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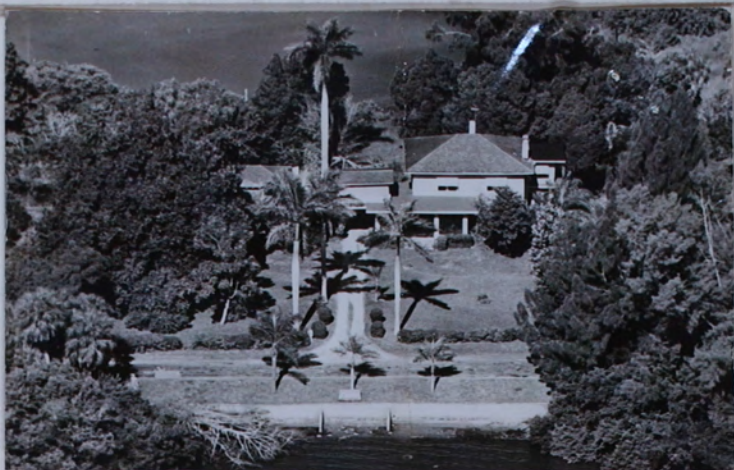
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*About the Institute*

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.



Bayou from the air

PHOTO POST CARD

This was taken without my being  
aware of it but when shown a print  
10 x 12", - I of course bought it and had  
some postals made. The large print  
took in the whole pond and mass of the grove.  
The pond has a growing family of alligators and  
numerous heron, gallinules etc have been  
nesting in the trees around the border. It has  
interested the State Audubonists, so close to  
human settlements. Come back sometime soon

Kodak

PLACE  
STAMP  
HERE

Paper

TR

T. RALPH ROBINSON  
BAYACRE GROVES  
TERRA CEIA, FLORIDA

May 31 '57

Dear Nelson,

I can well believe it was with mixed emotions that you became "Emeritus", but you have the great satisfaction of seeing a fine institution firmly established and destined to play an important role in the development of Central America. At the same time it must be a joy to once more enjoy "The House of Antigua" and the leisure to do many things I am sure you have planned. Perhaps an up to date revision of your Manual?

Here our summer is well under way with some gorgeous poincianas blooming in

the neighborhood including my own. My  
grumichama is bearing its best crop this  
year and has attracted considerable  
attention, fine fruit. The jaboticaba tho  
has failed to fruit though now well  
over ten years old.

Of <sup>course</sup> our citrus is gone except for some  
Valencias and late grapefruit.

We have had good rains of late following  
a rather dry and warm winter.

When next you visit Florida I hope you  
and Mrs. P. will surely drop in for a  
visit -

Sincerely

I. Ralph R.

21 Avenida Roosevelt, San Salvador,  
Rep. de El Salvador, 7 July 1957

Mr T Ralph Robinson  
Terra Ceia, Florida.

Dear Ralph:

Many thanks for your letter of 31 May. Since receiving it we have been pretty busy trying to unload and unpack four trucks of junk from Honduras which we brought to Antigua, but when it is done, what a museum Helen is going to have there! I had to drop out a week ago and come over here to San Salvador to fulfill a contract I had made with the government of this country, to get busy on a fruit improvement program. What an opportunity, Ralph! I wish I was young enough to devote all my time to it for about five years. Now it is a matter of picking out the right regions for the various fruits, and the most promising varieties for trial, and then getting one or two good nurserymen to come here and grow thousands of grafted trees for the govt to distribute. That is the tough part. Over at Zamorano we have been growing fifteen to twenty thousand grafted trees a year with no trouble at all, but we are on the ground to supervise the work; and I cannot stay here all the time. I am praying that I can scare up one of my old henchmen who can and will handle the job.

My feelings at leaving EAP behind me are of course mixed; it was awfully hard to roll out of there for good in our little Volkswagen, after having seen the place grow from an abandoned pasture into a handsome lot of stone buildings and everything that goes with them. At the same time, I like the idea of being free for a few years now, as long as my strength holds out, to do some other jobs. There is no dearth of them. I am not interested in the money as my pension will take care of us allright, but I am interested in some more plant introduction before I die. I shall not try to revise my "Manual"; I am too far behind the times. But I shall try a book somewhat along the lines of DF's "The World Was My Garden", that is, a book covering my 45 years of tropical horticulture, with lots of travel and description and some plant lore sandwiched in as painlessly as possible.

I have been making the rounds of the principal places of horticultural interest here - have not done more than half of them yet. Pedro Viaud has a very fine grove of citrus near the city. He says Valencia is tops, so far as he is concerned. I think he is too low for Washa Navel to beat its best; it is my experience that this variety should be above 4000 and not above 5500 here. He has no use for Hamlin and no use for the Tangelos. There are some good Mediterranean seedlings in this region, few seeds and thin skins and lots of juice and no rag and fine quality. Viaud says he can sell quite a lot of grapefruit here - he has Marsh only. I think it is because so many people here have been in the States and learned to eat it. At our school 90% of the fruit falls to the ground and our boys won't touch it, the only other fruit they won't eat being *Dovyalis hebecarpa*. They have even tried *Aleurites montana* on several occasions, following which we had to pump them out.

We may do some more travelling, now that I have no obligations; and if we do we will most surely drop in on you. In the meantime and always,

Yrs faithfully,

San Salvador, 22 August 1957

Mr T Ralph Robinson  
Terra Ceia, Florida

Dear Ralph:

I have been having a grand time here for the past two months, seeing all the fruit trees in this country and talking about having more of them. The government is going to establish several nurseries right away. What we need is Cleopatra stock. There are some trees here- we have seen a dozen or more - but there ~~are~~ will be no ripe fruit until next spring - the fruits now hanging are the size of marbles. Mr Mortensen of Texas, who has just come here as the ICA man in horticulture, will have charge of the nurseries and he knows to run them. But where can we get some Cleopatra seed? Is it available at this season? You directed me once to the Grand Island Nurseries, I believe it was, and I got seed. If they can supply now or later in the present year, we would like to have three pounds sent to Dr Mario Lewy van Severen, Director, Centro Nacional de Agronomia, San Salvador, Rep. de El Salvador. I will be responsible for the charges - though this is not really necessary. But just in case they want to know who is behind the matter. I suppose the best way to ship is by air express, isn't it? I would not advise parcel post- it gets tied up in Customs too long.

I go back to Antigua in a week or so, and then we shall see what next? I have a hunch Helen and I maybe in Spain before Christmas.

Best regards always, and thanks for any help you can give us in the present connection. You better write me at Antigua, Guatemala.

Ever yours,

T. RALPH ROBINSON  
BAYACRE GROVES  
TERRA CEIA, FLORIDA

Aug 27 '57

Dear Wilson,

I don't suppose I should be surprised at your activities in El Salvador but I thought you had retired!

It is too soon to secure mature seeds of *Leleopatia mandarin* but fruit should be mature enough in a couple of months. I am writing to the Grand Island Nurseries (Eustis Fla) passing on your order for 3 lbs of seed to be sent to Dr. Mario Levy van Severen etc. - shipment by air express. If this source fails I will watch ads in the hort. papers for other sources of seed.

Do you are set for a visit to Spain later on, - that's wonderful. No doubt



you know that one of Jimmie Reampton's  
four beautiful daughters is living in  
Spain. I have no idea where but  
perhaps you do. I suppose Reampton is still  
in Venezuela. I met a man here  
some time ago who knew the Reampton's in  
Venezuela, - he was E. Alexander Powell, the  
writer of travel books, - a former Syracusan,  
who gave me some news of the interesting  
family.

I knew Mortensen when he was in  
charge of a Texas branch Station and am  
sure you have a good man to handle  
the work in Salvador. He was here in  
Florida during the campaign to eradicate  
Citrus canker.

With best wishes -

Sincerely  
W. Ralph R

Antigua, Guatemala, 13 Sept 1957

Mr T. Ralph Robinson  
Terra Ceia, Florida.

Dear Ralph:

Many thanks for your letter of 27 August, and for placing the order with the Grand Island Nurseries at Eustis. On further consideration, Mortensen and Mario Lewy and I believe we had best increase the order to ten lbs. Will you please do the needful? Ben Birdsall who is now the ICA man in agriculture at Santa Tecla is strong in the belief that we had better lean heavily on Cleopatra because of the possibility that tristeza may show up in Central America at any time. I guess he is right. We will use a little sour orange stock, but stick to Cleo as soon as we can get it in quantity. We found a number of fine large Cleo trees about 25 miles from San Salvador, but there will be no seed available until next April, and that is a long time to wait.

We got a pretty good look at Citrus in Salvador. I have now set my limits for good Washington navels at 3500 to 5000 feet. This means proper growing conditions plus good crops of really good fruit. On the coast navels do not bear at all well and the fruit is punk. I am strong for the Temple orange; we found one tree and the fruit is highly flavored and spicy when sweet oranges at the same season are poor because of the bad weather conditions. Seeing Temple behave well makes me want to go in for the tangelos also; and there are a few young trees in the nursery at San Andres which will eventually provide buds of all three good varieties. At the place where the Temple orange is growing there are trees of Marsh, Duncan and Triumph grapefruit. The Triumph is so much sweeter than the other two that I am inclined to think rather well of it. The reason grapefruit will have a hard time becoming really popular here is that us Latins like sweet fruits and grapefruit, especially if grown above 2000 feet, is not sweet. We are trying to put Hamlin and Pineapple and Jaffa oranges in the picture, and may be able to do so without bringing in any vegetative material from the States. A F Camp warned me two years ago against bringing any more trees from Florida or California, because of the tristeza hazard. Mortensen thinks there might be a negligible risk if we bring from Texas. We would like to get the red grapefruit from there. I think we are very fortunate in having Mortensen down here just at this time, because of his excellent background.

I am planning to revise my *Fruticultura Centroamericana* this autumn. I wonder if you would give me a few notes re Citrus stocks (and perhaps varieties also) as you did last time. There are doubtless some new developments. I will appreciate your help greatly. In this new edition I plan to include rather lengthy discussion of the excellent developments in vegetative propagation which have been brought about by Lynch and Nelson. They have really licked the mango business for us - we used to be lucky if we got 50 or 60% "takes" and now we have no trouble getting 85 or 90%.

Hoping that this finds you in excellent health, and with old time regards (as DF always put it),

Sincerely,

T. RALPH ROBINSON  
BAYACRE GROVES  
TERRA CEIA, FLORIDA

9/16/57

Dear Wilson  
Your good letters of the 13<sup>th</sup>!  
already received. I have had an  
acknowledgement from A. D. Kaufman  
Grand Island Nurseries of the order of  
5 lbs. *Cleopatra* seed @ ~~10~~ 10<sup>00</sup> per lb -  
shipped Air Express. Seed will not be  
available before late November or early  
December. I recall the last time  
Mr. Kaufman furnished you seed he made  
no charge. Will the present price  
make any difference in the order? I  
will wait a bit before increasing the  
order to 10 lbs. I am interested in your  
observations on citrus varieties, - effect of  
elevation, etc. Too little attention has been paid

to such factors. Since the advent of  
Tristeza and the burrowing nematode the  
staff at the U.S. Station at Orlando has  
been doing a lot of work on stocks but I  
have not been in close enough touch of  
late to keep informed. They also have  
some new hybrids on the tangelo or  
orange order ready to bring out soon.  
They have used Temple and Cleopatra as  
seed parents. Both have proved to be  
monoembryonic so that a large proportion  
of seedlings from crossing are hybrids, no  
miscellaneous.

As to introduction of citrus from Texas I  
had info by letter within a year that  
Tristeza had been found there, - a mild  
form such as we have in Florida.

No doubt you get the Proc. of the Fla. Hort  
Soc - some progress reports in last volume (69)  
on stock experiments.

T. RALPH ROBINSON  
BAYACRE GROVES  
TERRA CEIA, FLORIDA

I am glad to hear about the Presley family - I know Presley and recall now that he was enamored of Marjorie and probably knew of their marriage but just forgot! I can't blame Jim for not wanting to go back and try living in Washington, - as he says the "quarts are gone". I have never been in the New Cosmos Club quarters - passed by on my last visit in Wash.

I hear occasionally from Maude K Swingle, also from a doctor friend, Cabell Moore, but that is about the extent of my Washington contacts. Two B.P.D. letters called here recently Dr & Mrs Leighty + Dr & Mrs Darrow. Darrow was touring

Florida acting as counselor for the Fla. Exp. Sta.  
visiting all sub stations etc. He has  
done outstanding work in the breeding of  
new varieties of "small fruits" (Ectocarpus around)

I hear your brother on radio occasionally  
on marital problems etc. Reminds me of the time  
when Shamal, he + I and his recent bride  
had dinner together at "The Caravanserie"  
at Mecca. The rooms were "tent houses",  
but we had a good dinner & good visit.  
The dinner included some quail that  
Shamal had shot from the car!

Your trip to Spain + foreign parts sounds  
very attractive, - more strength to you!

Cordially

A. Ralph

T. Ralph Robinson Esq.,  
Terra Ceia, Florida.

Dear Ralph:

Many thanks for your letter of the 16th which came yesterday. I think we had better hold to the five pound order of Cleopatra since the cost is going to be \$10 per lb (which I am sure is fair) and since we will be able to get seed from local trees in Salvador next spring, and since I am not too sure how good a job the boys are going to do on those nurseries at the start! Mortensen will try to train them as fast as possible. I have just recd my copy of Vol. 69 ASHS Proceedings and will look up their comments on rootstocks. At present I am inclined to split our propagation about 50% sour orange and 50% Cleopatra. Gummosis is so bad down here that I do not favor going in for sweet orange; but I might mention in passing that the folks in Salvador - I mean the growers - attribute anything that goes wrong with a citrus tree to gummosis. I have just been in correspondence with Fred Wellman, now at Turrialba as you know, who spent some time in Salvador. He feels as I do that all those trees in Salvador which have dead twigs and sometimes die back until they die out, are suffering from bad cultural conditions, not gummosis, in spite of the fact that the local lads call this trouble "gomosis aëria". I wish we could get Fred back in Salvador for a while.

I am working up my field observations on fruits in Salvador. They have most of the desirable citrus varieties, in some instances only a few trees in some collection or other. The fine lot of Pineapple oranges at the Exp Sta have turned out to be Washn Navels. But I think the Jaffas are OK; cant tell until we see some ripe fruit and I wont even be sure then. Labels are no problem over there; you just have to ignore them. The avocado collection is badly mixed up and the Director of the agr'l school has a mango tree in front of his house which is plainly labelled Julie but is probably Haden. Anyway it is not Julie; that is one variety I feel I can spot fairly accurately. Our mango problem is one of Anastrepha. The fine Manila mangos are hopeless - the most susceptible of all. The fancy varieties from India are bad too. Some of the local seedling races - those which they call "mechudos" which means they have wicks in them (not a bad designation!) are not attacked at all.

Thanks for news of two more of my old friends who are now like myself re-lated to Limbo - Leighty and Darrow. I have heard that the latter is going to live in So Florida. I hope this is correct. I want to keep in touch with him; he has been very helpful to us. I have just heard from a grand horticulturist, Robert Ticho of Israel, who is now at Tel Aviv after spending a year in Guatemala for FAO. He did a fine job here. We are gradually making progress in fruit culture down this way. But time is running out, confound it; so far as I am concerned!

Best reward always, and you will be hearing from me, I am afraid, now that I am free to devote myself to plant introduction once more. Though I must say we did quite a bit of it at Escuela Agr. Panamericana!

Ever yours,

T. RALPH ROBINSON  
BAYACRE GROVES  
TERRA CEIA, FLORIDA

10/29/58

Dear Wilson,

Your most interesting letter  
came some time ago. I shared it with  
a number of friends and passed it on to  
"Bud" Reasoner. Perhaps you have not  
heard that his father, Norman, died quite  
suddenly of a heart attack about six  
months ago.

I am sorry to  
report that the Mens Garden Club is no  
more. The death of several of the really active  
members seemed to be the cause. The retired  
Army Colonels who made up quite a portion of  
the membership were content to sit back and  
be instructed and entertained but backed off  
when asked to really pitch in and help.

Bud Reasoner is building up the nursery  
firm to its old prestige and influence.



With many new homes and "developments" to be landscaped business is good.

We are recovering from last winter's freeze<sup>(3)</sup> tho there are some losses hard to replace. Practically all the Coconut palms even on the Gulf beaches passed out, - at least north of Ft Myers and even some there. The Royals came thru OK tho well browned up and still shedding some of the old brown fronds. Our citrus hereabouts came through with out appreciable damage and a good crop now ripening should bring fine returns.

It is interesting to read of the date varieties, - familiar names being grown around Damascus etc, - also the Camardish plantings on the Canaries. I had a start of Camardish and got some bunches of Commercial size but a wet season seemed to finish them. Perhaps I'll try again.

I believe it was on the Canaries that it

T. RALPH ROBINSON  
BAYACRE GROVES  
TERRACEIA, FLORIDA

was <sup>accidentally</sup> discovered that pineapples under glass could be forced into bloom by some ingenious use of that has been made in Florida using perforated pipes conveying ethylene gas or simply dropping a bit of calcium carbide in the crown. The latter practice is believed to be widely used in Hawaii.

I have never forgotten the delicious pine apples, - quartered for eating out of hand - that we bought on the train at Turvalta - I once suggested to the Hawaiian Pineapple Station that such quarters frozen would make a hit, but they <sup>(Dole)</sup> were already freezing 10,000 tons annually in diced form and saw no reason to change.

We are getting our first cool spell, - instead of "sun dodgers" we are now sun seekers. It should help in ripening fruit. I had a fine avocado crop, - all from hybrid seedlings of my

surprising and generally noted of exceptional quality, - but too large for commercial requirements, - 1 to 2 lbs and low yields. At least they stood the cold in remarkable fashion. The mango crop of course was a failure. I was surprised tho that the sugar apple came through without much injury and had a fair crop, - the birds got most of the fruit.

Yesterday I had as caller a Mr. M. Whitney for many years in the Boston headquarters of the United Fruit Co. I was surprised that he never visited any of the plantations!

Friton Searley of the Miami Herald and now acting in charge of the Fairchild Tropical Garden was also a recent caller. He had a full page write up of the Fairchilds recently - following a visit to Baddeck. Mrs F. was still up there he said but expected back soon. How is the book coming along? - Best wishes  
As ever  
Ralph

T. RALPH ROBINSON  
BAYACRE GROVES  
TERRA CEIA, FLORIDA

6/26/59

Dear Wilson, - Long time, - where now? - Some  
time ago Dr Cooper wrote me from Texas that  
on July 1 he was to take over in charge of the  
W.S. D.A. Labs at Orlando and asked for a  
picture of me to place in his office. The only other  
pictures he planned to use was yours and  
Dr. Fawcett's - I am indeed in distinguished  
company. Cooper came to Orlando soon  
after getting his Doctor's degree under Stewart  
at Cal. Tech. - knew not too much about  
subtropical plants but well grounded in Herb.  
He was given desk room in my small cubby hole  
and became my constant companion on field  
trips etc. & claims I got him going on the right  
track. He got a rather raw deal at Orlando -  
shipped off to Texas because he knew more

about hormone physiology than has ever  
been, - Traub & Gardner, and I am  
pleased that he is getting his proper recognition  
at least. I spent a few hours in Orlando  
about six weeks ago and was pleased and  
amazed at the fine setup they now have - a  
quarter million dollar Lab, green houses etc &  
a greatly expanded staff, - working in air-  
conditioned comfort. Quite a change from  
the rabbit warren we worked in for many  
years. Summer is with us, - rains at intervals  
but things fresh and nights fine. Reports of a  
great tornado hitting a part of Miami, followed  
by very heavy rains, indicate quite heavy  
damage there, - well over a million. They have  
had over 20" rain in June, - ours enough 9" 3  
I suppose Marian F. is at Baddick. I have had  
some correspondence of late with Nixon Smiley now  
in charge of the Fairchild Inst. G. He called on  
me in the spring, - interested in the De Soto story.  
Hope to hear you will again be visiting Florida ere long -  
Curae T. Raeb R

Antigua, Guatemala, 18 July 1959

Dear Ralph:

Mighty good to hear from you again, even though the letter had to come via Almuñecar - and I should add that it made Helen and este su humilde servidor a bit nostalgic to get a letter addressed to us at Almuñecar. We love that valley so much, Ralph! So many, many times we sat on the little veranda and watched the people going into the town with two or three mule-loads of something worth 15 cents, and then when we went into town ourselves and passed them, they would always say "Vaya con Dios". If God grants us grace, as Archie Shamel always said, we may go back there again next summer. I can't move very far from base, now, until I finish my "Manual Práctico de Horticultura Tropical y Subtropical" for Salvat Editores of Barcelona. And speaking of Manuals, my old one in English is getting to be a collector's item in some parts. Ed Menninger (with whom I used to play on Van Buren St in Topeka when we were both about 6 yrs old) wrote me the other day that he had a bargain for me; a copy of my Manual for only \$35. He said one had sold not long ago for a hundred. This was flattering, until Hugh wrote me that he had bought one in Rio de Janeiro last year for 85 cents and my nephew John who is now at Alabama Polytechnic wrote that he had picked one up in Mobile for \$3.50 the original list price. I wish to goodness that I had laid by a hundred copies some 30 yrs ago at \$3.50 because I have quite a few inquiries now and don't know where to find a copy.

I was glad to hear you mention Bill Cooper. I have seen him a number of times in recent years, a good lad. I went to Weslaco 2- $\frac{1}{2}$  yrs ago to talk to his Rio Grande Hort Soc group and I have just had a letter from him. Bob Allison is hounding me to come up to Gainesville about the end of November to talk to his Fla Soil and Crop Sci Soc, which I think I shall do, again if God grants me grace. This grace business may expire one of these days. But now that I am a free man, and as the radiographs show don't have any stomach ulcers or other good excuses for stopping work, I must keep going. I have just written an old friend that the dictionaries must change the definition of "retirement". It should be "that period in a man's life when he has to work harder than ever and doesn't get any pay for it."

After coming back from Europe at Christmas time we went up to California where I had a good look at horticultural developments, mainly the ravages of Phytophthora root rot on the avocado trees, then I went down to Venezuela on a job for the Fundación Eugenio Mendoza which wants to grow two avocado trees where none has grown before and none probably will grow (root rot or something is killing off the old trees so fast it is painful) and then I came back to Costa Rica to take part in the meetings of the Caribbean Region, Am Soc Hort Sci, then I went up to Mexoc (whence we returned last week) to give a series of lectures and demonstrations to the lads taking the Curso Internacional de Horticultura under the auspices of the Organización de Estados Americanos.

Nixon Smiley writes that Mario Fairchild has gone to Baddeck, as you mention. I have been sorry to learn that the South Campus of the Univ of Miami has been closed down and those good lads Lynch and Nelson and Goldweber will have to work elsewhere, Lynch perhaps

to continue teaching at the Univ. Their work on propagation of tropical fruits has been outstanding. I wish and still hope that the Univ of Miami will eventually be incorporated with the Univ of Fla, as the southern branch, just the way the Univ of Calif now has about five campuses. Wh reminds me to say that Knowles Ryerson will retire next year. He has just had an operation but is coming along finely. I believe Bob Hodgson also retires next yr - he and Knowles and I are all in the same group.

You mention Hamilton Traub. I wonder what has become of him? He was somewhat a thorn in the sides of several of us, years ago!

At the meeting of the Am Soc Hort Sci in Costa Rica I talked on "Fifty Years with Tropical Fruits" prefacing my remarks by saying that if anyone else in the audience could do it, I would step back and let him take over. I first budded avocados in California in 1909, and first budded the Fuerte avocado in 1911. I have written up a history of avocados in Spain and Israel and the Canary Islands for the Yearbook of the California Avocado Soc; I hope it will come out this year. I feel that avocados are going to become a real crop in Spain and along the Mediterranean eventually; they have the climate for them. Southern Italy and Greece and other regions. Those boys in Israel are aware of the possibilities; 500 acres already planted, mostly Fuerte and Nabal and Benik, plus Ettinger a Fuerte seedling of local origin. Nabl, which is being dropped in California because of the Guatemalan characteristic of alternate bearing, does better in Israel but is still an alternate bearer; they say in the good years it bears so heavily it makes up for the off years. I was interested to see their citrus groves; not so good. And I want to find out if there is any difference between your Jaffa orange and their Shamouti. Do you know? I have got to write a chapter on Citrus for my new Spanish manual. I am confused by the Valencia group of oranges. Seems to me Dr Hume in classifying oranges as Spanish and Mediterranean is splitting hairs but I don't know much about citrus fruits. Speaking of Valencias, I got the feeling last year that those oranges of the Valencia region are a trifle better in quality than the Valencias of California and Florida. And I have just been seeing Valencias in Mexico. They are large and juicy and very sweet, but I feel they lack a bit of flavor. But those Manila mangos of Mexico! Hard to beat, but quite different from the Florida mangos of East Indian origin. I don't think we ought to compare these two groups any more than we ought to compare a peach with an apricot. They are different fruits, both mighty good.

I hope it will be possible to drop in on you when I go up to Fla at the end of November. I will want to ask a lot of questions before I finish this book I am trying to write. I wish I could avoid papayas. I had a fine visit with Dr Horovitz in Venezuela; he is trying to develop thru hybridization a mosaic-resistant papay but hasn't yet reached first base.

Ever yours,

T. RALPH ROBINSON  
BAYACRE GROVES  
TERRA CEIA, FLORIDA

Aug 8 '59

Dear Wilson

Your most interesting letter gave me much pleasure and a lot to think about. It's wonderful how you get about and see and appreciate so many things. Cooper + Childs were down here recently + Childs (pathologist) is coming again soon. He made a trip to Egypt + Palestine a couple of years ago + you would enjoy meeting him when you go to Orlando + visit the new Lab there.

About Frank, he retired some years ago whether voluntarily or not I don't know. He practically staged a sit-down strike after he was finally releived at Orlando. If I had known he was to be sent away I probably would not have retired so long before my



scheduled time. I did not realize the nervous strain I was under until I got away. In a few weeks I was in better health than I had been in two years! Frank went to Calif., settled at Arcadio; - the smog drove him out (sinus) and now lives at La Jolla. I am about the only one that hears from him! - a Christmas card. Its hard to realize that Ryerson + Hodgson are getting near the retirement age!

The price your original Manual is bringing should induce you to bring out the new edition soon!

The Fla. Hort Soc is to meet in Miami Oct 27-29, Everglades Hotel, - Lynch is President this year. Perhaps you can take that in. I am sorry about the So. Campus of the Univ. of Miami.

You mention papaya as bothering you. Perhaps the enclosed may be of some interest. I had four distinct varieties that I could

T. RALPH ROBINSON  
BAYACRE GROVES  
TERRA CEIA, FLORIDA

promise would come true from seed, - as a result  
of practising hand pollination for about <sup>3</sup>  
years in succession. I found however that  
these inbred varieties lost vigor and  
decided that crosses of two varieties of the  
same general type would be desirable after  
two or three generations. I lost my stock  
of plants during my long stay in So Africa  
and have nothing worth consideration now.

"Bud" Reasoner is doing well with the  
nursery and was interested when I mentioned  
your letter and the prospect that you  
would be paying me a visit next fall.  
His wife is about as much a horticulturist  
as he is. My niece who lives with me has  
the young "Bud" in kindergarten class.  
We are having a real deluge this summer.

about 25 inches in excess of normal to date  
and 3 or 4 rainy season months still to come.  
Where drainage is not the best its tough on  
avocados & papayas. I will have just a  
fair crop of avocados, no mangos. The bloom  
came too early when it was cool and foggy, &  
I was too indolent to use charcoal pots as  
I used to do and insure a good crop even in  
a most unfavorable season. I reported my  
results at the Mango Forum, but no one seems  
to have taken the suggestion seriously.

I will look forward to seeing you in  
the fall.

As in Cordally  
Ralph



T. RALPH ROBINSON  
BAYACRE GROVES  
TERRA CEIA, FLORIDA

May 13, 1960  
Friday the 13<sup>th</sup>!

Dear Wilson,

Some time ago I had a fine letter from Marian F. telling of what a fine time she had during your short visit after you came by here. I wrote her a few days ago that I might venture over to Coconut Grove and take advantage of a long standing invitation to stay at the Kampong for a few days. My neighbor Mrs Pallard was going over to see her sister who lives in Coconut Grove, so it seemed an opportune opportunity. But I did not receive a reply so I assume she has already gone to Baddeck or perhaps is not feeling too well. But I may go over later anyway - I would

like to see Loomis and many other  
friends including of course Max Smiley  
and the T.T.G.

I have sent out a few of the reprints  
as enclosed and have had some fine  
letters from "old timers" with whom I have  
been out of touch for a long time, includ-  
ing Carl Seaford who seems to be still  
going strong. I sent a good lot of the  
reprints to Maudie Swingle in San Fran.

You remember when you were here  
I told of how my leg tree fruited well  
as long as I kept chickens and used the  
litter to fertilize the tree, - since then  
no crop. After you left I thought "what  
a fool I am" - there is a chicken ranch  
within a mile of our island so I went  
over there, got a sack of chicken  
manure, and now the tree has

T. RALPH ROBINSON  
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a fine crop! So I have wasted six or eight years just from being dumb! The tree had commercial fert. digers but no doubt it lacked something.

I also had good results with my nonfruiting jaboticaba and grumochama, by resorting to girdling about a month before the normal time of bloom. The curious fruiting habit of the jab. has interested a lot of neighbors and callers. The fruit is really good. I am going to give the seed to "Bud Reasoner".

I assume you are back in Antigua -  
stee clear of Cuba!

Best wishes Cordially } Ralph

Antigua Guatemala, 6 June 1960

Dear Ralph:

Many, many thanks for your note and "The Use of Nucellar Seedlings in Citrus". I am glad that there are still men left in this world who try to give credit to those who have gone before. I always try to mention my beloved old Chief David Fairchild whenever I can. And others.

We have not heard from Mrs Fairchild in several months. I don't think she tries to write much, these days. And Barbara her daughter and her husband are in Spain - they write enthusiastically of some of the places we suggested they should see. Mrs F may be in Baddeck by now. Harold Loomis would know, also Nixon Smiley.

You chicken manure for lychees reminds me of our experience in Bahia. Shamel, Dorsett and I noticed that every orange grower had a dairy alongside his grove. We asked him which paid best, the dairy or the orange grove. "Oh, I don't make any money out of my dairy; in fact I lose a little bit, but I have to produce dairy manure for my orange trees."

We got results at Lancetilla by girdling certain limbs of our lychees, but I don't want to grow lychees commercially on that basis. You remember we also got some results (E J Kpaus and I; the papers report that he died recently) by girdling mangos at Miami.

I am just back from Nicaragua where I did a "survey" (I loathe that word) and tried to help them start nurseries (I love that word) of good tropical fruit varieties - Haden mangos and perhaps a few others, and some Florida avocados. And navel oranges for elevations above 3000 feet, not lower. Poor production and dry fruit with no

flavor.

Always faithfully yours



T. RALPH ROBINSON  
BAYACRE GROVES  
TERRA CEIA, FLORIDA

Mar 23 61

Dear Wilson - I hope this will catch you  
on your wild career around Florida -  
You have been favored with fine weather and  
I hope it holds. Its amazing that  
Marian Fauchild is up to trip to  
the Panama.

I saw Bud Pearson Sunday and  
I presume he will be in touch with  
you and know when you will be  
coming this way. I desperately want you  
to see a really tropical planting in the  
Palma Dola peninsula. A Mr. Howell  
that was associated with Col. Gross in the  
ill-fated Lychee grove that we visited

When it was being started has gone  
"all out" in his new venture, - just to  
mention a few items, he has 600  
jaboticaba trees, even more lychee +  
mangos (30 varieties) guineacamar etc.  
He swears he will grow mangostens?!

I have a few items on the Pearson  
influence on Florida horticulture that  
may be useful.

George Barron was here recently and  
he visited the Howell place. His sister  
Mrs Leon Allen, lives in Bradenton and  
arranged the trip. He is now retired and  
managing a Berry Assoc. in Maryland  
growing many of his own hybrids,  
strawberries, raspberries, black (+ blue)  
berries etc. O! to see in 'ya!

Cordially Ralph

T. RALPH ROBINSON  
BAYACRE  
TERRA CEIA, FLORIDA

Apr 20 65

Dear Wilson, - I am glad to hear  
from you & learn that you are still  
going strong. Sorry you can't cover the  
West Coast but you've come a lot of ground.  
Your mention of Fray Luis Caceres  
recalls that one of local historians  
who lived many years in Cuba and  
delved in Colonial records was quite  
certain the Caceres' death occurred  
in this vicinity - at the mouth of the  
Memata River when later De Soto with  
500 followers landed - spending the  
summer of 1539 occupying an Indian

village, Oca, on Terna Cua Island, -  
26 years before Mendez landed at St. Aug.  
I am glad to learn that Mrs. Krom  
is still going strong. I have recently  
been thinking of her.

I have never heard of the Tolbet  
mango, but that's not surprising - it is  
so long since I have visited the East Coast  
Some years ago (when I had Getup & Go)  
I found I could set fullerops or Haden,  
Zill etc by use a fire pot (charcoal &  
Coke) under the trees from about 7 am  
to noon or later despite cold, rainy fog or  
dew. The Dec 20 freeze cut my mangos  
almost to the stump but they have made  
a good comeback & have had a bloom for  
three months! So expect we will get some  
fruit this year. We had a few last year

T. RALPH ROBINSON  
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as to taste the "Caracas" is the  
finest of all mangoes, - so named by  
Zell for his mother, - it is however  
a greenish yellow in color so has no  
commercial feature

I have been in the hospital again  
recently but they send me home, - need  
the room for others more in need of  
care I guess.

I have not heard from Edith Maxon  
since Christmas, - fear she is not too  
happy or well -

Best wishes to you -  
Cordially, Ralph

Bayaca, Terra Ceia  
June 3 62.

Dear Wilson, - I can't tell you how much I  
enjoyed your fine letter of reminiscences, - yes, there  
a few of us left. I hear from Edgar Brown  
occasionally - now 93+, <sup>he</sup> had a spell in the hospital  
last winter but seems to have made a good recovery.  
Here is an addition to Shamals Baker County gator.  
A group sitting around the country store - a new  
arrival says to one of them, "Your mule out back is  
all tangled in his rope he'll break his neck if you  
don't tend to him." The mule owner without missing  
a stroke whittling replies "Let him ~~it~~ hit his  
I full that way about a lot of our foreigners -  
seems to <sup>be</sup> making more enemies than friends,  
a case of U.S. "diplomatic" stupidity happens to  
strike close at home. The nephew that we visited in  
Rhodesia back in '49 was due to visit us this  
month. He (Graham Grey) is head of the National  
Museum in Rhodesia, - was all set to attend a  
meeting Wash. D.C. of Museum Directors, then tour the  
federal museums of U.S. ending here, where we  
are building in Brudenton a \$700,000 Museum  
Complete with a Planetarium of the latest design. At the  
last minute (accusations all made) he was informed

That owing to our "Sanctions" against Rhodesia  
(completely unjustified) this invitation had to be  
withdrawn! We go to great lengths to arrange  
cultural exchanges with Moscow & other unfriendly  
areas yet bar out areas of the only really  
civilized nation in that vast Central African area!  
Incredibly stupid! Of course we are greatly  
disappointed. He was with us as a boy in Wash.  
educated as a preacher but always interested in  
archaeology & anthropology, spent a lot of his time  
in the Smithsonian.

I am glad you <sup>will</sup> see the Kemptons in S.F. -  
Maudie Swingle has an office close by the Kemptons  
Apt. She is Secy of the Calif. Hist Soc. She  
occasionally writes me, one of her sons has a book  
store over in Berkeley. Give my best to Jim  
& Christine ("Dimples") & Mrs Swingle if you meet her.  
Writing isn't easy for me as you can see  
"Happy Landings!"

W Love Ralph