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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.

La Lima, Honduras

AIR MAIL

September 22, 1941

Dr. Wilson Popenoe
c/o. Tela Railroad Company
Tegucigalpa

Dear Dr. Popenoe:

Mr. Knowles A. Ryerson, Assistant Dean of the University of California, College of Agriculture, wrote the Boston office on August 25 advising that the Committee of his College is meeting the 12th, 13th and 14th of November, immediately following the annual sessions of the Land Grant College Association. The committee on the program on the Land Grant College Association arranging the sessions for the Resident Teaching Section has asked that the University of California, College of Agriculture Committee cooperate with them in having you speak on the South American Program arranged for Monday afternoon November 10th. These sessions are made up of Presidents, Deans and Directors of the Agricultural Colleges of the 48 States, Territories, and Insular Possessions, and it is felt that this is an effective opportunity to present the whole Latin-American picture.

Mr. Taillon having been away during the past week, is not familiar with the above, but I am passing it on to you so that you know about it and you may have some comment in this connection for Mr. Taillon as to how you feel about going up for this occasion and whether or not you can be spared from your work in connection with the new school. Mr. Taillon is with Mr. Hatch in Costa Rica now, and it may be just that you are familiar with all the above, which I am passing on to Mr. Taillon at first opportunity - unless we learn that he will be back in Lima within a few days.

It has not been learned yet from Dr. Ryerson where the conference is to be held, but we will let you know as soon as we hear.

Yours very truly,

V. E. Scott
V. E. Scott

TELA RAILROAD COMPANY

PERSONAL

Tegucigalpa, D. C.
January 30, 1956

Dr. Wilson Popenoe
Escuela Agrícola Panamericana
El Zamorano

Dear Dr. Popenoe:

When I was out there on the evening of the 24th instant, you mentioned to me that you had spoken to Armando Medina of my office with reference to employment at the EAP and that you would be able to use him right after graduation on March 3rd. Medina understands, as result of conversation with you, that he will be going to the EAP for the same salary as he receives here but that he'll be able to economize considerably, while in Tegucigalpa he finds it difficult to make ends meet due to high cost of living.

The practice between our various Company offices, as well as employee matters between the Tela Railroad and Standard Fruit, is for officials of any such offices or Company to first take up the matter direct with the employer concerned. I did not mention it to you when you spoke to me about Medina in view of your having already made arrangements with him. However, it is natural that matters of transfers, changes, etc., leak out, as result of which, I think, the encouraging features at Zamorano in the way of board and room for much more economical living, may be prompting impressions and conversations among my employees that make them a bit less contented than they have been in the past.

I assure you, Doctor, that at all times I have desired to cooperate with the EAP, and each of my employees is also familiar with my constant desire to better his or her lot in keeping with ability to do so in line with Company picture. This has been my practice during these eleven years in Tegucigalpa, with the result that operations of this office have functioned rather smoothly with little interruption or personnel change. Medina has steadily improved during his ten years with this office and has done satisfactory work, and I am very happy to see him change if it affords something better for him. However, discussions with my employees direct--with offers which exceed their present status--may prompt their feelings to change towards our setup. I only wish you had mentioned to me first your need of this nature and your desire for anyone of this office. I would have been glad to inform the employee concerned of your wishes, and even offer him encouragement if he felt he'd like a change to the EAP for the reasons you gave him.

This is not criticism, Doctor, but procedure generally followed, and which would be helpful in the overall picture.

Regards.

Sincerely,


V. E. Scott

February 1, 1956

PERSONAL

Mr. Virgil E. Scott
Tela Railroad Company
Tegucigalpa, D. C.

Dear Mr. Scott:

Referring to yours of January 30 regarding the possibility of Armando Medina transferring to the Escuela Agrícola Panamericana, the facts are these:

Medina spoke to me one day when I was in your office saying that he knew Orlando Paz was going to the United States and he would be interested in having Orlando's job because he was finding it difficult to make both ends meet in Tegucigalpa. I replied that we would not consider the matter unless and until he had talked to you and had your approval. This is Company policy and I have always lived up to it. Medina mentioned the salary which he is presently receiving, but I made no comment.

When you came out on the 24th of January with John McClintock and party, we discussed a transfer for Medina. It was up to you to say whether or not you would approve a transfer, and you stated definitely that you would not want to stand in his way if he was convinced it was to his interest. This is exactly the answer I would have given and always have given to employees under my jurisdiction who thought of a change. You are not correct in saying that I had already made arrangements with him; i.e., I had told him just what I have stated above that he must talk with you before I would go into the matter further.

You state that you wish I had mentioned to you my need for a man to replace Orlando. I had not done so because I had no intention of offering that particular job to anyone in your office. I had asked Joe Paz and Orlando and Medina to see if they could locate someone in town who might wish to come out here, not to take Orlando's job but as a stenographer for we are short one employee.

I regret that things got twisted, but I wish to reiterate that the facts are these: Medina knew that Orlando is shortly to leave. I think that this had become generally known, and I do not see why it should not generally be known. Medina felt that it might be to his advantage financially to live out here where employees get board, lodging, and laundry free. He mentioned the possibility of

Mr. V. E. Scott

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February 1, 1956

a transfer and was told that he should take the matter up with you before going further. The matter of salary was not mentioned by me nor has been mentioned to date.

If you feel that the transfer of Medina will hurt the morale of your office, then I would be in favor of dropping the matter before a change is made, so that our two offices can function together harmoniously. If, on the contrary, you feel that a transfer is a good thing for Medina, then I would suggest that we make this effective as of February 15th.

Any action you wish to take will be entirely agreeable to us.

Yours very truly,

Wilson Popenoe

1818 - 13th St.
Greeley, Colorado
August 20, 1959

Dear doctor Popenoe:

Here's hoping that Helen and you are well and enjoying life, and that everything is going first-rate with you. We hear of you from time to time through friends, and especially Mr. Turnbull.

When writing Mr. Turnbull recently I mentioned a machine that is being manufactured here now and which is called the "Silver Jet" weed burner. I've seen it in operation, it being used to burn grass and weeds along irrigation ditches, right-of-ways, railroad tracks, and many other places. It is also adjusted to serve many other purposes and is meeting with great reception as a time saver and to effect extra-ordinary economies. This to the extent that I feel confident enough to feel justified in endeavoring to introduce it into Mexico and other countries south of the border. I plan, if the program materializes about the 1st of next month, to go shortly thereafter to Mexico to spend a few days and then to Guatemala, Salvador, and probably Honduras. I'd have literature, figures and facts, and excellent letters of reference as to what the weed burner accomplishes. My idea would be to interest responsible individuals in each country to accept the agency and an operator from this end would go down and demonstrate at the proper time. Mr. Turnbull mentioned that I should write you as being a very good man to contact for suggestions, etc., etc. My thought would be to survey the field with the material I'd have, and I don't know how the machine could fail reception when it is learned what value it has as a time saver and to effect lower costs. It is a great labor saver.

Should plans materialize I'd probably be in Guatemala about Sept. 10 to 15th or 18th, and wonder if you'll be in the vicinity about that time for an exchange of opinions. I certainly wouldn't want you to be there just for my sake, so don't hesitate to let me have your candid comments in every way. I realize conditions are rather rugged in many places these days, but where economies can be effected to any degree all concerned are anxious to participate.

We've had a very busy and in no-wise dull summer. All of the family goes to Missouri Saturday - 750 miles - to spend four or five days with mother and sister, to be back here about the 28th, in time for the six children to matriculate in the three schools near here.

Bill Turnbull's passing was a great shock, and the Co., which is really having its problems, is bound to miss him as one of its good tropical representatives.

We see an occasional friend come through from the Tropics, and are always happy that they pass this way. A number write and keep us fairly well posted of events down that way, and a letter came today from John D. Erwin, who now at the Press Club in Washington. He still seems in good shape and is working for Kefauver, his good friend.

If you don't mind writing me on the above, I'll be happy to have your comments. Would of course enjoy hearing from you, anyhow.

Digitized by Hunt Institute for Botanical Documentation, regards to Helen and to you.

Carnegie Mellon University, Pittsburgh, PA

Sincerely, *Scotty*