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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.

244 Lexington Street
San Francisco 10, Calif.
November 2, 1957.

Dear Dr. Popenoe:

First, let me thank you for your nice card of June 3rd last announcing your new address in Antigua and acknowledging my letter of April 23rd. The card, I thought, was very appropriate with its reproduction of the "Escuela Agricola Pan-americana". That scene will always remain very dear to my heart, because, it was there that I experienced a new life and tranquility, very new and wonderful to me - a life that seemed to bring peace and quiet to my soul. It has been even more wonderful to relive those few weeks of real hospitality with you and the boys at the school. Yes, it really got under my skin and the desire to return to Latin America to make my home has never diminished.

I think that I told you in my last letter that I married a fine Peruviana last April 6th. This has brought much joy and happiness into my life and, it is not necessary to tell you what wonderful wives these women can be.

Naturally, we are thinking of and beginning to plan our return to Latin America to establish our home. We would be leaving the states very soon, but first I want to qualify myself for Social Security, so that when I reach the necessary age I can draw the money regardless of where I live. I need but three more quarters after this year to qualify which would make it possible for us to leave the states anytime after about the first of August next year. It would hardly be advisable to pass up the opportunity to get \$90.00 to \$100.00 per month for the rest of my life when there is so little time left to meet the requirements. And, it is possible that this amount might be raised before I reach the age to collect.

The next nine or ten months will soon roll by and I think there is little enough time left to begin to lay some groundwork before making such a change as this. I really don't like the idea of pulling stakes here and moving to some place in Central or South America and then having to start from scratch groping around in the dark in search of livelihood. Such could result in a disastrous start of a new life there. It would be so much more re-assuring if I could make some connection and have something waiting for us when we make the move.

Therefore, doctor, one of the primary purposes in writing this letter, is to draw on your vast knowledge and acquaintanceship in all of Central and South America. I feel that if anyone knows of the opportunities existing there, it should be you. Just off-hand, I think of the projects that our country has instituted in those countries, such as the point four program; there are the many Embassies; the possibility of representing good reliable American firms. There might be opportunities in small business, but I would prefer to be a salaried or salary and commission man for a time at least. These are a few thoughts that come to my mind. I wonder, then, doctor, if you would put this letter under your pillow and sleep over it for a few nights and then come up with some good advice for me? I feel sure, that even though you are not busy at the school, that no doubt there is much demand on your time, but, if you could somehow help to lead me into something down there, you would have my undying gratitude. Think it over and, if there is any information you would like to have, just say the word.

Espero que al recibir esta carta ustedes esten bien de salud como nosotros estamos aqui. Saludos a toda sus familiares y esperando su pronto respuesta.

Sinceremente,

W. A. Mattocks
W. A. Mattocks

Antigua, Guatemala 15 Jan 1958

Mr W A Mattocks,
244 Lexington St, San Francisco 10, California.

Dear Mr Mattocks:

Your letter of 2 November last, arrived in due time and I was glad to see that you have not forgotten your days at Zamorano and in fact would like to come back to this part of the world. Of course I can not say just what you might find here now, but I would suggest that you get in touch with Dr Wm C Paddock, the new Director of the Escuela Agricola Panamericana. You know a good deal about the practical side of rural life; you have had some experience down here; and with that nice Peruvian wife of ours, who would be almost sure to like Zamorano, I would there might be a possibility of your fitting in there. Of course I would advise you to remain in California until you qualify for Social Security, but if you are as vigorous after qualification as I am, I would not think your age much of a handicap. Mrs Popenoe and I leave next week for Spain, where I have taken on a job which may last the better part of a year - the introduction and propagation of subtropical fruits on the Mediterranean coast.

Sincerely,

Wilson Popenoe

cc Dr Wm C Paddock

San Luis Obispo, Calif.
May 31, 1960

Dear Dr. Popenoe:

Have just finished reading several books on Central America among which I read "House in Antigua" by Louis Adamie - 1937. Needless to say after knowing you, I gulped it down eagerly. It gave me a very much greater appreciation of you, your family and your work. I was in the library one day looking for books on Mex. & C.A. when my eyes fell upon "House in Antigua" and before opening it I would have bet my life that it was about the restored home you told me about - "Casa del Capuchino". Also read "The Rainbow Republics" by Ralph Hancock - with maps - 1947. "Inside Latin America" by John Gunther - 1941. "Notes on a Drum" by J.H. Jackson - 1937. Also "Beggars on Golden Stools" by Peter Schmid - 1956. All quite authentic, I guess, but some of them now a little out-dated. Mrs. Matlock, who is Peruviana, and I expect to go to Mexico for two or three months - hoping to leave sometime in July. She has never seen Mexico or C.A. and is very desirous of seeing them. I think she will like them very much. We have been wondering if the inflation hasn't

✓ Mexico + C.A. like it has Perú and the
rest of the Latin Amer. Countries. Now, there's one
question in particular I'd like for you to settle
for us. Is it possible for two persons of simple tastes
to live say in Guatemala on a total of \$200⁰⁰ a
month - house or apartment with garage - food -
car expenses + personal expenses? Mrs. Mattocks
thinks we can because she is so very econom-
ical. I am dubious about it. In November
I can apply for my social security - that,
with interest on my savings will amount to
\$200⁰⁰ or very little over. I do not want to
draw very heavily on my savings. I like
Guatemala + I think it is Quetzaltenango
very much especially for climate + the fruits.
What do you say, Doctor, can it be done?
I wrote a few lines to you at Xmas time, but
don't know if you received the card or not.
Hope sincerely that you receive this and that
you'll favor us with an early reply. Hope
above all that this finds you and all the
family ^{all} well and happy as it leaves us.

Very sincerely,

P.S. Have you any word
from the Escuela
Agrícola? Chow.

Ham.

J. A. Mattocks
1405 Broad St.
San Luis Obispo, Calif.

Antigua, Guatemala, 6 June 1960

Mr W A Mattocks
1405 Smead St, San Luis Obispo, California.

Dear Mr Mattocks:

It was pleasant to hear from you again. Yes, we keep in touch with Escuela Agricola Panamericana; were over there for graduation in March. The school is going on well but is up against some financial problems because the United Fruit Co wants ~~to~~ cut down its financial support gradually.

You say you and Mrs Mattocks will be in Mexico in July. Now here is the way things stack up, as far as my recent experience goes. Mexico is probably the cheapest place to live. I think you could get a small house in a town which is not a tourist hangout, and live on \$200 US dollars a month. I think the next bet would be Guatemala, even though living costs have gone up tremendously here in the past 1 years. But in the outskirts of Quezaltenango you could get a house which would be big enough for about \$35 a month; the trouble is, you would not have modern plumbing, at least good modern plumbing. Of all the Central American countries I think Guatemala would be as good a bet as any; Honduras about the same price, but not in Tegucigalpa where everything is high now.

All in all, I would recommend you take a good look at Mexico, and perhaps then come on to Guatemala before you make a decision. Y drive here now from Mexico without any trouble, except that the road has been in bad shape recently due to heavy rains @ this always happens when we go into the wet season.

If you really want to live on \$200 a month the place for you i southern Spain. We spent 8 months there; had a house free because o the work I was doing, but only spent \$1.50 a day on food. We sent some friends of ours over there six months ago; they got a nice hou in the outskirts of Malaga, lovely climate, for \$35 a month; a good servant for \$15 a month; and I dont suppose their grub costs them more than \$100. Helen and I would be over there right now, living on my pension, were it not for the fact that I have so many project on hand in this part of the world and want to keep useful.

Ever yours,