



Hunt Institute for Botanical Documentation
5th Floor, Hunt Library
Carnegie Mellon University
4909 Frew Street
Pittsburgh, PA 15213-3890
Contact: Archives
Telephone: 412-268-2434
Email: huntinst@andrew.cmu.edu
Web site: www.huntbotanical.org

The Hunt Institute is committed to making its collections accessible for research. We are pleased to offer this digitized version of an item from our Archives.

Usage guidelines

We have provided this low-resolution, digitized version for research purposes. To inquire about publishing any images from this item, please contact the Institute.

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.

Antigua, Guatemala, 5 June 1960

Mr George C Roeding, President,
California Nursery Co, Niles, California.

Dear Mr Roeding:

Maybe one of these days you think it is time for you to retire. Dont do it. If my experience is any guide, you will be so much busier after retirement that you will wish you had kept quiet, and besides that, you will have to pay income tax on your pension.

But to get down to business. I am mixed up in a lot of odd jobs down this way. I think I have written you about Venezuela, where I recommended they order some trees from you. I have just now come from Nicaragua; they want me to go to Colombia; and I have a letter from Haiti. All involving some fruit trees from California. So I will appreciate it if you will send me personally, three copies of your latest catalog (either in English or Spanish, preferably English) and send one copy each to the following, in English:

Ing. don Edmundo Astorga
Instituto Nacional de Fomento
Managua, Nicaragua.

M. Gerard Bouchard
Societe Anonyme Barbouco
P O Box 4, Port au Prince, HAITI

Except for the Florida peaches (Angel, Jewel and Waldo) you can supply practically all of the material I am recommending for experimentation in these countries. Principal things are the following: Winter Banana, Golden Delicious and perhaps Craventstein apples; Seckel and Kieffer pears (though Hedrick sure gives the latter a had name); Kelsey, Santa Rosa, Satsuma and a couple of other Japanese plums; Kakis, Isabella and Niagara grapes; and a few other things.

Your latest catalog, which you sent me some months ago, I had to give to Francisco de la SoLa of San Salvador, who tells me he ordered some trees from you. I terest in temperate zone fruits for high elevations here in tropical America is growing, and I want you to be in on it, because you turn out good stock and your prices are not too high.

With personal regards,

Sincerely,

Wilson Popenoe

Address simply: Antigua, Guatemala, C A

CALIFORNIA
NURSERY
COMPANY

ESTABLISHED 1865

GEORGE C. ROEDING, JR.
President

NILES, CALIFORNIA

Kelsey plum

June 21, 1960

Mr. Wilson Popenoe
Antigua, Guatemala, C. A.

Dear Mr. Popenoe:

Thank you very much for your good letter of June 5. It is always a pleasure to hear from you.

If I can be as alert and enjoy my work as much as you do, I do not believe I would want to retire at any age. It is true the years slip by, and sometime we look forward to taking things a little easier. Somehow or another, it does not seem to materialize, and I suppose when you own your own business, retirement is something that does not enter your mind too often.

It is good to know that you are enjoying your horticulture work as much as ever. You have contributed a great deal to the horticulture world, particularly the past few years in Latin America.

By the way, do you have any books that you have written on horticulture pertaining to Latin America? I know you have given me your thoughts from time to time, but books of this sort would be of a tremendous help, and I would be willing to pay whatever they are worth if you could advise me where I could obtain them.

I note with much interest that they are needing your assistance in a number of countries, and we are very appreciative of the business that has come to us from your recommendations. I do hope that the time may not be too far away when I can go to Central America and have an opportunity to visit with you.

We have already mailed you three English and three Spanish catalogs for 1960. The prices will be practically the same in 1961. Our prices have increased very little in the last few years, yet our taxes, labor costs, and other items that we buy in connection with the nursery business have gone up. One of these days, it is going to be necessary for us to make some increases, and I know this is particularly difficult in the Latin American countries where there is quite a little difference in the dollar exchange.

Historic
"Old Adobe"
Located On
Our Grounds
at Niles



Mr. Wilson Popenoe

June 21, 1960

We have also sent one English and one Spanish catalog to Ing. don Edmundo Astorga and M. Gerard Bouchard.

It is true that we do not grow the Angel, Jewel, and Waldo peaches, and, as I understand it, these varieties are grown in Florida. Of course, we have the apples, pears, and plums which you mentioned.

We have had very little call for the Kieffer pear. I used to try it occasionally when I attended Cornell University, but the demand for it here on the coast has been rather nominal.

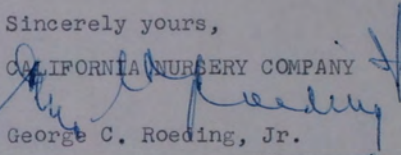
Do not hesitate to give me the name of anyone to whom you would like to have me send a catalog. We would certainly be happy to do it.

I thought possibly you might enjoy a box of Calimyrna figs, and I will send them to you at the address you have given. I do hope they will reach you in good condition.

We are very appreciative of the business you have turned our way, and I send you my very best wishes.

Sincerely yours,

CALIFORNIA NURSERY COMPANY


George C. Roeding, Jr.

Antigua Guatemala, 30 June 1960

Mr. George C. Roeding, Jr.,
California Nursery Company,
Niles, California, U. S. A.

Dear Mr. Roeding:

Many thanks for your interesting letter of 21 June. Thanks also for sending copies of your catalog to the people I suggested. I have just had another letter from Haiti, where they are apparently very much interested in temperate zone fruits for high altitudes in the tropics.

Plums are in season here right now and from a garden here in Antigua I have been getting some Kelseys. This is by far the finest plum I have ever eaten in tropical America. Some time ago you told me you might be able to grow some Kelsey trees for us. I have been reading up on plums in Hedrick's magnificent book "The Plums of New York". He speaks very highly of Kelsey but says it is not highly resistant to cold. This, of course does not mean a thing to us down here. As I wrote you I had to give my copy of your catalog to don Francisco de Sola over in El Salvador, so I do not have one on hand, but soon have one since you have mailed me a new one, in fact, several of them. Incidentally, I think from now on I'm going to make it a point to ask for three copies every year as soon as they are off the press.

I believe you list Wicksona. I wonder if you think it as good as Kelsey? Hedrick says it is one of the largest if not the largest of all plums. He says that it is not highly resistant to cold which as I have just mentioned does not interest us. I am beginning to feel, more and more that we can do more with plums in tropical America than with any other of the temperate zone fruits.

If you will propagate 100 Kelsey trees for us I will guarantee to get orders for them, as soon as they are ready. I would like to know which rootstock you would recommend, plum or peach, and if the former what sort of plum do you use. My feeling in general is that peach rootstocks are the best for us, because here in Central America most of the soils on which we are planting temperate zone fruits are sandy loams.

You ask about literature on fruit culture in tropical America. Under separate cover and by ordinary mail I am sending you my little book Fruticultura Centroamericana which may not be of much practical use to you, but which I want you to have as a matter of sentimental interest. There are not many publications on horticultural subjects in this part of the world. As regards tropical fruits the best things we have are the bulletins from the Florida Agricultural Experiment Station and a few from Puerto Rico. Of course the Hawaii agricultural Experiment Station turns out a good bulletin from time to time, but I assume you are familiar with that source.

I sure look forward to receiving that box of figs you mention.

With best regards, always

Sincerely yours,

Wilson Popenoe

CALIFORNIA NURSERY COMPANY

ESTABLISHED 1865

GEORGE C. ROEDING, JR.
President

NILES, CALIFORNIA

September 14, 1960

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

Dear Dr. Popenoe:

Upon my return to my office recently, I found your good letter of June 30. I also received the book published by you on February 28, 1953, entitled *Fruticultura Centroamericana*. Unfortunately, I do not read Spanish, but have good interpreters here who can help me as I am anxious to be more familiar with your comments on fruit culture in Pan America.

I appreciate very much your very kind remarks concerning my father's part in helping to build the foundations of California horticulture.

As you have suggested, we are going to grow some Kelsey's Japan, which we used to call it a number of years ago. I believe this is the same plum to which you refer.

I am going to send you five copies of our new catalog as soon as it comes off the press. In the meantime, I am sending you a couple of last year's catalogs. The new ones will not be ready for about 30 days. We will be glad to keep this as a standing order, and will make a notation of it on our mailing list.

We have been growing Wickson for sometime. We have always felt it is a little firmer and a better keeper than Kelsey, but they are both excellent plums.

If you want some Kelsey this year, please let us know shortly as we will be able to furnish them.

Most of our plums are grown on Lovell, or peach, rootstock. We very seldom have grown this variety on plum - either Myrobolan or Marianna 2624.

We agree with you that, generally speaking, where fruits are planted in sandy loam, they do better on peach rootstock.

Historic
"Old Adobe"
Located On
Our Grounds
at Niles



Dr. Wilson Popenoe

September 14, 1960

I am hoping to go down to Mexico this month. I want to visit some of our customers and go into their plantations to see if I can be of help to them.

I certainly hope that I will be able to get down your way - if it is not possible this year, then another year. I will look forward to seeing you, and if you are planning to be in Guatemala next year, please mention this when you write to me sometime.

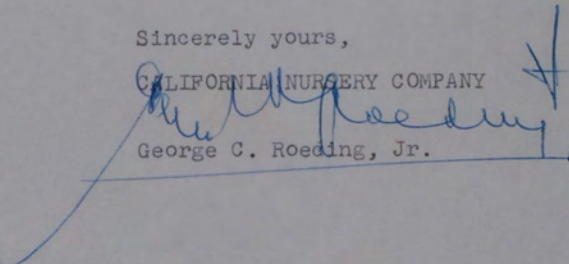
I am writing to the Florida Agricultural Experiment Station and to the Hawaii Agricultural Experiment Station to obtain bulletins on tropical fruits.

I hope you received the box of figs. Any time there is any special fruit or anything that I can get for you, please feel free to call upon me.

With very kindest regards for a pleasant fall.

Sincerely yours,

CALIFORNIA NURSERY COMPANY


George C. Roeding, Jr.

Antigua, Guatemala, 21 October 1960

Mr George C Roeding Jr.,
California Nursery Co.,
Niles, California.

Dear Mr Roeding:

Before referring to your interesting letter of 14 September, let me thank you and I cannot thank you enough - for that box of figs. Although they were about a month on the road they reached here in perfect condition, and how we have enjoyed them!

Now as to fruit trees. I have just made recommendations for experimental plantings in Venezuela and in Nicaragua, after having made the rounds of those regions here in Guatemala where temperate zone fruits are cultivated - usually on a small scale of course. Here is the way things stand:

Winter Banana is the most popular apple here; it will grow at slightly lower elevations than some other standard varieties; the trees are very productive; and the quality good enough because our people are really not connoisseurs. Next in preference is Red Delic because red apples bring a premium in the markets here. We could name half a dozen other varieties which have proved satisfactory in certain areas, and Yellow Delicious is one of the most popular app in the Puebla region of Mexico, but its color is against it here nor do I think it bears as large crops as Winter Banana. But I still think it should be included in the recommended list.

Pears - the situation is not very satisfactory. Only in one place, at 7400 feet, have we found Bartlett successful. Kieffer is the most important variety here - at least we believe it to be Kieffer; and if you read what Hedrick says about Kieffer in his "of New York" you are not inclined to plant many Kieffers. I believe Seckel right now is our best bet; it is fairly abundant here. As for those Japanese sand pears - of which Pineapple is grown in tropical American countries - you know what to think of them. They are hardly worth the ground they occupy, in my opinion.

Plums are gaining much ground and are going to keep on gaining ground. I am enthusiastic about them, and am recommending the finer varieties from your catalog: Santa Rosa, Wickson, and Saturn. You recommend Wickson as a better keeper than Kelsey, and I must say the poor keeping qualities of the latter are evident here.

As for peaches, we have been leaning on Jewel, Angel and from Florida, because they will grow at lower elevations here than any of the European peaches, but Francisco de Sola, over in Salvador, who got a number of trees from Glen Saint Mary some years ago, says people do not like these Florida freestones claim they are dry and mealy, and not spicy enough. Up to now we have not had much luck with Babcock down here.

As for Japanese Persimmons or kakis as we always call them, we are up against a problem we do not understand. Here in Antigua we have 30-year-old trees of Hachiya and Tane-Nashi which are not more than ten feet high and bear few fruits; close by is a seedling, probably a sprout from the rootstock, which is more than 20 feet high and bears beautiful crops, fruits rather small and of course with seeds. But I am thinking of asking Taber to send us seeds of some of the good but seedy varieties they have in Florida. Nevertheless we shall continue to plant Hachiya and Fuyu, and I am recommending that trees be obtained from you because they will be on kaki rootstock, and D. virginiana has proved very unsatisfactory in these countries.

Grapes -we have not done enough with these, and I am recommending from your catalog Isabella (which however can be had locally) and Niagara (which has done very well with us) and Catawba and Golden Muscat, which has seemed a little more susceptible to disease than the others, perhaps because of too much vinifera blood.

From Glen Saint Mary I am recommending the Florida peaches, Jewel, Angel and Waldo, the only three they now offer. These have done very well at 6000 feet in Honduras and I dont think everybody will consider them dry and mealy. And I am recommending Gold Nugget and Champagne loquats, a good pair, one with orange flesh and the other with white. Incidentally, we brought in Tanaka some 30 years ago, grafted trees; the Indians found that the fruit is sweet and planted seeds all over the valley and now the market is full of Tanaka-style loquats.

We have done pretty well with strawberries in Guatemala, based on an unknown variety brought from Europe by a German many years ago. I am recommending Missionary and Klondike and Florida 90, all of which have shown up well in Central America. We do not know anything about your California varieties.

And now, finally, a question. We have in Honduras at 4400 feet (at which elevation none of the commercial apples will thrive) a small apple which George Darrow says is a Spanish Cider Crab. I cant find any references to this type of crab in the literature. To make the matter more interesting, I saw the same thing at Jinotega in Nicaragua a few months ago. The fruits are up to about 2 inches in diameter, yellow, not much good to eat out of hand but they make excellent apple sauce, or are good just plain stewed. I am going to see that several people get your Transcendent crab and perhaps the Red and Yellow Siberians also. George Darrow has told me that the Siberian crabs, strangely enough, ~~are~~ our best bets. I have gone through the Spanish catalogs I have and there is mention of "cider apples" but they dont call them crabs or the equivalent thereof - I dont know what it would be anyway. I am going to stay behind this until we get the best possible apple for cultivation at 4000 feet or thereabouts.

Unless I go back to Spain next year to push ahead the introduction and cultivation of avocados, I shall be here in Guatemala; and it would be a great treat to have you visit us. If you could come in August or September you would get a good look at the apples, plums, pears and peaches.

With best regards always, Cordially

California

NURSERY COMPANY

ESTABLISHED 1865

GEORGE C. ROEDING, JR., President

NILES DISTRICT • FREMONT, CALIFORNIA

July 23, 1962

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

Dear Dr. Popenoe:

We have been advised that the Escuela Agricola Panamericana in Tegucigalpa, Honduras has published a book based on the species and varieties of fruits, grapevines, etc., that are best suited for both Central and South America, as well as the various types of soil, climatic conditions, temperatures, altitude, rainy season, etc.

If this is correct, we would like very much to get one of these books or any books that might be available, whether published in spanish or english. We believe that if there is such a book available, it would be very helpful to us.

Please let us know as soon as possible. If there is a charge for same, we will be glad to remit.

We do hope everything is going well with you. With kindest regards.

Sincerely yours,

CALIFORNIA NURSERY COMPANY

George C. Roeding Jr.
George C. Roeding, Jr. *G.C.R. III*

Historic
"Old Adobe"
Located on
Our Grounds
at Niles



GCB/ref

Antigua Guatemala
20 July 1962

Dear Mr. Roeding:

Your interesting inquiry of the 23rd. You probably have reference to my "Fruticultura Centroamericana", published 10 yrs ago. It is out of print but I had a few and am sending you one by mail. It is alright in general - at least I vainly think so, except for varieties of some fruits. We change our minds about these every 30 minutes.

I am enclosing some notes, valid as of 2:18 p.m. today, and corrected rough draft of a paper which will appear in the Proceedings of the tenth annual meeting of the Caribbean Region, Am. Soc. Hort Sci., held right here in Antigua last month. If you are not receiving these Proceedings regularly, you need them, so write Dr. E. A. Casseres, Londres 40, Mexico 6, D.F. Mexico, and join up.

I have completed my biblical life span and can not say how much longer I shall be worrying about tropical fruits, but as long as I am I would like to be of assistance to you when ever opportunity offers.

With old-time regards,

Sincerely

Wilson Popenoe

California

NURSERY COMPANY

ESTABLISHED 1865

GEORGE C. ROEDING, JR., President

NILES DISTRICT • FREMONT, CALIFORNIA

July 27, 1962

Mr. Wilson Popenoe
Antigua,
Guatemala, C.A.

Dear Dr. Popenoe:

Thank you very much for your letter of July 17, telling us of your collaboration with the Ministry of Agriculture in Guatemala in securing some American grape rootings for the coming season.

Our Mr. George C. Roeding, Jr., is away at the present time - attending the National State Convention at Denver - and should be back sometime next week - at which time your letter will be brought to his attention.

We note from your letter, however, that you do not indicate the quantities of each variety you are interested in purchasing. It would be helpful to us if you would give us an idea as to the quantity of each variety - since the American varieties are grown in very limited quantities.

As you know we do not grow the DELAWARE, SHERIDAN and DIAMOND varieties, but it maybe that we may be able to secure them for you if you let us know as soon as possible the quantities of each. We are no longer growing PIERCE, and doubt if we can secure it for you.

If you will give us the above information by return mail, our Mr. George C. Roeding, will be glad to quote you - upon his return to the office next week.

Sincerely yours,

CALIFORNIA NURSERY COMPANY

George C. Roeding III
George C. Roeding, III

Historic
"Old Apose"
Located on
Our Grounds
at Niles



GCR/ref

A collection of Grape
varieties for Central America.

Delaware

Catawba

Concord

Isabella

Pierce

Sheridan

Golden Muscat

Niagara

Diamond

Iona

Antigua, Guatemala
1 August 1962

Mr Geo. C. Roeding 3rd
Xenos California

Dear Mr Roeding:

Just as I was about to mail the enclosed batch of material, I received your letter of 27 July replying to my inquiry about grapes. We can do without Delaware, and Diamond, but do want Catauba, Concord, Sheridan, Golden Muscat and Niagara. I was thinking of Pierce because my old friend George Darrow has urged us to try it. You say you are no longer growing it and I would be interested to know why.

I will not be able to give a definite idea of how many plants we will need until I talk with Dr Benitez, horticulturist of the Instituto Agropecuario, but I would guess between the two of us we will want from 25 to 50 plants of each variety if that many are available. I am going over to Honduras next week and will see how many we will need at Escuela Agrícola Panamericana Hondureña

Very sincerely
Wilson Perena

California

NURSERY COMPANY

ESTABLISHED 1945

GEORGE C. ROEDING, JR., President

NILES DISTRICT • FREMONT, CALIFORNIA

October 31, 1962

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

Dear Dr. Popenoe:

I have been wanting to write to you for sometime as I did appreciate very much your letters of July 27 and August 1.

It was just a few weeks ago I had the pleasure of seeing you on Television. I certainly came to attention immediately when I saw you. I heard your speech and felt it was a most interesting program.

I do not remember who was the sponsor of the show, but you no doubt do.

I hope one of these days that I will have the opportunity to go to Guatemala; and, of course, when I do, I am looking forward to seeing you.

The information that you sent us is certainly helpful and we will particularly refer to it when writing to some of our customers in Latin America. However, we received it too late to make any changes in our catalog as it was already on the press, but will keep it in mind for next year.

No doubt by this time you have received our 1963 catalog. If you did not received the copy we sent you by air mail nor the package of 5 we sent you via parcel post, please let us know and we will be glad to send you some more.

We will write immediately to Dr. E.H. Casseres in Mexico City, as we would like to receive these proceedings regularly. I am certain they will be interesting and helpful to us.

You have made a tremendous horticultural contribution to Latin America and I know that you will continue to do so for many years to come.

- continued on page two -

Historic
"Old Agave"
Located on
Our Grounds
at Niles



October 31, 1962

- 2 -

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

About the only American varieties of grape we can furnish are CONCORD, CATAWBA, GOLDEN MUSCAT and NIAGARA. SHERIDAN, we do not grow, but we may be able to secure it for you from the East. PIERCE, sometimes known as California Concord, we did grow this variety for many years, but now we have difficulty in securing cuttings for it. As far as ISABELLA is concerned, we will try and secure this variety for you, but it has been very scarce in the last few years and it is doubtful that we can secure it and will advise you on this shortly.

Since you have written us, we have heard from the Agricultural School in Honduras, telling us of their interest in trying rootings of American varieties, and have already advised them what varieties we can supply.

In early October, we had the heaviest rainstorm that we have experienced here in over 50 years. It was accompanied by a strong wind, but did very little damage as far as the nursery was concerned and to the surrounding country. Here at Niles, we received about 12" of rain in three days, which is about one-half of the total rainfall for the season.

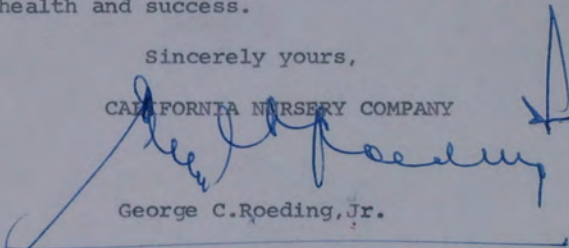
The heavy rains will help to get our season off a little earlier. We plan to start digging in about 10 days to 2 weeks - roses, then fruit trees, grapevines, etc.

My sons and all of us are very much indebted to you and very appreciative of all the horticultural knowledge that you have given us from time to time.

I do not know whether I told you or not, but my three sons; age 28, 31 and 33, are associated with me in the nursery. They have often heard me speak of you in the highest terms and join me in sending our very best wishes for your continued health and success.

Sincerely yours,

CALIFORNIA NURSERY COMPANY



George C. Roeding, Jr.

GCR/ref

California

NURSERY COMPANY

ESTABLISHED 1865

GEORGE C. ROEDING, JR., President

NILES DISTRICT • FREMONT, CALIFORNIA

July 5, 1963

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

Dear Dr. Popenoe:

We have just received your pamphlet on "Temperate Zone Fruits in the Central American Highlands", written by you and Sr. Jorge M. Bermidez.

This is certainly a very interesting pamphlet and will be very helpful to us in the preparation of our spanish catalog for the coming season. I am very grateful to you for sending it to us.

I do hope it will not be long before I can get to Central America and particularly to Guatemala as I am anxious to visit with you and see many of the interesting developments which you have done for the good of horticulture and for the people in your area.

I do not know whether I can make it this year or not, but certainly have hopes of going down there in 1964.

Please remember, any time we can be of service to you in any way here, do not hesitate to call upon me. Hoping you will have a very pleasant summer.

With kindest regards.

Sincerely yours,

CALIFORNIA NURSERY COMPANY

George C. Roeding, Jr.
George C. Roeding, Jr.

Historic
"Olo Abasco"
Located on
Our Grounds
at Niles



11 September 1963

Mr George C Roeding Jr
California Nursery Co
Niles, California.

Dear Mr Roeding:

Thanks for your letter of 5 July, which was some time in reaching me, as I came over to Honduras last month to devote some time to bucking up the horticultural work here at the school. Excuse me, I believe you folks now say "beefing up". Right?

Benitez and I spent a lot of time between May and August working over the widely scattered and small plantings of temperate zone fruits in Guatemala. As a result of this very enjoyable job, we brought together much more information regarding varieties than could be put into the paper which was published in the last Proceedings of Am Hort Sci, Caribbean Region. Before the end of the year we will get out a new paper primarily devoted to varieties. If you would like some notes regarding those we have found most promising, I will be glad to send them to you - my idea being that our paper may not appear in time for you to use the material in your next catalog. We found, for example that Beurré Bosc is excellent at 7500 feet in Guatemala. It should be pushed, along with several others, including Beurré d'Anjou.

We need some help on a very different matter. We used to have a good collection of Rose varieties, some 75 in all, out of which we chose some 15 or 20 as the most satisfactory for Central America. We have lost most of the collection and must rebuild it. But we do not want to go in for too many of the novelties, since we cannot count on their proving, in even half the cases, adapted to our climate. Here is our problem: Your catalog is devoted mainly to the newer roses, which are ones of course in demand up there. You have two or three of the old timers. But where can we get the others? Such things as the three of the Radiance group, Kaiserin Augusta Victoria, Frau Kark Druschki, President Hoover, Etoile de Hollande (which you offer) and so on. We would like to buy from you, because your prices are right, we know your stock is good, and you know how to ship to tropical America. Many nurseries will not even accept orders from this part of the world. Would there be any chance of your buying and shipping to us, say 10 plants each, of 20 or 25 of the older varieties are satisfactory down here. We could choose from any list you could send.

This is probably asking too much. Perhaps you can help us by recommending some house which has the old-timers and which will ship to this part of the world.

Best regards always.

California

NURSERY COMPANY

ESTABLISHED 1865

GEORGE C. ROEDING, JR., President

NILES DISTRICT • FREMONT, CALIFORNIA

September 25, 1963

Dr. Wilson Popenoe
Escuela Agricola Panamericana
Apartado No. 93
Tegucigalpa, Honduras, C.A.

Dear Dr. Popenoe:

It was certainly good to receive your letter of September 11, and I can understand why you have not had a chance to answer me sooner.

I know you have your hands more than full - helping out in the Horticultural School there and getting all the information for the paper - that takes quite a bit of your time. I am sure, however, that you will succeed in accomplishing your objective.

It certainly is very nice of you to offer to give us some information on varieties of fruits that look promising for Central America. It is probably too late for us to use the material this year because our catalog for 1964, is now on the press and we hope to have it within the next thirty days, but we certainly can use it for our catalog for 1965 next year.

I am glad to have your report that the Beurre Bosc pear is excellent at 7,500 feet in Guatemala and that it should be pushed along with Beurre d' Anjou and possibly others.

You indicate that you are now growing approximately 3,000 rose cuttings to propagate - of what you call down there "Rosa Macho" which you believe to be *Odorata gigantea* or Texas wax. About 30 years ago, we use to grow the RADIANCE variety and some of the other old timer varieties and found the Radiance variety quite profollic and it took hold quite readily - particularly in the temperate areas.

Historic
"Old Anjou"
Located on
Our Grounds
at Niles



- continued on page two -

September 25, 1963

- 2 -

Dr. Wilson Popenoe
Tegucigalpa, Honduras, C.A.

We, of course, will be very happy to secure for you any of the varieties that we do not grow - such as Radiance, Frau Kark Druschki and other old timers. As you know we are still growing K.A. Victoria, Presidente H. Hoover and Etoile de Holland.

If you will send us a complet list of the varieties you want, we will certainly do our best to get them for you and ship them right from Niles. As far as the novelities are concerned or patented varieties that cost a little more, we will be glad to furnish some of these - without charge - so that you can experiment with them and later on give us a report on their findings. Of course you understand that these are patented varieties and no propogation is suppose to be made from them, according to our agreement with the owners of these varieties.

I still have hopes of going down this year - probably the latter part of next month. I do want to motor down, but I may be forced to fly. However, we are in the mist of a large developement program here at Niles - on our property - and also a new Shopping Center and Village. In fact our development will be known as Arroyo Vallejo Park and the village will be named Vallejo Park Village - as you may know our property is part of the General Vallejo grant and all the streets will have spanish names and mediterranean lights - in contrast with contemporary - from that of our old Mediterranean, a very interesting program. It will take several years, but we are getting started this coming season.

I do hope this finds you well and with best wishes.

Sincerely yours,

CALIFORNIA NURSERY COMPANY

George C. Roeding, Jr.
George C. Roeding, Jr.
Est

GCR/ref

5 November 1963

Mr George C Roeding, Jr.,
California Nursery Co., Niles, California.

Dear Mr Roeding:

Many thanks for your letter of 25 September last. A few days ago I mailed you a memorandum on temperate zone fruit varieties for the Central American highlands (it really applies to other parts of tropical America as well) which will be put into Spanish and published by Dr Ernest of Casseres in connection with a rather lengthy publication he will issue within the next six months or so. This publication covers the results of a short course given by Dr Casseres at Antigua, Guatemala, in June of last year - under the auspices of the Organization of American States. The publication will be rather widely but not extensively distributed in tropical America and may stimulate interest in many of the fruit varieties we have mentioned. In your Spanish catalog (next year of course; you have told me it is too late for the one you are now getting out) I think you may wish to mention that some of the varieties we have recommended have proved satisfactory in tropical America.

I am enclosing copy of a letter which will serve as the basis of an order you will receive from Escuela Agrícola Panamericana in the near future. Some of the roses are from your 1963 catalog; others are ones we would like to have and in your letter of 25 September you said you might be able to get some of these and ship them along with your own. This is very good of you. Please don't go to much trouble; we do not have to obtain all of the varieties mentioned, but it would be nice to get at least part of them.

We are also ordering from you ten plants of the Carignane grape. This was the most promising of 45 varieties I secured from Ben Morrison of the USDA some 15 years ago. As you know, I do not think much of the Vinifera grapes for this part of the world, but one never knows; we might hit on something which can be grown in the open down here without too much spraying. Muscat of Alexandria, known down here as Moscatel (as you state in your catalog) is grown here and there in patios where the heat of the walls seems to discourage mildew and other fungi. In the Cauca valley of Colombia there are growing this and a few others commercially in the open, because prices for the fruit in the market of Bogotá and elsewhere are so high; but they take an awful lot of spraying. They are making some wine in Colombia nowadays, but I'll bet most of it is from Welch's Grape juice and the rest from Isabella. There is quite a bit of wine made in Guatemala from Welch's, sugar, and white rum - plus plenty of H₂O.

I do hope I shall be able to welcome you in Guatemala if you come down next year.

Faithfully yours,

May 18, 1964

Mr. George C. Roeding, Jr.
California Nursery Company
Miles, California

Dear Mr. Roeding:

After a few months in Florida and Guatemala I have returned to Escuela Agricola Panamericana for a couple of weeks and find that the roses received from you in early February are in fine condition. Only three or four have been lost, and the rest have been in bloom for some weeks. We are especially pleased, and grateful to you, for the patented varieties you sent without charge. Mr. Robert P. Amour, who is a very competent horticulturist with 15 years experience in Central America, and who has recently come here as Assistant Director, understands that these plants were sent here with the understanding that we would report to you regarding the behavior of these varieties in the tropics, and you can rest assured that he will do this at appropriate times.

The strawberries are coming on well, also the multiflora cuttings which you sent. We are anxious to try the latter in comparison with "rosa macho", which we believe is what is called Texas Max in the States, and which for the past 35 years has been our standard rootstock here in Central America. It seems to me this odorata gigantea, or was so called in my time. I can't say what the taxonomists may have done to it since my time.

Now a question, the answer to which may be of great value to us down here. In Guatemala, Santa Rosa is today our best commercial plum, as you will have inferred from things I have put in print. There is a feeling in Guatemala that this variety bears good crops when young, but when the trees reach 10 to 15 years they taper off in production and are no longer satisfactory commercially. Everything I have read leads me to believe that this is a standard commercial plum

Mr. George C. Roeding, Jr.

-2-

May 18, 1964

in California, and I don't see how this can be the case if it is no longer productive after 10 to 15 years. What about this? I have seen trees of Santa Rosa which are in close proximity to other varieties, and therefore should have cross pollination, which the owners assure me used to bear well, but no longer do so.

I believe you can answer this question, I can assure you that I shall greatly appreciate whatever you can tell me.

They are having the same trouble with the Haden mango in Florida. They say it bears well up to 12 or 15 years and then drops off badly. Here in tropical America I know of many Haden mangos which at 30 to 35 years of age are still producing as good crops as they did at 6 to 10 years of age. Because of this trouble, Haden is losing ground as a commercial mango in southern Florida, but not down here. I am inclined to suspect those south Florida soils have something to do with the case. You knew H. J. Webber, who used to say, after he had moved to California and no longer was in danger of being lynched, that the Florida soils are 95 percent sand and the rest pure silica.

Best regards always, and again many thanks, in the name of Director Muller, for that fine lot of patented roses.

Sincerely,

Wilson Popenoe

cc: Dr. Albert S. Muller
Dr. Robert P. Amour

As you know, my permanent address is simply Antigua, Guatemala, C.A.

California

NURSERY COMPANY ESTABLISHED 1865

GEORGE C. ROEDING, Jr., President

NILES DISTRICT • FREMONT, CALIFORNIA, 94536

December 8, 1964

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

Dear Dr. Popenoe:

Thank you very much for your letter of November 20.

We have already sent a copy of our 1965 catalog in spanish to Dr. Justino de Azcarate in Caracas, Venezuela via air mail. He is already on our mailing list, but just the same we are sending him another catalog by air mail.

It is certainly very nice of you to recommend us to Dr. Azcarate, and we do appreciate it very much. For your information, he has ordered from us from time to time.

We can furnish Doyenne du Comice pear trees, Red delicious apple trees, Santa Rosa and Satsuma plums, but we are just about sold out on Winter Banana and White Winter Pearmain apple trees.

Of course, we still have Yellow Delicious, Red McIntosh, Red Rome Beauty, Yellow Belleflower and Yellow Newton Pippin apple trees which we could furnish.

We plan to grow more Winter Banana and White Winter Pearmain for delivery in 1966.

The Santa Rosa and Satsuma plums are available on Myroblan and of course, we also have them available on peach root, but note they prefer them on plum root.

Historic
"Old Apose"
Located On
Our Grounds
at Niles



I was just talking to a good friend of ours from Los Angeles, Dr. Ralph Cornell, Landscape Architect, who is helping us here with our Village and Horticultural Development. He hopes to go to see you soon. I told him possibly that we might drive down together. Don't know whether we can make it this month or early January, but still have hopes that we might get there soon as we are anxious to see you and your part of the country.

December 8, 1964

- 2 -

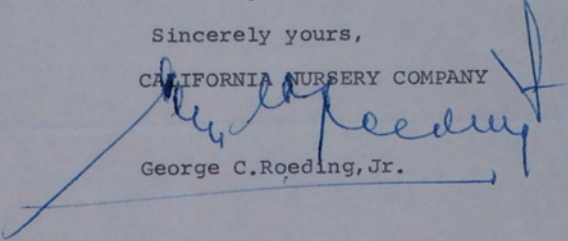
Dr. Wilson Popenoe
Antigua, Guatemala, C.A.

Thank you for the nice report you sent us earlier and will
send you our comments on another letter.

With very best wishes for the coming Holiday Season.

Sincerely yours,

CALIFORNIA NURSERY COMPANY



George C. Roeding, Jr.

GCR/ref

Antigua, Guatemala, 5 July 1965

Mr George C Roeding Jr.
California Nursery Co.
Niles District, Fremont, California.

Dear Mr Roeding:

Late in March I received a magnificent box of Calimyrnas which the postmark showed was mailed in December, undoubtedly a Christmas present for me. If it had come a little later it would do for next Christmas. But the figs were in splendid condition and I have nursed them along, finishing the lot only a week ago. I want to thank you most heartily for this real treat.

Due to the interest stirred up by the American Society for Horticultural Science, Caribbean Region, the Guatemalan Government planned an extensive program for the development of temperate zone fruits in the highlands here. Donald Fiester, one of my old employees (a Californian, from Montebello and Cal Poly, now horticulturist for the AID in Guatemala (I guess you know what AID is), took part in planning this program, and I believe went so far as to ask for quotations on large quantities of trees, mainly Winter Banana apple, in the U.S., but no large quantities were available, and other problems presented themselves and I guess the matter has been dropped for the time being. I continue to work in this field, and have just completed my first survey of these fruits in the highlands, for we are now in the fruiting season of course. We will get ahead, but we will have to go more slowly than the government planned last autumn because we do not have horticulturists here who are prepared for large commercial plantings, or even small ones.

Some four years ago I was invited to Venezuela by the Fundación Eugenio Mendoza (which has plenty of money) to come down there and help start production of temperate zone fruits in the Andes around Merida. I went, and recommended varieties for trial, and they secured (perhaps in part from you, I do not recall, but I think many things came from Bountiful Ridge which has been supplying us here in Guatemala with a lot of experimental material). These trees did not have very good care but when I went to Venezuela last October to attend the annual meeting of our Caribbean Region group the results were so encouraging that the Mendoza Foundation wants to go ahead. They have asked me to come down again this coming winter and I may do so. If I do go, my idea would be to put in the hands of private growers quite a lot of material - I enclose about what I would have in mind, and I send you the list to ask if you would be able to supply these items. Will you please give me an idea - the sizes would not be exactly those mentioned of course, just more or less. Prices may have altered by that time - no problem.

With best regards always, and renewed thanks for those figs,

Cordially yours,

Possible requirements for planting by the Fundación Eugenio
Mendoza in Venezuela, January of 1966. Submitted by Wilson Popence
of Antigua, Guatemala, for comment. Not an order.

GRAPES 100 Niagara
100 Golden Muscat
100 Carignane

PLUMS 100 Beauty 4-6' grade
100 Santa Rosa, same grade
100 Satsuma, same grade

PEARS 50 Bartlett 4-6 ft grade
50 Beurre Hardy same grade - both above on pear roots

APPLES 100 Red Delicious 6-8 ft grade
100 Red Cravenstein same grade
100 Red Jonathan same grade
100 White Winter Pearmain same
300 Winter Banana same

Possible requirements for planting by the Fundación Eugenio
Mendoza in Venezuela, January of 1966. Submitted by Wilson Popenoe
of Antigua, Guatemala, for comment. Not an order.

GRAPES 100 Niagara
100 Golden Muscat
100 Carignane

PLUMS 100 Beauty 4-6' grade
100 Santa Rosa, same grade
100 Satsuma, same grade

PEARS 50 Bartlett 4-6 ft grade
50 Beurre Hardy same grade - both above on pear roots

APPLES 100 Red Delicious 6-8 ft grade
100 Red Cravenstein same grade
100 Red Jonathan same grade
100 White Winter Pearmain same
300 Winter Banana same

California

NURSERY COMPANY

ESTABLISHED 1865

GEORGE C. ROEDING, Jr., President

NILES DISTRICT • FREMONT, CALIFORNIA, 94536

July 15, 1965

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

Dear Dr. Popenoe:

It was good to receive your letter of July 5, and also I would like to acknowledge receipt of the letter I received from your Assistant Director, Mr. R.P. Armour and the very fine report he sent us on the rose bushes which we furnished. This information will be very helpful to us.

I note from his report that he was very much pleased with the Fashion, Tropicana, Starfire, Golden Slippers and a few other varieties. All of these varieties do well here at Niles and Queen Elizabeth, Duet, Chrysler Imperial and King's Ransom do particularly well.

I am happy to know you received the box of figs we sent you for Xmas, and sorry the box reached you so late. However, it is good to know they were in good condition on arrival.

The Winter Banana apple is getting to be very popular in Mexico as well as Central America. For some time I felt this variety was suitable for Central America and I know that the interest in this variety has come about thru your recommendations.

If it is possible, I would like very much to receive a copy of your survey on fruits suitable for Central and South America. This information will be helpful to us for future plantings in your area.

Yes, we have received business - from time to time - from Fundacion Eugenio Mendoza, as a matter of fact, a few years ago they placed an order with us based on your recommendations, for which we are very appreciative. It is possible that some of the fruit trees and other plant material did come from Bountiful Ridge Nurseries.

I note that you plan to go down to Venezuela again this coming winter and it would be wonderful if you would put in a good word for us.

- continued on page 2 -

Historic
"Ole Aaose"
Located On
Our Grounds
at Niles



Page 2
July 15, 1965

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

We are enclosing our proforma invoice covering the list you have sent us and understand that this is not an order, and are quoting you on the current prices for the 1965/66 season from which you will note that the only change we have made on the list is the size of the apple trees from 6/8' to 4/6' grade, because the 6/8' is heavier to pack and do not think it will give better results than the 4/6' grade and hope our proforma invoice will be helpful to you.

At the present time we can supply all the material listed, and would certainly welcome the opportunity of being of service to them once again. However, we suggest that they place their order in firm as early as possible as we quote subject to stock unsold upon receipt of order and we might add that there will be a scarcity of fruit trees and other plants in the coming season and hope they will place their order as early as possible so that we can make the proper reservation.

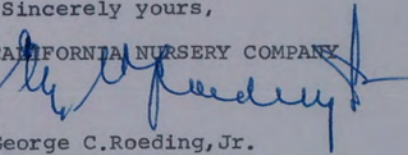
I still have in mind to go to Mexico and Central America this fall - it will probably be in late September and October, and would appreciate your advising me if you plan to be there at that time as I do not want to go down there unless you are going to be there as I think this will be the only opportunity I will have to make the trip.

I really enjoy hearing from you and want to thank you very much for your wonderful assistance and recommendations from time to time.

With best wishes.

Sincerely yours,

CALIFORNIA NURSERY COMPANY



George C. Roeding, Jr.

GCR/ref
encls.

Antigua, Guatemala, 9 Sept 1965

Mr George C Roeding Jr.
California Nursery Co.,
Niles District, Fremont, California.

Dear Mr Roeding:

Many thanks for your letter of 15 July. I have been waiting to reply, until I heard from the people in Venezuela. I have not done so yet, and am not clear as to whether they are not interested in carrying out the program I recommended, or whether the letter never reached them. I am writing them again today. It may be that they prefer to start on a nursery basis as they have done with avocados, mangos and citrus. They sell these trees, at a very reasonable price, and I suggested that they give the trees purchased from you (as per my program), because (1) the Fundacion is fundamentally a philanthropic organization, (2) I do not believe the local people would pay the cost of imported trees, and (3) if we wait to develop nursery stock in Venezuela it means a delay of about three years.

When I was in Venezuela last October I saw the trees purchased from you some two years previously. They had not received good care but had made some progress. Winter Banana had produced a few fruits, also Emilia (Blenheim Orange) from Ecuador. They had started a small nursery but it was in hopeless condition - nothing would come of it.

Recently I have been in touch with the people in AID here, and have seen the order they have placed with you and others. They are planning a tremendous nursery program. I can see where we are going to have to jump in and help them handle this - which we will be glad to do.

I am sending the pro-forma invoice to the Fundacion Eugenio Mendoza and asking what they plan to do. I will tell them if they wish to place this order, they should do so immediately.

It seems to me I sent you a copy of the last report Benitez and I made on Temperate Zone fruit varieties, but to be sure I mailed another copy a week or so ago. This report has just now appeared in the Proceedings of the Am Soc Hort Soc, Caribbean Region. Incidentally, you ought to belong to the tropical group of Am Soc Hort Sci; drop a line to Dr Ernest Casseres, Secy-Treas, Londres 40, Mexico 6, D.F., Mexico, and tell him to line you up.

Yes, I expect to be here thru this month and in fact up into Nov. The N Y Botanical Garden is staging a big tour of Guatemala, Oct 22 to Nov 5 - probably 50 people. I will try to help them get around. Come on down; it would great to take you for a run thru the western part of Guatemala - the highlands and down to the coastal lowlands.

Faithfully yours,

California

NURSERY COMPANY ESTABLISHED 1865

GEORGE C. ROEDING, Jr., President

NILES DISTRICT • FREMONT, CALIFORNIA, 94536

October 18, 1965

Dr. Wilson Popenoe
Antigua
Guatemala, C. A.

Dear Dr. Popenoe:

Thank you very much for your good letter of September 9.

I was hoping to be with you by this time, but unfortunately I have been held here due to a land development program which is just getting underway. I do not believe there is any chance of my getting to your part of the country this month, but I hope to go there next month.

To the best of my knowledge, we have never heard from Venezuela regarding their interest in purchasing any nursery stock.

We had an opportunity last month to bid on a large quantity of material for Guatemala, I believe through your recommendations, but somehow or another our bid was not properly handled in following instructions, and it was thrown out. They have now offered us an opportunity to bid again. Some of this material will be available, and some will not. We hope this time that we will be successful in our bid.

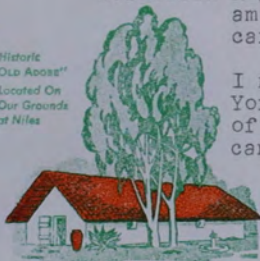
From time to time, you have strongly recommended the Winter Banana apple, and we are starting to propagate a considerable quantity of this variety. We are not familiar with the Emilia (Blenheim Orange) apple from Ecuador.

I do appreciate very much the report that Sr. Benitez and you made on the Temperate Zone fruit varieties. If you have an extra copy, I would appreciate receiving it.

We are a member of the American Horticultural Society in the Caribbean Region, but have not received any report for 1965. I am writing to them today, enclosing a check to take care of us for 1965.

I note that you are going to have a tour of the New York Botanical Garden from October 22 to November 5, of approximately 50 people. I am mighty sorry that I cannot be with you on this tour.

Historic
"Old Aboos"
Located On
Our Grounds
at Niles



Dr. Wilson Popenoe

October 18, 1965

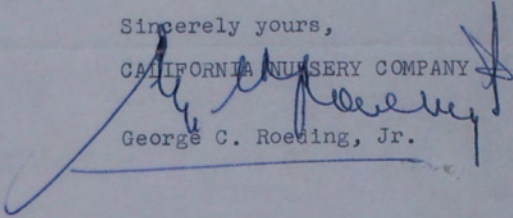
If anything breaks that I can get to Guatemala sooner, I will certainly do so.

I do want to thank you very much for the excellent information and all your help from time to time.

With very best wishes.

Sincerely yours,

CALIFORNIA NURSERY COMPANY


George C. Roeding, Jr.

GCR:LLK

California

NURSERY COMPANY ESTABLISHED 1865

GEORGE C. ROEDING, Jr., President

NILES DISTRICT • FREMONT, CALIFORNIA, 94536

November 30, 1965

Dr. Wilson Popenoe
Antigua
Guatemala, C. A.

Dear Dr. Popenoe:

I guess as we all keep busy, time passes faster than we realize. I now have before me the letter I wrote you on October 18, telling you that I was hoping to get down to see you this month, and this is the last day of the month. I still have in mind doing this, and I hope it is going to be possible before the year draws to a close.

We have quite a development taking place here (as you will note by the enclosed map), and this is keeping us more than busy. This represents 130 acres with 175 homes. Adjacent to this subdivision, we have a Village planned, starting now, also a new Horticulture and Garden Center. The latter two comprise approximately 70 acres, with all underground utilities. The plan is to have it a little bit of the Old World, with landscape planting and special emphasis on outdoor and water effects.

I am also enclosing one of our specimen folders, which I thought might be of interest to you.

We did receive a nice order from the government for shipment to Guatemala this coming winter, although we have not had the final details on it yet. I am very appreciative of your recommending us, and believe they will be well pleased with the material we can furnish.

I believe someone told me a few weeks ago that they saw you on television, and I am sorry I missed that opportunity.

As soon as my plans become more definite, I will wire or telephone you before I go, to make certain that you will be there.

I send you my Very Best Wishes for the best in the
Holiday Season.

Sincerely,

CALIFORNIA NURSERY COMPANY

George C. Roeding, Jr.
George C. Roeding, Jr.

Historic
"Old Adobe"
Located On
Our Grounds
at Niles



GCR:LLK

California

NURSERY COMPANY ESTABLISHED 1865

GEORGE C. ROEDING, Jr., President

NILES DISTRICT • FREMONT, CALIFORNIA, 94536

September 13, 1966

Dr. Wilson Popence
1722 NW 2nd. Avenue
Gainesville, Florida

Dear Dr. Popence:

It was good to receive your letter of August 10, and hope you have been enjoying your stay in Gainesville. You indicate that you plan to stay there until Thanksgiving and then return to Central America.

I had planned to make my trip to Central America this fall, but as yet it has not been possible for me to make the trip. I would like nothing better than to see you and spend a little time with you in your area. However, it now appears very unlikely that you will be there - since you will not be returning until after Thanksgiving. Should there be any change in plans, please let me know.

If I am not mistaken, there is going to be a meeting of the American Society for Horticultural Science in Puerto Rico in November and I am hoping I will be able to attend.

I am glad to know there is considerable interest in the Kelsey plum in Santa Ana, El Salvador. It is a very fine plum. I am surprised that the Satsuma plum has not done well. As you know, it is not only a good cropper, but it adapts itself to various climatic and soil conditions. I am not acquainted with the Shiro plum, but I know of it.

I note your comments on the Doyenne du Comice pear. This is one of our finest pears. In your report you mention it has produced good crops at a elevation from 7,200 feet to 7,600 feet. The Kieffer is a very hardy pear, but as you say, it has very little flavor, altho it usually produces well.

I note from your letter that the Jonwin apple looks promising as well as White Winter Pearmain. As a rule the Yellow Newton Pippin shows very little color with us, but we do get some color from White Winter Pearmain.

Historic
"Old Aoses"
Located On
Our Grounds
at Niles



= continued on page # 2 =

September 13, 1966

Dr. Wilson Popenoe
Gainesville, Florida

Through your kind efforts, the Government of Guatemala gave us a nice order for fruit trees last year. I note your comments that they were quite surprised about the Woolly aphid on the Winter Banana apple trees. It is true our supply was limited and we had to buy some trees. If these trees were infested, we did not notice it. All of our fruit trees are inspected here and it is possible it could have developed later.

Whenever we do have any Woolly aphid on our apple trees, we treat them with a solution of Black Leaf 40. In checking this order, I find no report of any trees with Woolly aphid, but we did have to buy some of the Winter Banana.

We did appreciate your bringing this matter to our attention and will certainly be more careful in the future.

You were nice to write me and keep me posted as to conditions in Central America and I am very grateful to you for it.

With best wishes for your continued good health.

Sincerely yours,

CALIFORNIA NURSERY COMPANY



GCR/ref