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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.

21 Avenida Roosevelt, San Salvador
El Salvador, C A 7 July 1957

Mr Nixon Smiley
The Miami Herald,
Miami, Florida.

Dear Nixon:

Due to having quite a job getting moved over to Antigua, and then coming here to San Salvador a week ago to take up a two months' assignment with the govt of this country, which wants to encourage fruit growing in a practical way, I have been slow in thanking you for the fine write-up you gave me in the Herald just about a month ago. As usual, you hit the clavis ex the caput, if you get what I mean.

When I finish my contract here I will hurry back to Antigua and figure out whether I want to sit down right away and write that book or whether Helen and I will start around the world. Probably write the book, cause if I dont get at it soon it wont get done.

Say, I've got a swell idea. Reading the things which have been written about me anent my retirement, it suddenly dawned upon me that they are to all intents and purposes, obituary notices. And darned good ones. Now, not many people have the pleasure and satisfaction of reading their obituary notices. They are printed too late. Let's start a campaign to have them written when one reaches the age, let us say, of 70 - the prescribed three score and ten. One could even edit them himself, which would be an added advantage.

Ever yours

Advisers

DR. M. R. BIRDSEY
University of Miami
DR. I. D. CLEMENT
Atkins Garden
Cienfuegos, Cuba
DR. W. H. HODGE
Longwood Gardens
DR. E. W. McELWEE
University of Florida
DR. H. E. MOORE, JR.
Bailey Hortorium
Cornell University
DR. W. J. ROBBINS
New York Botanical Garden
DR. GEORGE D. RUEHLE
Subtropical Experiment Station
University of Florida

FAIRCHILD TROPICAL GARDEN

P. O. Box 407
COCONUT GROVE STATION
MIAMI 33, FLORIDA, U. S. A.

Director
NIXON SMILEY
Superintendent
STANLEY C. KIEM

July 19, 1957

Via Airmail

Dr. Wilson Popenoe,
21 Avonida Roosevelt,
San Salvador, El Salvador, C.A.

Dear Wilson:

I am glad you liked the article about your retirement. I agree with you that obituaries should be written and perhaps even run before one dies. You know a lot of people never get to see a good thing said about them in the paper, but if they could see their obituary they may be greatly surprised.

I do hope that you will get on to that book even though you may make a tour around the world. I am hoping to convince some angel of the Garden that I also need to make a visit around the world to visit the botanical gardens in order that I might be better able to write a book on the Fairchild Tropical Garden, to be published on the Garden's 25th anniversary.

Give Helen our regards.

Sincerely yours,

Fairchild Tropical Garden, Inc.

Nixon
Nixon Smiley,
Director.

NS/cs

5985 S.W. Montgomery Drive
Miami 56, Fla.
Jan. 23, 1959

Dear Wilson:

Just a note. Read today Ed Menninger's column which is really a long letter from you, about your experiences in Spain, your plans for a book, and about your intended visit soon to California. So I thought I should turn right to my typewriter and bang out a letter to you and Helen.

You must have had some interesting experiences, you and Helen living in Spain for a whole year, and working with tropical fruits at the same time. What paradise!

Ernest Cassares wrote me some time ago that you planned to turn out a book in Spanish about tropical Fruits. Incidentally, I'm reading Spanish well enough now to read your book when it comes out, so I will want to review it for The Herald and for the Fairchild Garden bulletin.

Speaking of the Fairchild Garden, everything's going well. Mrs. Fairchild also is doing fine. In fact, she's in the best condition I've seen her in a couple or three years. She was doing very poorly the last time you and Helen were here. Everybody was afraid she wouldn't last. Now she's afraid she's going to last "too long."

I'm doing a couple of columns a week in The Herald now in addition to my section and in addition to being director of the Fairchild Garden and in addition to writing a book for Macmillan. The columns are headed "A Cracker Viewpoint" and are likely to be about any and everything. If I write about Baker County I'll send you a copy. (How the hell could I write long without writing about Baker County!)

Do try to get back to Florida before long. We were hoping you and Helen might come through this time, but no doubt you came the southern route, since you came through the Canary Islands.

Incidentally, I was making a note or two the other day on Pension Estrada, with the idea of doing a "Cracker Viewpoint" on the best way to visit South or Central America and learn a little about the food and the people. The Estradas had a wonderful parrot but I can't remember her name.

Best regards to Helen.

Sincerely yours,

Nixon Smiley

Antigua, Guatemala, 14 April 1959

Mr Nixon Smiley
The Miami Herald,
Miami, Florida.

Dear Nick:

Yours of 23 January arrived while I was up in California, trying to find out why those boys cant grow avocados like you Florida guys do. I had not been home in eight years, and had a most interesting time, but it made me sad to see the ravages of that root disease in certain areas south of Los Angeles. On the other hand, I got a tremendous thrill out of the avocado packing house down near Vista, which at the time I was there, was packing and shipping two carloads of Fuerte every day. Dr Coit said: I've got to take you there. When you budded those first Fuertes in 1911 you never dreamed you would see anything like this". And I never did. Incidentally, watching the operations in that packing house reminded me of an experience recounted by my cousin, the big psychiatrist at San Francisco. A man came into his clinic and said, "Doc, I'm going nuts, absolutely, positively nuts. You've got to pull me out of this." And the Doctor said, "Well, sit down and tell me about it, What's your trouble?" "Well, Doc, you can understand that a man of a rather high strung, nervous temperament, like I am, just breaks down under the emotional stress of having to make decisions all the time." "What kind of decisions do you have to make?" "Well, Doc, it's this way. I work in the orange packing house. I stand at the lower end of the chute and the oranges come rolling down, and I have pick out the little ones and put them on one side and the big ones on the other side. All day long. Decisions, decisions, decisions!"

I expect to be getting off for Venezuela in a couple of weeks or so, to help plan a fruit improvement program for the Fundación Eugenio Mendoza (a philanthropic outfit) and then go over to Costa Rica to see the old crowd and spend a few days at Turrialba and then take part in the meetings of the Caribbean Region, Am Soc Hort Sci, where I shall talk on "Fifty Years with Tropical Fruits" because I am the only bastard in these parts who is qualified and nobody can get up and dispute me. Then I'm coming back here to continue work on the "Fruticultura Tropical ~~and~~ tropical" which as you suspect, is to be published in Spanish, to protect myself from the criticism of you guys in Florida who know so much about tropical fruits now than I do but cant read much Spanish; though I am frightened by your statement that you will be able to wade through it pretty easily.

The pension Estrada is still going strong, though old Don Benedicto, aetas 93, is pretty low and may not last much longer. You said you couldnt remember the parrát's name so I stepped around the corner, into the patio, and asked her "Is your name Polly?" She cocked one eye, looked me up and down, and replied "I aint that kind of a parrot".

Ever yours,

Antigua, Guatemala, 17 July 1959

Dear Nick:

Your letter of 9th instant is most discouraging. Those mosquitos. But you just go up to Baker county and talk to Scott Popple. You remember what he said to Archie Shamel, apart from the cotton basket business? He said, "Shamel, you haint never seen no mosquitos. Up there on the Oclockney river where I used to live the mosquitos was so thick they jest flew up and hid the sun, by God." Those that werent already caught in the picking baskets, of course.

Thanks for the news of Mrs Fairchild, from whom we have had no word in quite a while. And we are really glad to hear that things are going well at FTG, as they could not help going under your wise direction. Reminds me of the fellow who wrote me at Zamorano, you must be happy, having under your wise direction those 160 boys thirsting for knowledge. The thirst of some of them was not limited to knowledge.

Old Don Benedicto, he of the Pension Estrada, has snapped out of his long illness and is back on the job, figuring out how much I owe the garage for gas, oil and minor repairs. Grand old fellow; he was 90 at last report which was some time ago. He doesnt make regular reports any more. I am glad you ate reading Spanish, especially such classics as Oviedo and Bernal Diaz, our erstwhile neighbor (you know he wrote his book about 100 yards from our house) and Don Quijote. Friend of mine told me in Venezuela the following: The official examiner came to the public school to check up on the kids, "Ho wrote Don Quijote?" he asked. Up goes a small feminine hand. "I know" she said little gal, "It was Lope de Vega". The examiner tore his hair. "Pör Dios Santo, hasnt anybody here ever heard of Calderon de la Barca?"

Looks as if (as we used to say in Kansas, like the fellow on the Houston radio says "no further news as of yet") that Helen and I may be soaring down onto the ground at Miami toward the end of November. Bob Allison says I simply must attend the meetings of the Florida Soil and Crop Science Society at Gainesville. All this because at his instigation, and not feeling too certain of my future financial situations, I paid my dues up to and including 1985. This says Bob was a dirty trick because I paid at the old rate of \$1 per year and the Honorable Board of Directors recently raised the rate to \$3 per year.

In a couple of weeks you may have a fine chance to practice your Spanish. I shall be sending up a Venezuelan colleague of mine, José Miguel Calabria, who will want to see the Fairchild Garden though his job is to learn all he can about tropical fruit trees and their propagation. Calabria is agrl head of the Fundación Eugenio Mendoza, the outfit for which I did the little job in Venezuela.

Ever yours,

Antigua, Guatemala, 4 August 1959

Mr Nixon Smiley, Director,
Fairchild Tropical Garden
Coconut Grove, Florida

Dear Nick:

Now here is your chance to get some good practice. The bearer of this note is my friend and colleague José Miguel Calabria, chief of the agricultural department of the Fundación Eugenio Mendoza of Venezuela, with which I have been working recently, as you know. At my instigation, Sr Calabria goes to Florida to see something of avocados and mangos and more especially plant propagation. Treat him well, and when you call in your secretary and say "Oiga, chula" explain to him that ~~we~~ dont use the word chula in the same sense they use it in Venezuela, - and more especially in Spain.

Ever yours,

Wilson Popenoe



The Miami Herald

FLORIDA'S MOST COMPLETE NEWSPAPER

200 South Miami Ave.
Miami 30, Florida

Nov. 28, 1959

Dear Wilson:

I apologize for waiting so long to write. Hard work is no excuse. One's friends should come first.

We had hoped to see you and Helen before now, expecting you to come through Miami on your way somewhere, and stay with us for awhile. But I hear that you are busy with many things in Guatemala, and also I suspect that you are hard at work on that tropical fruit book which you intend to publish in Spanish. And, incidentally, I'm getting along quite well with my Spanish reading, now that I spend about 30 minutes with it every morning. Am not yet ready to read Oviedo or any of those other high-powered boys, but I just struggled through a *Breva Historia de Mexico* by Vasconcelo, and only this morning finished reading a very interesting fiction story of the Andes, *El Préstamo de la Difunta* by Ibanez, which, I think, equals Hemingway's *Old Man of the Sea* any day. I get no practice talking Spanish, and could not utter a good phrase in the language. I remind myself of a grandmother who could read well but could not write.

Everything is going well with us. I still am serving as temporary director at the Fairchild Garden, and we are planning like mad there. With the help of some of the best minds in the country, I believe we have a good program and that the Garden is going to amount to something eventually, besides just being a pretty plant collection. We're going to build a laboratory early in 1960, and a research scientist, Dr. P.B. Tomlinson of the University of Leeds, will join the staff in June. He has spent three years in Ghana and knows quite a lot about tropical plants. He is brilliant, being only 27 years old but already has published an outstanding work, on the anatomy of the palm. We will work on the functions of palm structures here, hoping to come up with something which would be of help to the understanding of the internal processes of plants. We have selected a basic field for our man to work in, following the theory that the practical work should be done by the University of Florida, which cannot do the basic work--or not very easily without the danger of possible criticism for doing "useless research." We have a trained horticulturist on the staff and will add a botanist from Cornell in June or July. Our plant collections are growing rapidly. We will move our plant nursery to acreage just given to the Garden by Mrs. Jennings (formerly Mrs. Montgomery.) Eventually the Fairchild Garden will cover 160 acres, as Mrs. Jennings plans to give here place to serve as a research center.

In previous correspondence with you I have been unable to remember to ask you if you or Helen would mind checking on a little thing for the FTG. (I attached a note to your address card so that I wouldn't forget this time). . . . When Evelyn and I were in Guatemala we bought from Mary's shop a collection of locally made artificial tropical fruits. I suppose these fruits were made of plaster of Paris, but they were well made, and finished so well that we look upon them almost as works of art. They don't "look like" the average run of artificial fruit. When you look at these you know they are artificial. No attempt was made to fool anyone. But they are highly decorative, more so than those artificial fruits that are supposed to "look exactly like" the original. Each fruit was made with a money slot in it, to serve as a child's bank. I suppose the idea was that after the fruit was filled with pennies it could be basked on the floor and the money collected. (We're not about to bash ours.)

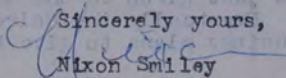
Anyway, we'd give anything to know how we could obtain some of this stuff for sale at the Fairchild Garden gift shop. Of course, we'd have to be able to buy it at a price so that we could afford to bring it up here and sell it at a reasonable price here. I don't know whether this would be possible, but I'd certainly like to see us try. Soon after we got back from Guatemala--it's been at least four years ago--we wrote to Mary's Shop, but never receive an answer to our query.

If you folks could find out something about this artificial fruit for us we'd appreciate it to no end. In our collection are a number of species of fruits, including plantain, sugar apple, passion fruit, cashew apple with nut, yellow momdin and another item or two I cannot at this moment recall. We now look upon this collection as the very best we obtained on our trip to Central America and South America, and all of our friends think so.

Haven't heard recently from Mrs. D.F., but last time we heard she was getting along fairly well. She's still ~~in~~ in the North. I believe she has left Baddeck and is presently visiting her people. But she will be here in another couple of weeks--after the Ramble. She says the Ramble does her in, and, although she knows she should stay away, she does not, and the result is always bad--she must go to bed for a couple of weeks.

I hope this finds everything going well with you and Helen. Incidentally, our boy Karl got off at a very good start in Emory Medical School in Atlanta and is, we think, making almost outstanding grades. He likes the school and doesn't seem to mind at all the task of cutting up a cadaver, which he has nearly completed, although he began about mid-September.

Sincerely yours,


Nixon Smiley

Antigua, Guatemala 28 November 1959

Mr Nixon Smiley
Director, Fairchild Tropical Garden,
Coconut Grove, Florida.

Dear Nick:

Paul Standley ^{joke} has just sent over a clipping from the Miami Herald with a ~~job~~ which you must have obtained in Ecuador or Peru about the secret ballot. Mighty good you didnt place the joke in Honduras and ~~say~~ I told it to you. You have really got a lot of common sense. And speaking about your (and my) jokes, a chap came in here a couple of days ago, retired Freight and Traffic Mgr of the FEC railway, and we got to talking about North Florida and he mentioned Baker county. And I said, Do you know Baker county. And he said, Sure, Maclenny is the county seat. And I said, Then did you ever meet Scott Popple there? And he had to admit that he is too young to have had that privilege.

Now here's the point: ~~when~~ ^{when} I was in Spain I wrote up the enclosed note which I really believe would be useful to quite a few young men who are going into the Extension Agent business or something of that sort. I have been debating where to publish it and dont know. What do you suggest? If you can place it somewhere, go ahead; if you cant, place it back on my desk. As a last resort I will get it printed and send it around to a batch of youngsters who might find it useful.

Wennad rather thought of flying up to Miami ~~thence~~ to Gainesville just about now, but I am getting the feeling that I am on the shelf, or should I say, turned out to pasture and I better stay there. At the last few meetings I have attended ~~ed~~ I got the feeling that the boys were saying, "Be kind to the old bastard, he used to be a good horticulturist!" Perhaps you remember the saying in Spanish (which language you now handle with facility) "Los viejos damos buenos consejos cuando ya no podemos dar malos ejemplos". And of course the younger generation isnt much interested in those buenos consejos.

Just back from Salvador. The work I started over there is coming along quite satisfactorily. And we are getting something going in Venezuela. Not to mention that we shall yet have the Spaniards eating avocados with as much pleasure as they are eating cherimoyas - which fruit is also relatively a novelty in Spain. Incidentally, pull out your copy of the 1959 Yearbook of the California Avocado Society, if this publication is allowed to come through the Florida mails, and read my paper "Avocados in Spain - and Elsewhere". Couple of jokes in it which might eventually prove useful to you.

Ever yr friend and obedient svt,

SPANISH INTERLUDE

Wilson Popenoe

Not long ago I had occasion to deliver a few lectures to a group of students in agriculture who had come from Madrid to Córdoba to gain some practical experience with subtropical crops. I devoted my first lecture to a discussion of tropical and subtropical fruits, especially the avocado. This, one has to admit, is not yet a popular subject in Spain. Someone put the question, "What are we going to do with those avocados you are telling us to grow; we know the Mediterranean coast is fine avocado country, but we don't like avocados." To which I replied "Lots of North Americans didn't care for avocados, at the start; I even remember one fellow who said an avocado tastes like a cross between a Hubbard squash and a bar of laundry soap." Then I went on to say: "But fifty million people in the New World eat and like avocados, and fifty million people, Frenchmen or otherwise, can't be wrong. You will learn to like them, and in the meantime ship your avocados to London where they are selling for the equivalent of 10 pesetas (25 U.S. cents) each.

But let me get on to the subject of this note. I decided to devote my second lecture to some practical hints, some points these young men - and they were a bright lot, no question about that - might find useful when they stepped out into the professional world. So I walked to the front of the platform, with nothing visible except my clothes and a soil auger which I held in one hand, and I said "Here you see me, prepared to go into the field and do a good job of investigating horticultural problems. Even to the point of giving my client a lot of practical help."

"Now what do I need? I think I have it all right here with me and I am going to show it to you."

"First, this soil auger. I bought a one-inch bit in Granada and had the blacksmith solder it onto a piece of half-inch galvanized pipe a meter long, with a crosspiece making a convenient handle. It cost me 75 pesetas (a dollar and a half). One of the first things we must know in horticulture is the soil with which we are working, so I bore a few holes in the ground, find out what sort of profile we are up against, and then I tell the laborers who are standing around, 'No, boys, I am not looking for gold, the kind you are thinking about. I am looking for real gold, the kind that makes trees grow and produce good fruit."

I stood back for a moment to let the idea take effect. Then I went on. I reached into a pocket and pulled out a handful of crisp Spanish money. "Of course", I said laughingly, "you will need a little of this to pay your bills while you are doing a job". This brought forth the expected grins and I saw that I had my audience in the right frame of mind.

Next I brought forth a tube of Soiltex. "This", I said, "costs about fifty pesetas (one dollar). It enables you to find out, with a sufficient degree of accuracy for agricultural and horticultural purposes, the acidity or alkalinity of the soil you are examining, and you can do it in about two minutes. Sometimes the pH of your soil is a limiting factor." ~~Then I went back to say~~ ^{while on this subject} "And speaking about the ~~soil~~, the auger tells you, in a practical way, how much moisture you have in the soil as well as the texture at various depths. We use the auger to guide us in irrigating our orchards."

I reached into another pocket and brought forth a small altimeter, about the size of a Baby Ben, with a scale reading from zero to 10,000 feet. "This little instrument is very useful in some instances.

For example, when you go into a new region and need to know the approximate elevation, to guide you in connection with the choice of the right fruits to plant. You can count on the altimeter with a possible error of about 25 meters. This error may be due to the instrument itself or to diurnal oscillation". (This latter term went over big; I could almost hear the boys saying, "This guy is really a técnico").

Then I reached into another pocket and pulled out a neat little sling psychrometer. "If you are going to stay in one place for a while, and need to know what sort of climate you are up against, this is it. With this little gadget you can determine the temperature and the relative humidity at any time of day, and don't think it requires a lot of calculation either. You just use this psychrometric slide rule, which costs almost nothing, and you have the story instantly. Temperature and relative humidity are the main things you want to know about, and of course, to get a complete picture, you have to take readings at various hours of the day. In general, temperature will be lowest and humidity highest just before sunrise, and conversely, temperature highest and humidity lowest about two or three o'clock in the afternoon. Assuming it is a clear day, of course. A sudden rain will change the situation, but you will take this into account. If you can possibly get rainfall records over a period of months or years, they will be a great help to you. Sometimes it is impossible to get these, and you have to go by what the old-timers tell you. And the old-timers usually have some pretty sound knowledge because they have seen the effect of wet and dry seasons on their crops."

Another dip into a pocket. "You will need to take some measurements. Here is a little outfit, about the size of a watch, which contains a steel tape which measures up to five feet, in both centimeters and inches. Maybe you won't need the inches, here in Spain,

because in some of the books you read, people talk about inches and not centimeters. So I advise you to be familiar with both systems of measurement."

I paused a moment. Then I pulled out a pocket lens with a magnification of eight diameters. "This item is indispensable. You simply must have one, to look at the bugs which are eating up your client's cabbage plants. And it invariably interests the client when he sees what to him is a new world, and realises that there are thousands of these little animals which under the glass look as big as mice, eating up his profits." Of course they don't look quite as big as mice, but they look big enough to impress him no end.

"And now" I went on, "assuming you are horticulturists, and are dealing with the propagation of woody plants." I pulled out a piece of Vinyl film. "These modern plastics have made horticulture easy, in certain respects. You can wrap up scions in a piece of this material and carry them home, or you can send them to South Africa by ~~air mail~~ and have them reach their destination in good condition. Forty years ago, when I was sending avocado scions from the tropics to the United States, ~~I had to use the phragnum~~ moss and waxed paper. It was a tough job to get those scions to Washington alive. Now it is simple. Not only do we have the polyethylene plastics but we also have air mail, a tremendous help. But don't forget the plastics, which are not only useful for shipping cuttings and scions long distances, but also for tying buds and grafts as you make them in the nursery. And I should mention that we are finding the veneer graft extremely useful in the tropics, where we used to have a lot of trouble grafting mangos and several other kinds of fruit trees."

"Of course", I went on, "to do your budding or grafting you need a good knife and I mean a really good one, made for the purpose, not for sharpening pencils or peeling those oranges I saw you clandestinely harvestingⁱⁿ the school orchard this morning." So here I pulled out my budding knife. I never travel without one. And then I added "You have to keep this knife sharp, and all you need is a little sharpening stone." I produced one, only three inches long, but of very fine texture. "Dont think you can sharpen your budding knife on a grindstone. Youwont get a good edge and your knife wont last long either. You must re-shapent that knife after making twenty or thirty buds or grafts, and how do you know it is shapp enough?"

Here I pulled up my left sleeve, licked my forearm, and neatly shaved off enough hair so they could all see it. This brought forth a howl of delight from the boys.

"Once in a while", I continued, " you may need pruning shears. You should always carry a pair with you." So I pulled one out of my rear pocket. By this time the boys were beginning to wonder if they were up against another Houdini. I had done almost everything but the rabbit trick, -pulling ^{the} rabbit out of the hat. So I ended with these words: "Of course you must have with you a pocket note book." I drew one from alongside my passport - "and you must use it freely. Put down everything you do, so there wont be any arguments in the future".

And with that final bit of simple counsel I stepped down from the platform.

SPANISH INTERLUDE

NOTES FOR Wilson Popenoe BORTONIANIST

Not long ago I had occasion to deliver a ^{few} couple of lectures to a group of students in agriculture, who had come from Madrid to Córdoba to gain some practical experience with subtropical crops. My first lecture (I devoted) to a discussion of tropical and subtropical fruits. Especially the avocado. This, one has to admit, is not ^{yet a} popular subject in Spain. Someone put the question: "What are we going to do with those avocados you are telling us to grow? We don't care for avocados". To which I replied: "Lots of ^{North Americans} our people didn't care for avocados, either, at the start. I even remember one novice who said an avocado tastes like a cross between ^{Hubbard} a squash and a bar of laundry soap. But fifty million Latin Americans can't be wrong. They eat avocados and like them. You will learn to like them; and in the meantime you ship your avocados to London, where they are selling for about ~~35~~ 20 ^{pesetas} ~~cents~~ each".

But let me get onto the subject of this note. I decided to devote

any more than 50 million Frenchmen

my second lecture to some practical hints, some points these young men -
 and they ^{are a} were bright lot, no question about that - might find useful
 when they stepped out into the professional world. So I walked to the
 front of the platform, with nothing visible except my clothes and a soil
 auger which I held in one hand, and I said, ~~as though I was about to~~
~~pull a rabbit out of a hat~~, "Here you see me, prepared to go into the
 field and do a good job of investigating ~~some~~ horticultural problems.
 Even to the point of giving my client a little practical help. Now, what
 do I need? I think I have it all right here with me, and I am going to
 show it to you!"

"First, this soil auger. I bought a ^{in granada} one-inch wood bit and had the
 blacksmith solder it onto a piece of half inch galvanised pipe a meter
 long with a crosspiece making a convenient handle. It cost me ^{75 pesetas} ~~a dollar~~
 and a half. Since ^{one of the} the first things we must know in horticulture is the
 soil with which we are working, I bore a few holes in the ground, find
 out what sort of a profile we have and then I tell the laborers who

a dollar and a half
 (two dollars)

are standing around, "No, boys, I am not looking for gold, the kind of gold you are thinking about. I am looking for real gold, the kind that makes trees grow and produce good fruit'.

I stood back for a moment to let that idea ~~soak in~~ ^{take effect}. Then I went on. I began to reach in my pockets. I pulled out a handfull of crisp Spanish money. "Of course, I ~~went on~~, ^{said laughingly} "you will need a little of this for your trip". This brought forth the expected ^{grew} laugh, and I saw that I had my audience in the right frame of mind. ^{of} So I brought forth a tube of Soiltex. "This" I said, "costs about a ^{50 pesetas (one dollar)} dollar, and it enables you to find out, with sufficient accuracy for most agricultural and horticultural purposes, the acidity of the soil you are examining, and you can do it in about two minutes. Sometimes acidity is a limiting factor." And I ^{went back to say} ~~added,~~ the ^{answer} ~~soil~~ also tells you, in a practical way, how much moisture you have in the soil you are examining, and sometimes you find you have far too much. We use ^{the answer} this instrument to guide us in irrigating our orchards."

I reached into another pocket and brought forth ^{a pocket} ~~a Tyco~~ altimeter,

reading from sea level to 16,000 feet. "This little instrument is ^{very} ~~might~~ useful in some cases, for example when you get into a new region and want to know the approximate elevation. You can count on it with a ^{an the allimeter} possible error of ~~about 100 feet~~ ^{25 to 50 meters}. This error may be due to the instrument itself or it may be due to diurnal oscillation". (This term went over big; and I could almost hear the boys saying ~~to themselves~~, "This guy is a técnico".) ^{really}

Then I reached into another pocket and pulled out a neat little sling psychrometer of standard make. "If you are going to stay in a place for a while, and need to know what sort of climate you are up against, this is it. With this you can ^{little gadget} determine the temperature and relative humidity at any time of day, and ~~don't~~ think it requires a lot of calculation ^s either. You just use this ~~little~~ psychrometric slide rule, which costs almost nothing, and you have the story instantly, so far as relative humidity is concerned. Temperature and relative humidity are the things you want to know about, and of course, to get a complete

picture, you have to take readings at various hours of the day. In general, temperature will be lowest and humidity highest just before sunrise, and conversely, temperature highest and humidity lowest about two or three o'clock in the afternoon. Of course, assuming it is a clear day. A sudden rain will change this, but you will take that into account." *Of course you want rainfall records, over a period of months or years. Sometimes it is impossible to get these.*

Another dip into a pocket. "You will need to take some measurements. Here is a ~~real~~ little outfit, about the size of a ~~Baby Ben~~, which contains a steel tape which measures up to two meters, in both centimeters and inches. Maybe you don't need the inches; ~~you don't have to have them~~, but sometimes it is handy to convert from one scale to the other. In some of the books you use, people talk about inches and not centimeters. So I advise you to have both."

I paused a moment, ~~to let that soak in~~. Then I held up a pocket lens, with a magnification of 8 diameters. "This item is indispensable. You simply must have it, to look at the bugs which are eating up your

You have to go by what the people tell you and what you know of the region in general.

client's cabbage plants. And it greatly interests ~~and impresses~~ the man, when you hand it to him and he sees an aphid which looks to him as big as a mouse. When he realises that there are thousands of these animals on his plants, ~~it puts the fear of God in his heart and~~ ^{he} listens respectfully while you talk to him about insecticides. ~~He is also impressed when you show him the pollen grains in an orange flower, and many other things. Not to mention that it is necessary for you to see all of these things yourself."~~

"And now" I went on, "we are assuming that you are horticulturists, and are dealing with the propagation of woody plants." I pulled out a piece of Vinyl film. "These modern plastics have made horticulture easy. You can wrap up scions or ~~budwood~~ ^{budsticks} in a piece of this and carry them home, or you can send them by mail almost anywhere in the world. Forty years ago, when I was sending ~~budwood~~ ^{scions} of avocado varieties from the tropics to the United States, ~~wrapped~~ ^{Thomas} in sphagnum moss and waxed paper, it was a tough job to get ~~those budsticks~~ ^{Thomas} to Washington alive.

H. J. THOMAS

Now it is ^{simple} a cinch. Not only do we have the polyethylene plastics but we also have air mail, a tremendous help to us. ~~So~~ Dont forget the plastics, which are useful not only for shipping plant materials, but also for wrapping ^{tying} buds and grafts. And speaking of the latter, we are finding that the veneer ^{as you make them in the nursery,} graft is extremely useful in the tropics, where ^{grafting} we ^{always had} used to have a lot of trouble with our mangos and several other fruit trees. Of course, to do your work you need a good knife and it must really be a good one, made for the purpose, not for sharpening pencils or peeling those oranges ^{I saw} ~~you~~ ^{out there in the orchard} eating this morning."

So here I pulled out my budding knife . I never ~~travel~~ ^{work} without one. And I added, "You have to keep this knife sharp, and all you need for this is a little sharpening stone". I produced one, only three inches long, but of very fine texture."Dont think you can sharpen ^{your budding} that knife on a grindstone. You wont get a good edge, and the knife wont last long either. You must ^{re-} sharpen that knife ^{when after making} about you have made 20 or 30 grafts, and how do you know it is sharp enough?"

Here I pulled up my left sleeve, licked my forearm, and shaved off enough hair so ^{with my knife} all of them could see it. This brought forth a howl of delight from the ^{boys} crowd.

"Once in a while," I continued, "you may need pruning shears. You should always have a pair with you". So I pulled one out of my back pocket. By this time the boys were beginning to wonder if they were up against another Houdini. I had done almost everything but the rabbit trick. So I ended with these words: "Of course you must have with you a pocket note book" ~~and~~ I drew one from alongside my passport, "and you must use it freely. "Put down everything you do, so there wont be any arguments in the future." And with that final bit of simple counsel - and the whole talk was simple enough - I stepped down ffrom the platform.

"Of course", I went on, "to do your budding or grafting you need a good knife and I mean a really good one, made for the purpose, not for sharpening pencils or peeling those oranges I saw you clandestinely harvesting ⁱⁿ the school orchard this morning." So here I pulled out my budding knife. I never travel without one. And then I added "You have to keep this knife sharp, and all you need is a little sharpening stone." I produced one, only three inches long, but of very fine texture. "Don't think you can sharpen your budding knife on a grindstone. You won't get a good edge and your knife won't last long either. You must re-sharpen that knife after making twenty or thirty buds or grafts, and how do you know it is sharp enough?"

Here I pulled up my left sleeve, licked my forearm, and neatly shaved off enough hair so they could all see it. This brought forth a howl of delight from the boys.

"Once in a while", I continued, "you may need pruning shears. You should always carry a pair with you." So I pulled one out of my rear pocket. By this time the boys were beginning to wonder if they were up against another Houdini. I had done almost everything but the rabbit trick, -pulling ^{the} a rabbit out of the hat. So I ended with these words: "Of course you must have with you a pocket note book" I drew one from alongside my passport - "and you must use it freely. Put down everything you do, so there won't be any arguments in the future".

And with that final bit of simple counsel I stepped down from the platform.



200 South Miami Ave.
Miami 30, Florida

The Miami Herald

FLORIDA'S MOST COMPLETE NEWSPAPER

Feb. 29 [1960]

Dear Wilson:

Since running the enclosed piece on "These Popenoe Fellows" I've been getting some strong expressions of disappointment that Wilson Popenoe isn't going to revise his "Manual."

While I agree with you that it might not be the best idea, for the work is a classic of its kind and should remain as it is, I do feel that some memoirs dealing with your experiences in tropical fruits would be in line. Have you thought more of this?

Could you take the Manual of Tropical and Subtropical Fruits and, chapter by chapter, write some memoirs that would be of value to students later studying tropical fruits? I think it would be a tremendous thing, of great value, and I'm sure we could get it published by a number of places, including the University of Florida Press. Incidentally, I'm using a Gray Autograph dictating machine which does ~~a~~ quite well for me, and relieves me from the ~~a~~ constant banging on the typewriter. For I work with the typewriter six hours or more a day, and, to do more than this gets a fellow down. So I have this machine, into which I speak my stories--including the one on "These Popenoe Fellows." Evelyn copies them on a type writer. Perhaps you could find a typist in Antigua who would transcribe your records. You can get 100 one-hour records for \$13. They're 30 minutes a side. But I suppose there is one drawback to using such a machine. If it had a breakdown, where ~~would~~ would you get it fixed? And mine does break down occasionally. I call up and somebody's out in a couple of hours, usually, to work on it.

We're going up to Gainesville next week and will see Hugh while there. Then ~~more~~ we're going on over to Tallahassee, where we'll meet Earl and see ~~a~~ him for a couple of days.

It was great to see you again and to be able to spend part of a day in good conversation. And I hope it won't be too long before we can do this again. Next time you come up, if I can know ahead of time, I'd like to see about arranging a roundtable talk before the Tropical Fruit Council here. Just a relaxed, informal thing, with several of us sitting around a table and discussing tropical fruits and maybe asking you a few questions about the history of this or that fruit in horticulture.

Give my best regards to Helen. Both Evelyn and I were disappointed that she was not with you.

Sincerely,

Walter Smiley
Walter Smiley

ESCUELA AGRICOLA PANAMERICANA

APARTADO 93

TEGUCIGALPA, HONDURAS
CENTRO AMERICA

Antigua G, 5 March 1960

Sr don Nixon Smiley
The Miami Herald
Miami, Florida.

Dear Nick:

Thanks for your letter of 29 pxmo ppdo (with your present proficiency in Spanish you will recognize that pxmo ppdo means last month). I have had in mind to write a book, about one half anecdotes and the other half popular accounts of such things as the mango and the avocado and the story of corn and of cacao and of strawberries - and what a lot of them should be included! Now the problem is, Will God grant me grace? This new work on tropical fruit culture in Spanish must come first; when I get the the Pearly Gates I dont want to hear Saint Peter ask, Why didnt you finish that Manual Práctico? (I am sure Saint Peter speaks good Spanish and will ask me in that language). And hombre, how badly you upset me when you say that you hammer the old Remington six hours a day! When I do half that, I feel I have done a good day's work and promptly go out to watch another religious procession - of which we are now having one each day and this will continue until the end of May - then will begin again in June. And as for dictating onto one of those machines - when I turn the record over to Juanita Garcia she will come right back and say, I dont know how to spell parthenocappic. Or is it, carpic or carbic, they are so much alike.

Well, we will just plyg along and do our best; but in the meantime, here is something. I have this morning gone over the first three volumes of my field notes, 7½ by 8½ inches in size - if you want a picture ask Mrs Fairchild to show you a copy of Dr Fairchild's desk books, because I took over the idea and used those books for some years. Now, the first three volumes are devoted almost wholly to my work in south Florida, 1914-15. The silver fish have hit them pretty hard and they are dog-eared and all that sort of thing, so I am hting them rebound here in blue buckram and I am going to bring or send them up to you, for incorporation in the library of the FPG, which is where they belong because they really do form a part of the history of tropical fruit culture in Florida. When you get them, you will also receive a bound volume of the Proceedings of the American Pomological Society for 1914, which also is historical material. I want you to look it over - especáilly Wæster's great publication on vegetative propagation of tropical fruit trees - a really historic contribution.

Mighty glad to hear that you and Evelyn were planning to go up to Gainesville and way stations. I may go up to the land of Sunshine Fruit an Flowers about 1 December to attend the Caribbean whatever you call it at Gainesville; I would love to sit in with your Tropical Fruit Concuil if that time would be propitious, and tell them why I am still in favor of the Haden mango.

Ever yours,

ESCUELA AGRICOLA PANAMERICANA

Antigua, 16 Jan 1960

APARTADO 93

TEGUIGALPA, HONDURAS
CENTRO AMERICA

Dear Nick:

After mailing a letter to you this morning, I proceeded via the 5a calle oriente and the 4 avánida sur to the market, where I interviewed the old gal who sells us baskets and huipiles and id genus omne, as you say in Baker county. Well, she had a pretty good show of those piggy banks. Two sizes, smaller size \$1.50 per dozen and larger size, \$2.50 per dozen, just for me, a special favor. So then I went down to the factory about six blocks from here, to see what it is all about.

Those boys must be good. They have three diplomas hanging on the wall, though they are a bit crowded by the calendars of various years practically in puris naturalibus (another Baker county term); but I got the works. They make these piggie banks out of very fine clay. It is not plaster of paris as you mention in your letter. But it is the finest clay I have ever seen used here, and I would rather like to see you buy things made of fine guatemalteco play than something produced by DuPont de Nemours, though I certainly have nothing against these folks because they make us Vinyl film.

So here is what I proposed to the genial and gentlemanly patrón of this shop. He says he will sell me these models, with or without the slit to drop in the pennies nickels or dimes (nothing larger will enter) at two Quetzales per dozen. So I am seriously thinking of going back there next Monday morning and ordering a couple of dozen to bring you up as a sample. I propose to get aguacates (perhaps 6) and then mangos (perhaps 6) and he has them in two ways, with and without Colletrot ~~plaster of paris~~ and zapotes and granadillas and of course bananas which are very well done. You will have to tell your customers, if you mus pincha da fruit, pincha da coconut. He offers me a couple of coconuts but I am afraid if they are pincha too hard the clay might break.

I believe you have got something, Nick! You know I will cooperate with you. Think of this business in terms of two U S bucks per dozen for a basket. I suspect you can get sympathetic attention at the airport in Miami. (If I dont, I will leave the basket there for you to argue about). But I would think these things would sell easily at 50 cents each at the FTG - maybe 75 cents. When I bring up these samples let's think it over. I can get you the supply here and I think there should not be a heavy charge at that end. Maybe you could even sell the fine big mangos at a dollar.

Ever yours,

ESCUELA AGRICOLA PANAMERICANA

APARTADO 93

Antigua, 16 Jan 1960

TEGUCIGALPA, HONDURAS
CENTRO AMERICA

Mr Nixon Smiley, Director
Fairchild Tropical Garden
Coconut Grove, Fla.

Dear Nick:

I suspect my last letter to you and yours to me crossed in the mails. Dont matter nohow. This is to advise - and warn - you that Hugh has just sent me a frantic radiogram to the effect that he is to get his doctorate on the 30th of this month and that I must bring my 'gator doctoral hood and come up to march with him in the academic procession. Now, I am not too good at marching in academic processions - simply a matter of lack of practice; but we have decided to go, so we yesterday booked on AVIATECA (the Guatemalan line, patronise home industries!) and are due to arrive in Miami right around noon on Wednesday the 27th. Next morning plan to take the Silver Meteor through the Scenic Highlands and Imperial Folk to less-imperial Waldo and down to Gainesville for the week end; and then, OH then, if God grants me grace, we will roël back down to the land of sunshine fruit and flowers and spend three or four days in south Dade.

I have written Mrs Fairchild that we are coming but I know she has a pretty full household so we will just drop in on her for a couple of brief visits. I am perfectly delighted to learn from your letter of 28 November that Mrs Jennings plans to give her place for a research center. Things really are looking up!

Ever yours,

ESCUELA AGRICOLA PANAMERICANA

APARTADO 93

TEGUCIGALPA, HONDURAS
CENTRO AMERICA

Antigua, Guatemala, 17 Feb 1960

Mr Nixon Smiley
The Miami Herald, Miami, Florida.

Dear Nixon:

-Went into the City yesterday. Bill Taillon, Manager of UFCO here in Guatemala, said "Have you seen last Saturday's Miami Herald?" And we replied, "of course we haint, you know damn well we dont see nothing out there in Antigua." So Helen went over to the Newsstand and brought back a copy of the Herald with that write-up of those Popenoe guys. Mighty fine job, Nick. Now you just taper off about the old bastard and when occasion arises, push along the F₁ generation in any way which will make them more useful. Hugh and Johnny are the ones who are going to carry on, in my erstwhile field. I am just about through though sometimes I wonder if God grants me grace, which means another five years, I cant put on record a few more observations of the past fifty years.

Nick, did you ever stop to figure out what makes us folks want to convert everybody else to the Baptist or the Mormon or the Catholic faith (and I could go on of course)? Now I am not going to argue with anybody abo t religion, hit dont pay. But here is the thing that in-terests me: why do you and I want to give our friends geranium or begonia cuttings or some amaryllis bulbs and all that sort of thibg? Think it over, Nick. What is this thing we call human nature? I think maybe I have a vague understanding as to why I want you to have a new variety of avocado which I think is a winner, and why you want me to have those new Florida mangos - though you still have to convince me that you have something which 25 years from will be better than Haden. Though on the other hand, you and I as horticulturists are looking for something better than anything we now have and are going to keep on looking - that's what makes us horticulturists.

I want to tell you again, before winding up these lines to get them under the rail at the minimum airmail rate, how perfectly delighted I was to see the Fairchild Tropical Garden with you some ten days ago. That garden is going to be the greatest collection of tropical plants in the Western Hemisphere and you are going to play a major role in making it so. I dont think you need to have durians there (they smell a bit too much like rotten onions or beefsteak which was taken out of the deep freeze a week too soon) but you can grow almost everything which is worth while and if I can help you in any way I want to do it. Mrs Fairchild and Nell Montgomery and many others will back you in this.

Dont forget that Helen and I are expecting you and Evelyn here one of these days, to use that new guest house of ours. Hot water 24 hrs a day; black bean soup 24 hours a day; and toasted tortills whenever you want them. So come along.

Ever yours,

Antigua, Guatemala, 3 November 1960

Dear Nixon:

By this time day after tomorrow youse guys will know whether you are going to Hell with the Democrats or the Republicans.

Every little while I receive in my fan mail a letter from some dear lady who sends me a clipping from the Herald which shows me that you are not forgetting that annual meeting of the Caribbean Region ASSE which takes place next yr from 27 March onwards. Nick, this will be the most interesting mtg the Caribbean Region has ever held and incidentally will give you a hat full of copy for the Herald. My job is to convince the lads down here who are not on FAB and ICA expense accounts that they wont have to spend \$15 per diem while in south Florida. Hells bells, I would contract to stay there the rest of my life on catfish and hushuppies and an occasional chaw of Barking Dog (never bites) at \$6 or \$7 per diem.

But here is the real object of this letter, Nick: It is a long time since we have had any news of Mrs Fairchild. We assume she has been up at Baddeck all summer. But we are just a little bit worried and we will appreciate it greatly if you will "drop me a line" and tell me if she is back at the Kampong and how is her health?

I am working over my library here and have had several books bound which I think should stay at the FTG. Envelopes my field notes during 1915 in Florida and Cuba. Some day a bright guy who is working up the horticultural history of So Fla may find it interesting. I will either hold these books to bring up with me next March to send them with that rascal Hugh if he comes down here for Christmas.

Ever yours,

Antigua, Guatemala, 9 Dec 1960

Mr Nixon Smiley
Miami, Florida.

Dear Nick:

Many thanks for your letter of 11 November. This is just to tip you off on a few more things, after telling you the following: I wrote Billy Krome and he wrote back, always put my box number on your envelop; And I wrote back, Does the postmaster at Homestead have to go out in the aisle and shout, Krome, Krome, anybody know a guy in this town named Krome?. Such a contrast to the old days when I came to Guatemala. Woodrow Wilson was President. Now as you may know, my name is Frederick Wilson Popenoe, but I had dropped the Frederick until I came to Guatemala. They I used to sign my name - in line with the best Latin practice - Frederick Wilson P. And the hotel keeper would ask, Oh, are you a relative of the President? And I would reply, well not really, and anyway, I dont like to mention that.

Thanks for the news about Mrs Fairchild. As you say, she doesnt write. We shall probably have to depend on friends like yourself to give us occasional news. I hope she will be in good shape when I get up there in March for those horticultural meetings. And speaking of the latter, I believe we are going to have a most interesting time as I have already told you. I have just heard from Billy Krome who says the plans are coming along swell except the question of money. Sounds like old times. I understand the plant pathologists are going to have a meeting at the same time as ours, and perhaps take part in some of ours, but I dont suppose they will have any more money than we have. I think I shall probably come up several days in advance of the mtgs and see how I can be of help. I am not an official but you know damn well that I will continue to be useful if and where I can. The same applies to you.

Too bad about those clay models of tropical fruits. It represents a net loss of \$1.2437 but I can write it off my income tax. Can you think of anything else I might bring up from here in the spring which you could sell at the FTG? I am working a racket on fine San Antonio huipiles. Now to save time I wont explain, but I'll tell you what I will do. Hugh is supposed to be here for Xmas. If he arrives I will send one of these huipiles up to you, and you can look it over. They are pretty gorgeous things, and the little Indian girls who spend a month making one are now asking about 12 to 15 dollars each and after all 12 to 15 dollars is not a high month's wages. But when business is dull they bring them to me at the old prices, and if you think you could sell half a dozen or so at a reasonable profit of \$100 let us say, I would bring them up in March. Again, I could write them off my income tax.

I am trying to get Billy Krome to tell me where us tropical horticulturists are going to be housed and what it will cost us, for it is only the ICA and FAO boys who have \$15⁰⁰ a day to spend. I wish the Miami Chamber of Commerce would give us a bus to run us up the East coast and over to Orlando and Gainesville and down to Miami again through Pahokee where we could eat all of the catfish we want for \$1.25 if we dont use any foul language in the dining room. By the way, we are expecting Bob Allison, with whom I ate catfish last time at Pahokee, in the next day or two.

Ever yours,

ESCUELA AGRICOLA PANAMERICANA

APARTADO 93

TEGUCIGALPA, HONDURAS
CENTRO AMERICA

Antigua, Guatemala, 26 Feb 1961

Mr Nixon Smiley
The Miami Herald, Miami, Fla.

Dear Nixon:

Thanks for your letter of the 20th and especially for telling me about Mrs Fairchild's accident. I had not heard of it and am awfully sorry. I am glad that I am going to be up there shortly to have a chat with her.

I am planning to fly up to Miami on AVIATECA (the Guatemalan National Airline) on Friday the 17th of March. As soon as I get a confirmation on this I shall drop a note to several of you - probably a "round robin" - to let you know definitely. Unfortunately I shall have to stay at the Everglades Hotel, because that is to be the GHQ of the Caribbean Region, Am Soc Hort Sci. I would prefer, personally, to stay at the Semigole in Homestead but I am sure I am the only member of the Am Soc Hort Sci who will honestly say that.

Looks like as if (as we say in Kansas) things are going to work out allright. Our meetings are really over the night of Friday the 24, as you know from the program. On Saturday there is to be an excursion, in the morning, to the Homestead region; but I can dodge this as I plan to stay in Florida for at least a week after the mtgs are over, hence I can and would like to be with you at the mtg of the FTG on Saturday the 25th. But my boy, you are slipping. Did you ever hear anybody in Baker county say "an historical event?"

I am terribly pleased to hear you are going in for some research at FTG. Hombre, I will back that to the last ditch.

After we recover from the ASHS mtgs and the historical event, I am thinking seriously of hanging around Florida for a week at least. Once I get out of that tourist hotel. There are five nice guest houses just south of the river, two blocks from where I used to live when I was working at the Brickell avenue garden. Some way or other, I have the feeling that this may be a good opportunity for me to see a little more of So Fla horticulture. The moment seems appropriate, for as Clarissa Rolfs used to quote, "The spring has come, the snow has went. It was not did by accident. The birds have flew, as you have saw, back North again, by Nature's law." I wonder if I can not sit down with you for an hour or so and help you work up a few notes on some tropical plants for the Herald?

Helen will not be coming up with me. We have quite a few obligations down this way, just at this season of the year. I ought to go over to the Commencement at Escuela Agricola Panamericana, March 18, but I believe the ASHS mtgs are more important for me.

Ever yours,

ESCUELA AGRICOLA PANAMERICANA

APARTADO 93

TEGUCIGALPA, HONDURAS
CENTRO AMERICA

Antigua Guatemala, 2 March 1961

Dear Nixon:

Hugh says he is flying back to Miami tomorrow, taking with him the big marimba I have bought and packed for Professor Pritchett at Gainesville. I have just written the Professor, itemizing the expense, but telling him that us Maya Indians have to work expenses this way: Left hand, five fingers makes five; right hand makes ten, left foot five toes makes fifteen and five more makes twenty. Beyond that you go into higher mathematics and we dont like higher mathematics.

I dont suppose High will see you on his way thry Miami ren route Gainesville, so this is to tell you that yesterday I booked on Aviateca for Miami, Friday 17th March; I think reaches or should reach Miami just about dark; leaves here at 12.25 dark face figures. I am hoping John Popenoe will meet me and take me down to the Hotel Seminola Athomastad, where I will spend the week end looking around with Johnny and getting the best damn buttermilk at 15 cents a glass and the best damn stack of bucks at 25 cents which can be had anywhere north of Tegucigalpa, Honduras. In any event, I will try to show up at the Everglades Hotel early on Monday morning with a smile on my face and my right hand in my rieht pocket to pull out half a dollar every time the elevator boy says "Good morning, sir".

Hugh and I have just about agreed that after the mtgs and the mtg at the Fairchild Tropical Garden I am going up to Gainesville for a week and he will take me over to the Glen St Mary Nurseries and a few other places of interest. I am going to take my time; I am tired

or being pushed around,
Ever yours,

Nixon Smiley
5985 S.W. Montgomery Drive
Miami 56, Fla. USA



Dr. Wilson Popenoe
Calle de la Nobleza Num. 2
Antigua
Guatemala, C.A.

AIR LETTER • AÉROGRAMME • PAR AVION

FIRST FOLD

SECOND FOLD



March 27, 1961

Dear Wilson:

Evelyn and I felt no small concern the other night upon leaving the Everglades Hotel without being able to give you any help at a time when a person needs all the assistance his friends can give. We felt, however, that there was nothing constructive that we could do. You were among your closest friends. All we could do was to add our grief to yours, because grief is something which cannot be shared; it can't be divided.

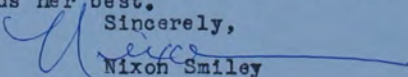
We do hope that you got off on the early ~~morning~~ ~~Sunday, March 26~~ plane on Saturday (March 25) and that you reached Antigua in good time. Yesterday we talked with Barbara and Lelo Mueller and were relieved to learn that they plan to visit you in a few days. This was good news. They will be good for you. If we can get away, Evelyn and I would like to come down in a few weeks and stay a few days with you. I'm sure we can come by June. Will you be there then? If we could get together on a date Evelyn and I would begin planning now. I suppose it would have to be about the middle of April or near the middle of June. May is a doubtful month for us, since the Garden's superintendent, Stanley Kiem, will be in Brazil during that month on a seed-collecting expedition and I should stay close at home.

Both Johnx and Evelyn called around on Saturday morning and got the ball rolling to call off the Monday evening meeting which had been scheduled. . . There's no need to tell you that you have a great many really good friends in this area; and this includes many persons who have never met you, but know you only by reputation. (I hope I may claim some of the honor of being responsible for this build-up of you both as a horticulturist and a person.)

During the coming months I trust you can stay busy with your new book and with plans for the meeting next year in Antigua of the Caribbean Section. I do ~~not~~ hope this meeting can be held at a time when Evelyn and I can attend. We plan to attend the meeting of the International Congress of the society in Brussels. This already has had approval of the FTG.

Please let us hear from you. We want to know how things are going for you and also to know something of your plans. Let us know if we can do anything for you here. Evelyn sends her best.

Sincerely,


Nixon Smiley

ESCUELA AGRICOLA PANAMERICANA

APARTADO 93

TEGUCIGALPA, HONDURAS
CENTRO AMERICA

Antigua, 4 April 1961

Dear Nixon:

Many thanks for your letter of 27 March. Rather late in reading me - our mails dont work very fast during Semana Santa.

Lilo and Barbara Muller and Melville Grosvenor and wife arrived two days ago. I met them at the airport and yesterday sent them over to Chichicastenango. They come back this afternoon; tomorrow buy weavings in Antigua and Wednesday go to the ruins of Tikal - I may go along. They leave Thursday for Costa Rica and Panama and I leave Saturday for Honduras, to get away from things for a couple of weeks.

I do hope you and Evelyn will ~~probably~~ come down here in June. I will be here after the end of April, this month. I have plenty of room for you and lots of ~~dried~~ frijols. So do come. And I hope you and Evelyn can come to the meeting of the Caribbean Region, ASHS next year; Unless present plans change it will be the last week in June, and I can tell you right now that you will stay in our old house for all the time you can be here.

When you get your reservation on AVIATECA for Guatemala ~~write~~ write me and I will meet you at the airport. Or of course, if they chalk your hat on Pan Am or any other ~~airline~~ airline I will meet that one!

Ever yours,

Antigua, 9 May 1961

Nixon Smiley Esq
5985 SW 120th St
Miami 56, Florida

Dear Nixon:

Damn you fcks, for having to cite an address like 5985 SW 120th St, Miami 56. So much simpler to say 153 meters north of the drug store "Sangre de Jesus" as they do in Costa Rica.

But getting down to business, I came back from the Alta Verapaz this morning and found your letter of 3 May. Of course if you folks will fly on Pan American jets instead of Aviateca, which costs \$104 dollars round trip to Guatemala, alright, alright; that's your business. (Maybe Pan American has got wise and has chalked your hats!) Anyway, barring acts of God and the Queen's enemies, I shall be at the airport to meet you at the Guatemala City airport at 2.50 dark face figures on the 22nd instant, and I shall bring you right over here to Antigua where Maria will fill you full of the best 50 cent beefsteak you have eaten in quite some time; and where you can have the little house, mit hot water complete, for as long as you can stay, and the longer you stay the better, so far as I am concerned, for life aint what it used to be. If I fail and break both legs before the 22nd instant, then I will send Juanito Rodriguez in to meet the plane; he is more or less on my payroll and would be in this case, but I believe God will grant me Grace and allow me to meet you personally. The main possibility is this: our mails are not too rapid and you might not get this letter in time. So if you get to the Guatemala City airport and dont find nobody waiting for you, make a white chalk mark on the runway and if I get there first I'll rub it out. This you will understand is not a Baker county story - probably much older than Baker.

I think you will want to visit Tikal. It is really sumpin. And I will arrange to get you to Chichicastenango on either a Thursday or a Sunday (the only two days) We can leave Antigua at 7 a/m. (light face figures) and be in Chichicastenango at just the right hour to receive the padre's blessing, and perhaps become godfathers to a couple of nice little Quiché kids. Plan to stay with me as long as you can; you will be doing me a favor.

Ever yours,

Miami, Fla.
June 5, 1961

Dr. Wilson Popenoe
Antigua, Guatemala

Dear Wilson:

Well, this is Monday and Nixon and I are back to the old grind today. However, we find the going much easier with all the fine memories of our visit with you in Antigua. I have never seen Nixon so rested, thanks to you--and I can truthfully say that neither of us have ever enjoyed a vacation so much.

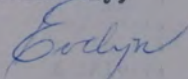
You would smile if you could how Guatemalan we are trying to live since returning home. We haven't eaten a meal except in your pottery, and last night I used the candle holders I bought, even though one did get broken. We were very fortunate to get home with most everything intact. We only had three pieces that were broken and if you could have seen all the baggage piled on top of my pottery when it came rolling into the airport here, you would say we were fortunate indeed.

When we arrived here in Miami 129 people got off the plane. We were jamed packed--and I was full of butterflies! The Sesna is too small but the jet is too big. I'm just a "medium" gal.

Tell Hugh to be sure and stop with us for as long as he can. The lychee trees are loaded with ripe fruit and the mangos will be ripe by the time he arrives. We were very sorry not to have seen him again because we both think he is one of the finest young men we have ever known.

Words cannot express our appreciation for the good treatment we received while visiting you. We only wish we could do something for you in return. I hope you can stay busy with something that interests you a great deal until time to come up to Gainesville. Do take care of yourself. We think of you with much concern.

Affectionately,



My house is sprinkled with the nice things from Antigua. I love them all.

5985 SW Montgomery Drive
Miami 56, Fla.
June 13, 1961

Dear Wilson: I want a place there for Cassara and the others. I'm still riding high on the enthusiasm we brought back with us from our visit to Antigua, and we're enjoying our loot as well. The Antigua pottery certainly goes well with your place. Before we return next year we hope we can order some things ahead, so that we can pick them up before we return. Here is a clipping of the first thing which appeared in The Herald from the Guatemala trip. However, I have a number of things in the mill, and will send copies to you as they come out. There are literally stacks of pictures, but the color in general was poor on account of the cloudy weather. One picture made up for everything, though--a shot of the church at Chichicastenango. We will use it on the cover of the travel section on June 25--unless something comes up to push the story out. I'm running a piece in my section on June 18, mainly about our trip to the highlands and about food.

Karl was home over the weekend, to take the medical board examination. He said it was a tough one. It lasted from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m., and contained hundreds of questions of a multiple-choice nature in chemistry, pharmacology, pathology, anatomy, physiology and bacteriology. All doctors have to take this examination in order to practice in Florida, and it is by far the toughest medical examination in the U.S. Florida just doesn't want too many doctors. They're already as thick as Baker County mosquitoes, but when you want them they're sometimes hard to find.

We had hoped to see Hugh as he came through. I suppose he was in a hurry to get back to Gainesville. Or, maybe he hasn't come through yet.

Looking over my notes on the banana, I'm sure I'll save this article for the Fairchild Garden bulletin. I'll have your name put on the mailing list and will ask our office to send you the last bulletin, which came out while we were in Guatemala. It has an article on the chamedorea palm, with some good illustrations. (Good, even if I did make them.) I had hoped to get a little more information on the horse banana and its exact relationship to other bananas, but our research man, Dr. Tomlinson, gave me small hope that I would be able to get much more on this variety at the present time.

We already find ourselves looking forward to that drive to Mexico City next year. We should get a book out of that. In fact, I have enough notes right now to write a book. And as far as the pictures are concerned I haven't yet had all the negatives printed. I have a stack of negatives covering the ruins of Antigua which haven't been printed. Surprisingly, the shots of the Belem Hotel turned out fairly good. It will be good to have pictures of this hotel to illustrate a story next year on the approaching horticultural meeting. Consider our reservations made as of now. However, if you have some notables who should use Casa Smiley, don't hesitate to put us in a hotel. This might be a bit of a headache, since I'm not an officer in the (over)

2985 SW Montgomery Drive
Miami 26, Fla.
June 13, 1961

organization. You'll want a place there for Cassares and the others, perhaps including a pretty high official of the Rockefeller Foundation. Maybe Hugh would come down for the meeting too. Incidentally, we are still in the weeds as to how to get down as early as possible with the details such as transporting delegates.

The Atlanta Botany Garden certainly goes well with it. I'll send a clipping of the article to you. The article is in the Herald from the 11th. I'll send you a copy of it. There are pictures of things in the mill, and will send you a copy of them. Evelyn sends her very best regards, and she wants you to know how much she is enjoying the fine things you gave including the little which is really a gem.

Sincerely,
 General was poor on account of the cloudy weather. One picture made up for everything, though. We will use it on the cover of the travel section on June 25--unless something comes up to push the story out. I'm running a piece in my section on June 18, mainly about our trip to the highlands and about food.

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We had hoped to see Hugh as he came through. I suppose he was in a hurry to get back to Gainesville. Or maybe he hasn't come through yet.

Looking over my notes on the banana, I'm sure I'll save this article for the Patricia Garden bulletin. I'll have your name put on the mailing list and will ask our office to send you the last bulletin, which came out while we were in Guatemala. It has an article on the ornamental banana with some good illustrations (Good, even if I did make them). I had hoped to get a little more information on the banana and its exact relationship to other bananas, but our research man, Dr. Tomlinson, gave me small hope that I would be able to get much more on this variety at the present time.

We already find ourselves looking forward to that drive to Mexico City next year. We should get a book out of that. In fact, I have enough notes right now to write a book. And as far as the pictures are concerned I haven't yet had all the negatives printed. I have a stack of negatives covering the ruins of Antigua which haven't been printed. Surprisingly, the shots of the Salem Hotel turned out fairly good. It will be good to have pictures of this hotel to illustrate a story next year on the approaching horticultural meeting. Consider our reservations made as of now. However, if you have some



THE MIAMI

Herald

MIAMI, FLORIDA

June 2, 1962

Dear Wilson:

Here's your membership card in the FTG. Naturally, it's a pleasure to see your name on our rolls.

We got our tickets yesterday and are scheduled to leave June 13 at 8:15 a.m. on PAA 503. Will arrive (supposedly) in Guatemala at 10:35 a.m.

That will give a couple of days relaxation before the meeting, but I'm a lot better off this year than last, thanks to having better control over my work.

We're looking forward to seeing you on the 13th. If you want us bring anything let us know.

Sincerely,

Nixon Smiley
Nixon Smiley

July 5, 1962

Dear Wilson:

We left Mexico City yesterday at 9 a.m. and arrived Miami at 2 p.m. stopping at Merida and Tampa. We liked Mexico City, but we don't mind saying that we like Guatemala much better. Tuesday we went to Pueblo and visited the pottery place. We found what we want in dishes but can order later, which we expect to do. We paid for enough tiles to cover a small table and it will be shipped in two weeks. (So they said.) Pueblo is a nice city but both Nixon and I were disappointed in the scenery on the way there and back. It is nothing to compare with Guatemala. Perhaps there are more interesting scenes in other parts of the countryside of Mexico.

Arrived home with everything in tip-top condition. Found everything at home as we left it except the grass has grown about two feet. Apparently it has rained every day since we have been away and is still raining.

I just can't tell you how much we enjoyed our visit with you. Our trips to Antigua are the high lights of our lives--to say the least.

Hope you will not stay there alone until you get lonely. Do let us know when you plan to come through Miami and we will expect you to stay a few days with us. Please don't disappoint us!

Affectionately,

Edlyn

P.D. Nixon will write soon. He is "knowed".

THE MIAMI

Herald

MIAMI, FLORIDA



NEW HERALD BUILDING NOW UNDER CONSTRUCTION

July 9, 1962

Dear Wilson:

It's been hard to find time to write since we got home, not because I am so overwhelmed by work but because I have been so relaxed that I couldn't seem to get my work done. Thus I was behind when we got home and I can't get caught. Fortunately, it does look like I will get into the groove again, within a few days.

We have wondered how things are going with you at Antigua since the crowd dispersed. It was a very active week or two, then things must have seen rather dead after all the people around. No doubt Hugh is back in Gainesville by now. He doesn't call when he comes through, but I suppose he's always in a hurry. I remember that one time he called us from Clewiston, remembering that he was to give us a message.

I am trying to ~~transcribe~~ transcribe my notes. There's a lot of them, in three notebooks. So far I have written nothing about the trip, but plan to do so soon. Dr. Walter Hodge has been with us over the weekend, and we have talked a lot about the FTG. It looks like our man Dr. Tomlinson has a good chance to get a grant of money to do some work, and it looks like he may stay with us for another couple of years.

Evelyn and I did enjoy ourselves a great deal in Guatemala, thanks mainly to you. It was a memorable trip, and one we won't ever forget. Many of the photographs turned out quite well, and they will come in handy from time to time as I need them ~~to~~ to go with stories. At the moment it is not clear just how they will be used, or what stories I will write.

As everyone ~~has~~ expected, the mosquitoes came in tremendous numbers when they did hit us this year. They were arriving at the same time we arrived from Mexico. I believe you could have caught ~~them~~ a bucketful with one swing ~~rather~~ rather than having to make two swings through the air. I made some photographs this morning in South Dade County. I have never seen so many mosquitoes in one place. I talked with a grove owner who hadn't seen so thick since the 1930's. Spraying for the medfly doesn't seem to faze the mosquitoes.

Let us know when you plan to come through here, and if you plan to stay over any time. We will be happy to meet you at the airport if you do plan to stay over. Anyway, please call us if you have the time, at MO 7-1471. If you have to lay over for several hours, maybe Evelyn could pick you up and we could eat a meal together.

Sincerely,
Nixon Smiley

THE MIAMI

Herald

MIAMI, FLORIDA



NEW HERALD BUILDING NOW UNDER CONSTRUCTION

July 18, 1962

Dear Wilson:

It would be difficult to tell you how much we enjoyed your letter to Evelyn. It took us back to the delightful visit in Guatemala, and our drives over the country, to Escuentla, Panajachel, Tecpan and to Coban. And when you begin suggesting other trips next summer, well, our enthusiasm begins to build up so much that the urge to plan things at once takes hold of us.

At the present time we're re-living the Guamatela trip by transcribing the many notes we took down. I dictate from the notebooks to a Gray Audiograph machine, which records everything on a record, then Evelyn transcribes this on her electric typewriter. Despite much dictating already, we have just arrived at Panajachel. So, we still have a far way to go yet.

It so happened that Hugh came through on the very day I wrote to you and said that he had not stopped by or called. That evening he called from the airport. We invited him out and took him to the Lobster House in Perrine to eat. He drove on from there to John's house in Homestead where he was to spend the night before hastening (road-flying) to Gainesville. The palms arrived in good condition. Although they had to be fumigated because a number of mites and scales were found on them, all came through well, which shows how tough this palm is. Fumigation kills many palms, or injures them so badly that they don't recover.

I have been so swamped with routine work that I haven't had all the time I needed to write about the Guatemala experiences. But I do have one story completed, to go with the very good photographs of the Solala market. Other articles will come up in time, including one on travel. What I'll do otherwise I don't yet know; but the political picture is covered so frequently I think I'll skip it.

Before I forget it, Johnny Lynch wrote and asked me to get in touch with you about a matter. His companion in Guatemala, who you undoubtedly met, is a well known Florida artist. While in Guatemala he made several sketches, and Johnny said ~~some~~ some of these turned out exceedingly well. Now he wants to donate one to the Guatemala museum of fine arts, "in memory of Dr. Wilson Popenoe." Fine. But how does he go about it? Could you give me a brief fill-in on this so I can take it up with Johnny?

(over)

We have been enjoying a fine mango season. Most trees set two crops this year, a couple of weeks apart. So our season of early maturing varieties has been extended into July, with the result that we have been eating Carries along with Kents.

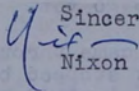
Bill Krome is going to bring us over some Sandershas Saturday and Evelyn and I will make a chutney in the afternoon. As you may remember, she can't handle mangos, since they poison her. So I have ~~to~~ to do all the peeling and the cutting-up.

Had a note yesterday that the books by Thomas Gage, ~~wh~~ which I ordered from our friend Hugh Cragg in Guatemala City are on their way. Now I learn that a University of Oklahoma Press has just published a book covering the life of Gage. It should be interesting, and I'm writing for it.

Everything is going well ~~in~~ with us. Evelyn sends her usual caution ~~to~~ about getting the food you require, without the salt. She's concerned when you're ~~in~~ traveling about the country.

Please let us hear from you when there's time to write.

Sincerely,


Nixon Smiley

Antigua G, 26 July 1962

Dear Johnny:

Please put the enclosed in your pipe and smoke it. Then tell me if you have any suggestions. I intend to live until I see the shores of Lake Izabal one continuous apple orchard; away with Hugh's plantations of Zea mays!

As I have already told you, I am also on the trail of the elusive *Vitis*, and have got Jorge Benitez all pepped up so he will order a lot for the IAW. The main things we want are Catawba, Concord, Isabella (which we can get locally), Pierce, Sheridan, Golden Muscat and Niagara. Those will tell the story.

Tell Scott to get offn the ^{Al} Fabuscens boat and scramble aboard our ~~craft~~, the *R. rosaeifolius*. Believe it or not, Arturo Falla is making money offn this thing and says local folks are making jam out of it to sell. I wonder what they put in the jam to make it taste like something.

Jorge ^{and I} had a swell trip of 3 days, covering in two long ones the territory you birds covered in the Quezaltenango zone in 3 hrs. And when Jorge pointed out the young lady who entertained you - and whom I had met previously, - I couldn't convince myself that you really worried much about woolly aphids and how did you ever get away in 3 hrs? I figure on going over to the apple country again at the end of next week; have just about got Juarez "Johnathan" nailed down as Ben Davis and want to clinch it. I believe old Juarez switched all the names, except the one he changed entirely to Juarez and maybe I will yet tie that down to Seek No Further of Granny Smith or Calville de Saint Sauveur.

Ever yrs

March 8, 1963

Dear Wilson:

Your article about Dr. Fairchild is a gem! Nixon and I both read it with a great deal of enjoyment and the stories you tell are wonderful. He would have written to you, but you can't imagine how snowed under he is unless you were here. So, I told him this a.m. that I would drop you a note and welcome you to Casa Smiley when you arrive next week.

I believe we have an interesting program for the Annual Meeting. Also, we have a bit of recreation planned that should be relaxing to all the VIP's attending.

Now I want you to feel that you have a bed waiting for you and food when you so desire--any time you want to come and stay with us. I know you plan to meet your brother in Homestead but when you get your stay out there, come on up any time to our house.

Believe me, Nixon is going to be ready for a vacation in July. Don't think I have ever seen him work so hard. He takes everything too seriously--and especially the Garden. He is so anxious to leave there with everything in ~~an~~ apple pie order.

See you soon.

Affectionately,

Evelyn

I hear the Noggles are planning to come to the Annual Meeting.

April 5, 1963

Dear Wilson:

I sent a couple of letters on to you this week which had come to the F.T.G. in care of Nixon. Had hoped to write before this time but much has happened since your departure to Guatemala.

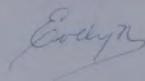
As you know, everything was going along so well with Nixon at the hospital when you left. Then, Thursday when I had expected to bring him home, I had this call at 7 a.m. that he had had a miserable night. I, of course, went flying over there and found him out of bed--no one could do anything with him--they had given him everything they could to kill the pain, and yet it continued. I was unable to get his doctor to the hospital and had to call in another specialist. He found a eye lash in the eye which he said could have triggered off the spasms of pain he had had from midnight until the thing was removed about 8:30 a.m. I don't have to tell you what a set back it was for him. I stayed at the hospital all day just sitting by him and holding his hand. He didn't want me to leave him for a minute. However, I am happy to report that he now is showing improvement each day. The doctor let us bring him home Sunday. I say "us" because Karl flew down from Atlanta over the week end and it was worth more to Nixon than anyone can ever know. When I took him to the doctor's office Wed. he was not so encouraging as we had hoped. He did, however, assure us that he is making progress even though it is slow and will be for some time to come. He still gets medication every two hours. So, with being chief cook and bottle washer and also part-time secretary and full time nurse, I'm never bored with time on my hands!

Cecelia Schenider, secretary at the Garden for so many years and a very capable gal, is coming every morning to the house where she takes dictation. He is also dictating on the machine to get out some things for The Herald. This is what I take care of for him.

Wilson, it was wonderful to have you here those few days when I had much on my mind. You certainly did a lot to cheer me. We feel like you are one of us (as though you belong in our family) and I hope you feel the same when you are in our home.

I will keep you posted. I am so behind with all correspondence.

Affectionately,



24 April 1963

Nixon Smiley, Esq.,
Director, Fairchild Tropical Garden
Miami, Florida

Dear Nixon:

When I talked at the 25th Anniversary Celebration of the Fairchild Tropical Garden you told me that I was entitled to an honorarium of One Hundred Dollars. The opportunity to take part in this celebration was such a privilege that I could not think of accepting an honorarium.

I would like to ask, therefore, that the amount due me be retained by the garden and devoted to any purpose you may see fit to indicate.

With warmest regards.

Sincerely yours,

Wilson Popenoe

THE MIAMI *Herald*



No. 1 HERALD PLAZA • MIAMI 32, FLORIDA • TELEPHONE 350-2111 • AREA CODE 305

May 13, 1963

Dear Wilson:

Just a note and also a couple of those permits that you asked for. I'll send more, or bring more, when I head for Guatemala on July 1.

By the time you get ready to send the plants, John will be in charge of things at the FTG, so you'll have no troubles. But if you send plants before then, it will be all right. Nor will it cost you half of your plants for us to take care of them for you.

The picture arrived. I agree that it is better than the other.

My eye is almost back to normal. I'm going to the doctor for my last trip, I hope, in a few minutes.

Sincerely,

Nixon Smiley
Nixon Smiley

The Fairchild Tropical Garden 10901 OLD CUTLER ROAD, MIAMI 56, FLA. • MO 1-3022
Incorporated Under the Laws of the State of Florida

April 30, 1963

Dr. Wilson Popenoe,
Escuela Agrícola Panamericana,
Tegucigalpa,
Honduras.

Dear Wilson:

Your letter reads like you have been getting around quite a lot and enjoying your experiences. I know you must have been extremely happy over the election of Chico de Sola as President of the Board.

Evelyn and I have been wondering whether we should try to drive over to El Salvador to spend a day or so with the de Solas during the time we are in Guatemala. What do you think? Should we all plan this trip? We should try to get visas here if you think the idea is a good one. We are open-minded about it.

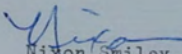
Many thanks for the donation of the honorarium to the FTG. It is a good thing your letter came when it did, because I was getting ready to send a check down to Guatemala where I thought you still would be.

The April Bulletin, which is going to be late, is now at the printers. I am going to begin work immediately on the July Bulletin so that it will be printed before I leave for Guatemala early in July. As far as I know we plan to take the first PAA plane out of here after the beginning of July.

I believe we have given up the idea of stopping off at Merida. Since we plan to go to Tikal I see no special reason for us to endure the July heat of Merida for three days.

Sincerely,

Fairchild Tropical Garden, Inc.


Nixon Smiley,
Director.

NS/cs

The Fairchild Tropical Garden 10901 OLD CUTLER ROAD, MIAMI 56, FLA. • MO 1-3022
Incorporated Under the Laws of the State of Florida

June 16, 1963

Dear Wilson:

Your check and letter arrived just before we left last week for Atlanta to see Karl walk across the stage and pick up his MD degree. We'll follow through with your requests but must insist on sharing the cost of the liquor since we will be consuming a goodly portion of it, no doubt.

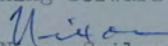
We already have written that our plane will arrive in Guatemala at 10:40 am. on June 28. We decided to take the Friday flight rather than the Monday (July 1) flight because it gives us more time in Guatemala and because it is direct, with no stopping in Merida.

I had hoped to have the July Bulletin out before leaving, but this will be impossible now. Too many things have been developing that delayed getting the copy to the printer. The last delay was our waiting to hear from the American Philosophical Society about a decision on a request by John for a grant of \$7,500 to be used for the introduction and establishment at the FTG of native and Bahamas Caribbean flora. The grant was approved. Now I see no reason why John could not ask the National Science Foundation for a grant to pursue some line of research along lines of strong personal interest. We need more information on so many things among the tropical fruits that I am sure John can come up with one or more good projects to work on.

Here I want to take some space to tell you how much Evelyn and I enjoyed your two-page letter written on June 5. I'm filing the "taller de mecanica" story. To me it illustrates so well what I feel about what I have seen in Latin America, and it certainly is a vivid portraill of your own experiences and also of the tolerance you have developed in order to live there and enjoy both the countries and the people. (I could say a few things here about Baker County, but will wait until we can have a chance to exchange viewpoints.)

The 200 copieess of the FTG Bulletin will be ordered. The cost will be little more. As you know, once you have 2,000 printed another 200 doesn't cost much more. They'll run off almost this many while getting the press stopped.

Needless to say, we are eagerly looking forward to June 28.

Sincerely, 
Nixon Smiley

5985 SW Montgomery Drive
Miami 56, Fla.
July 25, 1963

Dear Wilson:

That big PAA plane got us to Miami without the slightest croak in the throttle. We were over the lime sinks of the Coban area before we gained full altitude, of 32,000 feet--and we got to Miami in a little over two hours.

We found everything normal here. The house was dry because we had left it closed tightly after running the airconditioners and eliminating as much moisture as possible. Even the lawn was newly mowed, as our Colored man had been here to cut the grass a few days before our return. And, I should add, we got in with all of our baggage in good condition. The only mishap was a crushed avocado--the ceramic one, of course. The rum rode well, and the bottles still preserved their Antigua coolness, which we couldn't help but notice in our warm climate. We've had rum-and-coke and rum-and-Persian-limes, both of which have been excellent. Nobody could complain about the quality of Botran.

I want to take space here to tell you how much our stay in Guatemala has--and will--meant to us. The notes taken are of good quality, thanks so much to the tape-recorder. Yesterday and last night I finally got down the last notes, mainly on Tikal and also comment by Chris. However, the latter is not intended for the book. I intend to stay away from politics as much as possible. But whatever happens, the notes are invaluable. One of the first things I want to do is to go through them, outline roughly the chapters I hope to do, and then dictate a rough draft. However, I do face the problem of tackling a new assignment for The Herald, and this may take up a lot of my energy for the next two months or so. After I get going on the new job, though, I will have extra time. It won't be like working two jobs, each of which is really a full-time job.

So far as I know the orchids arrived in good condition. I left them at the airport for fumigation. They were to be ready yesterday afternoon, and I assume that John had them picked up. I saw him yesterday morning and he said he would do so and that he would follow up your instructions about forwarding them to Gainesville. I also advised him about the 200 extra copies of the last bulletin which we had run off for you. There is an unfortunate typo in my introduction to your paper. It gives your date of marriage as 1903 instead of 1923; but the position is such anyone reading it will realize what happened. I did not see the proofs before I left or I most certainly would have caught that one.

I'm glad to see John taking things easy on his new job, rather than jumping in with legs running and arms swinging. It is going to take some time for him to get the full job under his belt, along with all the details; but I sensed that he was understanding his problems as he faced them and had a good idea of how he might solve them. Some of the normal complications have arisen that are delaying

construction on his new house. Coral Gables is a tough one to work with. I thought everything had been worked out satisfactorily, but no; somebody has changed their minds about details of the zoning and we're facing the same situation we faced at the beginning. This means we must start all over again. It's simply a question of our wanting to face the house south and Coral Gables says we must face it west.

Evelyn will write in a day or so, but she thought that I should write first, as a matter of principle, because, she explained, the trip and all the trouble we went to was mainly for the notes that I took, while our pleasures--as many as they were--were incidental to an assignment . . . my assignment. Whatever the case, expect to hear from her soon.

You may have received by now a letter to me from John. There's no need of returning it. Just open it. He asked for some green sapote seeds, which I easily could have brought him. If he still wants them I suppose he will be getting in touch with you.

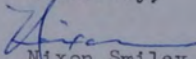
I told him about the pineapple plants, and he is very much interested in them. So, maybe when you find the plants you might also get Gonzalo to clean 40 or 50 green sapote seeds for John. He is going to plant a couple of the chayote seeds, if they survive fumigation.

Well, I must be off to The Herald. I'm to have lunch with the boss and see what he's got on his mind. I will start to work tomorrow or on Monday, depending on what the plans are for me.

I want to end by saying again how much we enjoyed ourselves, and how much we appreciate how much trouble you went to in order to make our visit to Guatemala the most enjoyable trip we have ever taken anywhere. Now we are looking forward to Spain next year, if all goes well and if you still plan to be there at that time.

Evelyn asks to be remembered.

Sincerely,


Nixon Smiley

July 27, 1963

Dear Wilson:

After nearly a month of being "a lady" I'm getting back into the old routine of being chief cook and bottle washer! And I would like to add that the food doesn't taste as good here as it did at your house. You might give this bit of information to Maria--because it's true. Even the tortillias don't taste as we ll here as they do in Casa Popenoe. We just can't bring Guatemala to Miami, as hard as we have tried.

This brings to mind the very fine picture which you gave us, painted by Valesquez. We have hung it where we can view it from the table when we eat. The more we look at it, the more we admire it. Nixon thinks it is the best work he has done and I can't tell you how much we both appreciate your going to the trouble and expense to have it painted for us. It certainly brings fine memories into our home. Today we hung the three masks we got in Chichicastanango. They add something to the breezeway which is pleasing. I have one of the blankets on the living room floor as a rug (put it there just to try it) but it looks wonderful. The rich colors give the room what it needed--a lift, so to speak. I'm afraid it may never get to a bed.

And now for the best news, so far as you are concerned. I found another box of Cuesta Rey Ace for you today. Will mail them to Hugh Monday and ask him to have Dr. Watkins take them down to you. I have an idea that we may be able to pick up a box here and there from time to time. Anyway, we'll try.

Dr. Ziegler called about 8 last night. He was obligated to go to the home of his daughter-in-law to be "for the evening. However, we probably will be up Gainesville way before long and will see him at that time. We had hoped he would spend the night with us but of course understood his situation.

The weather is hot, hot, hot. If we didn't have air conditioning it would be too much. After that cool invigorating climate in the highlands of Guatemala, this south Florida sea level weather is hard to take. We found everything in good condition at home, however. Our colored man had been here only a couple of days before we returned and had moved.

Everyone tells Nixon how well he looks. He has had a wonderful vacation and will report to his new assignment Monday with a great deal of enthusiasm and vigor. His first story will be a series on flood control. This afternoon while I am writing you, he is guess what? Dictating on the book already--just like you use it. Right? For everything again. Affectionately, *Carly*

Copy of a letter from Doctor Gilbert H Grosvenor to Nixon Smiley,
Dated 21 August 1963:

Dear Mr. Smiley:

Congratulations on the fascinating July 1963
Bulletin of the Fairchild Tropical Garden. I earnestly hope you will
continue as Editor of the Bulletin.

Wilson Popenoe's article on David Fairchild touches me very deeply.
He gives a delightful picture of Mr and Mrs Fairchild, especially Mrs
Fairchild.

With kindest remembrances to you and Mrs Smiley, in which my wife
joins,

Sincerely yours,

(signed) Gilbert Grosvenor

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(signed) Gilbert Grosvenor

ROBERT MEYER
MOTOR INN
ORLANDO, FLORIDA

DOWNTOWN ON LAKE EOLA
OVERLOOKING THE BEAUTIFUL FOUNTAIN
ONE BLOCK FROM VERY HEART OF CITY



A Florida Show Place

Sept. 4, 1963

Dear Wilson:

We came to Orlando yesterday for 4 days while Nixon gathers information for a story on this city. Have a real luxury room on the 4th floor of a new Motor Inn, and overlooking Lake Eola--to the tune of \$14.50 per day. No, this price does not include meals, but let me hasten to add that ONLY because The Herald is picking up the bill are we here!

We are adjusting ourselves to a completely new life. Nixon is traveling about the state a great deal and I will accompany him part of the time. The latter part of Aug. he was away for almost 2 weeks, but I stayed and kept the home fires burning. However, it gets a bit lonely night after night being alone, so I will probably tag along a good part of the time.

Nixon saw Hugh a few days ago when he was in Gainesville. We were thrilled to hear that you two are planning a trip next year together through Spain and France. Hugh mentioned our going along, and we both want to go so much we are about to go nuts ~~xx~~ trying to figure out a way. What a rare experience it would be to tour those two countries in your company! A person shouldn't mind going into debt for a trip like that. Looking forward to your visit in November when we must visit the Spanish Monastery--before you depart for Spain.

The book is coming along. I wouldn't say that it has developed into anything great yet, but Nixon is making progress. I enjoy taking some of the dictation because I have the pleasure of reliving some of the fine experiences the three of us had together while the information was being gathered. With being away from home so much-- and this new job does take a considerable amount of his time-- he is not going as fast as he would like. It always is hard to get the desired trend of thought on a thing like this when one is jumping from one thing to another. He says if he could get with it, and stay with it, that he could really get somewhere. However, I think it is going to be a very interesting and valuable book, and I believe that you will be pleased. We are both very enthused about getting the finished product, and so, we will see what happens.

Other Meyer Hotels

Thought you might like to see the enclosed letter ^{e1}
ROBERT MEYER MOTOR HOTEL, JACKSONVILLE, FLA. HOTEL THE WATERFALL, RALEIGH, N. C.

Appelton
Evelyn

Sept. 9, 1963

Dear Wilson:

Your letter of Sept. 3 arrived this morning. I have just talked with John on telephone and he tells me he sent a Bulletin to you last week via air mail to the school. By this time, you most likely have it in hand. I also gave him the instructions about sending 50 to Antigua and the others to Gainesville.

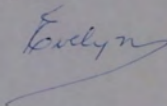
I wrote to you last week while in Orlando. Nixon spent five days there getting information for a story on that city. I am glad that you have seen some of his articles about the state. I may be prejudice^d, but I feel that he is doing a very fine job.

But, back to the letter which I wrote. I sent it to Antigua at Nixon's suggestion. Now, I suppose, it will lie there until you return in November. No great news in it, however, but did enclose a letter from Dr. Grosvenor to Nixon in which he was praising your article in the July Bulletin about Dr. and Mrs. Fairchild.

We are working every spare moment on the Guatemala story. It is coming along. Am taking dictation today. Have enough to keep me occupied for several hours.

Tell us of your fall plans in the next letter. We hope you still plan to visit us on your way to Spain.

Affectionately,



5985 SW Montgomery Drive
Miami 56, Fla.
Sept. 23, 1963

Dear Wilson:

I took the liberty of opening your letter to Evelyn who is in North Carolina where her mother is seriously ill and is not expected to live. She is 83 years old and has been in poor health for some time.

Needless to say, Evelyn was immensely happy when I read your letter to her over the phone this afternoon. And I'm answering immediately to express her gratitude and mine for the Garavito. We had never expected to be able to own a Garavito, but should have been "suspicious" when the artist came around and both of you began to ask questions about how Evelyn and I would like this or that. The picture will be more than a work of art. It will always be a pleasant reminder of the richly rewarding visits we have had with you while staying in "Casa Smiley" in Antigua.

The book is coming along. Or, I should say more correctly, the manuscript is. I've been dictating a lot while Evelyn has been away, and have a week's typing or more for her to do when she returns. She will be glad to have something to do for a few days, especially the typing of this manuscript, because it also will bring back memories of Guatemala. Since she has been away I have dictated chapters on our trip to Huehuetenango, about our Host, and also the trip to Esquipulas. And I've got a lot yet to go. It's going to be quite long. As you know, I've got scads of notes, and most of them are good because they were caught "live."

The first draft is a mess, but I'm not stopping to mend anything until I get through the whole thing. Then I can go over it and see what I want to change, and how. Then we'll copy it again, on yellow second sheets to separate it from the white second sheets. And, after making corrections and changes in that draft, we'll put it on slick paper and make a carbon or two. What I'll do with it then I don't know. I haven't crossed that stream bed yet. (There're not many bridges to cross in this book, because we were on those back roads so much.)

That possible trip next year to Europe is keying me up so much with anticipatory enthusiasm that I'm about ready to go out and borrow money for our fare. I've been told by a number of persons that we should be willing to borrow, beg, steal or do just about anything else to be able to make this trip with you. It would be a wonderful and unforgettable experience. There is hope we can find a way to do it, since living conditions will not be costly once we reach Europe. I really don't know what Hugh's fine plans are. We talked a lot about generalities because I didn't have a chance to see him very long. We did go out to dinner together one evening while I was in Gainesville. But as I recall he did say specifically that he planned to go with you to Spain and to France next summer, and he suggested that Evelyn and I go along. There is always the chance that Hugh might be tied up with teaching and could not go. But he's a bit freer now than he was, and maybe he could arrange his schedule. As you know, Evelyn and I could not hope to stay longer than about a month. That doesn't

seem very long. But remember how much we did in Guatemala in three weeks and a bit over. We could do a lot in Spain and France in a month. If I had any idea of what the cost might be I could begin looking into the possibilities of going with you. You probably have some idea of how much it would cost on the road each day for our share. With that information plus the cost of transportation maybe we could figure out a way to get there and back.

The problem of continuing to help our medical son while he works for 12 hours a day six days a week still faces us. He is doing a wide variety of surgery now, including amputations, hernias, appendectomies by the ~~score~~ score. But these fellows don't get much in the way of returns. Karl gets \$100 a month. Next year his pay will jump 50 per cent, and he will receive \$150x a month.

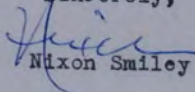
My new job is great, although the work is hard. I had to drive up to Jacksonville Wednesday to cover a meeting that The Herald thought highly important, and then had to return and write a very long piece for tomorrow's (Sunday) paper. I also have a long piece on Orlando coming out in the same paper. The job is a great challenge and I like it immensely.

We got straight with the Coral Gables zoning board and with God, and so now we can go ahead and build John's house. Everything's ready to go ahead and I expect to see the contractor on the job this coming week. John should have a very good house, but I think that all the gingerbread these Coral Gables people made the architect put on the outside of the house will cheapen its appearance. I would never want to live in a place that dictated what I could build like these people in Coral Gables do.

I'd like to wind up by saying a word or two about that tape recorder I used in Guatemala. I had it with me when I drove up to Jacksonville. On the way up I dictated the basis of stories I had to write up there, and on the way back dictated three stories which will be used as features or in my Cracker Viewpoint column. The last I don't have much time to write any more, because it is something that takes a little thought and writing time--and I don't have much to spare of either any more.

But I'm finding the time to dictate that Guatemala manuscript, and will continue until it is finished. And, by the way, I hope you will be nearby when the second draft is finished. I want you to read over that one. If there's no chance that you'll be up this way, I'll have to get a carbon made.

Sincerely,


Nixon Smiley

5985 SW 120th St
Miami 56

Oct. 19, 1963

Dear Wilson:

We came back last night from Naples, via Immokalee, Sam Jones Old Town in the Big Cypress Indian Reservation, Lake Harbor on Lake Okeechobee, South Bay, Pennsuco, to find your letter of Oct. 14 waiting for us. As always, we read it with interest as well as with chuckle-headed amusement. Who could think of Hotel Canada without a chuckle? Yet, our ~~stay~~ stay there was one of our most delightful experiences in Guatemala. I haven't come to that part of the manuscript, but am looking forward to it.

Incidentally, I have been forced to give my Herald job full attention, and then some, for the past couple of weeks. And the week before I had to go to North Carolina when Evelyn's mother, who was 85, died. Then we had this hurricane, Flora, which battered the hell out of Castro. Last Monday we went over to the West Coast to do a number of articles, and got back Friday night. And now it looks like we may go to Jacksonville soon, as I am scheduled to do a long article on that city. After that we will follow Route 1A southward, doing an article a day on the trip.

Im now beginning to face a bit of a problem with the manuscript--how much to leave out. Dictating away while Evelyn was in North Carolina, I found myself getting involved with trip to Hugh's test plots at Lake Izabal. Now I'm sure this won't do. It's too far off the subject, although it may seem related to what we are doing about Guatemala. But literarily it doesn't fit and must be abandoned. Now I must backtrack a bit.

But now that you say you'll fly up when the first draft is ready gives me the urge to work as hard as possible to get it ready for you to see. How I make out, though, is up to The Herald.

Please let us know as far in adance as possible when you plan to come up this fall--if you do. As you know, I'm on the road quite a bit now, and we sure wouldn't ~~want~~ want to be away at the time of your arrival. If we knew ahead of time we could schedule our trips accordingly, I am sure.

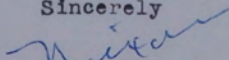
It looks like Hugh is going to have a plane load of stuff to bring back, in addition to his 2300 pounds of soils samples. Evelyn and I are looking forward to seeing that Garavito, as well ~~as~~ as getting the chairs. We can't tell you how much we appreciate all ~~this~~ of this.

There is little else to tell at the moment. I'm not sure whether work on John's house has begun. We've had a lot of rain recently, and the contractor has been held up on another job because of it. But we needed the rain, first to raise the water table, and ~~secondly~~ secondly to wash the mites and immature scales off the leaves.

I'll get back on that Guatemala manuscript as soon as possible. I've got to work this weekend on stuff I picked up on the Naples trip, but maybe the evenings of next week will be free.

Evelyn asked to be remember, just before she left to pick up the mail a few minutes ago, and now she has come back with a letter from you, this one about sending a reporter to Honduras to cover that situation down there. I'll take it up with George Beebe, our managing editor, just as soon as I can get in touch with him. How I would like to go myself, but we have Latin experts, and no doubt one of them would be sent. It's not good policy to cut across lines and send somebody else. Although you never know what the management may do. I'm for going if they want me to go. Whatever happens, I'll let you know--if I can find out, that is.

Sincerely



Nixon Smiley

November 7, 1963

Dear Wilson:

This is being written in the hope that it might help to persuade you to spend the Christmas holidays in Florida!

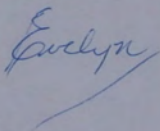
You have been constantly on my mind these past few days as I now am working again on the manuscript. It is a great pleasure to be able to re-live those wonderful days the three of us spent together in Guatemala.

We can't promise for sure that the first draft will be ready for you to read by Christmas. However, we darn well will try. So, plan to make your reservation with Aviateca right away. You have Hugh in Gainesville, John in Homestead--and of course, you have the Smileys in Miami. I can't think of anything worse than for you to stay in Guatemala when we all want you here so very much.

At last, they have started John's house. If you come in December you should be able to see the roof on it.

Please let us hear from you real soon--with the news I want to hear!

As ever, affectionately,



P.S. Montgomery Dr. and 120 Street are one and the same.
We should be consistent.

Dec. 9, 1963

Dear Wilson:

Since you move about so much lately it's hard to know where to send your letters. However, I suppose if you are not in Antigua that Toya will forward your mail.

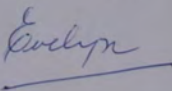
I must tell you how pleased I am with the picture (which is one of the finest Christmas presents I have ever received) and also the two chairs. Nixon has written to you about our meeting Hugh at the airport the night he came through and getting both pictures. The one for Mrs. Montgomery is very fine too, and we will send it to Washington to her. We had no trouble getting the chairs and I am just as happy with them as anyone could possibly be. The contoured chair which Nix on likes so much really looks great where we have it--and of course the little mahogany chair is really a prize. They both fit into our house and give it a great deal of character. The only thing lacking now is the fact that you don't plan to spend the holidays with us. We have invited William Lyman Phillips for Christmas dinner and we plan to have a wild turkey which Nixon killed about two weeks ago on a hunting trip at Immokolee. I might add that it is a very rare occasion when he goes hunting anymore!

We have just finished the Ramble last Friday and Saturday with the total intake of \$25,000 plus. This is the best we have ever done. We have gifts coming yet which will amount to about three thousand.

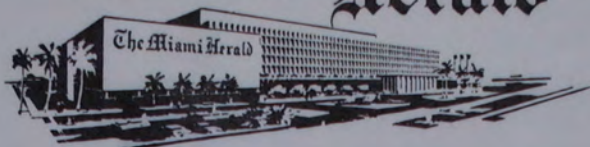
John's house is really taking shape and they are putting the roof on now. So you see they are even ahead of schedule. I suppose he and Gerry will be able to move in early in 1964.

The manuscript is coming along. We are now working on chapter 7. Still hoping you will change your mind and come on up for Christmas. It would be so wonderful to have you. We have room because Earl and Charlotte will not be home.

Affectionately,


Evelyn

THE MIAMI Herald



No. 1 HERALD PLAZA • MIAMI 32, FLORIDA • TELEPHONE 350-2111 • AREA CODE 305

Dec. 11, 1963

Dear Wilson:

Here is a copy of the Guatemala story. The government of Guatemala liked it so well that a marimba band was sent to play here at The Herald during the lunch hour tomorrow (Thursday).

A bit of the story had to be cut to get it in the space, including a reference to Moran's shop, as I noted after the paper had come out.

I'm not finding much time to work on the Guatemala story, but we're still making some progress. I've completed chapter 7.

Mr. Herrera wrote a letter, thanking me for the mention of the Palace Hotel, and inviting us to make it our headquarters. Very nice of him. I answered and thanked him with much appreciation.

The turnpike from Miami to Wildwood will be completed in January. Hugh can really fly then. The speed limit's 70, but they don't stop you unless you're approaching 80. When Interstate-75 is complete next fall, he can take it at Gainesville, drive to Wildwood, change to the turnpike, and get to Miami in about four and a half hours. (I don't know whether I want to ride with him.)

We are enjoying the Garavito. Does he do watercolor sketches? We're wondering about the possibility of having some sketches of the house done, like the one he did for Mrs. Montgomery, as well as sketches of windows and doors, ~~mm~~ the loggia, etc. But we'll wait until the book is completed so we can determine ~~mmmmmmmm~~ what we might need to illustrate it--and if the book ~~m~~ is done well enough for publication. (It's not easy when you have to work little by little.)

I'll do my best to have a draft of the book ready by February.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'Nixon Smiley'.

Nixon Smiley

Jan. 27, 1964

Dear Wilson:

Just as soon as I finish dictating this short note to you I will keep this hot machine running to dictate the last few paragraphs of chapter 12 of the Guatemala-Wilson Popenoe story. The last chapter deals with our trip to Tikal. I have taken some liberties with time and with characters, but it looks like the chapter will succeed very well. Naturally, I did not mention the behavior of the wild man, although I mentioned his "dig" without giving his name. As with the other chapters, you may have a number of suggestions when you read it.

We are leaving Tuesday for a trip to the West Coast where we'll be for about two weeks. Among other places we'll go is Tarpon Springs, where we will see the people and do the things you suggested. I'm even going to order the mutton, although Evelyn hasn't made up her mind whether she will go for it.

If you plan to come up this way around the first of March we'll do our best to be here at that time. I feel sure it can be arranged. I have to go down to the Florida Keys after the trip to the West Coast, but that should take no more than a week.

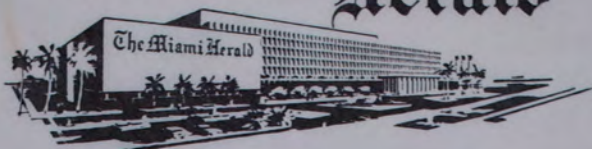
We'll be away during most of the latter half of March, and even during the first part of April. We will leave here soon after March 16th for North Carolina where we'll be for a few days before driving out to Houston in order to arrive there on March 25. We'll stay with Karl and Charlotte two or three days. We are expecting a grand child around the 1st of March and naturally we will be looking forward to seeing it. Moreover, Karl gets a weeks vacation at the end of March. After leaving there we'll come by New Orleans and proceed to Florida where I am to begin a series of articles on the West Coast from Pensacola around the Gulf. We'll be on the road 10 days to two weeks.

Do you have any suggestions about New Orleans--which good eating places we should visit?

If you can, please let us know what your plans are. We do hope you can get up here early in March. I still have a lot to do on the manuscript, but, for the most part, the skeleton is all ready. All we've got to do is put a little flesh and muscle on it here and there and get off a bit of the fat.

Sincerely,

THE MIAMI Herald



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Feb. 13, 1964

Dear Wilson:

Here is a copy of that story on Tarpon Springs which is a follow-up to the advice you dictated on the tape machine one day in Guatemala as we drove over the plateau of Chimaltenango toward Tecpan. As the story indicates, we did everything you said to do, except that we didn't get around to eating the mutton. By the time we had eaten a Greek salad and a baklava we had no room left for the mutton. We'll have to wait until we can all go to gether. We'll divide a mutton chop, maybe.

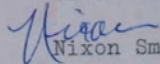
Incidentally, Evelyn served black bean soup and Greek salad last night to Nell and Al Jennings and Barbara and Lelo Mueller. It was better than the best we at Pappas's restaurant. We bought stuff at Angel's to make the salad, including those wonderful ripe Greek olives; but Evelyn added some things of her own, and everybody was crazy about the product. The salad was not cheap. We had a freeze here a few weeks ago and vegetables are high.

Yes, we're looking forward to seeing you in March. We go to Houston at the end of the month, so, if you wish, you can ride with us as far as Gainesville. Meanwhile, the manuscript--the first draft--has been completed. I'm now going over it and Evelyn is completing the typing. We'll make corrections and changes after you arrive. We'll be ready to wind it up then. There are 12 chapters, ending with our trip to Tikal.

As soon as you know when you're to arrive let us know so that we can meet you.

We'll have to leave sometime between March 18 and March 20, in order to get out to Houston at the time Karl's short vacation starts. But if we don't finish going over the manuscript before we have to leave, you can take that part with you to Gainesville.

Sincerely,


Nixon Smiley

Feb. 16, 1964

Dear Wilson:

We are looking forward to seeing you March 10. Let us know what time to meet you at airport.

I wonder if you would do me the favor to bring up a rough lemon (artificial) when you come. It can be obtained from a little grocery store across the street from May's Shop.

John and Jeri should be in their new house about the first of March. It is really a very nice place.

Nixon may have written to you about our trip to the West Coast 10 days ago. We enjoyed Tarpon Springs - especially the good Greek food. Your recommendations were a great help.

See you soon -
Evelyn -




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THE MIAMI Herald



No. 1 HERALD PLAZA • MIAMI 32, FLORIDA • TELEPHONE 350-2111 • AREA CODE 305

Feb. 29, 1964

Dear Wilson:

Looks like you have planned an interesting meeting in Guatemala. Wish I could have attended. When you come up maybe we can get together and do an article (interview type) on Wallace's corn plan. I know this has been your idea for many years. It's interesting to note that an expert breeder like Wallace ~~Cambridge~~ is planning to see what he can do with the idea.

Recently while talking with the landscape architect, William L. Phillips, he said that the park, or square, in Antigua was one of the finest examples of landscape design and maintenance that he knew of anywhere else in the world. And Bill has been in Europe where he studied Spanish, French, Italian and English gardens.

I wonder if you happen to know anything about the history of this plaza--when it was planned and planted and by whom. We should mention this plaza in the manuscript. Unfortunately, I have no pictures of it that are any good. It's almost impossible to photograph. Anything you could get on the plaza, though, we would use, even if we don't have a good photograph.

This plaza is altogether different from any other landscape job I have seen in Latin America. Perhaps the fine care this park receives is a reflection of the pride the people of Antigua have in their town. You may remember that we often referred to this pride while driving through the chuck holes of Santa Maria de Jesus, Esquipulas, or Tecpan.

The grandson arrived, on Feb. 22. Maybe Evelyn has written about it. I've been away for several days and just got back yesterday. The name is Thomas Nixon Smiley. "he "Nixon" is silent. One in a family is enough. I've never been much for juniors, or seconds and thirds. I know one family where there is a VI. They've forgotten who was the first, but VI sounds good. We're to see our grandchild about March 25.

You'll be sure to let us know when your plane is scheduled to arrive, I'm sure.

Sincerely,

Wilson Smiley

5985 SW Montgomery Drive
Miami, Fla. 33156
June 7, 1964

Dear Wilson:

We've just returned from a week in the Florida Keys where I had to get together a series of articles for The Herald. We enjoyed particularly going through the Hemingway house and seeing the furniture and other things he brought from Spain. ~~We~~ We thought of you, for you also would have enjoyed going through this house.

I should have the manuscript back this coming week and will then proceed to get it ready for sending to you by John. Some minor changes in the beginning have been recommended, which I will do. Probably there are other changes which also must be made before it is sent to a publisher.

A principal reason for writing today is in connection with a possible trip to Spain next spring, if you will go with us. Evelyn and I have made up our minds. We can see our way clear to go. We would like to go in May and return in June. These are the best months for us to get away. We don't like to leave during the hurricane season, and neither does ~~the boss~~ the boss at The Herald.

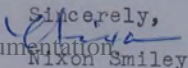
If we can get your agreement to ~~the trip~~ make the trip with us, we'll begin at once preparing for it. I would want to do exactly as we did in Guatemala, from the standpoint of recording on the tape recorder and copying notes on my typewriter. We would make a great many photographs also.

We would stay six weeks, but in that time we could cover a lot of Spain and get a lot of notes.

Please let us know as soon as you can come to a decision so we can begin planning at once. ~~We~~ We do not plan to go unless you can go with us, although we do plan to go at a later date. Once Karl gets on his feet we should be able to go to Spain every year if we wanted to. But we'll have enough money to make the trip next year, if we do a bit of sacrificing, and this we don't mind doing if we can make the trip with ~~you~~ you.

Incidentally, I'm sending to you a reprint of David Fairchild's bibliography, which appeared in Huntia, an annual publication of the Hunt Botanical Library. John will bring it. It contains an excellent article by Elizabeth Kay which you will enjoy reading.

Sincerely,


Nixon Smiley

5985 SW Montgomery Drive
Miami, Fla. 33156
June 19, 1964

Dear Wilson:

Your suggestion about the "little car" as a means of traveling through Spain struck a loud note on my memory strings when I read your letter. I had forgotten in my previous letter to suggest that we could do this. Evelyn will sell her Volkswagen--it's a 1956--and we would buy another car in Europe, to be delivered on our arrival. Unfortunately, we won't be able to pick up the car in Spain or Portugal, I understand, and we may have to fly to Germany and drive back through France--a time-killing trip that I must say I look forward to making. A drive through France sounds mighty interesting to both Evelyn and to me.

I've learned that a Mercedes diesel costs only 2,800 at the factory. We may wind up with one of these. The price here is \$4,000--even. We'd save enough on the car to pay our fares to Europe and Back.

As I've already written, while we would like to plan this trip, we realize that anything might come up to cause postponement. But if you have even the slightest idea that you could make it, we'll make the necessary tentative plans. I don't believe we would go alone at the moment, because I'm sure we could not afford it without you along to lead us to the inexpensive places. We probably would wait until 1966 to go rather than go in 1965.

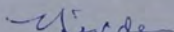
Nell Jennings did receive the Garden Club of America medal which Elizabeth Kay recommended for her. I've done an article on it which will come out in the next FTG Bulletin. To get her the Massachusetts Horticultural Society medal I'm not certain how to begin; but you've given me one hell of an idea. I do know slightly the director of the society. He's the son of Henry Nehrling. I intend soon to write to him and find out how to get the ball rolling. I imagine it means recommendations--numerous letters, etc. Nell certainly deserves this honor.

We hope Hugh might have time to spend the night with us as he comes through. We may go to the airport to see him as he passes through. I'm on vacation now, and will be until July 3. (I've already had part of my vacation.) I'm doing a great deal of writing, but temporarily am doing nothing on the Guatemala ms. while waiting for Jeanne Bellamy to complete her editing and for you to read over the final part. She really likes the story, she says, and has made some very good suggestions for improving the construction of some sentences and in connection with tense. She's a real hound when it comes to catching such things, and I certainly appreciate the work she is doing.

Write to us when you find the time.

Digitized by Hunt Institute for Botanical Documentation
Carnegie Mellon University, Pittsburgh, PA

Sincerely,


Nixon Smiley

5985 SW Montgomery Drive
Miami, Fla. 33156
July 7, 1964

Dear Wilson:

I hope you're finding time to check of the manuscript and that you are finding everything satisfactory. We have spent considerable time going over the first six chapters and smoothing out awkward sentences and well as improving the grammar--thanks to the help of Jeanne Bellamy of The Herald.

Regarding the parrot and the nuns: Could I suggest this change? Where the parrot says "Get in line, you bastards," let's change it to "Get in line, you - - - - ." If this is all right I'll leave the story in with that one small change. On the other hand, if you are still against using it entirely, I'll leave it out. I like the story because we need it where it has been inserted, but it's by no means absolutely necessary.

I do hope you can read the copy and ~~mail~~ return it by John, as I'm sending off the first chapter and some notes on the rest to an agent in New York. Stanley Rinehart, who is a neighbor of ours, suggested the use of an agent. He just retired as head of Rinehart and Company. ~~W~~ You just about have to get an agent for everything any more. Without an agent, I might be running from publisher to publisher for a couple of years in order to find someone to take the manuscript. Before anything has a chance of being accepted any more it must be in the line that the publisher is promoting.

That was quite an accident your friends had. They were lucky to come out alive. But we have plenty here. Automobiles have killed nearly 90 people so far this year in Dade County. Right on 500 were killed throughout the U.S. during the long July 4 weekend. We didn't leave the place on any of the three days.

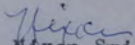
If we could place the Guatemala story it would give us courage to go to Spain next year for six weeks, wouldn't it? We'd do for Spain what we did in Guatemala, with the help of the tape recorder.

We've had hard rains yesterday and today after a four weeks' drought. Our yard was burning up, and I was having to carry water to the plants I had set out recently. I figure that the ~~best way~~ best way to get it to stop raining in south Florida is to set out a grove or do some planting about your place.

Evelyn sends her regards.

Please don't forget to return the manuscript.

Sincerely,


Nixon Smiley

5985 SW Montgomery Drive
July 22, 1964

Dear Wilson:

I agree that a few of the things you are concerned about in the manuscript might be changed some to read in such a way that the implication is softened. I plan to go over the ms. and look it over and ~~we~~ will consider your points.

However, there is small hope at the moment of getting it published. An agent surveyed the field in New York for us and came to the conclusion that right now would be an impossible time to think of ~~waiting~~ finding a publisher. Too many fingers burned with Latin American stuff, it seems. The American people simply aren't interested enough to read. They look upon the Latin countries as having governments which have just got in and are about to be put out.

I'm inclined to wait ~~me~~ for a time. And, in the meantime, I hope to get in a little more biographical information. There is some chance, perhaps, of getting a university press to publish the ms. but my agent hints that there may be possibility of getting a national publisher later on. That would be better, of course.

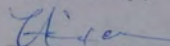
When you come up again, I'd like to go over some of the biographical background a bit, with an idea of expanding it some.

Evelyn likes the black and white material, and already is planning to make something of it. She will write you right away, I am sure, for she was very much pleased with the materials.

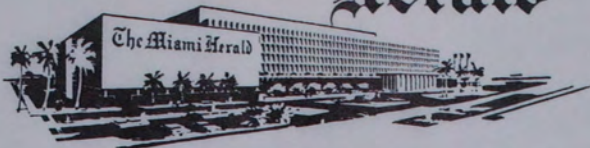
We're traveling around the state quite a bit now, and I'm writing more and more stuff for The Herald on Florida in general. There is little chance to work on anything else now, and the ms. will have to wait for the time being on account of this. However, I am pleased with it in general--and so is Jeanne Bellamy, as I wrote to you previously. Thus I know that in time the ms. will be published.

Let us hear from you when you find the time to write. Should you plan to return to Miami, please let us know ahead of time so that ~~we~~ I can make plans ahead and won't be upstate at the time of your arrival.

Sincerely,


Nixon Smiley

THE MIAMI *Herald*



No. 1 HERALD PLAZA • MIAMI 32, FLORIDA • TELEPHONE 350-2111 • AREA CODE 305

August 3, 1964

Dear Wilson:

Mr. and Mrs. Joh. T. Bills (she is Miss Jeanne Bellamy on the editorial staff of The Miami Herald) are planning a trip to Guatemala during the week of Aug. 16-22.

Naturally they would like to see the House in Antigua--but, more than that, they would like to have an opportunity to talk with Wilson Popenoe.

Jeanne has read the manuscript of A Gringo in Guatemala and considers it one of the most enlightening works on Central America that she has ever read. She read the manuscript for grammatical goofs and for the improvement of construction, and did a wonderful job.

Let us ~~hear~~ from you when you have a chance to write.

When will you see our great primitive painter, Velasquez, again? We're thinking about having him do a canvas for us showing some festivity at the church, like a fiesta.

Do you have a suggestion?

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Nixon Smiley'. The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Nixon Smiley

THE MIAMI **Herald**



No. 1 HERALD PLAZA • MIAMI 32, FLORIDA • TELEPHONE 350-2111 • AREA CODE 305

Jan. 11, 1965

Dear Wilson:

Betty,

We had Paul and ~~John~~ John and Jerry for dinner one evening while your brother was here. We enjoyed them a lot. Paul filled us in on your current projects, the corn program and the new agricultural school. We know you're looking forward to realizing success with both of these ventures.

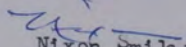
We're pleased to learn that Velasquez is back at work. We want at least three more, of varying sizes. We could use one picture that would measure overall 30 by 38 inches, for the south end of our living room, over the desk. It would have to be a horizontal picture.

I'd hesitate to suggest to Velasquez what he should paint. It probably would be better to let him do the things he likes best. You know better than I about this, however. If I can get enough of his paintings together, I'd like to have some small showing of them up here, with the hope of making him better known. On the other hand, I would never sell a picture and make a profit off the artist. This Evelyn and I could never do. Should we ever sell a picture we bought from him we would have to send the "profit" to him—but through you, of course.

Because pictures are so difficult to transport, perhaps they could be sent knocked-down--the frames ready for putting together and the canvas rolled up. We could have it stretched here. Maybe there's some danger of the paint cracking when this is done. I don't know.

Let us ~~hear~~ hear from you, and give us a report on how your projects are coming along. Can we do anything for you up here?

Sincerely,


Nixon Smile

Miami, Fla.
Jan. 21, 1965

Dear Wilson:

Your letter came yesterday--three days after date of writing. C'est Bon! Your postal service is out-doing itself.

VIP's have been arriving all the week from the cold north to attend the FTG Board of Trustees meeting Friday afternoon and Science Lecture that evening. Barry Tomlinson is giving the first lecture, as you probably know. Dr. and Mrs. Robbins and Arthur Montgomery came Monday night. The George Lawrences and Hal Moore are here too. Nell is giving a luncheon Friday for over 40 people. Al has retired and they will be here all winter.

Speaking of winter, it has been wonderful until last week end. It went down to freezing temperatures in the Everglades and down to the low 30's in our carport. The farmers have taken a great loss and vegetables are already going sky high in the markets. But today, we have with us our usual balmy temperature--around 70 degrees.

It was a pleasure to see Paul and Betty again. They are indeed a very stimulating couple. I had a lovely letter from Betty today. She said they loved the little hotel, Maria Cristina in Mexico City. That was the one Nixon and I tried to get in when we were there three years ago without success.

We leave Sunday for a week in St. Petersburg. This will be Nixon's last major Florida story, I believe.

You surely are looking forward to your speaking engagement at the NY Botanical Garden. Mrs. Robbins tells me that Guatemala is going to be their "theme." She has just finished a book titled David Hosack, Citizen of New York. It is very documented, but well done. It gave me a better basic ~~xxxx~~ understanding of botanical gardens in general. You might like to look at it when you come in March. It will be good to see you.

Affectionately,

Evelyn [Smiley]

5985 SW Montgomery Drive
June 3, 1965

Dear Wilson:

We got back Wednesday evening to find your letter of May 19 waiting for us. Too bad you had to wait around the airport here until 4:30. You'd a had time for a gin and tonic with us before that plane got away--maybe two or three.

We found our surgeon son and our grandson in fine condition. Karl begins his second year on July 1, with many new responsibilities. But he's doing many major operations now.

Unfortunately, we came back to find that no rain had fallen since we left. There has been only about one inch of rain here since April 1. We're going to lose a lot of our grass. Fortunately, the young *Tabebuia pallida* trees on 60th Avenue survived. They had not even wilted. A really tough tree.

We're looking forward to seeing the vertical Velasquez. If we could find out when Hugh's coming through we would meet his plane. I'm always afraid that one of these days Old Velasquez might decide to give up painting. He must be getting up in years anyway.

Did you think any more about the Meyer Medal? I hope you will pursue the idea of having it transferred to the FTG.

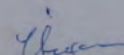
I suppose you have no idea about when you'll be up this way again. In the meantime you will no doubt be writing on your tropical fruit book. Will Wolfe visit you in Guatemala? Or will you come back to Florida? Or handle the writing by mail?

I return to work Monday. Tomorrow I hope to visit the FTG and go over The Montgomery Foundation. I'm anxious to see if John has heard anything from the National Science Foundation about the request for a grant to build a science laboratory.

Please try to keep us informed of your movements and we'll try to keep you abreast of activities here in which you may be interested. We're still thinking about those tentative plans to visit Spain next year. We're ready to go.

Evelyn sends her best.

Digitized by Hunt Institute for Botanical Documentation
Carnegie Mellon University, Pittsburgh, PA

Sincerely,

Nixon Smiley

15 June 1965

Dear Wilson:

I really don't owe you a letter but to show that my heart is in the right place, I'm writing anyway! We've had only the one letter from you which was waiting when we returned from Dallas. However, I can well imagine how occupied you are of this month with your family.

We were happy to have the opportunity to meet Marion and her two lovely children when they visited John and Jeri. I know now that you have at least one beautiful daughter! Hope you were able to get the lychees through. I believe John and Nixon wanted to "try" your influence.

At last we have had some showers and South Florida is beginning to get green again. After more than two months of drought it appeared that at least half of our grass had died. But now I see little sprigs of green creeping up all through the brown areas. And--the mangos are getting ripe. Wish you were here. You could have your share and mine too since they don't like me.

I'm still thinking of Spain. Are you? We talked with a fellow connected with Pan am Sunday and it appears we will have no trouble getting free passage. In that event, we will take care of all other expenses. I've looked and looked for a letter, hoping you would have some comment about it.

21 June 1962

Aren't you going to have some important business in Florida that requires your attention before long? You know we don't want the Candlelight to go "broke".

I really don't owe you a letter. I'm in the right place. I've had only the one letter from you which was waiting when we returned from Dallas.

Edlyn [Smiley]

As you probably know, we missed High when he came breezing through Miami. It just seems impossible to catch that guy.

We were happy to have the opportunity to meet Marion and her two lovely children when they visited John and I. I know how fast you have at least one beautiful daughter! Hope you were able to get the license through. I believe John and Nixon wanted to "try" your influence.

At last we have had some showers and South Florida is beginning to get green again. After more than two months of drought it appeared that at least half of our grass had died. But now I see little sprouts of green creeping up all through the brown areas. And--the mangoes are getting ripe. Wish you were here. You could have your share and mine too since they don't like me.

I'm still thinking of Bahia, are you? We talked with a fellow connected with Pan Am Sunday and it appears we will have no trouble getting the garage. In that event, we will take care of all other expenses. I've looked and looked for a letter, hoping you would have some comment about it.

18 June 1965

Dear Wilson:

Your most welcome letter arrived today. I suppose mine met yours about Guatemala City.

I hasten an answer to tell you that I have talked with Peg Churney about the vacation with you in Antigua. I explained to her what your schedule is for July and she asked me to tell you that August will probably suit them better anyway--that they will be happy to come at the most convenient time for you. Dr. Gates, who is head of Jackson Hospital had a stroke shortly before your return to Guatemala. When we returned home from Dallas we learned that he had had a second one. This puts Dr. Churney in command out there and he is concerned about getting time off for a vacation. However, they still plan to see you when you are ready for them.

The thought is nice, but please don't burden Marion with material for me. I know she will be loaded down, and as you know, I am well taken care of already. Perhaps when you come up again you might bring that burnt orange you spoke of.

Nixon leaves Monday for a week in the Keys. I have found myself quite bored with these trips and find it to be a happier situation to stay home.

Surely you can't mean that "as far as you are concerned you don't think you will come up again this year." We're going to expect you!

The Valasquez sounds exciting. I'm sure we can find a place for one more. It must be very good to have been exhibited at the World Fair.

Have you seen the current Principes? It is mostly devoted to Paul Allen and his work in palms. I see you are mentioned also in connection with your work at Tela.

~~XXXXXXXX~~ More later. I want to get this in the 5 p.m. mail pickup.

I must tell you that your letter today has improved my "disposition."

Emily

5985 SW Montgomery Drive
Miami, Fla. 33156
July 11, 1965

Dear Wilson:

I had meant to write to you before now and tell you how pleased we are that you have decided to make the trip to Spain next year. There's plenty of time to make plans. We'll follow your suggestions. We had thought about buying a Volkswagen ~~there~~ so that we would have transportation. But I understand we would have to go to Paris to do that. You mentioned that you had a car that was available. Nevertheless we'll do what you suggest. If you think we should fly to Paris and pick up a Volkswagen there we'll make arrangements ahead of time.

The manuscript was returned. The publisher evidently liked it himself but did not care for the "travelogue" handling. He already had one in press. My editorial adviser, Jeanne Bellamy, insists that the manuscript should not be changed--that is, the style, the construction. She is sure--and so am I--that the manuscript eventually will be published; that it will be much more valuable in its present form.

Just got back from a trip to the Florida Keys where I picked up a stack of stories, including one on Mrs. Krome, which Evelyn sent you. It was a good trip and I got over a dozen articles. The keys is a remarkable place. Evelyn caught the bus to Key West just as I was getting ready to leave and made the return trip with me. There's very little good horticulture in the keys any more. The new people haven't caught on. Most of them don't know what a dilly is. . . . When I go over our place here I don't think the horticulture is so bad. We have a good collection. The lychees this year were superb. Nobody has seen finer trees. If everything keeps doing so well here--we just had a huge crop of jaboticabas--I'll begin to think that I'm another Wilson Popenoe. And a Paul Popenoe, too.

Speaking of Paul, just got a letter from him making me an honorary associate member of the Institute of Family Relations, because I suggested a way of raising money. The idea is working, slowly, and Paul wanted to say thanks, I suppose, so he made me a life associate member. I felt ~~very~~ highly honored. Dr. Grosvenor also made me a life member of the National Geographic Society--which means a free subscription to the magazine. And, incidentally, you will want to see the current issue of National Geographic, to read an article on Mrs. Grosvenor and one on Costa Rica.

The Churneys still talk about going to Guatemala, but he may ~~have~~ have some trouble getting away from Jackson Memorial Hospital. A new man is coming to take ~~my~~ charge, but Dr. Churney seems to be pretty well tied down for some time. Incidentally, perhaps you might find it profitable to write to the Churneys and ~~ask them~~ ask them of time rather than leave it open.

They had asked about renting the cottage. I know that because of Maria it is not possible to keep people too long. Yet they have your invitation and no time limit. Perhaps you could write and say that they would be welcome until they could "find a hotel in Antigua that suited them," or something like that. Maybe it wouldn't hurt to say that Maria is not strong. I don't want to sound like I'm trying to tell you how to handle your affairs. But I thought I should sound a warning. With that you can handle things your own way.

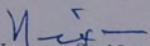
Their address Dr. and Mrs. Otto Churney, 7770 SW 134th St., Miami, Fla. 33156.

We're planning to run up to North Carolina for a few days the latter part of this month, and if Hugh is going to be home we hope to drop by Gainesville long enough on a Sunday (August 25) to have lunch with him. I also wanted to give him that copy of the Diccionario de la Lengua Espanola, with the Arabic script. I'll call him early this week. He may be planning to be in Guatemala at that time.

The weather's very hot, so much unlike Guatemala. I don't believe you would like it here at this time of year. It is much different from April and May. This is when we miss Guatemala.

Evelyn wants to be remembered.

Sincerely,


Nixon Smiley

5985 SW Montgomery Drive
Miami, Fla. 33156
July 17, 1965

Dear Wilson:

That picture, actual canvas size, is 24 by 32 inches. The proportion is good. If Dr. Velasquez' canvas is an inch or so smaller or larger each way it won't matter. The size of the frame, of course, is added to the 24 by 32.

We like the sketch Sally made, but for a large picture we fear that the details might be overpowering. Why not let him do a small picture of Sally's sketch, preferably a vertical if he can change it to one, and for the larger painting do an overlook of San Antonio. Evelyn would like another painted from the bridge. She is very fond of this scene. She would like for it to show the artist's house as well as the leather tooler's house. And, of course, there is the stepping cobblestone street that makes San Antonio so distinctive. Its streets obviously weren't designed for Miami's traffic. We would be satisfied with any overlook of the town, showing the roofs and the streets. We don't care whether the church shows or not.

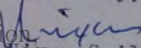
I hope we're not asking too much to get Velasquez to do two paintings, when there's already one at Antigua waiting for a chance to come to Miami. But we agree with you that the sketch is a beauty. As for the church, it doesn't have to be in either painting. We already have a largenumber of paintings where the church shows. I imagine the church would have to be included in the bridge scene; but if he changed his perspective a bit perhaps it could be left out. This is a delicate subject to discuss so far away, though, and I'd prefer to leave this for you and the artist to ~~discuss~~ decide.

We know that you have enjoyed having so many of your family with you this summer. It's pretty hard to get so many together in one place that so far away from everybody's home. It's nice that your daughters like the old place. But who can resist that old house with all its history?

We're leaving on July 26 for a trip to the mountains for a two-week stay. A friend is letting us have a house near Hendersonville, where the Jennings have a home.

Evelyn and I plan to stop by at noon July 26 (Sunday) and have lunch with Hugh. I called and he will be expecting us. ~~He's~~ He's just returned from Cornell where he met with other extension and research people. I think he's mighty proud of the program at Gainesville under York. I'm taking him that Spanish dictionary with the Arabic script.

Sincerely,


Nixon Smiley

Sunday Aug. 8, 1965

Dear Wilson:

We came home Thursday after a ten day "cooling off" period in the N.C. mountains. Because it had rained every day while we were away, we returned to five acres of jungle. However, the place is beginning to look as if someone lived here again, and we are still having frequent rains.

On our way north, we stopped with Hugh for lunch and had a delightful visit with him. Last Tuesday the John Popenoes stopped to see us in Hendersonville and ate their lunch at our place. According to Jeri they have quite a schedule on this trip and expect to be away until about Aug. 25, I believe. They had spent Sunday night with Hugh and John said that they had a fine visit after not having seen each other in two years.

The mountains were lovely and lush as they always are at this time of year. We traveled many miles on the Blue Ridge Parkway and hiked many miles on the trails on Pisgah mountain. Some of the trails looked as if no human had traveled them for a long time, but there was evidence of deer and other animals. One day we hiked seven miles. Nixon is by hiking like he is about Velasquez's pictures. He never knows when he's had enough. And, speaking of Velasquez--please don't knock yourself out trying to get his pictures up to us. I fear that Nixon is not aware of how much trouble it is to you.

Nell and Al moved into their summer home in Hendersonville while we were there. It is a big house with ceilings 12 to 15 feet and just exactly what a big tall man like Al likes. Even though it is an old house, they have renovated it and made a charming place. I told Nell that she and I have some Flores de Fallos coming up one of these days.

We have had to abandon our little building program which I wrote you about. Taxes went up again--making ours \$700 come November. They will continue to go up and I feel sure that in time we will have to sell this place, in which case it seems foolish to continue putting money into it. We are thinking of building a summer home in Hendersonville, and if we do, will most likely spend most of our time there eventually. Not until Nixon retires, of course, but he hopes to do so when he is sixty.

How was your trip to Honduras? And, when do you plan to come back to Florida? For some reason I have the feeling that we won't go to Spain. Don't ask me why--I don't know.

Affectionately,

Evelyn

Aug. 11, 1965

Dear Wilson:

So good to get your letter yesterday. The one I wrote Sunday should have reached you. It seems since you were here in May that our letters have met midway, but what do we care so long as they arrive?

Yes, I will be pleased to have the Moran material you spoke of. Even though I do not need it at the present time, I will hold it until such time that I do. It's seldom that I give anything away that you have bought for me. I also would like to "store" another huipile--certainly a used one--we don't like to look turistic, of course. But, all these things can wait until you come. I hate to bother Hugh unless he will stop in Miami and spend the night with us. When we were in Gainesville I promised him a good Chinese dinner at Formosa if he will stop overnight.

This new apartment which Hugh plans to move to sounds great. It reminds me of the very latest in appliances like we had in the house near Hendersonville. That place actually had a push-button kitchen, with electric dishwasher, disposal, exhaust fan over the stove, etcetera. I'm having to get accostomed to my old fashioned kitchen since coming home!

I have been hoping that you could come up next month for a little visit--before you get tied up with the New York Botanical Garden group in October. And, by all means, I'm expecting you to spend the Christmas holidays with us. Remember, you promised me when you were here that you would do that? If you don't, I'll never forgive you!

I'm looking forward to the Flores de Palo (which I mis-spelled in my other letter.) It's hard to imagine what they are like, but I'm sure they are something special.

Did I tell you that we drove home from N.C. in one day? We left Hendersonville at 4 a.m. and reached home at 8 that evening. Perhaps we pushed the Comet a bit too much. We've had over \$100 repair bill on it since getting back. But then it probably would have happened anyway. I figure 857 miles in one day is plenty hard driving, ~~anyway~~. Apples, peaches, tomatoes, and other fresh vegetables and fruits were ripe in abundance, and we brought enough home to feast on since.

It rains every day and I have been sticking close home doing a considerable amount of typing for Nixon--and so, I must bring this to an end and get back on the job.

Affectionately,

Erlyn

P.S. Jeri really wants a black and white dress. Do you suppose you could find her one? I believe she covets mine!

The enclosed picture is one we found in an old chest. M. says he doesn't know when it was made, but sure in Honduras. E1

N. is doing a story on Mrs. Spicer—
Will send it to you when it appears.

Aug. 20, 1965

Dear Wilson:

I know you are lonely since your family has come and gone. And darn it, I have been lonely this week too. Nixon is on another trip and will be away until the latter part of next week. The days go by all right, because I'm used to spending most of my days alone--but when night comes, I really get in the "dumps." And, for some reason, the ducks are all dying. Don't know what is the cause.

But now for a more cheerful note. My portrait is finished. A young artist at Fort Salerno did it and we are ~~xxxxxxxxxx~~ very much pleased. I am wearing my white Guatemalan blouse that I made peasant style. Think you will like it. He brought it down this week but I sent it back with him to have him over-see the framing.

I still think you should come up next month. It will be a good break in between your activities. There are a number of people you could visit and I will be free to take you. I'm sure Mrs. Arome would like to see you again. I understand that she is quite despondent a great part of the time. Sis Loomis told me that they visit her often and always find her in a better mood when they leave than when they arrive. She has a book for you which you asked her to get when you were here. "The House in Antigua." If you don't get up before the Churneys go to

5985 SW 120th St

THE MONTGOMERY FOUNDATION, INC.

ONE EAST FORTY-FOURTH STREET
NEW YORK, N. Y. 10017

MURRAY HILL 2-3373

Miami Fla
33156

MRS. ALVIN R. JENNINGS
PRESIDENT

DIRECTOR'S OFFICE
NIXON SMILEY
11925 OLD CUTLER ROAD
MIAMI, FLORIDA 33156

August 29, 1965

Dear Wilson:

Evelyn and I were drinking a bottle of Portugese "Ruby" wine at dinner tonight--and naturally we thought of you. The wine seemed to go first class with our dinner, Oriental stew, which you may remember that Evelyn makes with a dozen or so condiments. From the time we sat down to eat until the time we got up from the table was about two hours. Evelyn went to her duties in the kitchen and I to my duties at the typewriter--for one thing, writing to you.

I know that Evelyn already has written to you to remind you of our invitation to spend Christmas holidays in Florida with us. We thought you might come up and see Hugh, John and his family, as well as Mrs. Krome, and spend your relaxing time here with us. It would give you a chance to review the progress of your book with Herb Wolfe. We hope you will plan to come. What did you tell us? It's only a few hours' flight by Aviateca. Make your plans now and get your reservations. We will look for you. We've got to make those plans for the trip to Spain, you know.

I've just returned from a trip upstate, but I went only as far north as Fort Pierce, then shot across to Sebring, returning by way of Moore Haven and South Bay. I lucked onto a number of very good stories, including three that made Page 1 during the time that the astronauts were in the heavens. Traveling as I do is not in itself very enjoyable, but it sure is productive; for Florida has plenty of interesting people and situations to write about. (Remember, you can come and go here as you please.)

Evelyn plans to meet Aviateca tomorrow ~~Monday~~ (Monday) with the hope of seeing Hugh. I'll be there if I can. We enjoyed having Sunday luncheon with Hugh recently in Gainesville when we stopped briefly while on our way to North Carolina for a few days' stay. We are glad to see Hugh doing so well at the University. There is no doubt in my mind that he will have a brilliant career ahead of him.

We are looking forward to the trip to Spain with increasing enthusiasm. Evelyn and I want to plan it along a schedule ~~that~~ that will be completely satisfactory to you; and what satisfies you--what to see, where to say, the length of time to say, and all that--will satisfy us.

Sincerely, *Nixon*
Nixon Smiley

Sept. 3, 1965

Dear Wilson:

In case you are wondering what is going on at this end of the line--here goes.

After getting your letter yesterday and learning that Hugh had returned to Gainesville, I called him last night. I had met the plane Monday hoping to see him. He said that he was 10:30 getting through customs last Friday night and he didn't want to "bother" us at that hour. I gave him a real tongue lashing and told him never to do a thing like that again--no matter what time it was. (He went to a hotel.) I suppose he thought I was on the war path, and he meekly said "yes, mam." Anyway, he is mailing the package and it should be here next week. I know it has been a lot of trouble to him.

I hope you are planning to come to Florida the first of December. It would be nice if you could arrive in time for the FTG Ramble. It is the first Friday and Saturday in the month. You could go up to Gainesville and return to us for the holidays. What say? We will be perfectly delighted if you can do that.

Affectionately,

Evlyn

Many thanks for the description of the flores de palo.

Friday Sept. 10, 1965

Dear Wilson:

Of course you have heard by this time that we got smacked good and proper by Hurricane Betsy. Last week we were alerted, but then by Sunday she was east of Cape Kennedy and it seemed we had nothing to fear. But Sunday night she did an about-face and turned southwest. She hit the Bahamas right between the eyes for 15 to 20 hours and then headed for the Florida coast. We boarded up the house on Labor Day (Monday) and we started getting hurricane winds late Tuesday evening. They held steadily until nearly 11 a.m. Wednesday. We had gale winds until mid-afternoon. Our house came through all right but we have pine branches waist deep over the five acres. It looks hopeless at the moment, but eventually we'll dig out. Probably will still be digging when you come in December! The avocado crop is a complete loss and the people on Key Biscayne have suffered severe damage to their homes. We had winds up to 140 miles per hour--and it being so constant--was the cause of such high tides. I don't know how much damage the FTG had but the plant houses at the Montgomery Foundation were devastated. It was such an erratic storm that the weather bureau could only say, "it may go this way, or it may go that way, but be prepared."

Fortunately, electricity has been restored and I'm sitting here very comfortable with air conditioning. We also can cook and have plenty of water again. The weather is very hot and humid, and I can only stay outside with my chores for about thirty minutes at a time.

The package never came. I suppose that Hugh was so busy getting ready for his trip that he probably forgot to mail it. At any rate, it will keep and we won't worry about it.

I'm glad your artist friend is coming this month. She should make good company for you because I feel that you need to stay busy!

Always affectionately, Evelyn

Friday afternoon

I have just talked with a friend in Homestead whose sister is a member of the NY Botanical Garden. She tells me that vandals poured gasoline over the orchids and burned over \$300,000 of plant houses in the garden last week. What a world!

Incidentally, her name is Mrs. Pace, and she will be with the group in Guatemala in October.

E

5985 SW Montgomery Drive
Miami, Fla. 33156
Sept. 15, 1965

Dear Wilson:

We had meant to write about Hurricane Betsy, but have been so swamped with work--here and at The Herald--that there has been little time to think about anything else.

Quickly, we did not suffer any damage ourselves, except that we got tens of thousands of pine branches blown off, covering our grounds "a foot deep." And we lost all of our avocado fruit. Which is nothing compared with what the growers south of here lost.

Miami had winds of 105 miles an hour, sustained, and we figure we got winds of 110 to 120 mph--and Homestead up to 130. Most of the avocado fruit was on the ground after the hurricane passed, and older groves were damaged severely. Many old trees will not recover. Others will take years. A shortage of trained or intelligent workmen is hampering the resetting of trees.

Mrs. Krome's place was a mess. She told me so on the phone that morning while hurricane winds were still blowing. Some how, her line didn't go out. I couldn't raise anybody else in that area. I was the first to call her. "I'm all right," she said, "but my place is a wreck. My trees are blown down or broken up. All the fruit is on the ground."

What she neglected to tell me was that a big sapodilla tree had blown down on her roof, crushing her bedroom. Nor did she tell me that another tree had blown down on her garage, crushing her car. Nor did she ~~say~~ say anything about her little shed being blown away!

But you know Mrs. Krome. In fact, she was more cheerful than I have found her recently. It was fantastic.

We had hurricane winds from about 10 p.m. on Tuesday, Sept. 7, until about 10 a.m. Wednesday, Sept. 8. I had to leave the house while hurricane winds were still blowing on Wednesday, to reach the office, but I don't suppose we were having more than 80-mile-an-hour winds then.

Since we had ~~made damn~~ bearded up, we had no trouble to our house. A little moisture came in about an air conditioner, but we slept through some of the high winds, knowing we were pretty safe--so long as a pine tree didn't blow down on us.

We've been cleaning up ever since. I'm getting up at daylight and working a couple of hours each morning. With Evelyn's raking and my hauling away in wheelbarrows, ~~now~~ we're getting everything under control. By the time you get here ~~the~~ ~~place~~ ~~cleaned~~ up.

Our two big lychee trees survived with little damage. But the leaves were stripped from many of our things, including our carambola, the royal palms in the swale and many ornamentals. Yet we figure we came out fortunate. We have no complaints--except that we could use more muscle. Labor up here is so costly--and so trifling--that we rather do the work ourselves, a little at a time.

The FTG was hit pretty hard, as it has been in the two previous hurricanes. All of the debris from last year's hurricane, Cleo, which was piled in the lowlands, was washed up on the edge of the FTG's ridge and left there--two feet deep and more. What a mess. Nobody's ever seen anything like it. John's philosophical. I'm damn glad he's director and not me. It will take the FTG a two or three year stretch to make recovery. The upland will make it sooner. There also was damage to the FTG's slathouse at the Montgomery Foundation.

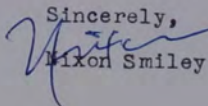
But how can we worry about hurricanes when you write in a positive way about going to Spain with us! Your letter is most encouraging. We've both decided to spend whatever it takes to make the trip--provided you go with us. We wouldn't spend the money to go alone. We would not be that ~~much~~ much interested, just in the scenery. But if you're along to keep us in touch with what we're looking at, then the sky's the limit from the spending standpoint. Then we know we'll enjoy ourselves, and get more out of the trip than we could ever hope to otherwise. And we'll have a Wilson Popenoe MS on Spain.

Until your letter came today Evelyn wasn't sure you really intended to go to Spain next year. "Wilson doesn't mention Spain," she has said after reading your letters. Now we are looking forward to next spring with tremendous anticipation.

Come up whenever you can. As we have said, you can feel that you can come and go here as you please, and we hope you will consider this one of your homes in Florida.

Evelyn sends her regards and a warm appreciation for making clear that we would all go to Spain together.

Sincerely,


Wilson Smiley

Friday
Sept. 17, 1965

Dear Wilson:

Wow, what a week! Don't think I've ever worked so hard in my life. But the place is beginning to take shape again, and that pleases me to no end. I hate disorder and find it impossible to relax in the middle of it.

Now, what about the holidays? I thought our plans were made when you were here. I'm going to be terribly disappointed if you don't come. Unless you have plans to spend Christmas with someone down there, I'm still expecting you, and that's that!

Barbara and Lelo Muller have returned after spending the summer at Baddeck. We are having them and the Pancoast (Lester's parents) for dinner tomorrow evening. We're having curried shrimp and we'll be thinking of you.

I have found some very good Spanish wine which is inexpensive. I'll be anxious to see what you think of it. I also have bought some Spanish records, Soul of Spain, No. 1 and No. 2. This is music I feel sure you will enjoy. So you see, I really have Spain on my mind. I can't begin to tell you how much I'm looking forward to the trip.

The enclosed will give you some idea as to what Betsy did to the FTG. It isn't a pretty sight.

I hope to get a letter from you in a few days saying you will be in Miami in time for Christmas!

Always affectionately,

Loelyn

I'm thinking of registering for a course in conversational Spanish. Don't you think it a good idea? If I'm going to Spain, I certainly want to know how to speak a little of the language.

5985 SW Montgomery Drive
Miami, Fla. 33156
Oct. 17, 1965

Bear Wils on:

We had your letter from Richardson but had not tried to answer immediately. What in the hell does one say about something like this? I'm always at a loss, although I feel the loss (for the other person) strongly--and Evelyn is particularly sensitive about such situations.

If you do decide to spend Christmas with Nancy--and it certainly seems like a good idea--do let us know. We want Karl to get in touch with you while you're there. Richardson is only a short distance from where Karl lives. He lives at Irving, in west Dallas, while Richardson is just a bit north of Dallas. It's no more than an hour or so's drive from where Karl lives. He's a resident surgeon in Parkland Hospital ~~and~~ there, you may remember.

If you see Hugh on his way back, tell him just to hold Evelyn's things at Gainesville. I will be going up that way soon, and will pick them up then. If I can win the argument, Evelyn will go along with me; but ~~if~~ she doesn't like much to travel with me when I'm on a trip for The Herald because I have to work so much. But I ~~do~~ believe she'll be willing to go to Gainesville with me. Hugh is one of her favorite people.

We'll look forward to seeing you after Christmas. We should set a definite date for leaving for Spain. Any time on or after March 15 is all right with us. We thought we'd get us a couple of pairs apiece of long-handled washable underwear and some trench coats, for any of that cold weather in northern Spain. We're certainly looking forward to the trip. We'll be prepared when you're ready to leave. But if we can make plans ahead of time I'll be in better position to make arrangements for the extra time I want ~~and~~ and also for an air line to "check" my hat. I'll take my typewriter along and do several stories on the trip, and also keep a pretty good record.

I'll see what we can get on Henry A. Wallace and send you whatever information I can get from the AP. Meanwhile, you may be interested to know that we're putting in a maize collection at the Montgomery Foundation for breeding purposes. Harvard and Yale are interested in the project. Some of the plants ~~have~~ have arrived and are in the ground. Others are to follow. And this week (Wednesday and Thursday) two representatives are arriving from the National Science Foundation to look over the Foundation in connection with John's request for \$100,000 to build a laboratory. Dr. Robbins will be here, too, staying with us from Wednesday until Sunday. I plan to get enough material to write a fairly good article in the ~~the~~ Bulletin on Dr. Robbins. I'm planning now to write one article for each issue--four times a year.

Incidentally, I thought that Pope Paul gave a good account of himself on television. And, speaking of Catholics, Evelyn and I visited Father Jerome at St. Leo--in Pasco County--a week ago and I've done a story on him. You'e got to meet this priest. He's ~~of~~ but terrific. Evelyn would like to see you, Mrs. Krome and Father Jerome together, with no holds barred. What a

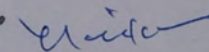
match that would be! Father Jerome is only a bit over five feet and he weighs but 93 pounds. We spent the afternoon with him and remained to eat with him in the college cafeteria there. We enjoyed every minute with him. He's a horticulturist. He knew Bailey, Col. Montgomery, met David Fairchild, as well as Isabel Krome. Use to go about the state in summer taking the place of priests who went on vacation. He planted much of the citrus at St. Leo and one time had a collection of 115 palms. Most of them were killed in freezes. He had the best ~~Acrocomias~~ collection of ~~Acrocomias~~ Acrocomias in Florida. He still has half a dozen species.

I plan to do a special story on him for the Bulletin.

When Evelyn read in your last letter that you were going to Coban she ~~was~~ wished she could be in Guatemala to go. She liked Coban and Mrs. Hempstead so well that ~~she~~ she'll never forget our trip over two years ago. She hopes you will remember her to Mrs. Hempstead and to Chris and Joan, both of whom we both like a great deal.

Write when you can. Meantime, we'll be planning for that trip to Spain.

Sincerely,



Nixon Smiley

October 25, 1965

Dearest Wilson:

We are having perfectly delightful weather now. The cool nights remind me so much of Guatemala. It has been a long summer for me, and a hot one as well.

Some time ago Peg asked me what they could take to you when they go down. Naturally, I said some good cigars. Then she told me that would suit them since they have a source where they can buy very fine ones. I would imagine they would like to surprise you, but inasmuch as you have requested some Coronas sent by them, I feel that I must tell you their plan. If the ones they take you are as fine as Peg says, and if you want more, I'll put in an order with Santa Clause for Christmas. O.K? I have also told Peg to take Imperial quarts of booze and that they can take two bottles each.

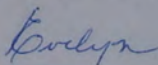
I hope the date they plan to leave is agreeable with you. I feel in a way that they sort of took advantage of our friendship in putting me on the spot to ask you for the guest house. But I assure you that I have the answer for the next people who try it.

The two fellows who came down for the National Science Foundation only stayed one day. So, we didn't have the cocktail party, which suited me fine. Dr. Robbins left Saturday after what he considered a very successful meeting with the NSF representatives. He, John and Nixon all agree that they will be very disappointed if the grant fails to go through. They feel sure these fellows will go back and recommend it.

I still don't know what Karl and Charlotte are going to do about Christmas. But I do know that Nixon has written him that we can't very well afford to send them plane fare. He hasn't written since. Sometimes kids can get to the place that they just expect too darn much! If you do go to Dallas for Christmas and they are there, we want you to see them and that darling little grandson of ours.

I'm pleased that you plan to remain in Florida until we go to Spain. How I'm rushing time!

Always affectionately,



November 2, 1965

Dear Wilson:

I can just imagine how busy you have been these past few days with the NY Botanical Garden group. Hope you will have a chance to catch your breath between their exodus and the arrival of the Churneys.

This is a beautiful fall day--the kind that makes one feel glad to be alive. Especially, after two days of almost constant rain which has brought the water table up to about normal for this time of year. As you may remember hearing us complain, we had two droughts during the summer. Since the hurricane everything has put on new growth--just like spring. And, you may be glad to hear that we can give you a grapefruit every morning for your breakfast from our own tree. Betsy put a lot of fruit on the ground, but we still have plenty hanging on the tree.

Sis Loomis told me yesterday that Nell Dijkman has returned from Houston where she had surgery. Kidney, I believe. Dick had a bad fall on the steps at the university some time ago, and he told Sis he fractured both knee caps. He says it will take a year of convalescence. Tough luck, I'd say.

Nixon is busy as usual and I'm trying to study a little Spanish and help with preparation for the Ramble. For some reason, I find that I have a mental block when I try to study Spanish. I don't know if it's because I'm so mentally lazy or if I find it boring to study alone. Well, I may never learn it. N. has several assignments to keep him home for awhile. Don't know when he will get up to Gainesville.

Well, the kids are coming home Christmas. They will be here until New Years. The Stokers (Charlotte's parents) and we are splitting the plane fare. I suppose it's either come now or some time next year with an infant. I hope you can make plans to come on here from Dallas as soon as they leave.

I have bought my coat for Spain. It's a London Fog with alpaca lining which zips out. It will answer all my needs I figure.

So anxious to see you!

Nov. 11, 1965

Dearest Wilson:

Last night was just like Christmas--for me, that is. Hugh arrived at 7 p.m. with the box and I really had a ball going through it and admiring everything. The flores de palo are the most unusual things I have ever seen. They are unique, to say the least. I will divide with Nell when/comes in a few days. The huipiles are much appreciated, (I like the old ones, as you do) and the aprons are pretty as can be. I'm going to keep all of them. But, what I really love is the dress length. It's so different from any material or pattern that I have seen in Guatemala. Many thanks for everything. You are just too good to me!

Hugh had dinner with us and we sat drinking wine until 11 p.m. I wanted him to stay with us but he insisted on going to the airport hotel since he had to catch his plane to Costa Rica this morning at 2. He looks fine and we had a wonderful visit with him. We are both very fond of that guy.

I'm trying to figure out how to make the dress. Would like to have it finished when you come. However, I want to be very careful that it turns out well--not hurry and do something rash. I will take Jeri's dress length over to her today.

Peg is bringing you two boxes of Coronas. One from them and one from me. Since my box has been opened, it might be well for you to smoke them first. We are sending our overseas package early, so MERRY CHRISTMAS!

Always affectionately,

Erlyn

P.S. I'm always offering suggestions, and you're probably tired of hearing them--but, why don't you come up before Christmas and then make up your mind where you want to spend the holidays. You can always fly out to Dallas or spend them here--sleeping at John's--or with Hugh in Gainesville. Of course, it will be a bit expensive if you decide to fly out to Texas, but what have I heard you say, "What do we care for expenses; we have plenty of them!"

PS: Evelyn wanted to send you a check for the pictures, to pay Velasquez, but you didn't say how much he was charging so we don't know what to send.

THE MIAMI Herald



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Nov. 23, 1965

Dear Wilson:

Evelyn met the Churneys and the Velasquezes yesterday-- using my car because she knew she'd have a load to haul--and now we have them hanging (the Velasquezes) on our walls.

The close-up of the village from the bridge is excellent-- but, honestly, that longer view: the more you look at it the more you are certain that it is a museum piece. I've never quite seen anything like it before. It's about the best, the most unique, work, that the barber-artist has done.

We also like the frames. They go well with the house, and fit the sizes of the pictures well. Sure, we know that you can't tell Velasquez exactly what sizes to do. He'll paint what canvases he has on hand that come near the size you want. And that's it. But we are more than satisfied with the pictures--and Evelyn is pleased with the skirt-length and the servilletas.

The Churneys ate supper with us and related their experiences. It was much like visiting Guatemala without actually doing so. We were warmed by thoughts of the trip to Spain--by the fact that you sent word that you really were planning to go.

We got the idea that you were concerned about the earliness of the trip. We could set April 15, or thereabout, and spend the first ten days or so in the southern part of Spain. Or, if you feel that the influx of tourists in June is of no consequence, we could schedule the trip for a few days later, possibly up to May 1. I'm still planning to ask for six weeks, but the prime moment to do so had not arrived. If I ask too far in advance I may get the old answer: "Well, let's wait and see." That puts you in an impossible position of having to ask again. I get along well with my boss, but he is a much harrassed individual because of the large quantity and quality of responsibilities heaped upon him at all hours of the day and night.

Naturally we're glad you're enjoying the Caronas. I keep remembering the 50 to 60 big boxes Mrs. Jones had in the home she used to own on Montgomery Drive. ~~When she died I want~~ How I'd like to see those boxes stacked up in a closet in your study!

The National Science Foundation sent representatives to look over the site at the Montgomery Place where John wants to build a new laboratory. It looks like we may get the grant--but we're keeping our fingers crossed. I'd like to hear from you when you can get time to collect for the pictures when you get here.

Nov. 24, 1965

Dear Wilson:

The two pictures are lovely; they grow on us each day, but what a lot of trouble for you. I hope you never promise us anything like this again, and I have a feeling you won't! The distance picture brings back nice memories for both of us--when you and Helen took us to San Antonia several years ago, and we stopped at the curve on the mountain top and looked over into this dream valley at the unbelievable little village. It was breath taking and I will never forget that experience as long as I live. We do think these are our best from Valesquez. Thanks to you.

The pretty skirt length and servilletas are much appreciated also. I have nothing the color of the skirt, which I would call near coral--and I look forward to making it. Of course, I can use the servilletas in many ways. I believe you have me well stocked on just about everything, but if you have plenty huipiles, I would like to have one more. The ones I brought back four or five years ago have been mostly given away. And I find, as you say, that few people really appreciate them. Now, I want to get a few tucked away for myself. They will be very versatile in any house we will ever own.

The Churneys returned full of enthusiasm for their visit with you. It's a good thing I took Nixon's car to meet them. We never would have gotten all the baggage into the VW. I was sorry to hear about your accident as you took them to the airport in Guatemala City, but glad no one was hurt.

Charlotte had a miscarriage while the Churneys were with you. However, they still plan on arriving in Miami Dec. 22 and returning to Dallas on Jan. 3. I only wish we had more room so that you could be with us. Naturally, I will be cooking three meals a day, so the room is the only problem. We would be delighted if you could come before they do and stay a few days before going to Gainesville for Christmas. I keep trying to figure some way that you could stay here in Miami--but then you know what is best. I'm not very good on planning for the other person--but as you well know, I've been looking forward for quite some time to having you here at Christmas time. Hugh spoke of being in Costa Rica only a week.

I hope this will be my last letter before we see you--unless it's to say, "I'll meet you," and afterall, I'm saying that now!

Always affectionately,

Evelyn

5985 SW Montgomery Drive
Miami 56, Fla.
Dec. 1, 1956 (11/15/56)

Dear Wilson:

That man Hugh came flying through Miami last night, and, with your information, we met him (briefly) at the airport as he bounced from air-jet to land-jet to continue his trip to Gainesville. He had the Englishman with him. "We'll drive to Clewiston, or maybe to Sebring, before we stop for the night."

He brought the picture, of course, and it's fine. Evelyn and I don't know how to thank you enough for it. We can't look at it for long at a time, though, because we get so tired as we imaginatively climb that last quarter-mile to the old crater on Agua. But we rest ourselves in the guest house and then we are able to renew our climb. Evelyn says that's the only way she'll ever go to Agua again--always staying close enough to the guest house so that she can return to rest when she gets tired. Today we're studying the walls for the best place to hang the picture, so that we can see it as often as we wish. We may have to move it around a bit to find the right spot. The other painting, which we will send on to Washington as soon as we can get it packaged safely, also is excellent. It is a wonderful documentary scene of the house and the Moorish-style Zaguán. I thought I would first write to Mrs. Montgomery and see if she is home to receive the picture when it arrives. In the meantime, we'll enjoy it too. Hugh also gave us papers so that we could pickup the chairs when they arrive, which he said would be early this week. We will have a lot to help us remember Antigua and our visits to the Popenoe house--which are among the highlights of our lifetime experiences.

Just finished the seventh chapter of the manuscript. The one on the Black Christ was the most difficult, but Evelyn thinks it is one of the best. I'll need some help from you on a chapter that recounts our visit to Coban. I had planned to include the flight to Hugh's experiments, but this became involved and did not seem to fit in the story, because it left you out. Evelyn and I agreed to eliminate this part and limit the chapter to Coban and our experiences there. We had to leave out the Kromes, too, because of the problem of fitting them in. As you know, it's possible to offer the reader too much.

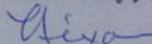
Hugh told us you had given up the idea of going immediately to Spain. And he said he is not sure whether he can go with you next summer, although he hopes that he can. Evelyn and I would give anything to be able to go with both of you, or with you if Hugh cannot go. He suggested that we try to plan a trip in the spring, perhaps, since he is not sure that he will be able to go in the summer. I might be able to get my fare paid. This I'm not sure, but could try. It probably would be easier to do so in the spring than during the summer when travel is heavy. Is late April a good time to go? What line would you take? KIM?

Now that you do not intend to go to Spain immediately, have you thought any more about the possibility ~~xx~~ of coming up to Florida for Christmas? Evelyn and I don't want to give the impression of putting pressure on you, but if you should feel like coming up, always remember that there's a place here for you. Karl and Charlotte won't be here for Christmas. He has to work in the hospital on that day. Medical students go home for Christmas, but not interns or residents. So, Karl won't be home for Christmas for at least five years--and, since he will then go into practice for himself, I'm afraid we won't see him here for Christmas then.

Should you come up later, in January or February, if I can know of it far enough ahead maybe we can plan a trip through Florida together, and I could write a series of articles on Florida through Wilson Popenoe's eyes. We could start in Miami and go through any part of the state that you wished. We could note some of the changes that have taken place in the state since you first saw Florida nearly 50 years ago. I'm sure we could get together some very interesting material. If we got a double room in ~~hotels~~ the cost would be little for the extra person, since I would have an expense account to cover the lion's share of the expense. If a single costs \$10, say, then a double would cost about \$12. I've been able to take Evelyn around with me on the basis of this cost--and find it cheaper to take her with me than to leave her at home. We often buy food at grocery stores and snack. When I'm alone I eat at the best places and the cost is just as high as when we're together.

We'll be looking forward to hearing from you. We'll try to fit our plans in yours, so you can be relaxed about making yours.

Sincerely,


Nixon Smiley

PS: Looking again at the zaguan painting, I'm wondering if it might not be a wonderful candidate for a cover for our book, and as a frontispiece? However, I'm sure that Mrs. Montgomery would part with it long enough for ~~x~~ the color plates to be made. Incidentally, an article on Guatemala came out today in The Herald. I'll see that you get a copy. The color picture~~x~~ shows you and Evelyn with a bunch of other Indians.

PS: We're asking John to pay you for the Espresso and we'll repay him when he returns.

5985 S.W. Montgomery Drive
Miami, Fla. 33156
July 15, 1967

Dear Wilson:

As we say in the latter part of the sixth decade, 20th century, I have "communicated" with Nell about your suggestions to establish a collection of tropical fruit varieties at the Montgomery Foundation. I agree that it is one of the things we should consider. But there is always the problem of limiting a project once you get started with it. How extensive should a mango collection be, or an avocado collection? Who will decide?

There is no pressing need, at the moment, for such a collection, but I can foresee a time when there might be. As the cultivation of tropical fruits on a commercial basis ceases in Dade County, there will be less reason for the University of Florida to maintain its collections at the Subtropical Experiment Station. I'm sure there will be pressure to close down the tropical fruit research there within the next 15 or 20 years, after Dade County becomes completely urbanized. It is growing rapidly again. We will have at least 1.5 million people by 1975. The movement southward is rapid, and with the prospects of extending an expressway to Homestead, you can bet that area will explode with home construction. It won't be long after that when you can say goodbye to tropical fruits, at least the growing of them commercially.

The thing to do, I suppose, is to consider the ~~time~~ possibilities of establishing the collections at the Montgomery Foundation. For I have my doubts that Chapman Field will continue in any important way, unless there is a great change of heart. But who knows? Perhaps something can be worked out with Chapman Field in the years ahead, so that the Foundation can keep certain collections and Chapman Field certain collections. We will have limited space, as you know, and even less money, unless we find a pot between now and then.

The next time you're through this area while Nell is here we can discuss the proposal with her. But in the meantime we'll put it on the agenda for our next board meeting.

We've never enjoyed a coffee more than TIPO ESPRESSO, the OPTIMO brand from Nicaragua. I tried without success to buy it here. The light ~~medium~~ roast is fairly good--much better than our local coffee--but not nearly so good as the dark roast. Would it be possible for you to send us some dark roast TIPO ESPRESSO by John when he returns from next week's meeting in Honduras? We could use a case--or as much as we can get without over-burdening a weary traveler from Central America.

Thought I'd write a short item about the new Paul Allen building at Zamorano and offer it for the next FTG Bulletin.

Evelyn sends her regards.

Sincerely, Nixon Smiley

July 16, 1968

Dear Wilson:

You already know from Nixon's letter that I arrived home safely with all the cargo in excellent condition. Not one coffee jar was broken, and I came through with the seeds for John which I delivered to him yesterday afternoon. The mat which you had wrapped around the coffee is in good condition and I am using it on the floor in the kitchen. The stone idol makes a very impressive doorstep, and the blue vase is on my dressing table where I see it often.

Needless to say, I had a lovely visit as I always do when I go to Guatemala. After living for a week in that mile-high climate, it was quite a shock to step out of customs at the airport when we came home Sunday. It is very hot here and have plenty of mosquitoes. The mangos are ripe and also the lychees. Wish you were here to enjoy some of the fruit. But you have just about everything down there except perhaps lychees.

I miss the early morning tray of coffee, and the rose, and lots of things!

Always affectionately,

Evelyn [Smiley]

Oct. 14, 1968

Dear Wilson:

I'm reading a new book, *Viceroyalties of the West*, (The Spanish Empire in Latin America) by Roderick Cameron. I'm sure you need no introduction to him since he mentions his visits with you in the chapter *The Pompeii of America*. He also has several references in this chapter taken from Dorothy's *Santiago de los Caballeros de Guatemala*. He says:

In Antigua itself, there were pleasant mornings spent with Dr. Wilson Popenoe, a distinguished botanical explorer who has spent a lifetime propagating the avocado, *Persea americana*, indigenous to Southern Mexico and Guatemala. An old tree he used for many of his grafts stands at the bottom of the garden and in it he hangs spiny nopal leaves to keep away the bats. His house, expertly restored, is perhaps the most splendid in Antigua. In time it will undoubtedly become a museum, for it has all the distinguishing features of the colonial period, including handsome medallion windows typical of Antigua during the seventeenth century. Hidden away at the back, in a second patio, are raised flower beds bordered with fluted masonry, again a local peculiarity. On one of my visits I admired a statue found, Dr. Popenoe informed me, thirty-five years ago in Ciudad Viejo. I asked him about it:

There was an old boy in those days, half-Indian, a kind of guardian. He lived in the ruins and I was pottering around not really paying much attention to him. You know how sometimes, when people are standing near you, you can feel them without actually seeing them. Thinking it was the Indian behind me I questioned him about something or other. They pass things on in the family and sometimes come up with interesting details dating back several generations. Not getting an answer, I turned to find that I had been addressing this statue, miraculously preserved in a niche.

It was a tonsured monk in his robes, one hand uplifted in blessing.

It is a fascinating book taking the reader on a journey through three hundred years of the Spanish vice-regal age, beginning with the early sixteenth century. You may want to read it when you come up again.

We have some friends who are going to Guatemala Oct. 18, I believe. He is city editor on the Miami Herald and his wife is a pretty little Cuban girl with a terrific personality. She came over and asked me all sorts of questions about Guatemala, never having been there herself. I showed her the color pictures I made while there in July. She wants to visit your house, of course, and I hope you may be there when they do and perhaps have a few minutes to spend with them. The name is Potts.

Since returning from N. C. we have had rain almost every day. The grass grows so rapidly that it is difficult for one to keep it mowed. I've been doing my share with the riding mower, but I realize more and more that this place is too large for us. Nixon doesn't have the time to keep it up and I'm to the place in life that I no longer relish working outside. Fortunately, we haven't had a hurricane this year but it's not too late.

It appears that Richard Nixon will be our next president--without any doubt. I'm going to vote for him. I think we need a complete change in government. I always vote for the man regardless of my political background. My conscience won't let me do otherwise.

If you can't come up before, why not plan to spend Christmas in Florida? We've never been together during the holidays.

As always,

Earlyn

I had **not** heard "Deep in the heart of Texas" for several years until recently. Yes, aren't the words **nice**.

Oct. 28, 1968

Dear Wilson:

You did an excellent job on the guide to the house. It's something that we have hoped for a long time that you would do. Well, now it's done. Good.

Sylvia Potts just telephoned me and she was very excited about their trip to Guatemala. As you know, they didn't get to your place until Monday and you had gone over to Tikal. It's unfortunate that I didn't know when I wrote to you when they would visit Antigua. Naturally, you can't wait indefinitely for people to come. In the future, I will send the suggested note along, and will also try to be more definite about when to expect visitors from here. They stayed a week and rented a car, going all over the place and even thought of going to Tikal but figured the \$45 round trip via plane was a little too much. They wanted to save their money to make purchases in Guatemala, which they did. She said they brought back some hand carved tables. If you waited on them Saturday and Sunday, you will have to forgive me. They very much appreciated the guide to the house which the servant kindly gave them.

Nixon left this morning for a few days in the Orlando area and perhaps as far as Jax. He hopes to stop in Gainesville and see Hugh. I'm going to have dinner with Jeanne Bellemy this evening and then we are going to hear a concert pianist. We have season tickets to the Miami Civic Music Association--so don't want them to waste. A couple of weeks ago we heard a Spanish mezzo soprano from Madrid, Teresa Berganza, who was wonderful. Her teacher was the great Spanish singer Lola Rodriguez Aragon, who herself had been a pupil of Elisabeth Schumann. Getting all caught up with "culture" lately. Went to two plays which I enjoyed at the Grove Playhouse, George Bernard Shaw's Arms and the Man, and Moliere's The Misanthrope.

The Churneys and the Russel-Pancoasts ate with us last night. I see little of the Churneys since he retired. They are usually so busy that I don't drop by unless I'm invited. Twice lately Peg has called in the a.m. and asked me to come by if I went out in the afternoon. Twice I did, and twice I found

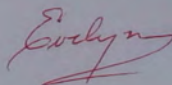
them taking their afternoon nap. Peg got up but appeared irritated so I wouldn't go inside, but did go back in the evening once and have a drink with them. She says she wrote you a letter while Eleanor and I were with you, but she never received an answer. As usual, she was wanting a favor.

Roderick Cameron, (his real name) who wrote Viceroyalties of the West, is an American citizen of Australian background, attended schools in Paris, Carlo, England, Switzerland and Munich. During World War II he served in the U.S. Air Force and in the Intelligence Service in Washington and London. Now, do you remember him?

As you would expect, the papers have been full of Jackie Kennedy's marriage. But I suppose the press at last has decided to let them honeymoon in peace, since they can't get near them anyway. Now, ~~where~~ we're getting nothing but news of the presidential candidates. Richard Nixon seems to be growing in popularity as the time draws near for the election. But would you believe it, there is a good chance that Florida will go for Wallace.

Nell and her family will fly in Thursday from N.C. The weather is getting quite cool up in the mountains now. Today is the first day we have had the airconditioners off. Eleanor Rogers is building another home in N.C., expects to spend Christmas in Hawaii and planning a Caribbean cruise in the spring--some activity for such a poor woman, eh?

Best always,



[Smiley

November 25, 1968

Dear Wilson:

We have just returned home after two weeks traveling about the state--mostly in northwest Fla. Don't think I've ever appreciated home more. Fifteen or sixteen nights in motels gets a bit tiresome. Wished for you when we stopped in Apalachicola to eat those wonderful oysters at The Grill. I ate my first raw oyster and it was darn good. So, just consider one more added to the gang! Ran into some cool weather on the trip with 28 degrees in Tallahassee one morning. Fortunately, had plenty of woolen clothes which I love to wear, and of course, heated rooms and car. Now I'm getting settled down to think about getting ready for Christmas and the Ramble Dec. 6-7. (Perhaps I should say here that I thought Nixon had written to you before we left. He told me he would but I find that he didn't get a chance. It's always bedlam here just before getting away on one of these trips.)

Jeri tells me that John is in Venezuela at the invitation of the government with all expenses paid. Sounds like he is having a delightful time with all sorts of trips, including the Orinoco river. Debbie is all starry-eyed about a Christmas

Ball she is going to with her first "real" date, first evening gown, and first heels. When I talked with her I could only think how wonderful to be so young and so blissfully happy. She is making quite a pretty girl.

I really wanted to come back home via Gainesville and see Hugh and get some holly from his farm, but it would have upset Nixon's plans for his stories to have left his planned route. He saw Hugh a short time ago when he was up the state. In fact, he was going to write you about it in the letter that never was written. But I'm sure that you have heard from Hugh since then. I suppose he has moved back to his apartment by this time. He expected to do so shortly after N. saw him. I understand one foot is coming along fine but the other is somewhat of a problem still.

We are having lovely weather here--cool nights and pleasant days. So nice to turn off airconditioners and open up the house. This is the kind of weather that you enjoy in south Fla. What are your plans for Christmas? Surely you don't expect to stay down there alone.

Affectionately,

Evlyz [smiley]



The Miami Herald

A KNIGHT NEWSPAPER

THE MIAMI HERALD PUBLISHING CO. • 1 HERALD PLAZA, MIAMI, FLORIDA 33101 • (AREA CODE 305) 350-2111

March 23, 1970

Dear Wilson:

I had waited to answer your last letter until I could find out more about my plans for April and May, but know no more now than I did weeks ago. I am trying to do a history of The Miami Herald and my regular job at the same time. This winter and spring I have been interviewing a number of persons connected with The Herald, particularly John S. Knight, the publisher. I still have additional interviews to come, and am in the position of having to wait until he, and some of the others, can work out the time. In the midst of this I have an assignment to do a long article on the St. Johns River for Tropic magazine, the new insert in the Herald.

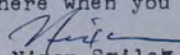
We haven't seen or heard from Hugh recently, but hear he is doing well. We will of course drop in to see him when in Gainesville again, but you may be there before we get there.

Just had the annual meetings of the Fairchild Garden and the Montgomery Foundation and everything has been quite satisfactory. George Lawrence has been an aggressive president of the FTG and is proving an able successor to Dr. Robbins. Although Dr. Robbins came down for the meeting, he had no responsibilities and said he liked to think of the trip as a vacation, which I'm sure it was to both him and his wife.

We recently began charging admission at the FTG--one dollar. It was necessary because of two reasons, the number of hippies who used the FTG on Sundays and the neighborhood children who played there and destroyed many of the labels and the young plants. A chain link fence now surrounds most of the garden, but it is necessary to employ a policeman on Sundays to keep people from climbing the fence. The policeman pays for his salary, however, by making the invaders pay, in lieu of arrest. During the first four weeks over \$9,000 was taken in. It is being used to improve the appearance of the grounds and thus to attract more people. I have been against charging, and would have suggested 50 cents rather than a dollar admission.

John and Jerry's baby, a girl, has arrived, which you already know, I'm sure. It's a very healthy child, and that's what counts. We also are grandparents again, this time a boy.

Give Alice our regards. We hope we'll be here when you arrive and will have a chance to see you.

Sincerely, 
Nixon Smiley

Hi!

12/1/70

I'm sending out cards early as well as making all Christmas preparations ahead - because Karl and his gang will be arriving in a few days. This will be the first time in years for us to be together during the holidays.

Did you receive my letter early in Oct. with clippings about Dick Dijkman's death? Haven't heard anything from you in a long time, so just wondered.

We were in North Fla. recently and saw Hugh. We went to Cedar Key one evening for a fish dinner. He is feeling and looking great. Hope all goes well with you folks -
 Evelyn SMILEY



The Miami Herald

A KNIGHT NEWSPAPER

THE MIAMI HERALD PUBLISHING CO. • 1 HERALD PLAZA, MIAMI, FLORIDA 33101 • (AREA CODE 305) 350-2111

Dec. 17, 1970

Dear Alice and Wilson:

Your letter came yesterday. I believe Evelyn has sent a Christmas card. We had not heard from you since Dijkman's death. But time has passed rapidly for us. I've been on the road a lot and Evelyn has accompanied me on most of the trips. We saw Hugh in Gainesville a couple of weeks ago and we drove to Cedar Key to eat oysters and mullet. Hugh is doing well, getting around well with hardly a limp and without his crutches. You know this, of course, but I think his recovery has been remarkable. I'd like to do a story about it, but he's reluctant. Maybe he will assent later.

Karl comes home for Christmas, with his family including three children. He finishes at Houston in August and will return to Miami to set up practice, as a finished vascular surgeon. I think we told you; he's now in Methodist Hospital in Houston, in DeBakey's service, where he has a fellowship.

Hugh may have told you that the state has purchased Payne's Prairie, just south of Gainesville, and it will become a state park. There's much high ground in the area purchased, and this will be used for camping and other forms of ~~the~~ recreation, while the prairie apparently will be left as it is, as a game preserve. The boating people have put pressure on to flood the ~~the~~ prairie and make it a lake. But Florida already has plenty of lakes. I can't believe it will be flooded, which would drive away the colony of more than 1,000 sandhill cranes.

I'm glad to hear that Hugh succeeds you on the Pan American Agricultural School board. Your move, I think, was a clever one. It isn't likely that two Popenoes would be elected to the board at one time. It was wise to drop off so Hugh could take your place.

I wish we could come down for a few days but there's little hope that such a trip could be arranged any time soon. The Herald has a staff in Latin America now and it isn't likely that I'll have a chance to do any additional coverage of Latin America.

Let us keep in touch with you. Some how we had expected you to come up this winter, to work on the book. I think you and Alice would enjoy a stay of a month or six weeks in the apartment at the Montgomery Foundation, being in the midst of our Florida horticulture again.

Miami, Fla.

Jan. 14, 1971

Dear Wilson:

Needless to say, it was nice to get your letter. I got a kick from the cartoon because it is so like the things that happen at Casa Poponce, as you said. The cartoonist really knew how to get that "smug" expression that people have when they are being photographed. N'est pas?

Well, I suppose you and Alice are in Costa Rica and no doubt this letter will reach Antigua long before you arrive. However, this seems a good time for me to write since I am spending several days alone. Nixon is on the West Coast of Florida doing some stories and I am recovering from the flue which mowed me down Christmas day. I suppose I was tired when Karl and his family arrived a few days before Christmas and then with all the extra work and looking out for three small children a good part of the time while their parents were house hunting, going to parties and ball games -- something had to give, and it did. I went to bed with a kidney infection and the flu Christmas evening and stayed put for four days. For some reason I always get ill when I am around my daughter-in-law for any length of time. Would you have any idea why???? Frankly, I have given up. I just can't take her -- and God knows I have tried for 10 years because of Karl. But there is no way. She won't even communicate with me. They went to her parents while I was out of commission and returned here when I was able to function again. They are moving to Miami early in Feb.

Karl is going with Dr. Walter C. Jones and Dr. Robert Swink -- one of the oldest and best known surgical teams in Miami. This will be a wonderful opportunity for him if he works things right. One thing is for certain, he will have to make more money than his wife can possibly spend before he will ever be able to get ahead. Last night I was in bed reading when the telephone rang and it was Dorothy Allen in St. Louis. We talked for 40 minutes. Some bill she will have! She had wanted to come down and stay with me while I was alone but things didn't work out -- so she decided to have a visit via telephone. She said among other things that she had heard from a friend in Honduras (don't ask me who, I don't know) that the Armours are leaving the school and that YOU are going back as director. I told her I didn't believe it -- that I felt sure it was a false rumor. Am I right? I have an idea that someone has seen you and Alice there several times since you were married and they ~~think~~ have formed this conclusion. Dorothy said they were frozen in ip there and I had to tell her that I had the air condition on all day! She also said that it isn't safe to get on the streets at night in St. Louis because of the colored people; that when she looks out all she sees are blacks on the street. It isn't quite that bad here yet, but I did have a scare yesterday morning. About 9 a.m. when I was in the kitchen I looked out the window and saw a young fellow standing half way between the house and our back gate which was open. He was bare foot and had long blond hair down to his shoulders. He was just looking about the place and I watched until he went back out through the gate and took the direction toward Montgomery Dr. Then I went outside the gate to watch him and when he saw me he started running. I thought he was casing the place and was being picked up by friends, so I jumped

in my car and drove down Montgomery Dr. but never did see him.

He either had to hide or was picked up. It really gave me a scare

and I came home and locked the gates and didn't leave the place

yesterday or today. I suppose one is very suspicious after having

been robbed. There's no fun live like this, however, behind a

fence and locked gates. I feel as tho I'm in prison.

Miriam Lawrence has just called and wants to come over, so

I must stop. She is here with George for some FTG meetings.

I wish you would write when you get home and let us hear how

Sally is getting along. Don't mind telling me your troubles -- I

tell you mine!

As ever,

Evelyn Smiley

April 6, 1971

Dear Wilson:

I have just read the life of El Cordobes entitled, "Or I'll Dress You in Mourning," by Larry Collins and Dominique Lapierre. The descriptions of the poverty of his family, how he slipped into the bull pastures at night and learned to fight the bulls and his undying determination to become a great matador, is some of the best writing I have seen. He learned to write his name with the help of a priest after he was on his way to fame. His first fight of any consequence was in Madrid. His sister who had raised him was afraid for him and was crying, so he told her, "Don't cry Angelita, Tonight I'll buy you a house, or I'll dress you in mourning." Unless you and Alice plan to come up to Florida in the near future, I think I shall send it down to you.

Life has changed somewhat for us since Karl and his family are living here. We don't spend as much time together as most families but things are going quite well. I'm trying to do my part to make things pleasant, and I think they are too.

At the moment I'm getting ready for a big cook out next Friday evening. We expect to have between 35 and 40 people. I find that I can prepare most of the food ahead and can enjoy myself with the others.

We are having one of the longest droughts in history. The Everglades have been burning for weeks. Seeding the clouds has failed to bring enough rain to help. Two weeks ago the property next to us burned and it spread through our fence in the back and burned up to our pond. It was a very exciting time and the plants

are either damaged or killed. Some of our very nice palms went in the flames.

I hope all goes well with you and that you will write to us soon.

April 6, 1917

Evelyn

Dear Wilson:

I have just read the life of El Cordebas entitled "Or I'll
dress you in mourning," by Harry Collins and Domingo Labrador.
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into the bull penitence at night and learned to fight the bulls
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failed to bring enough rain to help. Two weeks ago the property
next to us burned and it spread through our fence in the back and
burned up to our pond. If we had

April 16, 1971

Dear Wilson:

I suppose our letters met somewhere over the Caribbean -- or perhaps mine lay in the Guatemala City P.O. for several days due to the Easter Holiday. At any rate, it was nice to hear from you and I gather from your letter that you and Alice have no plans at present to come up to Florida any time soon -- so, I am mailing you the book that I mentioned in my last letter. I will try to get it in the mail today when I mail this. Just hope no one in the C.A. postal service takes a fancy to something marked "book" and that you never receive it like what happened to the small electric heater which was intended to heat shaving water. I would like to have the book back sometime when you are coming up. Think it would be nice to have in our library.

Can't think of anything I would love to do more than come down to Guatemala and take another tour of the highlands and go to Esquipulas again. Of course I remember Esquipulas. How could I forget seeing the Black Christ? But alas, we have already started making plans for our vacation which Nixon has requested for October and guess where we're planning to go -- back to Spain. This may be our last trip. Our plans are not final but the only plan we have at the moment. Nixon is studying Spanish with the aid of a Cuban fellow at The Herald who speaks beautiful Spanish -- and as usual I'm piddling along here at the house with it. Everytime we go to Spain we get all enthused about learning the language -- and

then lose interest.

Debbie Popenoe and a girl friend who lives out of the country are meeting in Madrid in July to tour Europe for a month or more. They expect to spend a week in Rome, a few days in France and Germany also. She wanted to know last week if we had a map of Madrid. This is to be her graduation present (highschool) from her father. Sounds like a great experience for an 18 year old girl. Debbie is making a strikingly beautiful girl or I should say woman.

Still no rain and the Everglades continue to burn. This has been going on constantly for weeks and it's impossible to get the fires out there under control. Some days when the wind is right we have smoke here so thick that in some areas people turn on their headlights on their cars for safety measure. We have never seen so long a drought since we've lived in Florida.

Our hamburger party last week was a "smashing success". We had 39 people, plenty of booze to drink and plenty of simple food. I've had more tel. calls and 'thank you' notes than ever before. It was a well mixed party with several young couples and several middle age and older couples.

Incidentally, we are going to have a poor mango crop and no lychees here at our place. Of course, last year was our lychee year ^{as} ~~and~~ they bear only on alternate years as you probably know.

Affectionately,

Eodlyn

May 24, 1971

Dear Wilson:

The table cloth which you have bought will be just right. You surely have a good memory because I would have had to measure my table before buying a cloth for it. But the 100 x 56 is perfect! Don't try to bring very much up with you for us because it's such a bother -- besides there are other people here you have to think about. Of course, I would not turn down another wall hanging that is comparable to the last one you gave me. It's really a beauty hanging in the hallway, but frankly I don't know where I would hang another one at the moment. However, I couldn't say NO is you want to bring it!

At last, we had some rain. Over 3 inches last Saturday night. We had some people in for dinner and it rained until after 11 p.m. and I was dead tired when it stopped enough for them to get to their cars. I sprained my right foot the day of the fire, nearly two months ago. It just won't get well. I had it x-rayed today but no broken bones. Just a severe sprain and some ruptured blood vessels which continue to seep a bit. But the more I'm on my feet the longer it is going to take for a complete recovery.

Nixon is leaving Thursday for a few days in the Bahamas, but will be back when you come. Since you say it will be about the 5th of June or later, he decided to go on now so that he would be back in time to see you. I'm not going. First of all, it would be very expensive since we would have to pay most of my fare -- plane and motel. Secondly, my damn foot!

I had the most wonderful surprise the other day. Dorothy Allen sent me some Colonial Spanish hand-carved-wooden-Honduran stirrups. Had not heard from her for some time and had tried to call her without success. Then I wrote her that I was thinking of her and had not received an answer when the telephone rang. She wrote ~~a~~ very affectionately, telling me that she is still in the same place, but still looking for something better. This is what she says about the stirrups. "The brass ones from Colombia are unusual but the wooden ones seem to be much older and almost impossible to find. It was only after our years of living at Zamorano that one Sunday afternoon on a ride, near the school, did we see a little old man using them on his horse. Paul screeched to a stop and asked if he might buy them but -- Of course not, the man was all dressed up and on his way to town and how would it look if he had no stirrups -- but he would be happy to bring them to our house and sell them, the next day. We were sure that he would not but he did -- much to our surprise! The only pair we had ever seen!!! They are very crudely made, Evelyn, but because of your interest in wood-carving and of your knowledge of the Escuela and it's surrounding area I thought it might be of special interest to you."

Isn't that a wonderful story? Sounds like you talking.
Will expect to hear from you about arrival.

Best,

Evelyn

July 29, 1971

Dear Wilson:

Thanks for the information on the mine in Honduras. Don't hear any more about the trip but feel sure the paper is still interested. George Lawrence hasn't written to give us any history about it. Your letter will be a great help to Nixon if he does go.

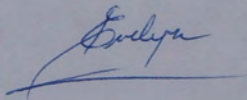
At the moment we are getting ready to go to the Bahamas next Tuesday to spend a week at Andros. We have been invited to come and stay at a resort hotel which belongs to some people in Miami. Of course, it will be a work trip for Nixon but we hope to enjoy ourselves in the meantime. I'll be glad to get out of here for a few days -- if for nothing else -- a change of scenery!

Debbie wrote her parents that her room at Hotel Nacional was a terrible disappointment. She said, "I can't believe the Smileys would recommend something like this." Well, we didn't. I just answered her questions, and we did fare very well when we were there. They got a very small room and any number of things made them unhappy. I think the trouble was that they engaged the room through a travel agency here in Miami and it was paid for in advance, so they apparently gave the kids a pretty bad room. I don't believe they quite realized they were in Europe when she wrote, however, because she ~~complaining~~ complained about the elevators not being automatic and no air conditioning. Maybe they should have gone to Miami Beach!

Yesterday was my birthday and Karl and Charlotte had us for dinner last night. I gave him your message and he is anxious to hear of your progress from time to time. They are about ready to start their house -- the loan has been approved, and they are very excited.

You surely were glad to get back to cool weather and home, and Alice! We enjoyed your visit and thanks again for the nice things you brought up to us. Nixon is enjoying the coffee and watching it go down with a most forlorn expression!

Best to you both,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Evelyn", with a long horizontal flourish underneath.

Sept. 7, 1971

Dear Wilson:

I've been wishing for something to happen that would be interesting to write to you, but I fear things go along about as usual. But maybe that's a blessing.

We've both had summer colds and mine left me with a very bad cough, especially at night. For two weeks the only sleep I got was when I took codeine. It all happened after returning from Andros. That turned out to be a very pleasant trip.

And now speaking of trips, we have at last heard from Dr. Lawrence and he has sent all sorts of stuff about the mine in Honduras. However, we can find nothing that ties in with the description which you gave in your letter sometime ago. George's brother is reported to have spent a quarter million dollars on this mine, getting nothing out of it. Nixon thinks it will make a good human interest story and the Herald may send him down this fall. We are having mixed emotions about the trip to Europe. I haven't been too enthused all the while and since we need some way to water this place, would rather see the money spent for a watering system. I have gone through so many fires here and felt so helpless that it frightens me to even think of another such experience. Last time our neighbor next door turned on all his sprinklers and never had a blade of grass burned.

On a trip that we really intend to make this fall, however, is to Haiti. Neither of us have been there and I'm interested

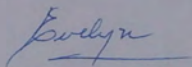
in their crafts and art -- besides I hear it is a beautiful country. October is vacation month so we'll have to make up our minds soon. Since we have been to Spain twice I don't feel that I have to go back this year, and I think Nixon is willing to go along with that idea.

I believe he gave you one of the gardening books which he revised and which went on sale the first of the year. Well, the other day he recd. a check for over \$4,000 which was 10% of the total sales. So, you can see how many books have sold since Jan. We bought 200 more shares of Texas Gulf Sulphur -- something we had been wanting. I believe it is worth waiting on. Of course, it all depends on how long one can wait!

Glad Hugh was down to see you. I just wonder if he and Kitty may get married after all. What do you think?

Let us hear from time to time how you are feeling. Karl was delighted to hear in your last letter that things are going so well.

Best,





The Miami Herald

A KNIGHT NEWSPAPER

THE MIAMI HERALD PUBLISHING CO. • 1 HERALD PLAZA, MIAMI, FLORIDA 33101 • (AREA CODE 305) 350-2111

Sept. 24, 1971

Dear Wilson:

I'm not so sure at the moment that I "smell" a good story in the Danli gold mine. George Lawrence sent me a lot of stuff, but most of it deals with bills and legal matters. Apparently George's brother spent \$250,000 in Honduras on mines, mostly at Danli. It's all under the name of Eastern Star Mining Co. The manager in Honduras was a Col. Gilbert Stuart.

In one place a mine I take to be the one at Danli is referred to as the Pajarillos mine. In another place the property Lawrence owned was at Mt. La Virgen near Danli.

The property covered 435.8 acres and was located 100 varas from the Rio del Vallecillo, and a brook, Los Canales, ran through the property. No mention of distance from Danli can be found.

George gave me the name of an engineer, Gus Sjostedt, which he said was at Stetson University and who was a friend of his brother in Honduras, but there's no such animal at Stetson, or I ever has been.

So there I am. I'm not so sure it's worth going to Danli in search of something I know I'm not what. It could be a good story, however, if some of the loose ends could be put together. From the correspondence, it appears that Lawrence's rich brother was bled pretty white, as are many rich people when they begin scattering their money about in various investments. You wonder how they ever accumulated the money in the first place.

I do see a story in the Pan-American Agricultural School, how it's managed to get all kinds of money from so many various agencies to put up all kinds of buildings, but has not been able to obtain operating funds from any of these agencies. It could make a good story, but I'd need a lot of help on it, and the help naturally would have to stem from you. Perhaps I could do the two stories on the same trip and therefor have a better excuse for going to Honduras. At the present time, however, I'M not exactly wild about the prospects of going to Danli in search of a gold mine on Rio del Vallecillo.

5985 S.W. Montgomery Drive
Miami, Fla. 33156

ENCL 19713

Dr. Wilson Popenoe
Antigua, Guatemala

Dear Wilson:

Just when I was beginning to think I would be limited to writing about Florida for the rest of my life, our editor, John McMullan, has ordered me to get busy planning trips to the Bahamas and to Latin America. I will go into the back country as well as to the cities, and will write about the places and people--the little people as well as those who are striving to leave their marks in the world.

I'm planning my first trip to the Bahamas, as Mr. McMullan has suggested, but in the meantime I want to project a trip soon to Central America. I hope--I'm sure--you will have suggestions. This will not be a trip in which I'll be interviewing presidents, ambassadors or economic advisers--unless they have something very significant to say. And I'll do my best to stay the hell away from the ivory tower experts who can tell you all that is wrong with Latin America. Instead, I'll be seeing the people and places and writing about them, weaving in history, the economy, art and whatever else seems appropriate to make my stories have meaning and readability.

It won't be possible for me to do all this through my own ears and eyes, since I don't have the background for Latin America such as I have for Florida; but I think my experiences in dealing with people and places, plus an appreciation of Latin America and its people, will make it possible for me to do a creditable job. With the help from the Wilson Popenoes of Latin America I should be able to come through with good, readable stuff that will, or should, help provide others with a new insight.

As you will remember, we have discussed covering ~~Latin~~ Latin America by newspapers and magazines, and we have agreed that much of the stuff coming out of that area, and read by the American public, comes from handouts or from the lips of "experts" who may have an ax to grind--possibility for their own governments, including the U.S. While I wouldn't want to pass up the so-called experts completely, I would listen to them guardedly, adopting the policy of writing nothing without seeing ~~the~~ what I was to write about.

I want to do pieces on such people as the Hempsteads and the de Solas, as well as about the architects, poets and artists of Latin America, but do these stories against a background with which I make myself acquainted with. But the stories on Juan and Maria will be just as important to me. I still think the story I did on Juan Gutierrez, the Central American "Joe Smith," is the best thing I've ever written. And it was written with your help. ~~We saw the hell of a lot of Juan~~ before this piece was written.

Hugh told me at Gainesville recently the Juan Guiterez article described the average man of Central America better than anything he had ever seen written about that country--which made me feel damn good. (I drop by to see Hugh every chance I get. His condition seems to be improving all the while. The doctors seem certain one leg will be completely usable again, and there is still hope that the bones in the other leg can be induced to grow together again. I wanted to do a story on the guy, how he has managed to run an important activity at the university for nearly a year from a hospital bed. Actually, he has done more work that he was able to do before his accident, because, as you remember, he had to ~~remain~~ travel so much. The Ford Foundation has just given his department a \$200,000 grant for research aimed at improving the grasses for livestock in the arid places of the tropics. Florida will get a lot of benefit from this research, I imagine.)

Is there any chance you will be up this way at Christmas? If you plan on coming up, I hope you can see your way clear to stay with us a couple of days so I can mine your head for ideas and guidance in covering Central and South America. I also need a long list of reliable contacts. I've lost all I used to have, when I made trips for The Herald in the 1950's. I want to renew my acquaintances with Chris and Chico. Chris might fly us on some jaunts with his new two-engine plane. Have you flown with him? Chico might help me to do a yarn on the Jews of Latin America. I've never seen such an article. Have you? It's too bad Shelton is dead. He had so many contacts in Latin America. For one thing, he had so many people working for him who could get things done for you, like transportation, for instance.

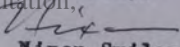
I'm looking forward to hearing from you, of getting your comment and perhaps some suggestions. Would you feel like a Volkswagen trip through Guatemala, ~~Guam~~ El Salvador and Honduras?

Evelyn sends her love. We have been on an interesting trip upstate, getting as far as Pensacola. The number of stories a reporter can pick up on a two-week trip through any part of Florida is incredible. And Latin America, with its interesting background, ~~has~~ has even greater possibilities.

If you get up this way at Christmas I want you to get acquainted with our editor, John McMullan. You'll like him. He's direct. You know how you stand with him, which is important for a reporter. He seems to like the stories I've been doing on Florida and wants these stories to be my guide in Latin America and the Bahamas.

Remember us to Sally. Maybe she can introduce us to her Peace Corps friends. I'd like to see what these Peace Corps people are really doing, and find out what the local people think of them.

Sincerely,


Nixon Smilev

Nov. 18, 1971

Dear Wilson:

I wish I could write and give you an account of an exciting trip to Europe this summer but I cannot -- we didn't go! Instead, we spent Nixon's vacation here at home and spent ^{our} ~~our~~ little bit of extra money putting in a sprinkler system over the entire 5 acres, tearing down the slat house, planning to make the storage house attractive and comfortable for a study, and, believe it or not, after all these years of keeping house without a dish washer-- I broke down and had one put in. While N. was on vacation I found myself in the kitchen washing dishes three times a day and now that Karl and family are here, I find that my kitchen work has doubled. I'm very pleased with the new addition because it makes life much easier for me.

Now for the bad news. Lee and Mimi Adams were killed in a car accident last Tuesday night in Jacksonville. I am enclosing a brief notice which appeared in the Daily News. The Herald this morning carried much more and their pictures. I'm keeping that one. Nell Jennings called me at 8 a.m. yesterday to tell me and I was able to telephone Nixon in Sarasota before he got away from his motel. He is on the road for a few days writing about things and people on the west coast of Florida. This news was a terrible blow to all of us here who have known the Adams for so many years. I don't know if Lee lost control of his car or what happened but apparently he was going at a high rate of speed for the car to cut a 2 ft. thick concrete utility pole in two. And I hear the car just literally blew to bits.

A
*Birthday
Wish*
FOR YOU





Dear Wilson

*It's the same old wish,
Yet it's always new...
And especially warm
When it's sent to you!*

HAVE A
HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Evelyn

Another thing you may not have heard is that George Lawrence had a heart attack about a month ago and was in intensive care in a hospital in Pittsburg for days. He is now able to be moved to an apartment with Miriam but still not able to fly home to Rhode Island. He and Miriam were in route from Rhode Island to Pittsburg -- driving -- when it happened. He has resigned from all his duties, including presidency of the FTG. So, that leaves the Garden without a president. We are all working hard on the Ramble coming up Dec. 3 - 4. Nell had a big party yesterday at her house and everyone brought something for the Ramble and we had cookies and punch and lots of talking.

The weather is just beginning to cool here. We had a very long and hot summer. We've had a disturbance floundering about on the western tip of Cuba which gave us some concern a day or so ago, but it seems to have turned toward Mexico instead of the Florida mainland, thank goodness. We are due for a bad one. It has been about 10 years since we have had a real dilly of a hurricane.

I'm back in the Ceramic League getting ready to help with an annual fair ^{where} ~~which~~ we donate ceramic pieces to get extra money. Between that, working at the Garden and helping now and then with the grandchildren, life spins along very fast. Almost too fast. Karl and Charlotte plan to move into their new house by the first of Dec. It is a lovely house, big with four bedrooms, two and a half baths, large living space and just the thing for a large family. Karl should have sold the bank stock when I gave it to him. It has come down some and he is going to have to sell it soon because he needs the money to close out.

May 31, 1972

Dear Wilson:

You are right. I am not a stamp collector, but I am getting a few choice ones together with the hope that one of our grandsons will have an interest in stamp collecting. Karl collected between the ages of 10 and 17 years of age and has a rather nice start. But when he entered college he didn't have the time to continue. I would be glad to have anything you have that might add to the "hoped for" collection. Just save them, no hurry.

I don't think that I have anything to add to the report on John's troubles at the FTG. I do know that Gillis is still around, however, and eager to stir up trouble. John recently attended a horticultural meeting in Boston and Jeri told me that Kay Sweeney and Gillis were both there. So, I'm sure they haven't given up hope. The main thing that the Garden fears is that Kay will discontinue her support. She has already withdrawn her pledge to give \$20,000 on a new office for the director. It seems that the building is going to be extended out for some distance giving the director a nice and spacious office. Certainly that is long over due. But as Nell says, the Garden can't afford to cater to people just for their money if their ideas conflict with the progress of the Garden in general. She says they will be better off without those people. Many people have been surprised that Manis signed the letter. However, he and Rosie are "bosom friends of Kay" and that may have had something to do with

his decision. Kay has many friends in this area, and she is a very charming person, but she is going to lose some of her friends over this thing, and I'm afraid the Garden is going to lose her support. Nell and Al hate to think that Gillis may cause their friendship to end with Kay. Nell even thinks, (and this is confidential) that she may be in love with him. I doubt that. I don't think that either of them are interested in the opposite sex in that respect. I think that Kay is mothering him and thinks his ideas are great, Alas!

Well! enough of that. It's good to know that you are beginning to feel yourself after the operation. The trip to Europe in September for you and Alice sounds like you are raring to go again. Why don't you two come up to Florida for awhile before taking off for foreign lands? As you know, Nixon is planning to retire next year. It is the Herald's policy to give a big party for retirees and they spend huge sums of money on these affairs. Cocktail party, big dinner and expensive gifts for the person retiring. Nixon wants none of this. And, I agree. So, if they want to do something for him, he is going to ask for a trip for the two of us to Europe. We may take London. Madrid is the city we love but since we neither speak Spanish very well, I would prefer London. The last time we were there the weather was so cold that I didn't get to see much of the city. And for some reason, I feel more comfortable to visit a place where I can communicate with the people. And, speaking of England, of course you know the duke of Windsor is dead. I always had a tender spot in my heart for him. He had the courage to give up a kingdom for what he thought he really wanted in life. I know you don't agree with me, and he may have had regrets, but he stuck with it.

And, somehow, I don't think he had regrets!

We're having rain every day. It reminds us of Guatemala. Rain every afternoon. How I remember the times when we were there and you would say, we should do "thus and so" this morning before the rains come this afternoon. I'll never forget the rain storm we encountered on the boat crossing Lake Atitlan after having visited the village where the kids greeted us with, "Tak a pitch. Ten cents for a pitch," Remember? And we had pigs on that boat that stank to high heaven! Gosh, it was an experience, but I loved it.

Next Sunday Nell's mother will have her 89th birthday. They are in Hendersonville now. I sent her a dozen red roses to the tune of \$21.00. But that's her favorite flower and she has been wonderful to me. I'm still hoping we can get up to N.C. sometime this summer. It's not much fun to have summer upon us and no plan to get away even for a little while. Which reminds me. When Nixon read your letter where you said that "if you were in his shoes after retirement that you would take me traveling a lot," he said "none of those places would help me to write." I said, "Wilson didn't say it would. He said to take me!"

Write when you feel like it and think about us. It's always good to get your letters!

Affectionately,

June 27, 1972

Dear Wilson:

If you like hot weather you'd love it here now. We are having 90 degrees most every day and I can't remember any year since we've lived in south Florida when it has rained so much. Needless to say, I wish I were in the cool mountains in Guatemala or North Carolina. Al most every day in the summer I say, "God bless the man who invented airconditioning without which I would not be able to live."

Lately I have been painting. Working hard like I used to and trying to forget my aching hands. I found out long ago that it gets me nowhere to sit around and feel sorry for myself! I have painted the kitchen, the bathroom and have done most of the painting and staining in Nixon's study. It is almost completed. We expect to start moving in next week. I also have been operating the tractor mower again--something I had swore off of ever doing the rest of my life. It is big and hard for a woman to handle but I have made out well enough recently. As long as I don't turn over in the pond I'll be all right. I've decided one has to be a "farm hand" to live here with no hired help and a husband who loves to "write" more than mow!! Next year I want to have a vegetable and flower garden down near the pond. The first year we lived here we grew beautiful things down there. The soil is excellent.

John and family left around the first of June for their vacation in Maryland. I hope they haven't been flooded in my Agnes.

I don't think Debbie was keen on coming home from school or the trip with her family. As you may know, her parents have had considerable worry about her this past school year. The romance didn't turn out so well for her. But considering everything that John and Jeri have had to think about these past few months, they have taken it like a couple of soldiers. I have heard a rumor that Kay Sweeney has the Kampong up for sale. Just hoping it is not true but I'm afraid it may be. She has been away for some time and the people closest to her seem to know little about her future plans.

I can't tell you how sorry I am to hear about Sally. Naturally, these are feeble words and have been said millions of times. When I think of all you have been through it even makes my heart ache. The fortunate thing about it all is that you have been able to "take it." I'm so glad that you have Alice now who surely is a great comfort when you have problems like this one with Sally. Hope nothing happens to prevent you folks from going back to Europe in Sept. You can write me all about the Black Forest!

Karl says to tell you that he has some "water pills" for you. Do you think they will get through if we mail them? Let me know if we should mail them or if you know someone here who is going down and who could take them.

Affectionately,

Evlyn

P.S. Nixon keeps saying he is going to write but if I know him it will be some time. It has been a long and hard job writing

Aug. 8, 1972

Dear Wilson:

With this letter I am mailing you a package of 100 tablets of Aldactazide. It is not what you mentioned in your last letter that the doctor has you taking, but Karl thought perhaps you might still be taking it. I am insuring it at the advice of the P.O. here and hope it will reach you.

Well, what do you think of the upcoming election in Nov.? The Democratic Party surely is having their troubles. I thought the Eagleton thing was handled badly. In my opinion, he was literally crucified by the party and the PRESS. I ~~am~~ don't mean to say that I think he should have been kept on the ticket, but after the real truth came out, which was bad enough for a candidate for the Vice President of the U.S. then this crude reporter, Jack Anderson dug down as deep as he could go with this false story about him being arrested several times for drunken driving. I guess I sympathize with Eagleton because I have had problems too. And, I find that more than two thirds of the people who are honest tell me the same. And so, I say that mental illness is no disgrace and many people are more stable after an ordeal. I fear that this will set mental health back for many years in this country. I don't care for the Kennedy family or any of the in-laws. In fact, I don't care for some of McGovern's ideas. BUT, I won't vote again for Richard Nixon. I have voted for him twice and am very disillusioned with some of his promises that have fallen on barren ground. He has really let America down in this Vietnam war. Things are going at full-speed

ahead! He is a very smart politician and he thinks he can con most of the American people, and I believe he is. But this war was a terrible mistake in the first place, and we're never going to win. This idea of winning with honor is for the birds. If we were really out to win why haven't we done so long ago? We claim that we can stand up to anything that the Russians have to throw at us and yet here we are lettting a little country like N . Vietman beat us down and kill most of our young men. Darn, I've had it. I think I may SIT this election out. And, I hate to do it because I have been working so hard to try and think positive, instead of negative, as I always have -- and for that reason, have made my life pretty miserable.

Well, enough.

I called Dorothy Allen. She said she is perfectly fine. So, maybe you and Rie know something that she doesn't know herself. I only said that we had heard from you and that Rie had returned from the states with the report that she wasn't feeling too well. She seemed to resent it a little, I thought. Not that she didn't appreciate my call, because we had a nice chat, but in case she writes something about my call you will now understand. I guess I'm not very diplomatic, but I couldn't wait to hear via letter. Of course, she will never give you the true story anyway.

Nixon says he has just written to you, so I think this is enough for me at the moment. I doubt that Karl and Charlotte can come down this winter, but if they do, they certainly don't expect you to put them up or even go out of your way otherwise for them. They have heard us talk so much about our great times there that they want to come with you at there. As Ever,

Evelyn



The Miami Herald

A KNIGHT NEWSPAPER

THE MIAMI HERALD PUBLISHING CO. • 1 HERALD PLAZA, MIAMI, FLORIDA 33101 • (AREA CODE 305) 350-2111

August 2, 1972

Dear Wilson:

I'm sure you must have been pleased to find your old school in fine shape, as you describe in your letter of July 27. I've never been in Zamorano in the summer, having seen it when everything was dry except for the irrigated gardens.

We've had only enough mangos to eat ourselves and to share with a few friends. The crop has been poor with us for the past couple of years. We did have a fair ~~crop~~ crop of Irwins, which I find very good although mild. We have not tasted a lychee in two years. This year only a few branches had fruit and the squirrels ate them before they ripened.

Evelyn has been trying to collect some background on recipes, and wonders if you would mind asking Maria about the origin of the idea of preparing cabbage the way she does--heating water to a boil, dropping in the cabbage and just letting it steam a bit. This is the best way to prepare cabbage we have ever found. It's almost raw and you have to develop a taste for it, I suppose, but once you do then you can't tolerate any other cabbage. Evelyn got the recipe from Maria and ~~she~~ has given it around to countless friends. I wrote a piece about Maria's cabbage and it was picked up by a food writer and put in a book. I suppose Maria learned to prepare cabbage this way when she was a young woman, or even as a girl. And we wonder if this preparation of cabbage is common in Guatemala. Have you encountered it anywhere else?

Karl is talking about maybe going to Guatemala for a week this fall, perhaps in November. If he should stay in Antigua, where is the best hotel now? Is Hotel Antigua still in existence? Or is there a newer one. His wife will be with him. They will not want to put up on you folks. They may want to spend a night or two in the highlands and see Chichicasteango. I've been encouraging him to make this trip and see Guatemala before the Gringos ruin it. Maybe he can talk with you about that edema at that time. But I thought that was what the original medicine was for. I'll ask him whenever I see him again and we'll let you know.

Sincerely,

Nixon Smiley

Maria learned how to cook
cabbage from her mother, Maria
was a little girl and her mother,
who died at the age of 110 years,
was cook in the household of
Rafael Carrera, one of the most
famous Presidents of Guate-
mala - 18 - 18 -

This is the proper way to
prepare cabbage if it is to be used
for making salad. The other
way is to chop it after this brief
cooking, mix it with Tomate
cebollo, garlic and a black pepper
and fry it in butter or olive oil.

Oct. 8, 1972

Dear Wilson:

Carol King called to tell me about their trip to Guatemala and said they visited Casa Popenoe and saw you. She is in my ceramic league and seems to know me but I don't think I would recognize her. There are so many people in the league that many of them are just faces to me. Anyway, it was nice of her to call. She said they had a wonderful time, but nearly froze at night with no heat in their hotel. Is the weather that cool now? Of course, I know the Guatemala nights are usually cool and blankets feel mighty good at night, but I've never felt that I needed a heated room with plenty of covers.

We are beginning to feel that fall is not far away. Yesterday we shut the air conditioning off and opened up the house. It seems strange to be able to hear the outdoor noises again after being closed for so long. The FTG members are getting started with preparations for the Ramble in Dec. and Marge Corbin has paid for a beautiful building at the Garden which will be used mainly for educational purposes. It joins on to the main building with a patio and opens at one end into a small building which is used for storage of Ramble materials. John also has a new office which is several times the size of his old one. This addition was badly needed and I'm sure he is glad to have it. Gillis is at Harvard for a year but I notice in the last Kampong Notes that Kay says he will be back in a year.

I hear absolutely nothing from Dorothy Allen. Now, I'm beginning to think something is wrong. When I talked with her some time ago, she promised to write me very soon. Well, it's been quite a while and I'm wondering what is happening. I don't feel like getting in touch with her again. Dotty is not much to complain and I'm sure if something bad is wrong with her that she would prefer to suffer in silence. I suppose that is the best way but I never learned to do it.

Well, we didn't get away this summer but Nixon expects to finish the Herald History very soon and we hope to get away for a few days somewhere. This work has been a grind on him and it's starting to grind me too. After the first of the year he plans to travel over the state again until he retires in Aug. 1973. You should see the study we have made out of the storage house. It's so attractive that I almost want to move in!

Did I tell you that I went down to see Mrs. Krome recently? I took her some Morris mangoes which she loves and had a nice visit with her. She seems to be holding up well considering everything — with the exception of her eyes. She says her sight is very poor. But so is mine. I'm having to wear glasses most of the time now. I don't know what her trouble is. She said that glasses don't help her.

I am reading a couple of books about the Roosevelts by Joseph P. Lash. Franklin and Eleanor ~~and Franklin~~ and Eleanor: The Years Alone. I never knew before that she had such an unhappy life which was the driving force behind her becoming so active in politics

Oct. 26, 1972

Dear Wilson:

Yes, Caramba! We have had letters meet over the Caribbean, but never before have they met in the Antigua post office! That wouldn't happen again in a lifetime, perhaps.

When you write again, will you tell me how and where Maria learned to prepare cabbage like she served it when we were there several years ago. As you may recall, it is bearily cooked and has a wonderful flavor. We have been having it now and then for a long time and some of our friends are beginning to grow fond it ~~it~~ fixed this way. Everyone wants to know where we learned to eat it blanched and when I tell them it's Maria's recipe -- they want to know where she learned it. It would be an interesting story, I think. Nixon said he wrote to you some time ago and asked about getting something about how Maria learned her method but you didn't mention. He has written twice in recent months and we are wondering if the mail is all getting through.

You mentioned Debbie. She returned to Tampa again this year. She has a new boy friend now and I understand they are engaged. He wants to study medicine, however, and don't think he is anxious to marry any time soon. He is about her age and I believe in her class. Jeri tells me she is extremely happy and that she and her girl friend -- and the girl friend's boy friend -- all pool their money with Debbie's boy friend (he has an apartment in Tampa) and Debbie does the cooking. How times have changed!

I don't think parents today approve of a lot of things their kids are doing, but they don't seem to be able to do anything about it. I have a friend with a couple of teen-age girls and she tells me if they don't get their way, they threaten to leave home. She says she doesn't think they are on drugs, but most of the young people are -- and so, most of the parents just cross their fingers, hope and pray! This same gal told me that when she hears that a friend has had a baby that she feels like sending a card of sympathy instead of a card of congratulations. I don't know if you hear about it, but the drug problem here in the states is something terrible. Karl is already concerned about his boys and I think he and Charlotte are almost "over-doing on this family life bit". We hear all the time that one reason for the children being drug addicts, hitch hiking all over the country and sleeping with anyone who comes along, is that something was amiss in their family life. But some parents are indulging their children so much for fear that they won't hold their family together -- that I believe it can be a BIG mistake. I have observed all my life that kids who have everything they want, never are able to appreciate anything in life, and they seldom even respect their parents. Well, how did I get off on all this? I should be discussing politics instead -- which I know even less about than child raising!

Nixon finished the Herald History and I finished copying the last chapter this morning. We feel like celebrating, and we did a little last night. Yesterday while marketing for things other than food, I was able to bring home a case of Marques de Riscal wine.

We have not been getting it for quite some time. I understand it

is a distribution problem. I now know where it is all going. To the Cuban markets in the Miami area. And there are no Cuban stores near us. The price also has risen from \$1.99 to \$3.00. But it's so much better than any other red wine that we can get for \$5 that I was happy to get it.

Nixon is taking his last 2 weeks vacation beginning next Monday. After that he will go back to traveling about the state for the remainder of his time on the Herald. That is, until next Aug. when he will be 62 and will retire. His book entitled, "Florida -- Land of Images" will be out next month. The Herald is promoting it as well as the publisher. Here's hoping that we will make some money on it. Retirement scares us a little because we aren't sure of our income, but if things get too rough, (which I don't expect) I'll just say, "Karl, come across and do something for us now." Did I tell you that he got another raise in salary? He is getting \$30,000 a year now and will become a partner next Feb. He gets \$1,000 per operation when he does vascular. So, you can imagine how much he is bringing into the office.

I still have heard nothing from Dorothy Allen. And you were wondering if Gillis is going back to school. No. He is doing some sort of research on Bahamian plants for Harvard, but I do not know the details. I only know that Kay said in her last notes that he would return to Miami in a year.

Hope this finds you and Alice happy and feeling well. You aren't doing so badly when you tell me that you have been typing from 7:30 a.m. to noon in your "shack."

Affectionately,

Lucy

Antigua, 6 November 1972

Dear Nixon:

Yesterday I finally got around to hearing old Maria in her den, and got the history of the cabbage business, as requested in your letter of 2 August.

You asked me to get Maria's story about the origin of her method of preparing cabbage - heating water to a boil, dropping in the cabbage, and just letting it steam a bit. "This is the best way of preparing cabbage we have ever found".

I quoted this last sentence to old Maria, and she said, "Oh yes, I remember very well that Doña Evelina watched me preparing cabbage and I am glad to know that she is still doing in that way" So I went on with the history; "Where did you learn to prepare cabbage this way". "From my mother, of course, when I was a little girl. It never occurred to me that there was anything new about it; I think it was just the way everybody prepared cabbage."

So I went on: "About what year would it have been, that you learned this method, and what was your mother doing at the time?" That brought up a point of history, which I had heard from Maria many years ago and it is worth repeating: "As I have told you, my mother was cook in the household of Rafael Cerrera, who was President of Guatemala. As I have told you, my mother died when she was 110 years old, you remember that I was with you at the time of her death."

Maria says she is now 86, and I think her papers show that this is correct, though when we celebrate her annual birthday, she always maintains that she is one year younger than she was a year ago. And I am not too certain that she has any document showing that her mother was 110 when she died, but that doesn't matter. Most women's memories

falter when it comes to speaking of their age. But here is the point; I have no reason to question her story that her mother was cook for Rafael Carrera, who was a great figure in the early history of Guatemala. He took over - and I don't believe by popular election - at a time when the liberals and conservatives were constantly quarreling for control in Central America. He was conservative, very much in favor of the Church. He had himself named President for life, stamped on the Nation's coins that he was the founder of the Republic of Guatemala (which had called itself a Republic for some years prior to his "reign") and he died in his bed in 1865. So Maria's mother was his cook before 1865, and Maria learned how to cook cabbage before that date, - I mean, her mother did, and Maria learned it from her mother before 1900.

I would add that we think the custom of not overcooking vegetables is ~~is~~ absolutely right, and not understood everywhere, though it certainly is in China. Our cook Wing, whom we had at Zamorano, perhaps when you were there on one of your visits, taught us to appreciate vegetables, even carrots. If he boiled them, it was only a simmering in boiling water for a few minutes; if he fried them, they were only braised in a little butter or olive oil, not literally boiled in cotton seed oil. I well remember the first time I ever enjoyed carrots. It was at the Kampong, and Mrs Fairchild's cook used very young ones, sliced and braised in butter.

Referring to your letter, I note that you ask if we have encountered Maria's method of cooking cabbage anywhere else? I have never really thought of checking this, because it has seemed to me that the cabbage we get in the purely Guatemalan hotels here (not the Guatemala Biltmore nor the Hilton International in Salvador) strikes me as just what we have always been getting in our house. I don't believe I have

ever been served boiled cabbage in one of the tourist hangouts. The tourists would consider it an insult. They have to be served beefsteak (tough) or fried Chicken (good, now we have what you have been used to for so many years, those broilers produced by your method which was introduced here some 20 years ago by Bob Squibb who was working for the Point Four program); french fried potatoes, and one vegetable, almost always string beans, carrots (boiled) and fried potatoes. And the Indian (in tourist hotels) has to be in the most elaborate Indian costume, and if a man, with heavy squeaky sandals and a head-dress which makes him look like a pirate of buccaneer days. Haven't I told you about the time I ate at the Mayan Inn with one of my old colleagues from Boston, and this piratical Indian (who didn't look as though he was a direct descendant of Tecum Uman) said to me, when I gave him his tip "Doc, don't you remember me?" And I said, "Boy, I don't come here very often, so I don't know all you Quiché Indians", and he replies "Hells Bells, Doc, don't you remember when you used to ride the banana pick-up train down on the coast, I was the brakeman?"

In the last paragraph of your letter you mention that Karl might be coming to Guatemala for a week this fall, and you ask about hotels. If it is only a matter of Karl and wife, we can handle them here without trouble - unless we have other guests. We would be delighted to have them; even if we are not here, if we know when they are coming we can leave instructions with Concha who is as good as old Maria on handling guests, and she cooks well, any style except Chinese. If they can't come to us, because the house is full, then the Hotel Antigua is just as good as ever and Karl will think that \$29 a day, for two, with three squares and a flop (in one of their attractive bungalows) is dirt cheap. Tell me how their plans are developing. We are going over to Zamorano on the 28th and back here about 10 December, after graduation and the Board meeting. Ever yrs

We would like very much to be here when Karl comes. If we aren't, they should by all means stay in our house.

Wilson

Nov. 14, 1972

Dear Wilson:

This is going to be a quickie note since we are leaving for a couple of days up state. But wanted to get something off to you re: Karl's visit to Guatemala. He won't be down this year. Perhaps sometime next year. He has signed up for a week as island doctor in the Bahamas and that will take all of his time out of the office this year. He thinks this will be a good experience and Charlotte will go along with all expenses paid. I suppose the 3 kids will be divided between her parents + us. At any rate, if and when they go to Guatemala, I'm recommending that they stay at a hotel. It's too much for you and Alice to put them up in your house, and I won't have it. More later!

Best,
 Evelyn

traveling over the state. Looks like he will do a great deal
of it until next Aug. His book has had some excellent reviews
and selling well.

Why don't you and Alice come up for a visit after
Dec. 7, 1972
the holidays?

Merry Christmas to you both and all
Dear Wilson:

Question: why?
In my note which I wrote before you and Alice left
for the school, I don't believe I mentioned to thank you for
the info on the cabbage. Nixon was happy to have Maria's
story and filed it away in a safe place.

We are still having summer here in S. Fla. I'm wonder-
ing if we are ever going to have cold weather again. Last
winter it was so warm that I never wore anything woolen and
we had fire in the fireplace about twice when we left the
house open.

John and Jeri and family are spending Christmas in
Maryland with her mother. Some time ago they were planning
to all fly out to Calif. to spend the holidays with John's
parents but I think Paul wrote and told them not to come ^{said} -- it
is too much on Betty. And it is a lot of work for the woman
of the house to have family in with all the extra cooking and
cleaning. Debbie is due home today from school. Jeri says
her grades are going down all the time. Too much housekeeping,
I guess!

We have acquired a 65 lb. golden retriever dog. Karl
got him as a pup for the children but he didn't work out over
there. I'm taking him on ~~trial~~ trial. He is beautiful but
messy about the doors and yard. It's a very valuable dog and
if I can train him, will be a comfort to me while Nixon is

traveling over the state. Looks like he will do a great deal of it until next Aug. His book has had some excellent reviews and selling well.

Why don't you and Alice come up for a visit after the holidays?

Merry Christmas to you both and all good wishes

for 1973!

In my note which I wrote before you and Alice left for the school, I don't believe I mentioned to thank you for the info on the cabbage. Nixon was happy to have Marla's story and filed it away in a safe place. We are still having summer here in S. Fla. I'm wondering if we are ever going to have cold weather again. Last winter it was so warm that I never wore anything woolen and we had fire in the fireplace about twice when we left the house open. John and Teri and family are spending Christmas in Maryland with her mother. Some time ago they were planning to all fly out to Calif. to spend the holidays with John's parents but I think Paul wrote and told them not to come -- it is too much on Betty. And it is a lot of work for the woman of the house to have family in with all the extra cooking and cleaning. Debbie is due home today from school. Teri says her grades are going down all the time. Too much housekeeping. I guess!

We have acquired a 6 1/2 lb. Golden retriever dog. Karl got him as a pup for the children but he didn't work out over there. I'm taking him on trial. He is beautiful but messy about the doors and yard. It's a very valuable dog and if I can train him, will be a comfort to me while Nixon is

Evelyn Smiley

March 26, 1973

Dear Wilson:

Maybe I should preside at the FTG punch bowl more/^{often}since it took that bulletin picture to remind you to write! March has been a busy time at the Garden -- board meetings, annual meeting and next Saturday Nell is having a luncheon for the Fellows and expects more than 150, I believe. This was the 35th anniversary for the Garden and Friday evening was quite an occasion. Lucita Waite gave a brief history of the FTG since the day the idea was conceived and Helene Pancoast spoke about Lee Adams in order to give some background for people who did not know him well. Many of his watercolors were on loan and hung in the Garden House for the members to view after the meeting was over. There was a huge birthday cake, punch and so on.

Paul and Betty came by to visit one day last week and they both look remarkably well. They don't seem to age and seemed in excellent health. Paul, however, did have some sort of bug and had to take to bed for a couple of days and missed the annual meeting -- but next day was much better and insisted on leaving according to schedule for Washington Sunday ^{yesterday} -- which they did. Hugh came through on his way out of the country and stopped to visit Paul and Betty. We didn't see him. Betty tells me that ~~that~~ they had a wonderful stay with you and Alice and she especially liked the trip to the lake. We were glad to hear that things are going so well for you two.

Nixon has just finished a month vacation and went back to work at the Herald today. It was a working vacation though for both of us. He was working on a book in order to meet a dead line with the publisher and I did a good deal of typing to speed things along. This is a book with nearly 300 pictures of Miami and area made in the early ~~xxxxmidxxx~~ days. He had to write the outlines which turned out to be more than he bargained for. It will be called "Yesterday's Miami."

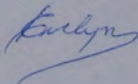
We have had a wonderful winter here in south Florida. The past two winters were very warm but this one has been lovely and cool. Even your Guatemala climate can't beat this.

Surprised to hear of the change at the school. What do you think Bob and Rie will do? I still hear nothing from Dorothy Allen. I have written and even called but still no word. I fear I have done or said something that has offended her because this is the first year that we've missed getting a Christmas card from her. Do you or Rie ever hear ~~from~~ anything?

Yes, we let the golden retriever go. It's a long story so I won't bore you. It was an experience, however, and one which I will profit from. No more dogs!

When do you and Alice plan to come up? It has been a long time -- or so it seems to me. Take care and stay well.

Affectionately,



April 24, 1973

Dear Wilson:

The first week of April we were up in North Florida for a few days. Fortunately, Hugh had just returned from Central America the day before we arrived in Gainesville. We knew that he had gone down and really didn't expect to see him but just took a chance and went by his office while we were on the campus. And there was Hugh with that big smile -- and it was grand to see him. The following evening we went out to his farm and saw his cattle among which were several new calves, saw the work being done on his school house, as he calls it, and came back to Gainesville for a very good dinner at a restaurant. Can't remember the name of it but the food was good. Especially after a couple of good martines! Then Hugh came up to our room for a night cap and we had lots to talk about and it was the highlight of our trip. We left for Jax. the next morning. I was disappointed that the flowers were not in bloom. I suppose we were too late for some and too early for others.

I saw Jeri this afternoon. She told me about you and Alice having to bring Sally back to Antigua. I can't tell you how badly I hated to hear it. But maybe something will work out.

We are having delightful weather but very very dry. The wind blows most of the time and the temp. is fine with pleasant days and cool nights. We are watering to keep the place in decent condition but there's nothing we can do about the grass on the park-

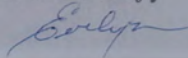
Nixon is on a trip this week over to the west coast of Florida. He simply can't wait for August to come so he can retire. I hope that we can make one more trip to Europe later this year or sometime next. We have an invitation to spend the month of ~~XXXXX~~ September in West Virginia. I'm told that this place is in the mountains and very much like western North Carolina. It's a little place called Cass. A wealthy lawyer friend who lives in Jacksonville owns most of the buildings there. He says he never has them all rented and will go up himself while we are there to see that we get the full benefit! That's just too good to turn down, isn't it?

John flew out to California few days ago for a meeting of some kind. He stayed with his parents. Jeri says he and his mother are quite worried about Paul. They want him to stop lecturing and they are worried that he has renewed his driver's license since he has had a number of close calls. Debbie was home for Easter but I didn't see her. I did see her, however, while her grandparents were here. She came to the annual meeting at the FTG. She is not so pretty now as she used to be. Hugh was saying that she has lost her pretty trim figure. Natalie has just returned from Colombia where she a week with a group from her school. The little girl, Jenny is a very smart kid. She can talk your ear off. You'd love that!!!

Thought I'd send the enclosed clipping. Looks like the gals in Spain are doing ok for themselves, eh?

Do write and give us some news.

Affectionately,



May 7, 1973

Dear Wilson:

Your letter came last Saturday and that evening a call came from Rie Armor in St. Louis giving the sad news about Dorothy Allen. I suppose you have already heard that she died April 29. I didn't get to talk with Rie, but she told Nixon that they found a good deal of unopened mail in Dorothy's apartment among which was a letter from me. I believe the last time I wrote was around Dec. or Jan. so apparently she had not opened her mail in about 5 months. Nixon was unable to tell me very much and so I am writing to her sister today hoping that she will write with some information. Poor Dorothy has had a bad time for a long time and I can't tell you how sad I feel. She was always such a warm and relaxed person to have as house guest. We had some very nice talks and some very nice "quiet times" here in this house. She never had to be entertained.

You say it's terribly dry in Guatemala. We still have had no rain to speak of here for weeks and until these cool windy days and nights end, there probably won't be any change in the weather. The water table is holding up, however, since we had considerable rain earlier in the year.

So many friends are getting ready to leave for the mountains or elsewhere where its cool. Summer here is always depressing. I would give anything if we could get out of here during the hot months and then return in the winter. Miami is hard to beat, as you know,
in the fall and winter.

Best always,

Evelyn [Smiley]

July 8, 1973

Dear Wilson:

It has been a long time since we last heard from you. I hope that this doesn't mean that all is not well. I wrote to you early in May about Dorothy Allen's death -- so our last from you had to be about April. I wrote to Dorothy's sisten in St. Louis and am enclosing her reply. Don't return it.

You and Alice should be here now to enjoy the ~~hage~~ mango crop. Every back door is full of beautiful fruit and it's hard to even give it away. For the first time in years I am able to eat the milder varieties without being poisoned and it's really a treat! This year was the third that we have had no lychees on our large trees. A small one had a few last month.

We have no definite plans for this summer. It seems that our West Va. trip is off. Nixon doesn't want to go anywhere for a while after retirement. After thinking of the long trip driving there and back home, we both got cold feet. I may go up to N. C. for a few days. Haven't been up there in five years. That is the longest I've ever stayed away.

John and family are well. Debbie is home for vacation and working at Burdine's. I believe they plan to drive to Maryland later for a visit with Heri's mother.

Do let us hear from you.

Evelyn

Mrs. Paul H. Allen
3541 Maywood Ave., Apt. B
St. Louis, Mo. 63121

May 11-1973

Dear Mrs. Smiley:

Just a note in reply to yours of May 7th. We realized Dorothy has not been up to par for some time. Especially when she decided to skip sending out her usual Christmas card list. She had check up at doctors office about once a month but later found of March doctor advised going into hospital after a blood test that showed a lot of Uric Acid in blood stream & some Kidney Malfunction. They performed a Dialysis to relieve some of the poison and she came home to her apartment for about a week. We advised she not stay alone & after a hectic search for a housekeeper, nurse, companion or something we decided to put her in a nursing

have which we did on 16th of April. Dr talked
about a Kidney machine which frightened us all
to death & only promised that it might prolong
her life for maybe a year. But hospital could not
take her before July & her age of 61 plus her past
medical record was against her too. Anyway she
failed rapidly & went into a coma the last few
days & they used glucose & oxygen & she seemed
comfortable for which we are thankful. We
will miss her but suppose it is best that she
did not have to linger & suffer or spend the rest of
her life with a Kidney Machine.

Yes I know Dorothy thought a lot of you
& your husband having stayed with you while
your husband was on a business trip some years
ago. She often spoke of the lovely visit with you.
I was so glad Rob & Pie stopped by on their way
North as I don't know who of Dorothy's many friends to
write & Pie will notify their mutual friends &
maybe you will help.

Sincerely
Mary Louie Dann

5985 S.W. Montgomery Drive
Miami, Fla. 33156
Sept. 20, 1973

Dear Wilson:

Well, the time arrived at last, and now I'm retired--at 62. Not retired in the sense of doing nothing, or going fishing, or playing golf. I'm turning out more writing than I did on The Herald job. Two books have just come off the press. One ~~is~~ *other is* completed, one is in preparation and at least two are planned. So, as you see, I'm going to be busy.

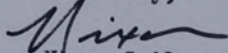
We were hoping that you would be coming up this way, so that we might see you again, this year or early next. But you make no mention of travel plans. We have none of our own, except that the office did give us two tickets to Rio de Janeiro. We hope to travel down there later this year to see Roberto Burle Marx, the artist and landscape ~~and~~ architect, who is a friend of ours. Whenever we'll go to Europe again I don't know. Costs have gone up tremendously, as you know, and while we are able to live in fair comfort on my income, there's no room for extravagance.

One of the pleasures about retirement is to have more time to work around the place, to add to my collection of palms, and to keep the grounds looking better. With so much writing to do this past year, the place almost went to pot. I have a study off from the house where I work from six or seven in the morning until noon. After lunch I write letters or read for awhile, then go outside to work on the grounds. We plan to take one day a week to get away and to do something different.

Just received a letter from Ed Menninger, at Stuart, and he says he's well and doing fine, and that he's still working--collecting and planting and writing, I suppose.

Write us whenever you have the time, and do come up to Florida, you and Alice.

Sincerely,


Nixon Smiley

November 7, 1973

Dear Wilson:

We have just returned from a trip to north Florida where the weather was simply delightful. It made me want to leave Miami and go up there to live. Nixon is doing a brochure on the DuPont Estate for Ed Ball and we went to Port St. Joe to visit the paper mill and on to Wakula Springs where Mr. Ball met us for the week end. We stayed at his hotel there at the spring and I had the best time I've had all summer.

Needless to say, retirement has changed our lives. It is working out very well, however, and Nixon stays busy all the time. He has his study (separate from the house) and spends his mornings there working and the afternoons are spent working on the place. We didn't go to Brazil and think now that we won't go at all. What we probably will do is go to Spain in early May 1974. At least, that is our plan at the moment. Both of us want to visit Spain again and we want to take our time doing it. I would like to get a room in Madrid for the first week and travel via train to places near enough that we can return at night. Then later leave Madrid, travel light, and spend the night where night catches us. I was never enthused about the trip to Rio and now I feel I have something to look forward to. Don't you think it would be too cold to go before May? I remember in 1966 it was plenty cool in April and in May when we came home, spring was just beginning to appear.

I hope you and Alice are planning to come up to Florida this

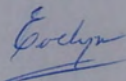
winter. Neil and her family have returned from spending the summer
Digitized by Hunt Institute for Botanical Documentation,
Carnegie Mellon University, Pittsburgh, PA

in N. C. and she is getting ready to provide some "social life" for friends and F.T.G. members. She had a beautiful new room added to her guest house this summer and has changed that building completely. You and Alice would really enjoy staying there if you could come up.

John and his family are fine. I talk with Jeri from time to time. He has a new botanist here who is collecting, identifying and preparing for the herbarium, the plants of the Bahamas. Both he and his wife are Ph.Ds and very likeable couple. More and more members are coming into the Garden and it seems to be flourishing under John's guidance.

I suppose you have been keeping up with our problems in government. At the moment, it appears that we will have gasoline rationing in six months or less. Watergate has had people stirred up and of course it's not over. Now, the Middle East crisis -- and higher prices and fuel shortages.. Watergate, however, didn't cause all these troubles!

Best always,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Evelyn", with a horizontal line underneath.

Jan. 2, 1974

Dear Wilson and Alice:

Happy New Year! We heard that Hugh planned to spend Christmas with you folks so I know you had a happy time. For us it was quiet but the older we get, the more we want it that way. We did go to a lovely New Years Eve party at Kay Pancoast's house. That is Lester's mother (the fellow who is married to Helene.)

I have Spain Observed and thanks very much for the suggestion. It is a great book and the color photography is some of the best I have seen. I'll enjoy the book whether we go back to Spain or not. Some days I think Nixon is getting cold feet.

The Ramble in early Dec. was a success. I believe the Garden took in about \$86,000 in two days. That did not include the proceeds from the tram train and admission fees. It was much more than they have ever made before. I suspect that John was pleased. Haven't seen them during the holidays.

We had some very cool weather before Christmas and had fire in the fireplace for a number of nights. It is summer again now, however, and we are wishing for some of the cool air that is pushing down into North Florida this week end. We have managed to keep our place green and lush this year with the sprinklers. It was tough going before we got this system.

Well, this year Karl will be taking home half of what comes into the office, ^{Summit} Dr. Swink told him when he came that when he brought in as much as he did that they would go 50-50. So this past year Karl brought in much more than Swink and now the agreement is made

that he has looked forward to.

Suppose you are hearing about our fuel shortage -- especially gasoline. In another year I expect the streets in the U.S. to be full of small cars like Europe. Some days the gas stations are closed and the days they are open cars line up in the streets waiting to be served. This, of course, is causing traffic jams and require policemen to break the jams so people who on on their way somewhere can get along. Food prices continue to go up too. A decent steak is \$1.95 per lb. and that is not the best by any means. A real good cut is \$2.95. Bell peppers last week were 79 cents per lb. and pole beans were 69 cents per. Cucumbers are 15 cents each. Looks like the Smileys may have to go on a rice and pinto bean diet before it's over!

I hope you are both well and that 1974 will be a wonderful year for you.

Best,

Evelyn

March 5, 1974

Dear Wilson:

Really sorry to hear about our friend Millie. Guess she should have stopped smoking years ago. Assuming, of course, that it is lung cancer. But the good news from your doctor should make for a happy birthday and lots more to come -- thanks to Alice!

We visited Mrs. Krome last week. She fell some time ago and broke her pelvic bone and was out of commission for quite a while. She is walking all around the grove with a stick now and looks the best I have seen her in months. Her son Jack and his wife were there from Norfolk and Mrs. K. was full of good stories and her usual wit. She is indeed a remarkable woman to be 90 years of age. Jack Krome married the Loomis' daughter and she is attractive and very personable. Phebe, Bill's wife, came while we were there and I was surprised to see how much weight she has put on and how matronly she looks.

The FTG is planning another big party, benefit that is, in April. The one they had three years ago was called Night of the Java Moon. This time it will be called "Yesterday's Miami Moon." The idea was taken from Nixon's book Yesterday's Miami which is selling very well. Images is going well too and the Crowder Tales have done ok also. Glad you liked Florida Land of Images. Mrs. Krome liked it and told Nixon he should do more writing like it. At the moment he is working on a very thick book on Florida with about 400 pictures to illustrate. We still haven't had our trip but I'm hoping that we can get away in April. I'm wanting now to go to Peru and take that little train across the Andes. Don't you think

June 15, 1974

Dear Wilson:

It has been quite some time since we have had word from you, but Jeri tells me that you are well and that Debbie hears from you frequently. I suppose she is getting off to Mexico about this time.

You and Alice should be here now to enjoy the mango crop. Everyone has them and it's hard to give the surplus away to the neighbors. I can't eat them because of the poison but have made some chutney which comes in nice after mangoes are gone. That, I can eat without problems.

We are having a typical hot summer with the bugs beginning to come. Many of our friends are off to the mountains and Europe. I thought I would get to go with a friend to England and Scotland in July but the plans fell through. Seems all our plans are falling in that direction. We do plan, however, to go to Nova Scotia for the month of Sept. One of the Governor daughters who has a home at Bein Bhreigh has invited us to take their guest house during that time. We haven't been there since 1958 when we had that wonderful visit with Mrs. Fairchild. The Muellers will be there at the time we go and also Kay Sweeney. Did you know that she also has a summer home there?

Nixon is busy reading proof on two books at the moment. Everything comes at once, it seems. Yesterday's Florida, with over 500 pictures will be out in Aug. and the history of the Miami Herald whose title will be, Kingdoms of the Fourth Estate, will be off the press

in September. I hope this finds you and Alice well and happy. *Calz*

5985 S.W. Montgomery Drive
Miami, Fla. 33156
August 5, 1974

Dear Wilson:

It's always good to hear from you and Alice. Everything seems to be going so well for you. You must owe a great deal to Alice. I sure don't blame her, though, for making herself scarce when all those tourists pour into the premises. I'd almost as soon meet a pack of hungry lions as a bevy of American tourists.

Evelyn and I will be unable to go to Baddeck in September as we had planned. The printers have met with some delays in getting the proofs ready for my books, and I must be here when they come out. One comes out in October but the other will be delayed until November. ~~Chicago~~ Page proofs for the November book will not be ready until early in September, give or take two weeks.

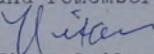
Recently both Evelyn and I re-read the manuscript that I wrote about our tour of Guatemala some years ago. We found it very interesting to go over again. I think there's a lot of worthwhile material in the manuscript that tells a great deal about Latin America and the tropics. I hope it can be published some day, after both of us are "dead and gone to hell." With that in mind, I hope one day soon to begin going over it with the idea of repolishing and editing, as some parts need improving.

Presently I'm doing a book-length story of the five acres where we live. What I'll do with it I don't know, but I do want to get it all down--our experiences here with the soil, the plants, the ecology, the pond, the wildlife, together with the experiences we've had in building and collecting for our house, and about the the visitors we have had, including the Fairchilds, the Grosvenors, the Popenoes, and others. Eventually the taxes will drive us out, and if that doesn't happen, in time I'll be too old to take care of the outside. Karl would like to live here but his wife wants a Coral Gables type house, furnished with Sears type furniture. That wouldn't go here.

We haven't seen Hugh for some time, but there is a good chance that ~~he~~ I will do a book on Florida cattle, the history of the business until after World War II when improvements to herds and pastures changed everything, and if I do I'll be getting up Gainesville way this fall. A local cattleman and businessman has offered to put his private plane and a pilot at my disposal if I will do the book. I will if I can come to some agreement with the cattleman's association about what they expect to see and what I am willing to write. I believe we can agree, which means that I'm likely to do the book.

Write to us when you find the time, and remember us to Alice.

Sincerely,


Nixon Smiley

Aug. 28, 1974

Dear Wilson:

I wanted to go down and visit Mrs. Krome before writing to you, but I haven't. However, I have talked with Sis Loomis via telephone about her condition, and Sis tells me that she is getting along quite well. I mentioned that I had heard her eye sight was getting worse -- but Sis says she still sees well enough to read. So, from that report it sounds as if she is still enjoying life!

Believe Nixon wrote you that we had to cancel out on the trip to Baddeck. It was a disappointment. The printers promise more than they live up to and that was the reason we had to give up going. We haven't had a trip since Nixon's retirement -- after planning for so many. You mentioned Marston Bates' death in your last letter and wondered what Nancy Bell will do. Well, according to Barbara, Nancy has cancer and is not able to go to Beinn Bhreagh this summer. She certainly doesn't deserve all that has happened to her, even tho I believe she is better off without Marston. He has given her a lot of trouble for a long long time. And several years ago her son had an accident diving, and injured his spinal cord so severely that he has been in a wheel chair since. He is at Beinn Bhreagh and some of the family is there looking after him during the hot months.

Well, what do you think about the change in government here in the U.S.A? Do you think Nelson Rockefeller will make a good vice president? I wonder if so wealthy a man can possibly understand the needs of the people. I hope so and I hope this country

can be pulled back together with the new leadership. You would be shocked if you did any marketing here now. The prices keep going on up from week to week. No matter how little I buy anymore, I never get out of the store without spending \$20. We decided to buy a new car a few weeks ago. The 1975 cars are going up something like \$700 to \$1,000. We got a 1974 Chrysler and think we will like it when they get all the bugs out. We drove up to Daytona Beach last week and found about ten things that are not working properly.

Suppose Debbie is with you and Alice. Jeri was here last week and said that Debbie has had quite a trying summer. Hope the visit with you will cheer her. I know you always did a good job cheering me when I felt in the "dumps." John and Jeri had a nice trip recently. They left the girls with her mother in Md. and flew out to Denver where John attended a meeting and then to visit his parents in Calif. Poor Jeri has braces on her teeth and she has difficulty talking. And you know how she likes to talk!

When are you and Alice coming to Miami? It has been so long since you were here. Looks like we will ^{never} be back in Guatemala or anywhere else. So, if we ever see you again, you will have to come up here! I reread the story N. did about you and our trips to Guatemala over the years, and it brought back some wonderful memories. I dare say, some of my happiest days. I often think of the evenings we spent at Millie's sitting before a fire with a drink of rum and listening to the rain beat down in the avocados around the place. I suppose Millie has passed on by this time. You mentioned back in Feb. that she was in a Guatemala City hospital with cancer. And come to think of it, I noted when I checked your file that we didn't have a letter from Feb. to July from you!

That's a long time. Pl. do better! Always affectionately,

Smiley
 Evelyn

Dec. 10, 1974

Dear Wilson:

Merry Christmas! I hope that Hugh plans on spending the holidays with you and Alice. That would make it a happy time indeed.

The F.T.G. Ramble was last week end with a net take of nearly ^{\$}100,000. Things like this make one wonder how it can happen with this country going through a recession as we are. But it seems in many instances, such as this, that money is plentiful.

We are having a very cool winter so far. Have had heat now for nearly a week. It certainly has slowed down the growing of our vegetable garden and the other plants. But now that we have all these nice vegetables coming in, I am having to puree all that I am allowed to eat. I spent 5 days in the hospital the middle of November with what they determined to be Diverticulosis. It seems that I had an intestinal obstruction and was having plenty of pain and 102 temperature. I am on a rigid diet but hopefully it won't last the rest of my life. Have to go back for more tests later this month. This is the first time that I've had to watch my diet and give up my "cocktail before dinner" and I feel almost like a cripple!

I saw Mrs. Krome recently and she really is beginning to show her years. Her mind is still keen, however, and that is the wonderful part of her aging. She keeps very much up to date on everything and still sprinkles her conversation with the Krome Wit.

Some of her property along Krome Avenue is being made into a Memorial Park in honor of Mary Elizabeth, her daughter, who passed away a few years ago.

Thanks for the invitation to come to Guatemala next year and take another look for material to re-do the story, but at the moment Nixon is so involved with a half dozen things and I just don't know if we can come. Frankly, I think he likes the story as is -- with a few changes. Of course, you don't like it as is -- but perhaps it could be changed to please you.

We saw Paul and Betty when they visited John some time ago. I think they both look well and seemed in very good spirit. I can't understand how they can travel around the country visiting all their relatives without getting worn ~~in~~ out. But they seem to thrive on it. They were disappointed that Alice had to be in Honduras while they were with you.

Have happy holidays & write -

Loelyr

Feb. 20, 1975

Dear Wilson:

About 10 days ago Mrs. Krome was admitted to Doctor's Hospital with what the Drs. diagnosed as tumor in the Colon - with all indications that there was Cancer. We visited her a couple of days before the operation and even tho she was cheerful she felt sure it was the end and was even telling her friends goodbye. Well! Then came the operation last Monday, and there was no sign of Cancer. We are all so happy for her. Wilson & I visited her yesterday and ^{she} was beaming, even with all the discomforts she was having.

I thought you would like to know about what has happened so that you can write her. She spoke of you even when she thought she would die on the operating table in 2 more days! What a very very remarkable woman. She will be going home by the time your letter will get up ^{now} she said, "When have you heard from Wilson?"

In case I didn't congratulate you on the reprinting of your book, I'm doing so now. It really proves what a valuable book it was in the beginning. Glad Marian is settled in Antigua. Sounds like she will deserve her PhD degree and that she has a wonderful career ahead of her.

We've had a very mild winter and the Mangoes are loaded with young fruit. The lyches also are going to bear this yr. First time in 3 or 4 yrs.

Both of us had the flu in Jan. and I have never been that sick in my life. We were in bed for several days with temp. of 103 and had to manage best we could. Everyone was afraid to come near us. Then my cough lasted until recently. I've lost weight and I'm showing my age.

Hope all goes well with you and Alice. Write when you have a chance.

Best always,
 Evelyn