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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.

Pension Canada  
Sunday, June 14 [1959]

Dear Dr. Popenoe:

Thanks for your note. Phoebe and I are sorry we missed getting to tell you goodbye.

Don't give my remarks a second's thought. They were not seriously intended, and as often happens they missed their mark. I'm deeply grateful, however, for the compliment from you which was their indirect result.

Did I understand correctly that you will be coming through Florida after you leave Mexico? If you do, we hope you will stop long enough to see us.

Please give our very best regards to Mrs. Popenoe.

Sincerely,

Bill Brown

Antigua, Guatemala, 4 August 1959

Mr Wm H Krome  
Homstead, Florida

Dear Bill:

I am sure I spoke to you about the forthcoming visit to Florida of my friend and colleague, Sr José Miguel Calabria of the Fundación Eugenio Mendoza in Venezuela. Well, here he is, or should be, when this letter gets into your hands, and I know you will enjoy meeting him because he is really interesting; he knows fruit culture in Venezuela and will soak up everything you tell him about fruit culture in Dade County. I think I am responsible for his visit to that part of the US, and I hope you can show him a few mangos and avocados. Here in Guatemala Jorge Benitez and I have just shown him all the apples and pears and plums he needs, but we cant show him the tropicals. That is up to you folks.

Ever yours,

Wilson Popenoe

Antigua, Guatemala, 24 June 1960

St don Guillermo H Krome,  
Box 596, Homestead Florida.

Muy estimado señor Krome:

Well, I note with pleasure that God's still in his Heaven, and all's right with the world. News that has come to me via aerial growths of Vitis vinifera L., indicates that things went well in P R, probably because I was not there to throw any spanners (as the English call monkey wrenches) in the gear box. They could not have done better than choose you and Burt to push the right front wheels out of the sand next year (You remember Dr Webber said those Florida soils are 95% sand and the rest pure silica). In other words, you are going to stage a swell meeting for us poor tropical tramps; and as far as I am concerned, we are going to learn a lot more about tropical fruit culture than we could do in any other region. I just wrote Ernie Casseres that I suspect we can line up enough delegates in this neck of the woods to charter an Aviateca plane from Guatemala to Miami direct, for not more that ~~100~~ I mean \$100 per passenger, ida y vuelta. I have usually preferred Ida, but sometimes you have to take both.

This is just a note to tell you how much I appreciate your taking the lead in next year's job. This Caribbean Region of ASHS is going place. I think we may have a little problem or two, but who doesn't? I feel like Knowles Ryerson who once said to me, What do we care for expenses, we have plenty of them.

Tell that wonderful mother of yours that when I come up next year I am going to tell the boys that Hadens dont stop bearing down my way at 15 or 20 or even 25 years; and if you dont like Hadens, then you eat Aminis, they are better anyway. Helen joins me in affectionate regards

to all of you.

Sincerely,

7-21-60

After surviving a number of vicissitudes, my Wilson avocado has finally born a crop. It is ripe now--great, long fruit averaging about 28 ounces in weight. Although John Popenoe and Harold Kendall think it has good quality it seems rather ordinary to me, about the same as Fuchs or Hardee, but inferior to Pollock or Simmonds.

Box 596

Homestead, Fla.  
July 21, 1960

Sr. Don Wilson Popenoe  
Antigua, Guatemala, C. A.

Dear Dr. Popenoe:

Muchas gracias for your kind note of June 24. Let me assure you that the selection of the chairman of the Convention Committee was a complete surprise to me; I had absolutely nothing to do with it.

After slipping our drivers for a month we're now in the process of trying to get going on the arrangements. Prerequisite to this is a decision as to time and place. We gringos don't know as much as we ought to about what you folks south of the border would like, and there is some division of opinion here about what would please the greatest number. So before we decide, we're asking for advice from you and from Dr. Casseres.

Even with my limited experience I know that it is absolutely impossible to pick a time that will suit everybody. Burt and Seymour Goldweber returned from Puerto Rico to report that the week before Easter apparently would suit many of the members. What do you think of Holy Week as a convention date? If not then, when would be best?

More important is the location of the headquarters. Mother tells me that Dr. Casseres believes a place outside Miami would be preferable to a hotel in the city; she strongly favors such a location herself. On the other hand, Burt, Seymour and Dr. Gaskins argue that many of the members will be offended if we have the headquarters any place except downtown Miami or the Beach. I will admit that this would be the case with a convention of Norte-americanos, but I have fallen, possibly mistakenly, into the habit of attributing many of my own tastes to the Latin-american workers who attend the ASHS meetings, and of course personally I would prefer the country. However, in matters of this nature it's better to be conventional but safe, rather than risk committing a major error of planning, and I don't want to take issue with my colleagues unless I'm sure that my attitude more nearly represents that of our prospective guests. You know these people better than they do themselves; what do you think?

When we hear from you and Dr. Casseres we'll decide definitely on the place and the time, and "get under ourselves" on the arrangements. I can't tell you how much we look forward to the meeting. I'm sure we can make it a pleasure for you, and I know it will be for us.

With best regards to Mrs. Popenoe and to you, I remain

sincerely,

*Bill*

Wm. H. Krome

Antigua, Guatemala, 26 July 1960

Mr Wm M Krome  
Box 596 Homestead Florida.

Dear Bill:

Yours of 21st has just come, as you say in South Dade, and before I go any further, you just lay offn that Wilson Popenoe avocado. Stick to Simmonds. That is your West Indian, for its season. Down here at least, it has out-born Pollock by at least 50%, and it is a handsome fruit of excellent quality.

And now as to the next meeting. Your mother is always right. I would not have the general headquarters at Miami Beach. (Remember my story, the guy from New York who was standing in front of the wailing wall in Jerusalem a few years ago, and wailed "Where are my people, Where are my people?" and the guy next to him replied "Miami Beach")

It will be up to Ernest Casseres to say, but I would vote for Homestead. I would buy the Hotel Seminole for a week, for its poor chaps, and let the rich guys from California who have been selling their avocados this year for 8 cents a pound, go to the - what you call it, the Ikora aint it? Maybe the Ikora would cut the rate to about \$4 per day per person to equalise in part those 8 cent avocados. And there is a very good cafeteria in Homestead. Not to mention a couple of drug stores which sell electric irons and Dresden china and everything but drugs. And I think the farther we stay from down-town Miami the more horticulture we will see.

But if the wives of our Latin American members want to be in Miami, then line up two or three of those "guest houses" just south of the river, of a small hotel. Our students who went home from Zamorano to the Republica Dominicana used to require \$25 and I mean dollars, to stay overnight at Miami. After all, the Columbus is is rather expensive, and so are certain other things in Miami. But I am sure we could get in April, and I believe this is the month more or less approved at San Juan, housing at not more than \$3.50 per capita per diem, two in a room. But I still vote for Homestead. And if you have to buy the Seminole, lock, stock and barrel, go ahead and do it, though I am sure Phoebe will be shocked. But she does not know how happy Jorge Benitez will be in the Seminole.

As to the date, I think Easter week is alright. I would rather prefer June 10 to 20, but there will be plenty to see in Easter week. I think this point was more or less settled in San Juan, wasnt it? Mangos and avocados will be hanging on the trees in Easter week. Get the Dade County Chamber of Commerce to give us two good-sized busses to run us up as far as Orlando. Maybe a lunch of catfish at Pahokee, if we dont use any foul language in the dining room (the sign makes that clear) and maybe back via Bradenton and Sarasota. Bud Reasoner, by the way, expects to be down here with his wife in early September.

Helen and I hop off tomorrow mornine for Peru to be gone a couple of weeks. Cant let those Peruvians go on growing the wrong kind of avocados.

Ever yours,

Wilson Popenoe

cc Dr E H Casseres

Wm H Krome, Box 596, Homestead Fla.

Antigua, Guatemala, 3 Nov 1960

Dear Bill:

I wonder what would happen if I didnt put your box number on the envelop? I suppose the postmaster would run around with the letter in his hand shouting "Krome, Krome, anybody know a bird in this town named Krome?"

This is just a note to say that we are getting excited down here about that meeting next spring. I have just told Ernie Cassere that it will probably be the best we have ever had. Because there really is more to see.

I wish you could give me a few ideas about where we are going to stay and what it is going to cost the boys who are not on the \$15 per diem of FAO or ICA. Do you plan to headquarter the gang in Miami or elsewhere? I believe you mentioned at one time that you might get a building on the old south Campus on something of that sort. If we are going to headquarter in Miami of course we can get hotel room at any price you want to pay. Transportation will be the problem, as most of the things we want to see will be in the Redlands-Homestead area. And I think Ernie Casseres mentioned a bus ride up through Imperial Polk perhaps to Gainesville. Gosh, it is going to be a wonderful meeting!

Give me any ideas you can, to pass along to the lads down this way. I realise it is pretty early to talk turkey. We have one great advantage; AVIATECA the Guatemalan air line, if it is still in action next spring, will set us down in Miami and bring us back here for about \$100 per person, maybe a bit less. At that price you cant afford to stay at home. My best to Phoebe and your mother and yourself.

Ever yours.



AMERICAN SOCIETY FOR HORTICULTURAL SCIENCE

WM. H. KROME, Chairman  
DR. E. H. CASSERES, Secretary-Treasurer

B. E. COLBURN, 1st Vice-chairman  
DR. MURRAY GASKINS, 2nd Vice-chairman

Homestead, Fla.  
Dec. 3, 1960

Dr. Wilson Popenoe  
Antigua, Guatemala

Dear Dr. Popenoe:

A month's delay in answering your letter of Nov. 3 is about par for me, I'm afraid. I'm really a very poor correspondent.

I'll answer your question about what would happen if you failed to put my box number on the envelope. Unless put the number, and specify P.O.Box (to avoid confusion with RFD mail) I'm not likely to get the letter. Civil Service is a two-edged sword, like most attempts to facilitate justice in an imperfect world. Its most obvious effect in the Homestead Post Office is to permit a number of ancient, dim-witted troglodites to stay on year after year, to the despair of the very competent Post Master and us poor blokes who get our mail there. They have been here at least as long as I--and that's quite some time--but when I go to the window with a notice for a package I've learned to say, "Krome, K-R-O-M-E, box 596," in order to save the time they would take to scratch their heads and mull over the problem before asking me for that information.

Would that all my irritations were as minor as those connected with the P.O.! Actually, as far as the ASHS meeting next Spring is concerned, we're coming along pretty well. We won't have any trouble with the program, as far as I can see, except the problem of compressing it into a single week. Dr. Casseres has suggested that we change the time to a week earlier. A note from him today gives me the go-ahead to see about making the changes in our arrangements with hotel and bus people. I don't anticipate any difficulty, but will wait until we have the changes actually agreed upon before notifying the membership. That should be next week.

Dr. Wilson Popenoe

v 12-3-60

Money is a problem. We're trying to get commercial outfits to foot the bill wherever it can be done without appearing to be a handout, without too much success so far. We haven't been in a position to really present our case until now, however, and the folks who know about such things feel that we'll get the help we are asking for now that we can tell our prospective angels who, what, and how much.

Has Dr. Casseres written you about Dr. Wellman's efforts to set up his own medicine show for the tropical phytopathologists? Or rather--to be uncharitable about it--to get us to set his show up for him? As I wasn't at the meeting in Puerto Rico last year I didn't know what was in the wind, and was inclined to discount the possibility of any problem arising from Wellman's ambitions. He appears determined, however, to organize his pathologist brethren separately, regardless of the obstacles of distance and insufficient number. I agree with Dr. Casseres, and I hope with you, that it would be better to stick to one group such as we do here with the Fla. State Horticultural Society, which accommodates the pathologists here with no trouble at all.

Another thing. While we have no intention of dodging our responsibilities, my position is that ASHS - Caribbean is essentially a Latin-american project, and I would prefer to confine the role of us Yankees to being hosts, and leave policy to the Latinos. Wellman is a gringo, too, and for that reason I wish he'd pull in his horns, at least until such time as it can be handled by the proper segment of the membership, without putting us poor innocent Floridians on the spot.

Dr Casseres wrote a letter to Wellman, stating his opposition to this splinter movement most strongly. He asked my opinion of it and after worrying about it for much too long a time I decided to write Wellman myself, in a kind of minor discouraging vein, and am asking Casseres to re-draft his letter in the light of my own communication, but to do what he can to get Wellman to pipe down.

I wonder if I'm off base on this matter? I'd appreciate any comments or advice you would care to make.

Up till now these are our only worries. There will be numerous minor details, of course, but nothing major. and I guess the time will be upon us practically before we know it. Like Christmas, "It's at our throats already!"

Best regards, from

Bill

Wm. H. Krome

Antigua, Guatemala, 7 December 1960

Mr Wm H Krome

P O BOX 596

Homestead, Florida, E U A. (Maybe I should put it USA for the Postoffice)

Dear Bill:

Mighty glad to have your letter of 3rd instant, which once and for all straightens me out regarding your address, but I just wonder if some folks in the postoffice realise that they wouldn't have any jobs had it not been for your father, because they wouldn't have been any Homesteads for them to have jobs in.

Sounds like as if (as Nixon Smiley and I always say, Baker county lingo) you are getting things lined up in good shape. I have nothing to do with the Caribbean Region, except to be a loyal member paying his annual One Buck, but I am so enthusiastic about that Florida meeting I hope you will forgive me if I stick my neck out, not more than 2 cm.

I can't see any objection to changing the date - though I don't know the arguments pro and con and vice versa, as the Jamaicans would say. If God grants me grace as my great friend Archie Shamel used to put it, I shall be there.

After the Puerto Rico meeting, Emie Casseres wrote me about Freddy Wellman's program for the pathologists. The whole thing seems to me so simple that I can't see much to be gained by hammering this here type-writer about it. Every big horticultural organization, - and you mention the Fla State Hort Soc as one - devotes whatever time is necessary - a special morning or afternoon session if there are enough papers - to pathology or to fruit crops or to truck crops or anything else. Just take a glance at the annual programs of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, or even the ASHS. This latter, our parent group, has something like 2100 members as of last writing. Our little tropical group which has grown remarkably and in the most gratifying manner, due largely to the recent efforts of Dr Casseres, might reach 100 active members of whom perhaps 20 or even 25 (I think I am optimistic might be pathologists); but don't these pathologists work on tropical horticultural crops? And if Fred Wellman wants to cut loose and have an organization of their own, who is going to pay the bills? I hear that Fred's idea is to have a somewhat separate organization but to have joint sessions with our Caribbean Region. Nonsense. Lets all get together as one group, and if there are enough papers in the pathological field, then devote a session to pathology, just as in Florida we could easily devote one to tropical fruits. The big point is, there are not enough technicians in tropical America to form three or four separate societies, even if they meet together like the AHS. All of us, and we are not many - will gain from hearing the pathologists and all of the pathologists will gain from listening to their colleagues talk about avocados and cacao and tomatos.

When you can, give me an idea of what it is going to cost us poor Latinos who don't have FAO or ICA per diems of \$15, come to this party. My pals down here are already beginning to ask me about this.

Best regards to all of you, and "we'll be seeing you".

cc Dr E H Casseres

With regard to a "joint session" of the pathologists with us common or garden horticulturists in south Florida and presumably later, I am offering the following comments which you can pass along to my good friend Fred Wallman if you wish to do so. He will not misunderstand my intentions; we have worked together for more than thirty years.

1. If I am correctly informed, the idea is that the tropical pathologists - or I suppose we should say the pathologists actively interested in tropical American problems, will organise a group of their own brethren, but that they will meet annually with us common or garden horticulturists.
2. They have been doing this and it has worked pretty well, because our Caribbean region is so limited in numbers that it is difficult and would not help the general cause - in my opinion - if we split it up too much. We are not a group of 2100 técnicos like the ASBS; we need to strengthen the group as a whole because we are up against a difficult situation which has become very clear to me after my 40 years in Latin America. When we try to organise specialised groups we get in trouble. Somebody has to do the work and somebody has to pay the bills. The members of these specialised groups dont like to bother about annual dues. I found that out when I grubstaked Bob Allison with twenty annual memberships for his Florida Society of Soil Science. I thought the lads would become so interested they would want to continue their memberships - and the dues at that time were only One Dollar a year. These lads were all young Latin American soil scientists. These lads are not all physically dead now, but I think they are dead so far as the Florida Soil Science Society is concerned.
3. The Caribbean Region ASBH is a young and I believe growing organization. As we grow, and have more members, we can devote more attention to specialised branches. I view with great satisfaction the desire of the pathologists to take an active part. I think the first step is a session devoted to pathology, if sufficient material is presented. One of these days we will get around to a session on temperate zone fruits in the tropics, another on coffee problems. By session I mean a whole morning or afternoon. Enough interest, that's all.
4. I have attended a good many agricultural and horticultural conferences in the past 40 years. Big ones, like two of the International Horticultural Congresses, one in London and one in Holland. Going over the programs, I have had to ask myself, Where am I going this morning? I want to hear the pathologists and I want to hear the entomologists. A three ring circus. It has to come in time - but we havent reached that stage as yet. I would rather stretch out our meetings to ten days instead of a week, if necessary, so all of us can be in on everything.
5. Why dont we try out this coming year, what we really started in Costa Rica with the symposium on climate? Let the pathologists have read papers and perhaps have a symposium on some important topic, and let all of us listen in.

Antigua, Guatemala, 9 Decbr 1960

Messrs Casseres y Krome:

No need to send that memo I mailed you yesterday to Fred Wellman. I have a memo, now, from B H Waits of United Fruit Co., and I assume you may have the same. If not, Dr Wellman has secured approval of the American Phytopathological Society for organization of a Caribbean Division, to include pathologists in the southern United States, Mexico and the Caribbean area. The constitution for the new Division has already been approved by the parent Society, and will be submitted for approval at the first meeting of the new Caribbean region, which will be held at Miami, Florida, "concurrently" (*italics mine as they say when they are putting somebody on the spot*), with the ninth annual meeting of the Caribbean Region ASHS.

"Details on the time and place of meetings, living accomodations, etc. will be supplied later to interested persons". This definitely indicates that they will take care of housing and transportation and place and time of meetings. Since it is proposed to take in the southern US they may be able to organize a larger group than I had thought of, because I was assuming they would only include pathologists working in the tropics or on tropical crops. But they are apparently following the program we started, i.e., take in anybody interested in tropical America.

Obviously they are cutting loose from us entirely and there is nothing to be gained by discussing the matter further. Of course you know I feel that there are not enough workers in the tropics proper to justify a split; but we cant do anything about. I think all we can do is to let them make their own plans and their own arrangements and attend our meetings if and when they want to. If they are members of ASHS, then on the basis of other members of our parent Society. If not members of ASHS, then on the same basis as other interested parties, with which we have had plenty of experience and I think things have worked out satisfactorily.

You will note that the circular does not say a "joint session". They are to meet "concurrently" with us. Which seems to me does not imply that we have any obligation at all.

Poroy 546

Homestead, Fla.  
Jan. 1, 1961

Dr. E. H. Casseres, Sec'y - Treas.  
A.S.H.S. - Caribbean Section  
Londres 40, OEE  
Mexico 6, D. F., MEXICO

Dear Dr. Casseres:

I shall attempt to cram into this letter the various things we have arranged, or have cooking, for the meeting, to provide material for a newsletter. Then I'll have to rely on you to winnow from it what should go out to the members. Much of it you know already.

Headquarters will be the Everglades Hotel, on Biscayne Boulevard in Miami. Date is March 19-25.

Sunday, March 19: Arrive in Miami; register.

Monday and Tuesday: Sessions for presentation of papers, and trips to the vegetable farming and grove section near Miami. We are still planning to devote one session entirely to pathology papers. If this doesn't work out I don't anticipate any trouble rearranging our schedule; the problem is never lack of things to do, but always lack of time.

Wednesday, Thursday and Friday: Trip to the citrus grove section upstate, staying at Winter Haven Wednesday night, Ft. Pierce Thursday night and returning to Miami in time for banquet there Friday night. It will be over 500 miles, but the busses are comfortable. Gerald Norman and Dr. Conway Price are shouldering much of the task of arrangements for this trip, and I believe it is going to be one that won't be soon forgotten.

I presume that many of the delegates will leave Saturday, but for those who can stay we have a sizeable list of local attractions to visit. For any who can stay into the following week we can arrange trips to the West Coast as far as Bradenton, to the Keys and to the Everglades National Park. Also, shopping tours in Miami and the Beach will be arranged if any of the ladies wish it.

As to hotels and other expenses:

The rate at the Everglades is \$14.00 per room, double occupancy. I have rates on cheaper hotels in the same part of town, but they aren't much cheaper and are much poorer.

Dr. E. H. Casseres

Jan. 1, 1961

We will stay at the Shamrock Motel in Ft. Pierce, for \$3.50 per person, double and triple occupancy.

Arrangements for lodging at Winter Haven have not been completed. The Haven Hotel there wants \$6.00 per person, double occupancy, and we think we can get better rates from motels. Problem is to get enough motels to handle that number of people.

The banquet will cost between \$3.00 and \$4.00. We may be able to get this donated, so we haven't made any commitment for it yet.

The obvious expenses will be:

Everglades Hotel - 4 days @ \$7.00	\$28.00
Motel in Winter Haven (estimated)	5.00
Shamrock Motel in Ft. Pierce	3.50
Banquet (estimated)	4.00
Bus fare (approximate)	15.50
	<u>\$56.00</u>

Meals in Miami will cost from \$3.00 to \$5.00 per day. On the road we hope not to have to buy many of our meals except breakfast.

There is one way in which we can reduce the expense for those who need it most. The hotels in Miami sponsor a training hotel, the Lindsey Hopkins, run by the Dade County School system. It consists of about 60 rooms, high up in a big building 11 blocks away from the Everglades, but easily reachable by bus. A training dining room and a cafeteria are also in the building. All are staffed by trainees for the hotel trade. The rooms are not greatly different from those of the Everglades, and service seems to be adequate even if the employees are new at it. I ate a good lunch at the cafeteria for 87¢.

In order not to be competitive with its sponsors the hotel cannot take groups but will accept reservations for individuals, which may be made direct or through me. Occupancy is limited to five days, which is long enough; they'll hold the guests' baggage while they are on the trip upstate. Being part of the school system which is currently wrestling with integration, they say the problems connected with accepting colored guests are such that they prefer not to face them yet. "Next year, maybe, but not this year." There would be little difficulty with language, as many of the trainees are Latin-Americans. Rate is \$2.50 per person, double occupancy.

The limitations of this hotel are obvious, and I don't think we can advertise it in the newsletter, but you and Dr. Popenoe and Bob Hunter might pass the word on to the "non-expense account" boys who have to make their funds go the

Dr. E. H. Casseres

Jan. 1, 1961

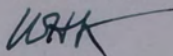
farthest. I'll say this, if I were coming up I would stay there myself unless I had duties which required me to stay at the headquarters. The hotel will accept reservations without a deposit, of course, but they should be made as soon as possible, as the place is popular.

That's about all I can report right now. Burt Colburn and I are leaving Tuesday for another round upstate. While we had no trouble with arrangements last time, there's a lot of nailing down still to be done, and we hope this trip will be more productive of financial assistance.

I asked Murray Gaskins about the tables for Dr. Soderholm. He says they have been mailed.

No word from Dr. Wellman. I talked with Bob Hunter about this situation; he takes about the same view of it that you and Dr. Popenoe do--and who could know more about it than you three? He agrees, however, that there will remain pathologists who prefer a Latin-American oriented organization to one dominated by the U. S. end of the axis, and we all hope and expect these to remain good members of A.S.H.S. - Caribbean.

Sincerely,



Wm. H. Krome

P.S. Re the \$2.00 regional charge: I think \$2.00 is perfectly OK, and so do all the rest here. Didn't I write that some time ago? I certainly intended to.

cc: Dr. Wilson Popenoe ✓



ESCUELA AGRICOLA PANAMERICANA

APARTADO 93

TEGUCIGALPA, HONDURAS  
CENTRO AMERICA

Antigua, 2 March 1961

Dear Bill:

I have just written my nephew John, telling him I am booked to arrive Miami on AVIATECA Friday evening 17 March. I cant come later because there are only three flights a week. And I have asked John to meet me if he can, and take me to my old hangout at Homestead just across from the drug store where I can get the best buttermilk in Dade county, not to mention sea shells, rubber boots, electric irons and straw hats. Last time I was there I promised Phoebe I would stay with you, but it will have to be after the meetings, because every half hour somebody will be calling you on the phone, saying "What am I going to do? This taxi driver wont take Nicaraguan money?" or something like that.

The program sounds excellent, Bill. If the pathologists want to sit up until 2.18 a m choosing a panel of officers, let them do it. I shall be in bed. And if Johnny cant meet me I shall stick around Miami until early Monday morning when I shall show up at the Everglades Hotel, if God grants me grace. I ought to know my way around Miami after having lived there off and on since 1914. Hugh flies back to Miami tomorrow, takes my mail with him; I think after the mtgs I may go up to Gainesville for a week to eat Cedar Keys oysters on the 1/2 shell. Ernest Casseres was here overnight last week; we had a big talk. That guy is doing a wonderful job on the Caribbean Region.

Ever yours,

*Caribbean Region*

AMERICAN SOCIETY FOR HORTICULTURAL SCIENCE

WM. H. KROME, Chairman  
DR. E. H. CASSERES, Secretary-Treasurer

B. E. COLBURN, 1st Vice-chairman  
DR. MURRAY GASKINS, 2nd Vice-chairman

Homestead, Fla.  
7 March, 1961

Dear Dr. Popenoe:

Thanks for yours of 2 March, with the good news that you'll be up here ahead of time. I understand that my mother is inviting you to stay at Chez IBK until you're ready to brave the wilderness of uptown Miami. Phoebe says she'll guarantee a supply of buttermilk indistinguishable from that you would find in Homestead. She will get with John and one or the other, or both, will meet you at the airport. I think you're hooked; the thought of incurring the ire of those two determined ladies is as dismaying as that of staying at the Seminole in Homestead.

I infer that Mrs. Popenoe will not accompany you. We'll be sorry for this. You know we'd love to have her stay with us or with Mother.

You're correct about the program; it should be good, thanks to a number of people other than yours truly. Murray Gaskins has 23 hort. papers and the symposium lined up, and a letter from Dr. Wellman lists 22 path. papers. Quantity we have, at least. Gerald Norman has done most of the arranging for the tour upstate. Do you know Gerald? He has been the mainstay of the citrus budwood certification program in Fla.....You needn't tell me how fine Ernest Casseres is. Who should know better than I?

No word from Mario Jalil, nor from the Smith Bros. We're counting on Mario, and John S. promised he would come. Tell them the honor of Guatemala is at stake.

Phoebe joins me in regards to Mrs. Popenoe.

Sincerely,

*Bill*

Wm. H. Krome

ESCUELA AGRICOLA PANAMERICANA

APARTADO 93

TEGUCIGALPA, HONDURAS  
CENTRO AMERICA

Antigua G, 12 March 1961

Dear Bill:

This may not reach before I do, but if it does, it is just to say that your mother, bless her heart, has sent me definite instructions and I shall be staying at the Krome Homestead in Homestead from Friday night until Monday morning when I move in to the Everglades and have to give the elevator boy a quarter every time he says Good Morning SIR. Helen is not coming with me; she has her hands pretty full here with what they used to call in Habana patos de Florida - the migrating ducks who come across from Florida every winter.

Owen Smith tells me he is coming but John is not. Jalil went to Costa Rica a week or so ago; told me he expects to get permission from Rome to be with us; he has not asked for expenses, just permission, but I have an idea he will get both. Roy Marshall of ASHS writes that he will arrive Monday afternoon; says the Caribbean region is doing such an important job that he just simply will have to attend this session for a few days at least.

Hasta la vista

ESCUELA AGRICOLA PANAMERICANA

APARTADO 93

TEGUCIGALPA, HONDURAS  
CENTRO AMERICA

Antigua, 4 April 1961

Dear Bill and Phoebe:

Now that Semana Santa is finished, and the mails are or should be working again, I am writing this to thank you both from the bottom of my heart for your kindness to me in that hard last day in Florida. I shall never forget what you did for me.

Melville Bell Grésvenor and wife and Barbara Fairchild Muller and husband are here with me. As you know, Melville is now President of the National Geographic Society - cousin of Barbara Fairchild. They are going to Tikañ (the newest Mayan ruin) Wednesday and then to Costa Rica. I am going to Honduras on Saturday 8th because there seems to be a need for me to help at the Escuela. Nixon Smiley writes that he and Evelyn may come down here in June. Encourage them. I have lots of boom - six vacant beds. Next yer when we have the annual meeting of the Caribbean region I am counting on have you and Phoebe with me, and your mother if she will come; and tell her we wont make her an honorary member either. We will just collect the two bucks and let her tell us why the Haden mango stops producingg at 15 yrs of age. But hokbre, what I want is that Prolific sapidilla which I saw at Steffahi's house.

And again, Bill, let me tell you that you folks set a standard for meetings of the Caribbean Region which I am afraid can never be equal. Of course Jalil says we have to equal it, so I am telling him sure!

Ever yours,

Much love to your mother. What a lovely stay I had with her!

Homestead, Fla.  
July 4, 1962

Dear Don Wilson:

Here we are, back in hot, muggy, mosquito ridden Florida, after an uneventful trip home. Even the customs inspectors were kind. I watched the two rather formidable lady inspectors meticulously searching the innocent luggage of the people ahead of us, and wondered how we would ever get all our plunder back into its containers when our turn came. But after reading my lengthy declaration --"7 small pottery bowls @ 5¢...\$0.35; 16 yds. black lace @ 4¢...\$0.64--our inspectress (?) poked a couple of holes in the brown paper on top of the blankets, severely scrutinized the exteriors of all the baskets, and waved us on with an irritated comment about going into unnecessary detail. "Dumb, fat and happy!"

Seymour Goldweber, that most dependable of men, was waiting for us, and brought us up to date on Medflies and other local matters while driving us home through a heavy rain. The family were all well--less the pet chickens Mother's dog ate--and, mirabile dictu, nothing serious had happened to the groves. That is indeed icing on my cake.

I haven't had time to more than start telling my captive audience about our travels, nor to make poor Seymour unhappy at what he missed. It will keep. Most of me is here, I suppose, but some part is still in Alta Vera Paz, and part will always be at Casa Popenoe; I'm not likely to forget it for a while. I can't tell you how much we enjoyed our stay with you, as well as the fine company of Hugh and Chris. It was a wonderful two weeks, and we're eternally grateful to you for making it possible.

I hope you enjoy the rest of the summer in Latin America, but we look forward to seeing you in Florida. Don't forget us when you come through.

Phoebe joins me in sending best regards.

Sincerely,

*Bill*

Wm. H. Krome

WM. H. KROME  
P. O. BOX 596  
HOMESTEAD, FLORIDA 33030

(305) 235-3520

July 28, 1974

Dear Don Wilson:

Mother has passed your good letter of June 28 on to me, and your remarks on Hadens move me to write you what I believe to be the cause of their bearing problems in Dade County.

You may recall that I have wondered whether the reason Hadens here decline in productivity might be the accumulation of copper in their systems from constant spraying with copper fungicides. Simon Malo analyzed roots and bark of Haden trees that had been sprayed with copper for many years, and found that they did indeed contain abnormally high quantities of copper. I don't know how much he has followed up this information, but in talking with him I have received the impression that he considers this to be the possible cause of their poor condition and unfruitfulness.

Acting on my own conviction in this matter, I stopped using copper fungicides on mangos 10 or 12 years ago. The carbamates had been developed sufficiently to be fairly reliable, and I used various of them, chiefly Manzate, Zineb and Ferbam (I have used some Benlate, which is not a carbamate, the last couple of years).

Now let me tell you about the little block of old mangos, mostly Hadens, that is on the east side of Krome Avenue about a quarter mile north of Avocado Drive. It had declined in vigor and fruitfulness to the point where the trees had much dead wood, little new growth, and no fruit. For a few years after I changed sprays they continued to languish, but they slowly improved, and they are in pretty fair shape now. I'll give you the production record of the 21 trees for the past 10 years:

1964	0	1968	0	1972	96 bu.
1965	0	1969	0	1973	142 "
1966	0	1970	0	1974	147 "
1967	4 bu.	1971	47 bu.		

There were probably a few fruit in the years showing zero production; we didn't pick any for sale, though. The current production of seven bushels per tree is more than I expect them to maintain, because we have hurricanes, freezes and once in a while a rainy period during the blooming time. Also, we lose quite a few to thieves. But while this production would be meager by Central American standards it isn't bad here, and considering the condition they were in ten years ago I think it is impressive... I will add one thing more: the other mangos in the block have also responded ~~xx~~ well to the change in sprays, although possibly not to the same extent as the Hadens. There is a huge Mulgoba which is older than I (and I hit the 60 year mark not long ago), an Amini, a Langra Benarsi and a few others. They all seem to have taken a new lease on life. I can't get excited about this prospect for the Langra Benarsi but I'm glad for the Mulgoba.

Which brings me to appoint of difference with you, namely the relative quality of Haden and Mulgoba. Haden is a good enough mango, I will agree, and good Mulgobas are hard to come by. But if you can get one that has been fully exposed to the sun and ripened on the tree in a hot, dry season, I submit that you have the world's finest fruit. When I eat one I feel sorry for princes and presidents, who may live out their entire lives without such a gustatory experience.

The difference between Paheri and Green Bombay puzzles me. I have a Paheri budded from the old Coral Reef Nursery grove, and next to it is a Green Bombay budded from material that Carl Campbell gave me from the Subtropical Experiment Station. The trees and the fruit look similar but the Green Bombay bears more, and the fruit is definitely not as good. I think the two are not exactly the same. If by some good fortune you could be here when they have ripe fruit I hope you will check this for me.

With all the interesting hybrids of the Indian race that have occurred in South Florida I guess it was natural that we would concentrate our attention on them and neglect the Indo-chinese race. The Sub-tropical Experiment Station (it has another name these days but I ignore it) and Chapman Field have several, as you doubtless know, but except for Cambodiana, Cecil and an occasional seedling that is simply called "Saigon", there aren't any with wide distribution. It seems to me that the quality of my Cambodiana is less apt to be reduced by rainy weather in summer than is the quality of the Indian types. If this is a characteristic of the race we might do well to get more varieties with Saigon blood into production, because our summers are so often rainy. Simon Malo brought one he calls Mun back from Thailand. It is good, and I will have a bearing tree in a year or two. I shall ask Bob Knight and Carl Campbell to give me buds of the various Indo-chinese types they have, and hopefully in a few years I'll have enough to be of some interest. There is a feeling here that Mexico will take over as chief supplier of mangos to the U.S., but we will certainly continue to raise a lot of them and it would be nice to have varieties that aguantan mejor la lluvia.

Mangos interest me, of course, but I continue to make my living from limes and avocados. We're in the middle of the lime season now, and starting on a big avocado crop. I see in my weather record book that 23 of the first 28 days of July have had rain. Wading around in the wet weeds with Wasmania ants under your shirt is a terrible way to make a living. No wonder lots of the pickers prefer to go on welfare! They average about \$20 a day when they work but it has been hard to put in a full day because of the rain, and as a result I'm far behind in the picking, and am suffering an acute case of "broken branchitis."

One more thing ere I close. Bob Conover resigned as director of the Subtropical Experiment Station, maybe a year ago. He is continuing to serve until a suitable replacement can be found, but so far they haven't come up with anybody. I suggested Ernest Casseres, and was told he would be considered, but haven't heard any more about it. Of course I don't know if Ernie would consider the job but he would make an excellent director. I would appreciate any comments you would care to make on the matter.

Mother will celebrate her 90th birthday next month. She is quite feeble but you will understand that this doesn't deter her from seeing that her place is properly cared for. Nor does it lessen her interest in other people. She enjoys your letters, but it is hard for her to write and it annoys her not to be able to answer a letter properly. She will probably reply to yours when I return it to her.

Best regards from

Bill