



Hunt Institute for Botanical Documentation
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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.

376-23rd Street
Santa Monica, Calif
Sept 5 - 1971

Dear Dr. Pogonac -

I am writing
to you as a member of
Class 1914 - Pomona College -

We are very desirous of
having a class letter - so we
can keep in touch with 1914ers.

We hope you can write a
letter to us - telling of your

- 1- work - (active or retired) -
your projects - hobbies -
- 2- Travels - recent interesting
incidents
- 3- Books, Concerts - plays - you
have enjoyed recently
- 4- your family -
you must have many
interesting things to share
from Guatemala -

2.

Please send your letter to
Miss Margaret Painter
1020 Stanford Avenue
Modesto, California 95350

We hope you can reply by
October 1 -

Thank you
Sincerely

Edith M. Oserin
1914.

IRAL J. ROLLER
4124 OAK HOLLOW ROAD
CLAREMONT, CALIFORNIA
LYCOMING 3-2289

July 27, 1971

Dr. Wilson Popeno
Calle, Ce. La Nobleza, No. 2
Antigua, Guatamala

Dear Wilson

Margaret Painter and some other good members of our 1914 Class, Pomona College, thought a news letter to our class would be appreciated, I was given a few names to contact, yours included,

They would like some personal news about you and your family to include in the class letter. If you could spare the time to write, I am sure that much of your activity in Guatamala would be quite interesting.

After growing citrus in this area for many years we are now retired and live in Claremont. This gives us an opportunity to attend allumni days and see class mates who live not too far away.

There may be a possibility of duplication, so if some other class mate writes you, please understand.

Sincerely

Iral J. Roller
Iral J. Roller

(1)

LOS ANGELES * 3rd September 1971

Dear Wilson:

It could be difficult for you to believe in light of the deluge of letters I occasionally have sent your way, but I really hesitate to burden you with too many letters that may have nothing of significance to you. I know how many things you "have going" in many ways, how busy you are, and I do not wish to add to the white man's burden.

However the Pomona College Class of 1914 has decided in its provincial way to edit a news letter of the activities of surviving veterans of the class. I never have enthused over such things and never before have I responded to any personal reminiscences solicitations, as have occurred from time to time. However, just this once, it might add to the record for those who cling to the idea of cohesiveness among those who once worked together as classmates. As a result of such softening, probably due to that senile decay of which you speak, I have tried to say something to send in to the "editor" which might be acceptable to them and somewhat along the lines of their stated interests.

They have requested personal data regarding activities, hobbies, avocations, actual work and whatnot. The girls probably will tell about all of their children, grandchildren, great grandchildren and most of them will be pleased to learn of all their contemporaries and competition. But there might be an occasional stand-out of character and reputation, such as you, who could have something to say about affairs of broader than merely personal horizons. They have asked for gossip and everything, so that one need not pull their punches.

I send you, on the other side of this letter a copy of the drool which I mailed in. They would like to have all information in their hands by the end of this month. I send it to you for several reasons, one of which is that I used your name as a former and present member of the class of 1914. What I have said about you would not be entirely accurate in all detail but I hope it may state the gist of the idea in a way not entirely unacceptable. This will give you the opportunity to fill-in and correct mis-statements and state it as you would like to have it said.

I am sure that it would give the class and the letter considerable oomph and added prestige if you could find it in your heart and within your time to say whatever you might consider to be "fit'n" to the occasion. It need not be long, nor should it be short. Just say it in whatever way may come naturally.

The old'uns are beginning to drop off and this may be the last time they try to put their collective statement in print. It would be interesting to have the story in complete and total form.

Send your copy to this Margaret Painter whose name and address appear on the other side of this sheet, at the beginning of my letter. Remember that they want it by the end of September.

*Gracias amigo!
Gracias*

Lovell Swisher just phoned to say that the melons were ripening fast and to come over and get a sample. The first ones were caused to crack open and ferment before they had ripened, as a result of overwatering which was followed by a month of 95° midday temperatures. They were fragrant and beautiful to look upon but didn't ripen, flesh remaining hard and then fermenting. I hope beyond hope that these will be good so shall head that-a-way to see Lovell and his crop.

Vera always speaks fondly of you and Alice, with emphasis on both, and would join me in love and good wishes.

(2)

CORNELL, BRIDGERS & TROLLER · LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTS · SITE PLANNERS

5336 FOUNTAIN AVENUE, LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA 90029 (213) 469-2145

31st August 1971

Miss Margaret Painter,
1020 Stanford Avenue,
Modesto, California 95350

Dear Margaret:

When the appeal from you and Hugh Jones arrived to ask for personal news of any and every description I felt as the retired firehorse must have felt in the good old days when the gong rang. He was able to snort and paw the ground but was not too effective otherwise. I never feel that my personal affairs should be of particular interest to others but, since you boldly ask for it without modesty, I shall attempt to put together a few gleanings from which you may be able to separate the wheat from the chaff.

The past year has been relative routine in its activity, with no travel outside of the state but with plenty going on at home to keep us busy, not to mention continued professional work. The big home event was to move, after forty years at the same address, to a new home at 4880 Ambrose Avenue, Los Angeles 90027. We still have not dug through the debris which we carried along with us.

I still go to the office five or six days a week unless other work or interests make it impossible. My office in Los Angeles has operated continuously since 1919 and after the first half century it becomes something of a habit. Of personal significance to me was my reappointment on July 1, by U.C.L.A., to serve another three year term as supervising landscape architect of their campus, a position which I have held continuously for the past thirty four years. If I should survive this perhaps I should begin to consider possibilities of retirement, perhaps joining the old fire horse at his leisure.

The firm of Cornell, Bridgers and Troller continues its activities wherever it may find toehold in activities related to land planning of any sort, particularly those of considerable acreage such as subdivision designs, schools and universities, shopping centers, regional and local parks, civic centers, malls and such. Currently we have been working on two projects in Houston, Texas including the University of Houston: a general survey to include report and recommendations for the entire park system of San Diego County: master plans for Elysian Park in Los Angeles: L.A. City Hall Annex plaza and malls now under construction: a so-called fashion center at Palo Alto: park plans in Ventura County and so on down a considerable list. Most of this work is handled by other partners and office staff. My functions are basically consultative.

Over the years we have travelled considerably for reasons of business and pleasure, both, which generally is refreshing and interesting in many ways. My last trip, personally, out of the state was a little over a year ago when Mrs. Cornell and I spent the Christmas holidays chiefly in Guatemala, with stop-overs in Mexico City, both ways. If one never has seen "Christmas" in these countries it is something to look forward to. We were in Guatemala City at Christmas time and in Antigua, Guatemala over New Years.

book

The House of Antigua, made famous by Louis Adamic's book of the same title, is a restored and authentic reconstruction of an early Spanish-Colonial Guatemalan house which was researched and constructed by Dorothy and Wilson Popenoe quite some years ago and which has won international fame. It has become something of a local shrine visited by people from many lands, some of whom visit Guatemala for the express purpose of seeing the House of Antigua. Dr. Wilson Popenoe and his present wife, Alice, still live in the house.

(3)

CORNELL, BRIDGERS & TROLLER · LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTS · SITE PLANNERS

- 2 -

Members of our class of 1914 will remember that Wilson Popenoe attended Pomona College with our class for a semester, as a special student. After that year, working with Professor Charles Fuller Baker, he turned his back on conventional college schooling eventually to become what might well be Pomona's most famous dropout. He worked for years with the United States Department of Agriculture, under David Fairchild, as tropical plant explorer: then with the United Fruit Company as economic botanist and advisor for a considerable time. His career probably was climaxed when the United Fruit Company entrusted him with a million dollars with which to build an agricultural college for Latinos only, in Central America. He built the college and operated as its president and manager until recently when he retired.

Mrs. (Vera) Cornell and I spent about a week in Antigua, a city exceedingly rich in the heritage of Spanish Colonial culture and architectural accomplishments in all of which the Popenoes are very active. Wilson "sits" on many committees as well as on some of their wild ideas. If the truth were known we probably would not have chosen Guatemala, this time, had it not been for the Popenoes with whom we spent most interesting and happy hours.

Just about three months before flying south of the border, Vera and I took an interesting jaunt of three thousand or more miles by car into the Big Sky Country of Montana as far north as Great falls. We drove through the fall-color-drenched mountains and canyons of Yellowstone, the Grand Teton, and Jackson Hole country, through Utah, Idaho and Nevada, returning home via Moab, Monument, Oak Creek Canyon and the city of Blythe where my daughter, Rosita lives. Rosita graduated from Pomona College in 1953.

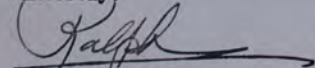
My avocational interests through the many years have centered on horticulture and photography. Photography has been chiefly horticultural and scenic and we have driven countless miles through the years in the hope of getting one good picture, viewing one more exceptional or interesting plant, seeing a bit of new country. It has paid off as far as pleasure and satisfactions are concerned. Economically my photography has not been such a bust although I have sold enough pictures, for years, to more than pay for the films. Travel and living costs are balanced off against recreation. Therapy returns are high.

Some of my color transparencies sell to national publications for book use. Some go to periodical magazines. Some I just plain contribute. In any event the outlet for plant and flower subjects is very limited.

Over the past five years or so there has been published a series of booklets on flowering plants for Southern California, all printed in color and averaging about thirty five color plates per book. With the exception of about six or eight plates these, all, were reproduced from my color transparencies, taken in 4x5 inch size. The last booklet on "Color in Native California Plants" was released last June. They are available at the California Arboretum Foundation, 301 Baldwin Avenue, Arcadia, California which is the address of the Los Angeles State and County Arboretum. They sell at \$1.25 by mail, or \$1.05 if you pick them up at the Arboretum. Tax is included. This is just in case you are curious. There are five booklets in the set, the other four being on trees, shrubs, vines and color on the ground. Only the last booklet is solely on natives.

This should be enough to stuff the ballot and confuse the scribe. Good luck to you in trying to condense blurb into acceptable news.

With kindest personal regards,
Sincerely,



Ralph D. Cornell