's in the shock - and most probably some time after that. Come January, most likely. I will probably have to stick around here and take care of visitors over the holidays.

Much love to all of you,

Homesstead 7-26-69

Dear Wilson -

Your letter reached Burt Colburn at his office in Covado where he is with the Kendall "Grove Management". It was sent to Box 468 & I know it was received because he consulted Bill Krome in the matter. You probably will hear from one or the other one of these days.

Burt lives in Cutler Ridge & the new Greater Miami directory lists the address as 10510 SW 200 St & phone 238-0452 (It doesn't matter whether you say Cutler Ridge or Miami, West Dwyer Ave in Dade seems to be only part of Greater Miami.

I'm ashamed that I have not acknowledged and thanked you for the good picture of Alice and you which came earlier in the summer. How trim and pretty Alice and you so rugged and dignified! The picture gives me great pleasure, and I look forward to seeing you both in the

near future. The Hort. Society meets in November and the Improved Seminole is a lodging more suited to your modest taste than the Coriellian. Come here and Bill or Phoebe will do your chaffering. The grocery store at Krome and 15th St is my farthest-away from home nowadays and hence forth.

I was full of mango fruit - Con-  
viction and suggestions when your  
July letter came. A pity I did not  
reply then. Owing to the exceptionally  
naughty summer weather I suppose, the  
quality was different - than usual -  
For instance Morris which I have approved  
in other seasons was quite inferior.  
Duncan (Starrock's new favorite) which  
I considered only fairly good last year  
was simply tops. Simone Mals brought  
me several, each better than the last.  
I hope Dave did not patent it as  
I'd certainly like a tree. The Sub-trop-  
-over-



ical Exp. station has a tree tho I think last year's fruit - came from N.P.B.

Paheri - my one big tree - had seven million blossoms - Oh more than that - and seven fruits so high in the tree I could not reach them. I ate the little pieces the rats left. Carrie was wonderful - even Bill was enthusiastic. The crop was good too on both of my trees. Pope from Hawaii at the Exp. station had a few mediocre fruits. Tho loudly admired in Hawaii I heard no favorable remarks at the station. The seedling that I planned to name Weiss did not mature a fruit - in spite of an unlimited number of flowers. One May 24th Bill clift-grafted it - to one of Herman's seedlings in my collection. The graft was so beautiful that Shepard and Rosenbal of Israel took pictures of it - and you may see it's picture one of these days in an Israel publication.

Simone is planning to give a couple  
y talks about his mango findings in  
India and the Philippines before long.  
He invited me especially to attend -  
which of course flattered me.

Bill's two children are in school in  
Sewanee Tenn., Will in the Academy  
and Medora at the U. of the South.  
Phoebe keeps busy sending them things  
they forgot and trying to make  
Mary Krome Jones' life supportable  
in Homestead Manor. Mary (my  
husband's youngest sister, you know) is  
nearly completely paralyzed but so  
alert-mentally the First Nat Bank  
at Tavernier still relies upon her  
advice and will not let her resign.

Two of Jack's girls, aged 13 and 15,  
spent August here, putting in most  
of their time with Edo as Lou Loomis  
was in the hospital with a slight-  
heart attack and Edo didn't like to  
be alone in that-crime-infested

As in previous seasons Tommy Atkins lapped the Southern markets. Helen did not appear tho Sausation did in most of the quotations. I did enjoy Julie when in Dominica in early June. Their seedlings were quite green then but there were a fair number of Julies in the Roseau market. Of course you know that "grafted" and Julie are synonymous terms in Dominica. I tried to find a Julie tree in Dode County when I reached home but nor a nursery had one. Finally Szymon Goldweber gave me a little one that he had budded for himself. "Julie" had its usual good crop of black-spotted fruit - of good quality, tho Bill's Medora complained that they tasted too much like peaches to sell. You had better get some more Julie propagating wood. As Mr. Simmons would have said - "a good thing, a good thing."



section. We all enjoyed the girls as they are pleasant, thoughtful and willing to cook — and not as fussy about their food. They could live on mangoes and avocados.

I wish you were here to share the Gotfried seedling avocados I'm having for lunch.

Love to you both  
J.B.K.

Homestead 10-8-70

Dear Wilson and Alice -

The morning paper tells us that De Dijkman died yesterday. Mrs Loomis was told that his illness had something to do with the lymphatic glands. The last time I saw him was at Tula when you took the Caribbean Section here in '55.

It was good of you to think of me as you ate your way from Guatemala to Germany and I was much pleased to have your postals and letter and the July 1st news letter from the Escuela. I wonder if you traveled by railroad from Madrid to Grenada, you recall that you invited that Mary Elizabeth and I take that trip and it was one of the events that she found amusing the rest of her life.

We are expecting to see you before very long and I shall be very happy to have you at the Improved Seminars - we are greatly improved but at the moment better than usual for weekly ministrations by a pleasant Portuguese girl who sings softly as she works and who seems to consider

Housework good clean fun - (See Gel. Mr. Bernstein's mixed blue-parcise Thal - Sentences).  
Bill and Phoebe are looking forward to staying at the Beach for a couple of days while all the Societies are meeting there and Phoebe has been elected to run visitors ladies to and fro from the Airport. Next week she is planning to make a trial trip to see if she can find the way. She is a good driver and has a nice new air conditioned car. And Bill has a new pick-up truck. Nothing like ten dollar avocados to provide the necessities. It has been the best avocado year on how ever had I've had. Even my Bitte Butter bore, and the Wilson Papaw in my yard had the most immense fruit - I've ever seen. The Nirody's put on so much fruit - they broke themselves all up. When you go back after the Miami Beach parties you must take bud wood of the Good Gougned Seedling - or maybe you get some when here in the spring. I had a hard time eating all the Alice Weiss mangoes this summer



But-trying to did me good. The Mango  
"Forum" that Seymour put on at the  
County Agent's Building on Redland  
Road was just-so-and-so. Only the  
Exp. Station and two or three Commercial  
growers bother to exhibit now. The fun's  
gone from mangos for me - at least from  
public shows. The Julies that Mr  
Thompson put in in March - Cork  
grafts - just-might-<sup>be</sup> have some fruit  
next spring. My Pope from Hawaii (via  
the Exp. Station) had me good fruit. I may  
have misjudged it from the first samples.  
Mrs Milschell gave me a "Sabbath Jubilee"  
a slick, dark mango with apparently the  
keeping qualities of a pumpkin. She  
thinks it's the progeny of Tommy Atkins  
and Senrator. Oh joy that I have  
lived to see the final word in mangos!

What do you think Bill is doing? He  
is selling out ~~some~~ avocados and limes. I  
am potting gumbo-limbo. Could there  
be a slightly crazy strain in the family?  
Phoebe has come to take me to see  
Mary Jones in the nursing home. She

joins me in love to both.

Isabelle

Dear, I have in the morning from the  
Frank has come to take me to see  
in a slight, every other in the field.  
an exciting game - indeed, I have this  
is coming out - now consider our lives. I  
refer to you that this is being? It  
kind to see the first word in morning!  
and sometimes, Oh for the 2 for  
thinks to the program of Thomas Curtis  
keeping questions of a pamphlet, she  
a thick book, some more important of  
Tom Curtis you see a "Curtis" table  
I'm surprised it from the first samples  
the up station) but we don't feel - I'm  
very spring. My hope from Hawaii (or  
grapes - just - things - you have fruit  
I'm from just in in there - I'm  
public show. The public this for  
you from morning for me - as last for  
you've better to see that - you. The fruit's  
Exp. Station and this is this Commission  
last was just - so - end - so. Oh, the  
Curtis Curtis's "Curtis" or "Curtis"

Homestead 4-5-91

Dear Wilson. I think of you and Alice every day, look for you when a car drives into the yard, and plan to write you every time I go by my desk. And yesterday you were indeed in my mind! The WTKromes and I visited John Popewer with DICK Bowman. O.B. had come to Jacksonville to attend some sort of a conference in Jacksonville and, there, decided to run down and spend a day with Bill Krome, his friend of Tola days. They had met only once, in '54, since they were boys.

I appreciated being invited to tag along when they called on John and Jerry and went to the F.T.G. I had never seen Dick and don't know when you had. He wears that Dundreary whiskers exactly like those my father wore in 1890 and, except for the whiskers, is handsome and certainly witty and amusing. I had not met anyone in ages so entertaining. Doubtless you know he teaches humanities at Cooper Union and lives in Pyle - which must be nearby. John told us that you were not



planning to come to "the States" any time soon when you change your mind, do not overlook the new Seminals where a warm welcome awaits.

Jack and Margery Home were here last week, to my pleasure and the Loomis's. They took home avocados, strawberries, corn and various little succulent-plants for Margaret - the Gardner in that-family.

You should see the Mango crop on Alice Weiss. you must-come in June or July and help us dispose of the fruit. Julio also is producing beautifully. Mulgo has many a fruit. Carries are all loaded. Edward has averaged as usual. And you should see Tommy Atkins! Simply dripping.

Dripping is an ugly word. Practically no rain has dropped since October. Bill runs pumps all the time and I drag hoses in the yard. You know all about the rain situation if you get the Herald, as I believe you do. Yesterday Nixon Smiley had a good write-up about "The Man from Sopchoppy" Fla Supreme Court Chief Justice Roberts. Nixon and Bill were not re-elected - at their request - at the F.T.G. Annual Meeting. No lack of interest - seems indicated but inability to furnish what F.T.G. must have. This is a poor return for your two fine letters. Love to both of you. LSK

Homestead May 15-72

Dear Alice and Wilson -

Theres nothing so rare as a  
Sunlit-Monday Morning in May!  
I wish you were here to enjoy it  
with me, I'd pierce you away from the  
mangos tho. The crazy warm spring -  
following the crazier one of last year -  
has upset them frightfully. Julie  
put on so much bloom one could not  
see the leaves. Now there are six deformed  
fruits to show for that effort -  
Alice Weiss didnt even blossom and Carrie  
renegeed too. Pope of Hawaii has a good  
crop, due to ripen in early July. I have  
not been across Krome An to look at  
the Nodens, but if there are any there  
they will be stolen. Bill says he has  
seen Edward. So it will be worth four  
while to visit - to. I made about 7000  
per tree last year, on his Tommy Atkins  
with better prospects for 1972. (The  
Taylor Avocado East of my house, set out  
by a young squint from Buckel Ln

USDA garden, in 1916 or 17, netted 140<sup>00</sup>  
in January. And Bice tells me that  
Pal Brooks netted us 200<sup>00</sup> on the 7 bushels  
of Macdonalds on my old tree.)

I think it will be proper for you two  
to plan your mango-eating visit here  
for any time in June or July, when  
you have finished the Rome fruits  
Simons Melo will be sure to find  
more. I do not see Simone nor the  
John Papeucas. Perhaps you have heard  
that - Dad and Mrs Craig had gone  
to Naples or just north of Naples. I  
greatly miss their frequent Sunday  
afternoon visits. And I miss Wils  
young too. Wils has finished his  
Co-operation experiments here and no  
more are planned with him. Wils  
came first in 1932 with Dr AB Stout  
and he has been a faithful visitor  
for, Good Gracious, forty years! He  
belongs to that vanishing species - a  
PTO who works and likes it.



No, I did not hear of your illness of  
last October. As I love you, I do not  
see John except for brief glimpses  
or A. T. G. plant-distributions I doubt-  
that they come further South than the  
Carl Campbell home now the Craig heats  
are gone. I'm sorry you dread your  
entry into the 80-year class. I did  
too but now I know that it's lots  
more fun than the next step! When  
one's ears are dull and eyes are  
dim, legs shake & mind is awfully  
slow in comprehension, then my  
dear friends, you are approaching  
the Nineties. It's bad medicine!

Thank goodness for plants and a  
few plant-loving people. Yesterday  
Geo Allen came by and I enjoyed  
giving him some palms, dracaenas  
a dozen Spanish limes, Sapodillas  
etc for the Mens' Garden Club plant-

sale of next-Saturday, and I am  
reminded - If you have more of the  
"Proceedings" held at EAP in 1966  
I'd love for George to have one. The  
people who have been given those that  
Hugh sent me have been so apprecia-  
tive I long to make others happy -  
and especially George Allen. He does  
lots of good hereabouts - most-unobtrusively.  
I hear by phone that  
the Loomises had a delightful visit in  
Costa Rica with your friend the petunia  
seed grower Claude Hope. They were much  
impressed with his set-up. He and they  
visited the Wilsons and Loo found new  
and exciting millepedes. Could one  
ask greater bliss! Now they are  
about to go to Norfolk that - Loo  
may repair the dining room table  
injured when the ceiling fell on it -  
a few nights ago. Loo is the best

Good-worker I Lon ever known.  
The Norfolk Kromes are lucky to  
have him in their family. Their house  
is always falling apart, and Lon  
rushes up and repairs it.

Not a single blossom on the  
lychees this spring. I kept one tree  
soaked all the time but it be-  
haved exactly as did the others.

What with interruptions the  
pretty morning has become a blustering  
afternoon. I must take the Monday week  
off the line and then go to see  
Mary Krome Jones who still exists at the  
Manor with forty or fifty other ancianos.

We look forward eagerly to the arrival  
of the Papeiros. you must be firm  
or Bill will take you fishing at  
Plantation Key. Lon DBK



Dear Wilson Homestead June 6-72

The other day I received from F. T. G three copies of the 1966 Proceedings of I. S. P. J. Of course you asked John to send them. When I phoned to tell him of their receipt Natalie said her parents had gone to Tampa to bring Number One Daughter home from College. Thank you so much for having John send them. I shall get in touch with George Allen soon. I did not know these were in sale at the Garden.

Enclosed is a clipping that - may or may

not interest you, I have never met Dr  
York but you have I'm quite sure.  
In fact the few remaining acquaintances  
I have in horticultural circles have  
not told me anything of him. He reads  
awfully well and at long long length.  
Mangos are getting mature, not too  
good but still mangos. I'm expecting  
to hear of your date to come up and  
get your share. I keep hearing of trouble  
inside Tommy Atkins. Cambodianas  
are not ripe, and there are no Carries.  
The Kent's are late too and will  
wait for you.

You probably knew Dr Westgate of the  
Hawaii Exp. Sta. a letter from his son  
Dr Philip J. Dale of the Sanford Exp. Station  
with <sup>picture</sup> (taken with a possum) says that he and  
wife Helen are coming to see me "one  
of these days". I shall save one of the  
Proceedings for him.

Rain, Rain, rain, rain! Everything  
slimy and soggy, outside and in.  
Now good not to have to water the  
new lawn in front of the house.

Love to Alice. Ever yours  
J.B.K.





Homestead Nov 1-73

Dear Alice and Wilson —

Last Saturday Bertha Hausman kindly  
drove me to F.T.G. (its was plant distribution  
day) I am writing to report that I have  
not seen John Popenoe look so happy &  
healthy. Stanley Kiem appeared the same,  
Lucita is "holding her own" There were  
crowds, mostly younger than those of other  
years. Something must have happened to our  
contemporaries; Leo & Edo Lummis were well-  
there. They had just returned from a visit  
of three days to Houston, to consult a  
heart man there in whom they have  
great confidence. <sup>His</sup> ~~their~~ opinion of Leo  
cheered them. Edo tells me that Mrs  
Corbin sold \$6,000 worth of plants. Next  
thing will be the Rumble, of which your  
approval is half-hearted. The garden  
needs that income. The place looks  
wonderful; so does mine. I wish  
you could see them. I hear that  
Harvest Kendall is a most satisfactory  
president. I did not know until reading  
the last Garden Bulletin that Maria  
Adams has gone to live in England.

Bill and Horbe are supposed to start home today from their North Carolina place. They have been gone only a week but it seems much longer to Medora - who is doing the home chores - and to me.

Jim Knowles visited me for an hour yesterday evening on his way to a dinner date. His hair was short, his mustache trimmed & the only thing exotic about him was a blue <sup>SILK</sup> low-necked, short-sleeved embroidered shirt-coat garment - quite handsome. "The latest" he said, "I'm always so glad to see Jim. Of course he asked the news of you."

The F.T.G. was distributing plants of *Sima-~~ron~~* *rouba glauca*, beautiful offspring of a plant I pulled up in Union Hammock for Mr de Sola when he was here long ago, looking for a prolific strain to plant on El Salvador's dry hills. I do not remember the year. It fell over in the 65 storm. It was the first thing I propped up when the winds subsided and it kept right on growing and bearing. The pollen tree is about - no, exactly - 121 feet



FINE of the de Sola tree.

I hear that - Bill Krome is to receive an Honorary membership in the Flo. Hort. Society next week. He put on his bank meeting clothes and went to the photographer's recently so the rumor must be correct.

If you were here to enjoy our bright blue weather you would also be able to enjoy "Key Largo" avocados now at their best. K.L. is a grandchild of Gottfried originating in my back yard. I believe Gottfried was a seed from Birchell Air Garden which Mr. G. planted on Key Largo. When you next tell me what you remember of this. Probably you and Mr. G. were buddies. It may be in the literature - cite me book and page.

I trust - you are both having a respite from North American Tourists. Eric Casserus (?) wrote a vivid letter not long ago I've forgotten to whom. It was good to hear of him and his wife even indirectly.

Lots of love to you both  
(Isabelle Krome) J.B.K.



Homestead Jan 15-74

Dear Alice and Wilson -

Great to hon your letter and its my firm intention to reply today. Edo ("sis") Loomis phoned the day it came and she spread the news that you had been heard from. It appears that you hon not been making a lot lately. Edo, Loo + Mr McClellan were here on the 8th bringing lots of gifts including out-of-the-world Pears, perhaps kin to those you got from Tenn.; a great quantity of Edo's Cow-butter Cookies - which brought on talk of Tom Barbour, a large quart of straw-berries and a sturdy walker. The last a loan from Mr McClellan. In Dec 17th I fell all of 12 inches off a stool. An X-ray showed that I had broken my pelvis. In consequence I stayed in bed for over three weeks with nurses and lots of attention including items mentioned above. Jim Knowles, Bab Knigut-David Biggar, Dorothy from Chapman Field + others helped divert-me. Now with the help of the McClellan walker I'm more

or less a going concern. A cute little Cajon from Louisiana stop at night, feeds and pets the dogs and me and bicycles happily homeward at 8 AM. From that time till 6 AM when she trundles in again life is about as it was before I took that stupid nose-ding, or it will be when I get out to see my plants. (Don't mention any of the above I hate to be reminded of my stupidity)

Answering your question - Paul S. did not get promoted. Dorothy got demoted to the windowless room in the center of the Mann's House and Chapman Field is being modernized by leaps & bounds. I'm sure you get the F.T.G. Bulletin & know what goes on there. I agree with you about Nixon Smiley's "Land of Images" tho I deplore his Key West story. And I could weep big tears over his picture on the dust cover. I parted a really good photo taken in '55 on the opposite page and look at it instead.

Speaking of a good horticulturist for Zamorano, I wonder if Roy Nelson might be

interested now that his family  
must be pretty well out from under foot.  
I hear that he has charge of the Rardon  
Gross + I also hear that he intends to come  
+ see me soon. I recall how he longed to  
be in Zam~~ora~~<sup>orano</sup> as a propagator when  
we were there in '55. Rardon, a  
Paris musician as well as Florida avocado  
grower, went to his reward via the truck-  
car smash up route a year or two ago.

Mangos are blooming, hurrah, hurrah. Fred  
just told me the Hadeno must be sprayed  
right-away. My Edward tree was deep in  
bloom in early Dec but lacking spray, it  
set no fruit. Probably by now it has put  
on a second series of bloom. If so Fred will  
spray it today (1-18-74)

The Gottfried tree you recall as Brickell  
Ave. Garden came from a Mexican Gottfried  
had on N. Key Largo. Bice Krome tells me that  
he or E.Z. Thompson grafted scions from the  
B.A. tree into a stock north of my house. Soon  
this tree bore a few fruits, greenish black.  
They (like the parent-) matured unevenly  
? ? ?



(Naturally and of course). I planted several  
of its seeds in the East-West roadway &  
they all fruited and then were grafted to  
Nadir or Lula. One of these sneaked  
a stock branch inside the Lula graft.  
It bore a 3-lb necked green fruit - before  
we noticed it. This fruit - now called  
"Key Largo" - has proved to be one of the best  
tasting avocados we have ever eaten. They  
start falling in November & are all gone now.  
The tree is so tall we can't pick the top ones.  
All who eat them clamor for more. One  
fine graft bore a good crop this season.  
The fruits ripen evenly but some split.  
My Collins in the back yard has a good  
crop, getting ripe now. And in three seedling  
of Collins that - Shoned bear this spring. And  
one small plant - from an Indian mound <sup>near</sup>  
Whitewater Bay, W. B. Young (Dr. T. W.)  
comes by, doctors my lychees and asks about  
you. David Biggar comes by, doctors and picks  
my palms & ask about you. Simon Malo & his  
cute wife come too. Now & then I see the Kromes  
& now & then The Loomis. Lots of love  
W.B.K.