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5th Floor, Hunt Library
Carnegie Mellon University
4909 Frew Street
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Contact: Archives
Telephone: 412-268-2434
Email: huntinst@andrew.cmu.edu
Web site: www.huntbotanical.org

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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.

REASONER'S TROPICAL NURSERIES

established 1881

N. A. REASONER
E. S. REASONER

GENERAL OFFICE AND SALES — TAMiami TRAIL (U. S. 41)
¼ MILE SOUTH OF CORTEZ ROAD
P. O. BOX 828

BRADENTON 4-0371
SARASOTA RI 6-3871

BRADENTON, FLORIDA

28 May 1957
OUR 76th YEAR

Dr. Wilson Popenoe
Calle De La Nobleze Num. 2
Antigua, Guatemala, C.A.

Dear Wilson:

I am glad to have your card indicating that you have retired at the Escuela Agricola Panamericana and will be at home hereafter at Antigua, Guatemala. After having played such an important part in the progress of this School I know it must be a blow to you to be away from it, but on the other hand you have certainly worked hard enough for many years to get it going and I think you richly deserve to retire and take life easier for awhile. I am in a great deal the same situation here and believe me it is a nice feeling not to have your nose to the grindstone as I had for so many years. Bud is doing wonderfully well in running the business and he is mighty nice to his "old man" as for instance our recent trip to Mexico.

Please remember to drop by and see us any time you are in Florida and you may be sure if I get to Guatemala again I will surely drop in to see you.

Wishing you the best as ever, I am,

Sincerely,

N.A. Reasoner
N.A. Reasoner

NAR:bg



Phones:
BRADENTON 4-0371
SARASOTA RI 6-3871



GENERAL OFFICE AND SALES -- TAMiami TRAIL -- U. S. 41
One fourth mile south Cortez Road, 4 miles north Sarasota-Bradenton Airport
P. O. BOX 828, BRADENTON, FLORIDA

June 8, 1960
OUR 79th YEAR

Dr. Wilson Popenoe
Antigua, Guatamala
Central America

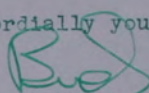
Dear Dr. Popenoe:

Received your card when you were by our offices some many weeks ago now, and certainly regret very much that I was not in at the time you came by. We certainly appreciate your thinking of us and dropping by and sincerely hope the next time you come this way I will have an opportunity of seeing you.

My wife Rae and I are planning a trip to Central America the latter part of July, and since we have never been there I would like to trouble you for some suggestions as to what particular points of interest we should see in that area. At the present time we are not exactly set on where we are going other than the general area from Honduras to Panama and I would rather expect that a total time of a week or ten days is all that we could spend in that area, but would appreciate any suggestions that you have. Naturally, things on the ornamental line are of particular interest to us, and we would certainly appreciate it if it were not too much trouble for you to drop us a note as to suggestions in that area.

I certainly regret very much that I missed you the last time you were here in Florida, and really hope that this is not too much of an imposition on you. Please extend our very best to Mrs. Popenoe and look forward to hearing from you.

Cordially yours,


E. S. 'Bud' Reasoner

ESR:pm

Antigua, Guatemala, 11 June 1960

Dear Bud:

Your letter of the 8th has just come. You say you are coming in July and the general area is Honduras to Panama. Have you been in Guatemala? If not, you are starting at the wrong end. Now here is what I would suggest, or rather, I will start by saying you have two options: (1) book a tour with one of those Tourist agencies or (2) be smart and do as follows:

Get tickets on AVIATECA from Miami to Guatemala City. When you get here, come over to Antigua and stay in our guest house. Your time seems to be short but you should have at least a day or two here; I expect to be here in July and can show you some of the horticultural sights. Then take a tour of the highlands - we know a good chauffeur here in town who will take you anywhere you want to go for about \$25 or \$30 a day; you will pay more on one of the standard tours and you will not have a car of your own to go where you want to go. This country is it.

If you want to go on south, you should take in Costa Rica; I don't see any reason for stopping in Honduras or Salvador or Nicaragua with the few days at your disposal. But if you want to go south, then go to Costa Rica and stay at the Pension Canada; run by a good friend of ours. Not in the tourist track; about \$6 per day per person with meals; as opposed to \$12 in the tourist hotels which you gringos think is cheap but you are crazy. The grub is no better; they just talk gringo English, that's all. So my advice, as noted above, is for you and Rae to come on down to Guatemala and then see what you want to do. Get your passports with tourist visas for Guatemala and we can do the rest here.

Ever yours,

Antigua Guatemala 16 June 1960

Mr E S Reasoner
Bradenton, Fla.

Dear Bud:

Your letter of the 8th reached me a couple of days ago. You say you and Ræe are coming in July and your general area is Honduras to Panama. Have you been in Guatemala? If not, then you are making a mistake in stressing Honduras to Panama.

You have two options: Book a tour with one of the travel agencies or buy a ticket to Guatemala City (and I recommend the Guatemalan line, AVIATECA from Miami to the City, direct flight and as safe as any of them). You say your time is limited. Come direct to Antigua, 45 minutes from the City. We will put you up in our guest house. You will want a day or two in Antigua and vicinity. Then take Juanito Rodriguez, who has worked with us for many years and who is very decent chap and who has a good car. He will take you through the highlands, anywhere you want to go, at \$20 a day. A car in Guatemala City will cost you \$35. I think you will want at least two, more likely three days, to see this country and it is much more interesting than Honduras or Salvador or Costa Rica - and you can scratch off Nicaragua right from the start unless for some reason unknown to me you must go there.

After you have seen Guatemala, if you want to go farther, hop down to Costa Rica. Rather pretty, not so dramatic or colorful as Guatemala. But worth while. Unless you can go to Lancetilla Experiment Station in Honduras, which I built 30 yrs ago and where we have the best collection of tropical economics in the Americas, Honduras is not worth while for you. It will take you four days to get from here to Lancetilla and back again to Tegucigalpa.

Helen and I will be here all thru July but not in August and part of September. Let me know what you plan.

Ever yours,

Phones:
BRADENTON 4-0371
SARASOTA RI 8-3871



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One fourth mile south Cortez Road, 4 miles north Sarasota-Bradenton Airport
P. O. BOX 828, BRADENTON, FLORIDA

July 15, 1960
OUR 79th YEAR

Dr. Wilson Poponoe
Antigua, Guatemala
Central America

Dear Dr. Poponoe:

Rae and I certainly want to thank you for your very thoughtful and helpful letter. We have been having a little problem in getting baby sitters organized as well as getting our own mind made up as to how much time we can afford to be away from the business, and I have come up with the following plan.

We plan on arriving in Guatemala City on the noon flight on Tuesday, September 6, on a direct flight from Miami. We believe if things go right we can stay there in that part of the world and have to leave for Miami on Friday, September 16, on the 12:30 flight direct to Miami.

Your suggestion in that we would spend a day or two in Antigua and then have Juanito Rodriguez take us through various area as you might suggest.

We certainly do not want to be any problem to you and Mrs. Poponoe and by no stretch of the imagination do we want to be any imposition in any way, although we certainly do appreciate your ideas on what we should do with this time available.

With this tentative time table as a guide, we would really appreciate your giving us your ideas as to how we could best use this to have an interesting and informative vacation and at the same time see as much interesting ornamental plant material as possible.

Thank you again for your help and look forward to hearing from you. Please give our best to Mrs. Poponoe and we are looking forward to visiting your country later this summer.

Cordially yours,

E. S. 'Bud' Reasoner

Antigua, Guatemala,
27 July 1960

Dear Bud:

Just hopping off for Peru to spend a couple of weeks, and before leaving I want to acknowledge your letter of the 15th, and say that we will be back here before the end of August; and that I still think your plan should be to come right to our house after you reach Guatemala City (we are only about 45 minutes from the airport) and after you have had a look at Antigua, let Juanito Rodriguez take you for a tour of the highlands (very interesting) and down to the Pacific coast if you want to see tropical plants. I wish you had time to go over to Lancetilla Experiment Station at Tela, Honduras, where we have the finest collection of tropical plants in this hemisphere, but I fear with only 10 days allowed you can hardly make it. You would have to choose between seeing Guatemala and seeing Lancetilla, and I would say Guatemala. After all, there is a lot of good ornamental material here in the lowlands and you can see it in two days; Lancetilla would be a four or five day job from here.

Ever yours,

Wilson Popenoe

Mrs. E. S. Reasoner

Box 828, Bradenton, Florida

August 3 [1960]

Dear Mrs. Popenoe,

Bud and I are thrilled with the prospects of our trip to Guatemala next month! For years I have wanted to see your country, and I can hardly believe that we will soon be there.

We would like very much to have Juanito Rodriguez take us on a tour of the highlands and down to the Pacific coast. We are sorry that we won't have time to visit the Langetilla

Experiment Station at Tebe

We were wondering if there wasn't some items that we could bring you from the States? We would be pleased to be able to do this for you.

All our family including Mrs. Pearson are all fine.

Mrs. Pearson has just returned from a trip to New England and Canada.

I am looking forward to meeting you soon.

Sincerely,

Rae

Antigua, Guatemala, 24 August 1960

Dear Rae:

We got back from Peru a few days ago and found your letter to Helen of the 3rd. She has asked me to answer, in order to make sure of the travel details. I think I wrote Bud that we would recommend AVIATECA which flies non-stop from Miami to Guatemala and which we have used a good deal. I enclose schedules of this and PAN which is also good; you could of course come PANAIR but it costs more and we do not think it is any better.

But the point is this: if you have time, write us airmail on what line and what day, so we can either meet you at Guatemala City or send in Juanito Rodriguez. If you don't have time, you can send us a radiogram marked "Via Tropical Radio" (for which there is no charge, and Tropical is a subsidiary of United Fruit and they take care of us which other lines don't) and the address is simply "Wilson Popenoe, Antigua, Guatemala."

We are looking forward to having you here. As for bringing anything, a pound of chocolates would be fine; the ones they make here are not so hot.

Ever yours,

Wilson Popenoe

Phones:
BRADENTON 4-0371
SARASOTA RI 6-3871



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September 23, 1960
OUR 79th YEAR

Dr. & Mrs. Wilson Poponoe
Antigua, Guatemala
Central America

Dear Dr. & Mrs. Poponoe:

Just a hurried note to let you know how much Rae and I thoroughly enjoyed our recent and most pleasant visit to your country.... We not only appreciated your most kind hospitality and the wonderful evening visits with you in your library by the fire, but also want you to know we appreciate your organizing our trip with Juanito. We really had what we felt was not only an educational trip, but certainly a most, most delightful one.

During one of our evening chats you may recall that you mentioned that you might sometime consider the possibility of writing up in a professional and technical manner, the contributions of the Reasoner's in the past many decades to tropical horticulture and in particular to Florida.... If you would be seriously considering the possibility of this type of paper, might I suggest that when you visit Florida this next spring that you come up to Bradenton and if you'd let me know in enough time, I would be happy to try to gather together various people that could shed some light into the past with particular reference to the Reasoner family and their knowledge of plant introductions, etc., etc. Please let me know if I can be of assistance to you in this way.

I trust that by now you have received a Miami Herald and learned that Hurricane Donna did some considerable damage in Florida. We were fortunate in that it went about thirty miles to our east and while it did extensive damage in Arcadia and the Wauchula area, we got by fairly well. We have a couple of million (more or less) trees to put up for our customers before we can ever even get around to trying to do our own, but it all in all is not to bad-it certainly could have been much worse...

Again, let us extend our most sincere thanks to both of you for your many many kind hospitalities and certainly hope that both of you will be able to visit Florida this coming spring, at which time we look forward to seeing you.

Most cordially yours,

E. S. "Bud" Reasoner

COPY OF FADED CORRESPONDENCE

[original tossed due to
high acid content]

Walter P. Fuller
2113 Central Avenue
St. Petersburg, Florida
Phone OR 1-5651
September 27, 1960

Mr. E. S. "Bud" Reasoner
P. O. Box 828
Bradenton, Florida

Dear Bud:

The news concerning Dr. Wilson Popenoe is delightful and exciting.

I have been planning for a number of years to write a book about the Reasoner family - with much interest of course focused on Uncle Pliny. Perhaps we might interest him in combining his technical horticultural paper as a part of the proposed book. I believe such a book would be quite salable.

Perhaps if you got me Popenoe's address and we both wrote him, it would be helpful.

Very cordially yours,

WALTER P. FULLER

WPF-mhb

Antigua, Guatemala, 21 October 1960

Mr E S Reasoner
Box 828, Bradenton, Florida.

Dear Bud:

Thanks for your letter of 23 September. We are glad you enjoyed your trip to Guatemala.

I am sending under separate cover, by ordinary mail, a copy of "Ceiba" in which you will find, under the title "A Tribute to Florida", rather extensive mention of the work done by Reasoner Brothers in the development of tropical horticulture. But I would like to/a ^{do} more extensive write-up some time, and if I can possibly do so, I will try to spend a couple of days at Bradenton the next time we come up, which will probably be next April. I have here what is, I believe, the last catalog issued by your grandfather. Incidentally, I think a good write up in more or less popular form would go very well on Nixon Smiley's agricultural page in the Miami Herald. I believe that paper has a circulation of more than 100,000, which would bring the article to the attention a great many people in Florida.

Helen joins in warmest regards to you both.

Sincerely,

Wilson Popenoe

Phones:
BRADENTON 4-0371
SARASOTA 16-3871



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P. O. BOX 1881, BRADENTON, FLORIDA

February 28, 1961 - OUR 80th YEAR

Dr. Wilson Poponoe
Antigua, Guatemala
Central America

Dear Dr. Poponoe:

My, my how time flies.... Seems like it was just a couple of weeks ago that we were so thoroughly enjoying our visit and I almost feel like I'm sitting out on your veranda now admiring the pool and Monstera in your patio.....

I certainly appreciate your thoughtfulness in your sending me the copy of "Ceiba" and it is certainly interesting - particularly your many references to the Reasoner's....

Just at the moment, I am not too optimistic about being able to attend the Miami meeting of the Society, but it just seems that there are so many things going on here so close at home that I will not be able to make this meeting... If things develop so that I can be there, you may be assured that I will look you up! I believe our Mr. Eric Golby plans on being there and in the event I cannot attend, I am sure likewise that he would look forward to looking you up....

I want you to know that I have thought many many times about your comment when we were visiting with you in Antigua, as well as you mention in your letters that you are considering doing some write-up of the Reasoner contributions to tropical horticulture.... I have mentioned this to various members of the family and in fact, as we discussed last summer, I very much look forward to your being able to visit us here in Bradenton for a day or two after the Society meeting in Dade County. My aunt, Mrs. Julia Reasoner Hastings, who was formerly an officer in the corporation, I feel quite sure will be able to lend considerable help to you in providing information. As a matter of fact, at the moment she is going through our file of "ancient" catalogues that date back to the 1880's to compile a list of the catalogue crediting Reasoner introductions to Florida, as we felt this would be of assistance to you in your writings. It may very well be that I have "over-played" my hand in saying to various members of the family that you were coming to visit us and I most sincerely hope that it will be possible for you to do so, - not only for the opportunity of presenting various information to you, but primarily to have a chance to visit and socialize with you.....!!!

Early last month at the time of my birthday, we had a combined birthday party of my father's aunt, Mrs. Julia Reasoner Fuller,

Page 2

Dr. Wilson Poponoe

who was I believe 83 - we had a very enjoyable evening and look forward to the opportunity of you meeting with her. She has a great wealth of knowledge of the "olden days" and a very lot, of factual and interesting incidents during the old Reasoner days. Her son, Walter P. Fuller of St. Petersburg, who is a successful realtor, is one of our big family's best historians and I am positive that he would like to meet and talk with you. He has many of the old family archives and I am more than sure would be not only honored to meet you, but would be able to shed considerable light on the historical facts that would be of interest to you. I am sure that he would be more than happy to meet with us at a time here in just a few weeks.... In fact, I am enclosing a copy of Mr. Fuller's letter of September 27 that I believe will convey to you his considerable interest in the Reasoner family.....

Certainly hope this hasn't been too rambling but frankly, have been looking forward to writing you for several weeks and with all the rush after the almighty dollar (which is sort of scarce at the moment) have just not taken time until now to renew my fond memories of you and Mrs. Poponoe. Please extend our very best wishes to Mrs. Poponoe and I would like to say again how much Rae and I enjoyed our visit with you this past summer. It was certainly a most delightful and refreshing experience and one that I can assure you will be remembered forever.

My mother, my wife and I join in sending to you and Mrs. Poponoe, our very best wishes AND look forward to seeing you in just a few weeks.....

Most cordially yours,



E. S. 'Bud' Reasoner

ESR:bl

P.S. I'm enclosing a picture of my father, grandfather and great uncle that I believe you were interested in having copies of....

Antigua, Guatemala, 6 March 1961

Mr E S Reasoner
Box 1881, Bradenton, Fla.

Dear Bud:

Your letter 28 Feb has come and is highly interesting. I am glad to have the photographs because they will be just what I need if I can work up an article on what the Reasoner family has done for tropical horticulture.

I think Walter P. Fuller is more or less the "key" man to this situation. He says he plans a book on the work on the Reasoner family and their part in Florida horticulture. I would be glad to contribute a short chapter to this, touching on the more technical horticultural aspects. I have also had in mind an article in Nixon Smiley's page of the Miami Herald (because it has more than 100,000 circulation which really means something). We might do both.

I expect to reach Miami on AVIATECA (the Guatemalan Airline) Friday evening March 17th. I am expecting my nephew John Popenoe to meet me and take me down to Homestead, after calling briefly on Mrs Fairchild who is leaving the next day for Panama. I expect to be at Gainesville for a few days, after the 26th or 27th of March. Then I am thinking about working down the West coast, stopping a few days at my old stamping grounds. I don't think I am going to be in a hurry this time as I usually am. Helen will not be able to come along as we have so many people coming to Antigua during these months. I will see what kind of a program I can work out from Gainesville southward.

Ever yours,

ESCUELA AGRICOLA PANAMERICANA

Erskine

Box 1881

Rae

With all of our very deepest
sympathy and love,
you again and join us in sending
their condoleances.

[@ June 1961]

Dear Dr. Popenoe,

Monday

We were so very distressed
and saddened to hear of the death
of your wife. Bud's mother was in the
Miami area Easter weekend and went
to Fairchild Gardens to find out if

you were there and to say hello
when she learned the very sad news
from Mr. Smiley.

We want you to know that
we are thinking of you during this
most difficult time, and that if
there is anything here in Florida
that we can do for you please let

us know. The news came as such
a shock to us, and we can still hardly
believe it.

We hope that you will be
able to come to Florida again in the
not too distant future, and will plan
to stay here in Bradenton with
us. All your friends in this area
are eagerly looking forward to seeing

Phone:
BRADENTON 744-0371
SARASOTA 956-3871



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P. O. BOX 1881, BRADENTON, FLORIDA

August 25, 1965 - OUR 84th YEAR

Dr. Wilson Popenoe
Antigua, Guatemala
Central America

Dear Dr. Popenoe:

Mr. Douglas Bowes of Patio Exotica expects to be in Antigua week after next and will get in touch with you.

Patio Exotica rents office space and part of our grounds for a gift shop and rare and unusual plants, Bromeliads, etc.

Surely wish I could come, too!

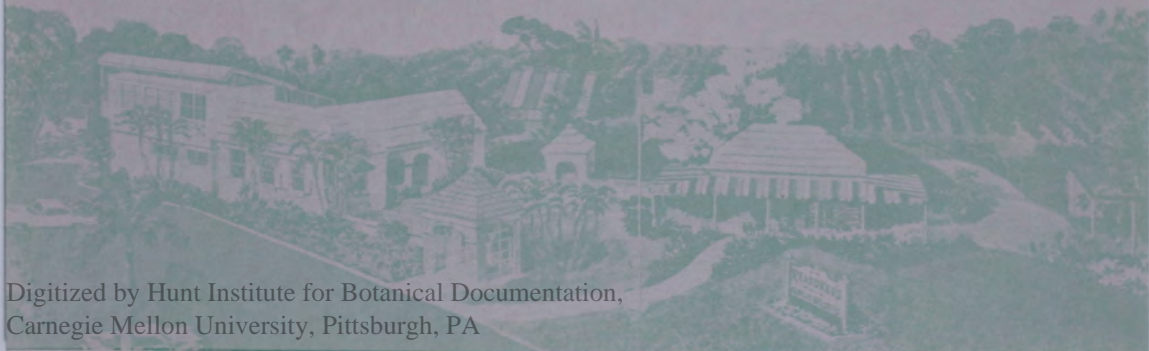
Cordially,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Bud', with a long, sweeping horizontal stroke extending to the right.

ESR/pra

E. S. 'Bud' Reasoner

A handwritten signature in dark ink that reads 'Best Regards!' in a cursive, slightly slanted font.



Phone
~~755-1775~~
Area Code 813
756-1881



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Across from Cortez Plaza — 5 miles north of Sarasota Airport
4610 - 14th STREET, WEST • BRADENTON, FLORIDA 33505

March 9, 1971 - OUR 90th YEAR

Dr. Wilson Popenoe
Antigua, Guatamala, C.A.

Dear Dr. Popenoe:

Long time no see -- too long!

Today I had the pleasure of taking John V. Watkins to Cypress Gardens to spend the day with Roberto Burle Marx and Mr. Pope in discussions and viewing the famous Gardens.

In the process, Prof Watkins read to me your recent letter to him here at Asbury Towers and I was certainly interested in your comments about my family here "in the good old days." Was glad to hear all is well with you; please give our best wishes to Mrs. Popenoe -- we all wish you both the very best!

You will recall that some time ago you considered writing on the Reasoner family's contributions to early tropical horticulture and we all met with my now late great aunt Julia Reasoner Fuller to discuss the "old days."

My cousin Walter P. Fuller (Great Aunt Julia's son) says he is soon undertaking a book on Pliny and Egbert N. Reasoner; he has diaries and letters of the 1880's.

Is there any ^{chance} you will be in Florida anytime soon to visit with Prof Watkins with reference to this book -- or if not, would you put on magnetic tape and send us some background information on this subject with which you are so familiar? Needless to say, we would be most, most appreciative and do look forward to hearing from you soon.

Warmest personal regards from all,

E. S. 'Bud' Reasoner

ESR/prb