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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.

signed with the (written & dated May 3, 1944)  
 Southrough  
 (written & dated May 3, 1944)  
 in blue ink all no shadows about a primary  
 Darling -

on 20, no... hastened to get me and paper. Good was available  
 to resist an explosive... satisfaction, after receiving your  
 last letter. You're forgiven for the... but  
 there were times, both... when I thought that  
 the nice friendship with the... that all  
 "washed up." But your... was so...  
 remain... with... for...  
 of... and... to the... as  
 the... - this...  
 Some is more than enough to...  
 to the...  
 Sun as a... and...  
 exhaustion...  
 And we are... not because  
 our own... but rather because...  
 It's really funny to think that...  
 a separation...  
 that you were called away as soon as you were...  
 together; while in plot and scheme as to how  
 we can get away from our...  
 get us... on the...  
 and sent...  
 a large...  
 what is...  
 picture...

AIR MAIL

for M. J. W. (with credit extended by Mattie Campion  
 & world war  
 Big boy. anti-thesis 337 Antism). We are  
 planning a Double assault on the city early in  
 August and that will be our 1944 vacation, as we  
 may spend some summers here, but running our small  
 summer session at school.  
 I don't know how many of our school teachers only - they  
 cross-train on that Sabbath in Teague-gal pan, and  
 I don't know the job. I should have forced my  
 wife to go back to Argentina. In case he  
 is here, kept it after the treatment his eyes are  
 reasonably straight, but I can put on a "shifty" look-  
 that feel - back trials, and holding hand. And  
 present. I'm particularly available - when, as, at  
 it you return to Guatemala. That last word  
 keeps reappearing so frequently in our conversations,  
 that we had to avoid it among our good friends.  
 They say "Tell us about Antism" or "What about  
 Church School - the - how do they process, and you are uncertain  
 terms that they've heard enough about our Christmas  
 days. But when we're together we talk about it to  
 our own delight, and after hearing from you,  
 it all takes on a new spirit, and we live in  
 the pink house. See you daily, and your good husband  
 is always on vacation. You and I, must work a  
 bit to keep things going, but Wilson has to do only  
 what we want to when we want to do it.  
 I don't know, but my conviction is that my voice  
 is absolutely sincere. I know I'm a little fat

RIA  
 JIAM

in my mind's eye, right in the middle of your  
patio. If the famous Program House Tuxedo  
is unromantic, middle-aged, epicurean ghost,  
it will have a Boston accent and a Waverley  
sheath.

Your letters keep mentioning trips to this country.  
We have learned to discount the possibilities rather  
heavily, although hope refuses to be as easily  
defeated. May we live with any reasonable expectation  
of a sudden unannounced call to the effect that  
you are near enough at hand so that we can  
get together? I fear most dreadfully that should  
such a call come through, it would only be to say  
that in two minutes you were taking a plane for  
Pakaponia, and had spent only thirteen minutes  
and had in this country.

It is all once apparent that I have nothing  
to do this Sunday March afternoon and precious  
little to say, but I can't expect you to take hours  
off to decipher these few tracks unless there's  
no reward in so doing.

Very sincerely,

Fred

AIR  
MAIL

ST. MARK'S SCHOOL  
SOUTHBOROUGH  
MASSACHUSETTS

June 6, 1944

Mrs. Wilson Popenoe  
Apartado 93  
Tegucigalpa  
Honduras, C. A.

Dear Helen:

Margaret and I have finally decided to do the craziest thing that we have ever done. Your letters calling the "Pink House" in Antigua have finally convinced us that it should be the Weed House.

*the Weed House*

As a consequence, we would like to have you purchase it for us whenever it comes into the market at a price, however, not in excess of \$1,000, and we should certainly appreciate it if you could get it at any lower figure.

I have some qualms in asking you to do this for us, but we have contemplated it so long and thought about it so much that we have finally made up our minds. Our hope is that is that if we are the proud owners that somehow or other we may find time and cash next summer to spend a month or two and possibly stay at the hotel with or without the children and do what we can to make the place livable.

I have set aside \$1,000 in a savings account and I shall quickly wire you whatever you need when, as, and if you are able to purchase the house for us.

With the best of good wishes as always, and with the hope that this may lead to our renewed friendship.

Sincerely yours,

*Frederick R. Wood.*

*Please forgive the formality. Mr. Wood is strictly business.*

CHOATE HOUSE  
SOUTHBOROUGH  
MASSACHUSETTS

Apr. 14, 1946

Dear Helen:

I remember my last letter as an effusive outburst of emotional kindness, but it was wholly caused by local and transitory events. What could I have said that suggested we were no longer here, or that our "estate" in Guatemala was a cause of worry or regret? On the contrary: Our one firm anchor, our refuge, our home was the house above "Down the street" from you. Of course in our mind's eye we see it without the rubble and with the

But I am sure that the  
installation of our hearts will sound  
unbusinesslike to Mr. Sanchez, especially  
if we asked him to believe the  
title to them; so he had better  
retain it until we are able to  
dispatch our carcasses thither.

It may seem somewhat unbusinesslike  
to you, so I sh. stop.

I. Please keep the title in Sanchez's  
name.

ii. If you can arrange to have  
the place cleaned up, and minor  
repairs and alterations made.

iii. We'll certainly need one  
bath room.

iv. Could we make it roughly  
habitable for \$1000. — ?

CHOATE HOUSE  
SOUTHBOROUGH  
MASSACHUSETTS

If so, go ahead, and will  
make payments as you designate.  
This is of course exclusive of  
furnishings.

V. We hope - but I'm afraid it's  
a vain hope - to take next year  
to August with both children, to  
sleep on the floor, and pull  
our establishment together. If  
that is not possible, we'll be  
down the end of June to  
July and August - this is all in  
1947 alas. Would it were this  
year.

Vi. You'll of course realize, we  
expect to find a mess,



and we shall make our own  
artistic blunders, but Margaret has  
a great way of assembling things  
that please us, and I know that  
she'll turn into a Central American  
magpie once she gets underway.

When you're in Antigua  
take a few snap shots of Chateau  
Wesd, and in return I send you  
Elizabeth Coster Inset. We  
can't help but be curious to see  
what she's up to.

With our fondest good wishes  
to you both, and with high  
anticipations of the Popemas-  
Wesd show chances project.

Fred

CHOATE HOUSE  
SOUTHBOROUGH  
MASSACHUSETTS

Sept. 12, 1946

Dear Helen:

Your letters of Aug. 26<sup>th</sup> and the pictures were anything but disappointing. We must have given you an erroneous idea at some point: we are not easily discouraged nor are we faint-at-heart. We are delighted with your earlier floor plan, the pictures, the written notes. We have paced off the dimensions on the lawn - so we know the size; we have hoarded our miserable little pile of "69 + dollars" - and

our enthusiasm to be proud  
property owners in Antigua has become  
a menace to our friends who seem  
blissfully content with their petty  
acres in Limited Estates.

We are going to have to wait  
until June 1947. and then we are  
moving down bag and baggage with  
both children, for at least July and  
August.

We expect to live hard the  
month in our own house - speaking  
sparrow Spanish, and if you have  
face to maintain you had better  
meet us in the East of night  
or correspond with us - for I fear  
that Mr. and Mrs. Murray of N.Y.  
and Dr. and Mrs. Chamberlain of

7  
CHOATE HOUSE  
SOUTHBOROUGH  
MASSACHUSETTS

Ernestine will be more to him.

Palmer's idea of what new comes  
to Antigua should be.

I think I wrote you before that  
we should like to spend about a  
\$1000. - to clear the place out and  
have one bath - from there on  
we now think we'd like the  
fun of seeing it grow. You are  
so sweet to say your fingers  
itch to get on it. And I might  
say that there are no fingers  
we would rather have to the scratching  
so no matter how inconvenient  
plan to be there next summer

if it is in any way possible.

We hope that eventually we'll make the "luxury" and "super job" with \$5000.- and we hope to start with this idea before us. Margaret is super with little money, but even has she had a place of her own on which to work. In schools, we get tossed into a building and then you live. Any improvements you make, the school gratefully accepts on the basis that it is more economical - though less blessed - to receive than to give. The very idea of constructing or removing a wall or cutting or blocking up a window are so foreign to our experience that the mere thought-

CHOATE HOUSE  
SOUTHBOROUGH  
MASSACHUSETTS

seems to unite us with the  
great buildings of St. Peter's and  
the Taj Mahal.

Your fine place in the  
living room, and the door to the  
street that should be a window  
and the window to the patio  
corridor, as well as opening a new  
door to the patio, and blocking  
the door to the Zagman seem  
perfect to us.

Margaret and I see perfectly  
what you mean by the fountain - so  
different from yours.

The back part apparently  
required most of the work as well

as the planning. Would this be  
feasible? For next summer -

fix bedrooms one and two with  
bath between and sala, and  
we'll cook somehow in bedroom  
three, eating in patio or where-  
not, and during the summer  
make plans for bathroom # 2,  
kitchen, dining room, master's  
room and master's toilet?



But where to eat and  
doubtless then din? Damn!

I'm still a triple vague about the back of the house. Is it all rubble filled and roofless? Or is there a possibility of squeezing in your ex-laudres and Saphire somewhere while we are there? Or maybe we could make arrangements for them to live out while we live in for this period.

A few other specific questions:

1. How does passage run back to main patio now. Your plan looks clear enough, but I can see no indication of it in



photographs.

2. Is there electricity on the street?

Not that we care much, but we're just curious.

3. Is there city water, sewage etc.

to which we tie in. About this

I'm more interested.

---

And now for us! We are back

in Southwamp, getting ready for

another year - our 15<sup>th</sup> here.

Our original determination was to

stay no more than three days

we got ruled. The present

depth of these fearful rules I have

to contemplate.

CHOATE HOUSE  
SOUTHBOROUGH  
MASSACHUSETTS

Peter and Lucretia have reached  
the advanced ages of 12 and 9  
(Ma and Pa are 40 and 38 -  
just in case you're wondering.)

We had a wonderful summer  
on Cape Cod - all play and no  
work - living with a large and  
varied assortment of relatives -  
no permanent peace, but nice  
intervals of amused neutrality  
between "episodes."

With our kindest wishes to  
you, to say nothing of our  
deep appreciation.

(over)

Trud.

? Margaret's father and mother  
are thinking with the idea of  
going to Guatemala next Jan.  
or Feb. Is the Clark tourist  
agency still in operation?

(Theodore was in the  
business by himself and all  
the time only the - but after  
two years a little while to some  
in order of business to see  
with the - very business of  
particular business for the  
business would  
be under the best no ill  
and for particular part of  
with business part  
that (over)

CHOATE HOUSE  
SOUTHBOROUGH  
MASSACHUSETTS

Sept. 15, 1946

Dear Helen:

I am mailing to-day a  
screen of my usual sort to  
Tequeigalpa, but your recent  
letter said you expected to be in  
Antigua around Sept. 21<sup>st</sup> for a  
few days, and this is to meet you  
there - D.V.

We expect to come to  
Antigua late June 1947 for  
July and August, with both  
children, and hope that through  
your kindly efforts we can  
have sala and front two bedrooms

livable even if rough. The  
first necessity would seem to  
be a bathroom between these  
two bedrooms.

At present we are thinking  
of full restrictions eventually  
along your lines, but with selfish  
enough to want to see it "before"  
and plan for the "after": that  
you'd understand, but don't  
think that we are on-sensitiv.  
In we both feel that anything  
you do will be better than  
as if we'd done it.

We hope to have 3 bed  
rooms and spend the \$500.  
In the "super job" your letter

CHOATE HOUSE  
SOUTHBOROUGH  
MASSACHUSETTS

mentions. The order of  
importance we think

- ① bathroom between two front-  
bed rooms.
- ② Sala
  - a.) Door to street - make a  
window.
  - b.) Door to entrance blocked
  - c.) Door to patio cut.
  - d.) window to patio cut
  - e.) fireplace at south of  
Sala.
- ③ bed rooms 1 and 2 fixed up.
- ④ General cleaning up of rear  
in preparation for rest-  
building scheme.

You are so sweet to be so  
interested, and if you could  
see and hear us talk about  
you and our return, you'd  
be amply repaid.

With many a best

friend

The folks here perhaps awaits  
you at the capital, and I  
hesitate to put you through  
more of my atrocious writing.

CHOATE HOUSE  
SOUTHBOROUGH  
MASSACHUSETTS

Sept. 15, 1946

Dear Wilson:

We were delighted to  
have your scholarly views on the  
small portion of Santo Domingo  
which we see in the mind's eye  
as half Ocean house, half out-  
house, and to hear of the  
Timacos whose descendants we  
hope have attained their wings  
and only pickle their guests in  
20<sup>th</sup> century fashion.

We can well understand  
that there are things to be done -  
not that we anticipated, and in so



you as our furnishings hold out, we  
expect to reconstruct bit by  
bit - or two bits by two bits - until  
the Dream extends even to the  
back patio.

Your ideas and Helen's seem  
wonderful - and we'll need lots  
of help - in ways which I fear  
we don't as yet suspect. To  
the the intervening distance  
and the fact that we have not  
seen what we're trying to  
work on present a mental  
hindrance - as if I were insisting  
to do a small amount of  
reconstruction on the moon, and  
the telescopic details left me  
in doubt.

CHOATE HOUSE  
SOUTHBOROUGH  
MASSACHUSETTS

As for the "Stone of Sanctity,"  
we shall look in the radiations  
from the past, and if something of  
its pungency has been lost in the  
years, will cherish the usefulness  
of its antiquity. But if you can  
arrange to have the yearly revenue  
"of at least thirty thousand Ducats"  
restored "what from the water-  
mill, what from a farm for  
corn, what from an estancia"  
I'll do my best to feast you  
à la Popemoz as in the  
sanctimonious days gone past, and  
burn a candle to him at both ends.

Sincerely,  
Fred Went

ST. MARK'S SCHOOL  
SOUTHBOROUGH  
MASSACHUSETTS

Jan. 8, 1947

Dear Helen:

Life grows so complicated that I have  
difficulty hanging on at times, and your nice letter  
giving me your Bogota address went unanswered for so  
long that I imagine you're now back in Ibadanas,  
or Guatemala, or Chicago or Havana, or any of those  
brief stopping points you hit so frequently for  
such short periods - at least so it seems to us. We  
live like hot pop corn, and have since our last pop  
in 1939. But stick we are endeavoring to change some  
year, when Weeds will embark for Antigua to look  
over our place on your street.

Our holidays were a round of New York  
amusement; and New York is the same if not more so,  
crazy animation to the casual visitor, in spite of  
boredom by the inhabitants. The sky provides no limit to  
them. Incidentally we saw George and Jessie Antonovitch  
several times. You may remember that he got us our  
original letter of introduction to you. They've bought a  
brown stone house on East 90<sup>th</sup> Street and have just

Completed its reconstruction and decoration. I'm glad it's  
there - not minor in spite of many nice features. They were  
amused to hear of an Guatemalan purchase, as you can well  
imagine, for they are pretty good wares. George in fact is now  
in London seeking for some sort of new job, as his R.C.A  
International job seems to have deserted him on the spot.

Our other excursions have been modest - to Cleveland  
for a walk on school work, Newburgh for some partridge  
shooting, and the likes, but mostly in and around our  
local environs for groceries, dentists, sick dogs, and  
dinners.

Did I write that we have a Guatemalan boy here at  
school - Enrique Ortiz from Guatemala City. He is my musical  
and spends a lot of time exercising our piano and trumpet  
too when he can persuade her to get her fiddle out. That  
reminds me of an amusing episode of our Amalia's  
(aged 9) who has just started to take violin lessons.  
She likes to practice about as much as any child that  
age. Yesterday, her efforts sounded particularly  
unimpressive; so I sneaked in to see what she was doing  
for her half hour. The violin case was open with the  
violin still in it, and she was occasionally drawing the  
the bow across the strings while she looked at light.  
I couldn't help but be amused.

ST. MARKS SCHOOL  
SOUTHBOROUGH  
MASSACHUSETTS

I took the liberty of naming a friend of mother's  
with a letter of introduction to you a short time ago.  
She is Mrs. Stratford Wentworth, and I hope she may  
have a stroke of luck in finding you in Antigua in  
February or March, or wherever she expects to be there. She's  
a delightful widow of some years - a spy I'd want to  
my guess, but I'm sure you'd enjoy her. She tried to  
get mother to go with her, but in spite of all my  
arguing I couldn't get mother to go. So "Jaisy" as mother  
calls her is off on her own. What a name!

We were delighted with the pictures of the Fig in our  
back patio - to us it looked like ancient Rome appearing  
again, either the Figgers or the Pogromes must be going  
hungry, for having heard no word, I'm deposited no  
money to your account in Boston. You'll let us know  
soon, before we go to New York again, as those "5¢ & 10¢",  
as Wilson calls them, may pay less than 5¢ each and  
the dollar.

And about our coming down - Do you think we could  
live in that place of ours with just a few keep things?  
We of course want to see it and make plans for it, but  
we expect to live there for a while. So there water, and

is there a reasonably decent out-house? With his eggs  
sleeping bags, and a few cooking things we can make out,  
provided the former requirements exist.

Your quotation on butter prices was a bit  
turning, but so are our prices here. What do  
other people use for money? I know that the  
School Teachers don't get it all!

With all our hot to you both, and with deep  
appreciation for favors past, and with the warmness of

Wend incommines to come.

Fred

ST. MARI'S SCHOOL  
SOUTHBOROUGH  
MASSACHUSETTS

Mar. 8. 1947

Dear Helen:

Unless my memory fails, each of my letters to you has begun with an apology for delay. Having established the tradition and being conventional, I could do nothing but regret at the outset my failure, as before, which I do here with. I did not want to write without being able to say that the payment of \$47.<sup>80</sup> had been made. (Evidence attached.) Now my conscience is clear, at least on that point.

During our spring vacation, we expect to lay our summer plans. We have discussed delay in this as we have been applying for a school in Cleburn, and with a moon from Southborough to Cleburn, we should not have been able to go to Guatemala. But Cleburn, after working the West coast for several months, avoided the West coast; so we will still here, yet with a renewed look receiving Swifts from Boston and California. We expect hopefully for a boat from New Orleans late June, but more probably a plane from New Orleans to Guatemala, at the same time or possibly early in July. Our children, now 10 and 13, have been here anywhere except New York; so we shall not go through Washington. From the east coast and on to New Orleans - then somehow to Guatemala. Antigua is of course our goal, but we hope to go to Atitlan and El Pacayal in addition. In August we shall return to New Orleans, pick up the car, and return more or less of the Mississippi valley and the Basin of the Gulf of Mexico.

ST. MARK'S SCHOOL  
SOUTHBOROUGH  
MASSACHUSETTS

Our home in Antigua Bassett Discourage us, and we expect to hang out there for a while to make plans and to see you. Could we take advantage of your offer to stay with you fairly early in July for a few days until we can get ourselves together a bit? Margaret wants the limit to stay, if she will.

And now for the "sanitary rubs." The two door out-house square in the middle of the main patio "seems something less than ideal. The location and the conditions worry me more than the type, and we'd willingly sacrifice convenience for general appearance. Would it not be possible to excavate a small area in the back patio and do the necessary filling in the front one, apply some whitewash and upon the "small surface" to a preferable, even if temporary, site? Eventually we'll hope to feature something less utilitarian even in the back patio.

You can't imagine how intrigued we still are with the idea of our house. The children run between seeing it as a palace and a hen coop, and with little little idea we are trying to make them feel that it is somewhere between the two, with attributes of both. We're all confused; but we'd sooner sell ourselves into slavery than part with it. With much love all around and our mutual reunion. What a surprise would it be to each other - strangers  
M. B. Bassett



Sunday

[May 1947]

CHOATE HOUSE  
SOUTHBOROUGH  
MASSACHUSETTS.

Dear Helen -

Fred and the children and I are just as excited and happy as we can be about 2 things! Fred has been made - as of Sept. 1 - Headmaster of the Putnam Latin School -; and we have our definite reservations for July 4 - sailing from New Orleans on the S. S. Antique -

P. L. S. is a private school for boys - of splendid tradition and reputation - over 300 years old

and the job is full of challenge  
and interest. Fred doesn't do all!  
- and a great honor to  
to have been chosen. (Pres. Conant  
of Harvard was head of the  
committee to close the new deal)

We are more grateful than  
you know for all the interest and  
work you have shown in our  
house in Antigua - believe me  
I don't know how we could  
have carried on even as well as  
as we have without you - But  
out to our love of the place  
it is because of you and Wilson  
we bought to! We still  
hope to keep in deep dug bags  
in our own rooms! at last

CHOATE HOUSE  
SOUTHBOROUGH  
MASSACHUSETTS

Some of the time and have no other  
plans or intentions to do otherwise.  
Perhaps we can eat at the Alcazar<sup>(?)</sup>  
as we have no table - due  
to Fred's new arrangement - and  
our consequent moving in the  
middle of August - we are  
trying to get our passage (we  
already have for August) changed  
to July 26<sup>th</sup> - so you see we  
shall not be here long alas -  
but long enough to make plans  
as to the future of our house -  
we shall be sick with disappointment  
if you can't come at all -  
during July - isn't there a chance?

for to your ideas we want - and  
one - and there isn't another such  
except perhaps Dr. Maria Kodjard  
who could possibly help us in any  
way - please understand this is  
we will of course have to go  
go slowly - but we do wish  
that before you have a couple  
of years have past we can  
<sup>some</sup> quantify suitable and thereby help  
our financial situation and the  
house!! Any and we could get  
could go right into the house -  
going to better, but by but, for  
when we hope to live here.

This letter is written in a hurry  
but there have been innumerable  
interruptions - and it is suffering!

Do you know if the water in  
our well is drinkable!? Do you advise

CHOATE HOUSE  
SOUTHBOROUGH  
MASSACHUSETTS

incubation for us? as I recall  
we had them before only because  
of our 2 rounds in Mexico and  
in Guatemala we drank the water  
right out of the faucets anywhere  
and now gave a thought to  
any disease anywhere or at  
anytime in that heavenly country -  
Was the war and the man  
of Toronto changed to all?!  
Oh! I shall want any change -  
was I to or supposedly improvement!

We long to see you and  
get a bit caught up on so many  
many things in our lives these  
past years - Please be here in July!

and sit in the midst of our rubble  
and help us plan for the reconstruction  
of our little house and toward  
our retirement into it.

My very best to you and  
to Wilson - how proud you  
will be when they get degrees  
together at Pomona in June -

Cordially yours

Margaret Wood

10 May 1947

Dear Margaret:

Helen is over in Guatemala for a week, putting the girls back in school and checking up on things at Antigua. Thinking there might be something on your letter to which she could give attention while over there, I opened the letter, and will answer a few of the questions as I suspect Helen may be swamped with things to do when she gets back here, and delay a little while in answering. We are getting ready to leave for California on June 3rd, which brings up the first point: we want very much to be with you at Antigua, if even we cannot have more than a day or two with you, and I believe we may be able to manage this, as we have already planned to stop a few days at Antigua on our way home. If you are leaving New Orleans on July 4th you should be at Antigua about the 8th, I figure; and we are planning to be there just about the same time. We will steal a day or two, some way or other, to help you get things lined up. Personally I should like nothing better (and the same applies to Helen) than to discuss with you folks the possibilities in regard to reconstruction of the house. We have given a lot of thought to the matter but don't know what your ideas may be; and in fact we haven't anything definite in mind ourselves, but we have said, as we looked it over, we could make something very interesting of this. The front part of the house is rather discouraging, but the ruined bit of old Santo Domingo at the year is fascinating and something can be done to use it. If you had seen it before it was cleaned up you would have thrown up your hands; but fortunately it is now in such condition that you can see its possibilities.

Personally, we would not hesitate to sleep there, in the two bedrooms, using cots or sleeping bags or anything you can pick up locally. The toilet facilities are far from the Bostonian standard, as you know. We would not attempt to cook, for a short period such as you contemplate, because there are no pots and pans and no dishes and the stove isn't much; but you could eat well at the Alcazar, or we would suggest the Pension Rojas which is nearer your house (some four blocks away) and which puts out good native food at a very reasonable price. I lived there for months, when I first came to Guatemala, and have always liked it. I believe they only charge \$2.50 a day for board and lodging, which is considerably below any of the tourist hotels; the latter range from \$4.50 to \$12. They are taking their pound of flesh, and the tourists don't seem to mind it.

I think old Maria can get you a maid to come in and clean up the house for you, and do odd chores. And to wash your clothes.

Helen does not drink the water out of the city supply - the pila - but I have done so for years and am still alive. However, you would probably do best to boil it, which you can do on the old stove without too much trouble. I don't recommend any inoculations before coming down, but I am old-fashioned perhaps. You may run into "tourists disease" for which there is no inoculation; it is just

about like pink tooth brush - 4 out of 5 get it. Our doctors dont really know what causes it; the thing is an acute dysentery which lasts a few days and is annoying, probably a low-grade of infection of some sort, just "sludge" one of the old time medicos told me. Liquid diet straightens it out in a few days; and you may be able to avoid it, but no one can say just how, except to avoid eating food which has been handled too much, such as uncooked greenstuffs.

Antigua is changing rapidly, and there are some atrocities in the way of modern conceptions of "colonial" architecture. Quite a few houses have been bought by Americans and are being "restored". Tourists are as abundant as ground-gripper shoes on Beacon street. We dont know what the future may bring forth, but personally I dont believe they can ruin the old place entirely. Prices of property have gone up about 300% in the past two years, purely because a few Americans have bought. One of the fine old places which we thought of buying at the time we got the one we own, and for which we offered \$3000, was sold last year for \$10,000 and is being rebuilt.

We are delighted at Fred's appointment as headmaster of the Roxbury Latin School. I know the institution by reputation of course and feel that it is a great tribute to his ability.

Affectionate regards to both of you,



Sunday

FINCA EL PACAYAL.

POCHUTA.

GUATEMALA.

[Attached to July 27  
1947]

Dear Watson and Helen - I wonder  
if either of you has any conception  
of how grateful and privileged  
you was felt all the time  
we were in your community  
lovely house. It was truly a  
dream come true and we  
thank you from the bottom  
of our happy hearts.

We spent all day Tuesday  
and most of Wednesday and  
Thursday in our house - with  
thousands of tape and paper and  
music and a wonderful discussion  
of food - a long pole with  
oil attached - which allowed

is to suspend the measure, and take  
high measurements!! Fred  
and I got well along with  
and in discussion about our door  
and its infinite possibilities -  
and again and again said -  
how grateful we were to you  
for giving us for us and for  
making it reconstruction possible.  
Mrs. Tammey came to help us  
with our final plans with  
Annie and we got a  
duplicate plan of the facade  
with him - which he seemed  
to understand. Fred is writing  
you further details of all of  
that so I won't go any further -  
oh! how we long to leave  
and how we longed to stay  
and watch the work get under  
way. We think it is going  
to be the most exciting and the  
most lovely house in all Antiqua!

FINCA EL PACAYAL.

POCHUTA.

GUATEMALA.

Maria and her daughter? were  
wonderful to us and our meals  
were delicious and so quickly  
and beautifully prepared - we  
felt so good and privileged  
& it is so beautiful all  
round -

We went into the city Friday  
morning and drove with Horacio  
to Escuintla where we took  
a train to Patzún where Don  
Cez met us. We have been  
in this lovely place for the  
weekend - and completely spoiled.  
How good our friends are to  
us.

We go to the lake tomorrow  
and when I realize that a  
week from today we sail for

Now dreams - I cannot bear or  
believe it.

I need only dream love to  
you both and thank you and  
your sweet daughter for  
being so kind and so thoughtful  
to us all these days in  
America. Let's all go back  
soon - and stay!

Peggy Wood

Had deposited \$1000.00 in Don Pedro Copina's  
account in the Bank of London -  
and is going to see Mr. Sanchez  
Friday next. Antonio thought  
he could get the stone door way  
and is going to try and find  
some others and also some  
window sills (?)



TZANJUYU'S GARDEN  
FOTO "ARTE"  
MOISES RIVERA SOTO  
OWNER-MANAGER

# HOTEL TZANJUYU

ON THE SHORES OF LAKE ATITLAN

TZANJUYU GUATEMALA, C. A.

July 22, 1947

Dear Helen and Wilson:

This should be two letters: one for our thanks and indebtedness to you for your great courtesy to us in Antigua, both while you were here and afterwards; and a second letter of straight business in regard to our great venture.

Our entire visit to Quetzimala has been marked by our great good fortune at the hands of friends. When we returned to Quetzimala City, Mrs. Ido, Tom gave a beautiful luncheon for us, and then we spent three days with Don Ido, Tom and his sister Virginia Peters at El Pacayal. Now you can see where we are, and you'd know our trip out of here to Soledad et al. than Pachanata and home. But before the next long account of Roxbury - its school and the Chateau Wood, I must get down to the Antigua house business.

I drew up for Antonio this scale drawing of the facade, and endeavored to explain through Mrs. Ramona the scale, the one foot wall heightening, the one foot window raising, the broadened door - wood enough for a car



TZANJUJU'S GARDEN  
FOTO "ARTE"

MOISES RIVERA SOTO  
OWNER-MANAGER

## HOTEL TZANJUJU

ON THE SHORES OF LAKE ATITLAN

TZANJUJU GUATEMALA, C. A.

and you not too broad for the inner hall. The  
main door we asked to have like yours on your  
new house, and the grille of wood turned, you  
not stained, for we feel that a heavy application  
of linseed oil on all the wood work will give about  
the color to the exterior that we are looking for.

We also spent an entire day taking measurements from all  
angles and directions: these we are bringing home to Tzanjuju in  
as much detail as possible, and will send them along when  
we think they are done.

Before leaving Antigua, I spent an hour or so with  
Don Pedro Cepitio, and when we went to Guatemala City, I  
deposited \$1000.- to his account in the Honduran Bank - \$300.-  
for tools and materials and then \$150.- to be paid Antonio  
each month for all expenses. Nelson and Don Pedro felt that  
this was reasonable, although I had a feeling that Antonio himself  
he could use more.

We feel that our house will eventually be perfect,  
in spite of jitters en route, and we have already started  
hurrying away two years of our time which we can return to  
see what progress has materialized.



TZANJUYU'S GARDEN  
FOTO "ARTE"  
MOISES RIVERA SOTO  
OWNER-MANAGER

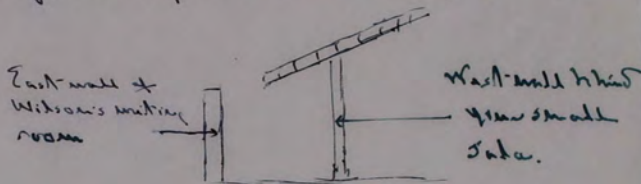
# HOTEL TZANJUYU

ON THE SHORES OF LAKE ATITLAN

TZANJUYU GUATEMALA, C. A.

To return to the facade. I fear you may think our windows are still too low - in spite of the fact that they are to be raised a foot. We think that the girls going above them will carry them to about the proper level - although I noticed some that are higher than ours. Possibly we visit the parents we might have had the tower height we feel would be pleasing.

As we circled around your house, we thought that our servant's patio might be doubled in a similar fashion to that small portion by Wilson's work shop to east.



But each details, can merit the most gigantic effort with endurance. Give them our great appreciation for all your kindnesses, and our deep gratitude for your interest and help.

And



UNA HOSTERIA DE OTROS SILOS

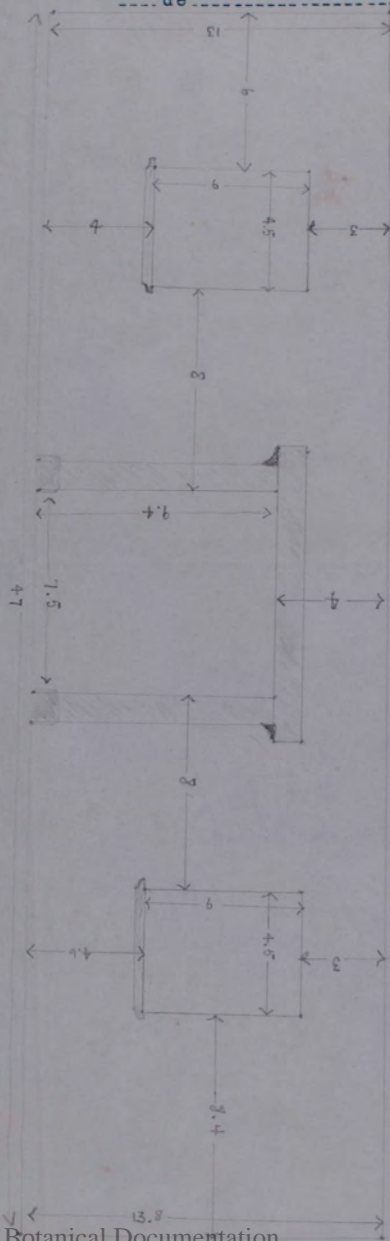
JOSE LLARNA ZIRION  
GERENTE

ANTIGUA GUATEMALA  
GUATEMALA, CENTRO AMERICA



Muy noble y muy Leal Ciudad de Santiago de  
los Caballeros de Goathemala,

de ..... de 194.....



1000 x 2000

WEID HOUSE FACADE 1947



Tegucigalpa, 18 Aug 1947

Dear Fred:

Pete Cofiño writes to say that it is necessary to place the order for the lumber which will be used in the overhead work on the section which Arturo is to do first. It will probably take a month or two - maybe three - to obtain delivery, and the cost will be \$493. There was another bid of \$520 from a guy who used to sell us lumber but delivered it about six months late, and have just written Pete that I am sure you would be agreeable to ordering from Castillo who makes the lower bid and who is more reliable anyway. Pete notes that this will take a good spot of cash, out of the amount he has on hand; but you cant build a house without lumber any more than the Israelites could make bricks without straw; so I told Pete to go ahead. Once the boys have some tools to work with and some lumber to divert their attention they can make some progress; otherwise nights. I dont want you to think that the money is going too fast, because it will go by spurts and starts, mostly spurts; and in the long run will even out the curve so the graph wont look too bad. We are going to keep a close watch on things whenever we can get over there, so you will have the best damn house in Antigua, barring one. -- Here we are in statu quo ante, as you guys would say, with lots to do. Last night we missed Little B&y Blue. If I recall correctly, he was to blow his horn, because the cows were in the meadow, the sheep in the corn, or vice versa; anyway, it was vice versa here for the cows got in the corn and ate up all our potential silage. I assume you Latin scholars know what silage is, though I dont reckon you can grow much of it in New England.-- Our love to all of you; gosh, what a time we shall have when we are in the sere and yellow leaf together in Antigua, myself rather more sere and yellow than the rest.

Ever thine

P. G. COFIÑO  
ANTIGUA  
GUATEMALA. C. A.

DIRECCION TELEGRAFICA:  
COFINO-ANTIGUA  
CODIGO:  
A. B. C. 6TH. ED.

August 12, 1947

Er Wilson Popenoe,  
Tegucagalpa.

Dear Dr. Popenoe:-

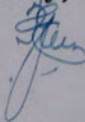
Arturo Santis came this week and will star work at Mr. Weed's house until next week; in the meantime he brought a list of the lumber needed for the roof and I asked for quotations from two mills.-

I enclude these quotations, from which you may note that Castillo's is the lower and promises earlier delivery.- Since nothing can be done without the the 24 ft beams for tendales, which will take more to deliver, I think we should place the order, but ask that delivery be made of the complete lot during the next month.- This lumber will cost \$ 493.02, which will take about 50% of the funds available, but if order is not placed promptly, Arturo says neither he nor the carpenter have much work to do.-

Kindly advise if you agree that I purchase this lumber, returning the enclosed letters-

Best wishes and kind regards to both of you.-

Sincerely,



18 August 1947

Señor don Pedro G. Cogifio,  
Antigua, Guatemala.

Dear Pedro:

Thanks for your letter of the 12th, with quotations on lumber. I agree with you that Castillo's should be accepted. I dont know how Pira works these days but a few years ago when we were buying lumber from him he was terribly slow on deliveries.

As you say, this will take a good part of the available cash. But I am sure Mr. Weed would want to go ahead; in fact there is nothing else to be done.

With best regards always,

Sincerely,

Wilson Popenoe

THE ROXBURY LATIN SCHOOL  
FOUNDED 1645  
WEST ROXBURY  
MASSACHUSETTS

Sept. 5, 1947

Dear Wilson:

I received your letter about lumber and  
tools to "Tint" Arturo's boys with your consideration  
of financial spots and starts. I think you done  
just right, as my new/darling friends say. Shortly  
I am going to take myself aside and write you a  
staggering volume of our ideas with measurements  
that may make our house the "best damn house" bar  
none - that is, if Helen will allow me a heart-  
shaped pool and a little french Canadian stained glass.  
Our present house was built in the early north German  
boy's period and was getting some pretty elegant ideas.  
For the moment, and in the near future, I shall be  
endeavoring to find out what I am supposed to  
do here as headmaster. At present my study is  
equipped with a fresh coat of paint and a pair of  
antennas - visitors Tint stay long - but I am not  
sure that I can stand up for the next thirty  
years. Even after my first four days I am growing tired  
of it and getting out of hand. All this is merely to

explain why as yet no detailed consideration  
of our future abode.

We are all fine - still filled with Guatemala  
and our trip down and back - the high spot of which  
was our visit with you in Antigua. Now we  
can't wait to be sure and yellow and brown our  
little mine to its lees, and the slight advantage  
you have in years will multiply with the  
rapidity of our Decline.

And

RED REPRESENTS  
SEWING FLOOR

CATA WEEB  
NOV 17 1147  
MEASUREMENT FEET AND  
TENTH OF FEET



GEORGE F. SANCHEZ

COUNSELLOR AT LAW

GUATEMALA CITY  
GUATEMALA, C. A.

AIR MAIL

November 18, 1947

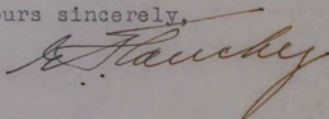
Mrs. Wilson Popenoe,  
c/ Escuela Agricultura Panamericana,  
Tegucigalpa, Honduras.

Dear Mrs. Popenoe:

Thank you for your kind letter of the 14th inst.  
and check for \$123.10 enclosed therein.

Mary and myself are looking forward to see you  
both in December and hope you will give us the pleasure too of  
having lunch with us in December. Mary is all excited expecting  
the arrival of her cousin, who is supposed to be here around the  
6th of next month.

Yours sincerely,



RECIBIDO

NOV 21 1947

ESCUELA AGRICOLA  
PANAMERICANA, INC.

Roxbury Public School  
West Roxbury, Mass.

Nov. 19, 1947.

Dear Wilson:

For weeks I have been endeavoring to send you these plans, but the interruptions have been numerous to say the least. Before plans arrive, I shall get down to business.

- ① Margaret wants the new floors in glazed red tiles - as a housekeeping measure.
- ② We gave you a rough plan of the facade, and another to Arturo, raising the wall one foot etc.
- ③ On enclosed plan, the red represents the second floor, although we are quite aware of the fact that this is not to be accomplished immediately.
- ④ We thought the roof should overhang the sunbath patio some, to provide



shelter, and to partially open to  
provide sun. Just how this is to  
be accomplished in so small an area  
I don't quite know, but I endeavored  
to explain it to Antonio through  
gestures and an interpreter.

- ⑤ The plan calls for two fireplaces -  
one in the living room, and one  
directly above in our bedroom.
- ⑥ The kitchen is to be as nearly like  
yours as we can make it.
- ⑦ The outer walls in the back we  
want left all rough, just the  
way they are. - That is those  
which are not being altered.
- ⑧ The heart-shaped pool we decided  
to omit - in spite of desire. We  
may eventually decide on a four leaf  
clown or hammer and sickle  
affair

xxx

We were delighted with your "cow in the  
corn" and "no shine" letters, the latter

and the tools to "trim" the boys. Coffin's  
bills show that they have had some fun,  
but so far as I know, no lumber.

You can imagine the circus we've  
had here. Trying to adjust to a new  
way of life with three new schools which  
opened for the Weed family on the  
same day. As yet none of them has  
closed on us; so we should consider  
ourselves fortunate thus far.

But our great good fortune has  
been in receiving work-ends again.  
After a boarding school, it is almost  
like being a "gentleman of leisure."  
We've seen a few restaurants  
with such handsome dishes and glasses  
as we enjoyed in N Orleans together -  
the seashore of Cape Cod and here  
Manchines hills. But of all such,  
I write to your charming wife -  
a tract in which I expect to indulge  
shortly. With all of our love to you both,  
Fred

Wednesday

Nov 19 1947

CHOATE HOUSE  
SOUTHBOROUGH  
MASSACHUSETTS

109 St. Theresa  
at  
West Roxbury

Dear Helen - After your days  
not from you and "last" from  
King Sauley to you, I feel  
compelled to break into your and  
Fred's correspondence and insert  
a few things ~~etc~~?

When we were in Quabbin  
city last summer we saw  
Mr. Sauley - have found your  
wishes remembered into me  
- so we appointed finally  
when we did see him. We  
gave him all necessary in-  
formation and signatures etc etc

that time - and in spite of what  
he said - our address obviously -  
- he had - in fact I saw him  
write it down in about 6 places -  
also - he was to send the copy of  
Bill to us - when ready -  
Fred wanted to pay him here  
and there - as he gave us a  
bill at that time. I wish we  
had - but it was my fault  
we didn't - I saw no reason  
for paying him until we had  
the bill - which was what  
the bill was for - work involved  
it - He didn't want seem  
to attach our name! as he  
only refers to us as "them" -  
or "they" or "your Boston  
friends" - Undoubtedly  
you wish you had never heard

CHOATE HOUSE  
SOUTHBOROUGH  
MASSACHUSETTS

of us - but believe me - we are  
deeply appreciative of all you  
and Wilson have done and  
do for us - for the matter  
of money they we and our  
house are to you - We will  
try and "talk" to you to you  
some how - sometime - but  
we simply do not know where  
else to turn - or how else  
to "cope" - So far away -  
as to the trees - we have  
no way of knowing how much  
they are or when they are  
due - It was our understanding  
that Don Pedro's agents in  
Antique would pay them -

but maybe he didn't understand  
that - what way is there for us  
to know about them?

We have been terribly busy  
and involved all fall - getting  
adjusted to this new job and  
our new surroundings - not  
to mention our 17 room house  
with no help at all - and  
no hope of affording any -  
also - both children in new schools  
etc etc. We are all completely  
happy about our lives but you  
can well understand that we  
have been jumping very much  
since our return in August.

But nothing dims our joy in  
life far away - i.e. our  
house in Anisquam - and  
we plan for it and talk

CHOATE HOUSE  
SOUTHBOROUGH  
MASSACHUSETTS

of it constantly. Ted is running  
you the plan - as well as  
we can figure to - while the  
treasure remains we took when  
there - of course things will  
go wrong - and they would  
if we were all on the spot!  
But other things will go right  
and soon can wait until a  
year from next summer when  
we hope we can come again -  
as I recall we all decided that  
unless it involved too great  
extra expense - the walls should  
be raised 1 foot - (the  
roof had to come off anyway -  
didn't it?) as to the actual


height of each room - we simply  
don't know!

I have an two definite things how-  
ever - that we do feel - if you  
agree! although they aren't  
as lovely or as right - we  
feel that wherever there have  
to be new floors - i.e. the  
back part of the house -  
upstairs etc - we want glazed  
or smooth rather than rough  
dull tiles because the latter  
are so difficult to keep decent.  
also - the woodwork - not  
stained black - or so dark as  
to almost look black - but  
rather left a soft true brown  
- oiled - waxed etc -

The doorway we want wide arched  
- to us - that day - remember?  
and all lovely to but feet to



CHOATE HOUSE  
SOUTHBOROUGH  
MASSACHUSETTS

needed to be raised when moved  
- or built higher -  
 He too short - as I recall - but Arturo  
was going to have them a bit -

We are probably mad to have  
we started reconstruction when  
we are so far from it - but  
we love to all ~~do it~~  
don't seem to me anything  
can spoil the beauty and feeling  
of it and anyway - we have  
100% faith in Wilson - you  
and Arturo -

We were one for this long  
year - but Fred is so busy  
I am afraid his reply will  
please may be a bit delayed -

my love to you both always  
- and deep appreciation  
for adding our problems to yours!

Peggy Wood

P.S. We would like to have the copy  
of the material to us here - and  
the way ~~to get it~~ Sunday  
accordingly. We told him  
to send it to us - but  
obviously he misunderstood -  
so for god's sake elaborate arrange-  
ments - !

THE ROXBURY LATIN SCHOOL

FOUNDED 1645

WEST ROXBURY

MASSACHUSETTS

FREDERICK R. WEED, HEADMASTER

TELEPHONE

PARKWAY 7-4729

Jan. 15, 1948

Dear Wilson and Helen:

A cheery Christmas Eve letter from Wilson, apparently  
was delayed in your sunshine or in our snow and only recently  
arrived. We were delighted to know that you were in Antigua, with two  
daughters for the holiday. We had a family of twelve, and now that the  
shouting and confusion is over, we are pulling ourselves together again.

The progress on Casa Verde sounds wonderful. Noise  
has gone around in these United States that we have a house in  
Antigua, and people want to rent it. Wouldn't they rather a check to know  
its present state? but when it's finished \$1000. - per day will  
certainly be his, and I'd prefer to hold out for what it's really worth.  
I have a note from P. G. Coxim's office saying "Please remit  
him for lumber now being delivered; so progress on roof will shortly  
keep ahead."

It is nice to know that the doorway is wide enough  
for a Buick; so's my disposition and inclination, but the  
humb-shaped part which Helen suggested will have to come first.  
I wouldn't disappoint her for anything. To know that the walls are  
sound is gratifying, but stop having earthquakes. I can't help  
think of our parties raffish with rubble.

As for the tiles - We originally wanted the glazed,  
but now think the glazed ones, although less attractive, are more  
practical for all rooms except the servants' room and the

connection. It, however, present ones are adequate. I'd let them stay as they are. As for the next on the connection, I like the azobien type like yours, but the lean to type is: suit of hand and. The point of light, as you said, should be consistent; so why not lean the azobien. The door stands somewhat like a good boy. Can

I feel that we have 23 in hand and only 27 to go. A door without them would be like a bucket without them, and although I have fake shirt studs, I want pearl door studs.

Now as for that pipe on to the alcantarilla, I'll rely on your judgment (just as if I had it to doing so right along.)

The Guatemala labor laws, like our own, confuse me. Uncle Sam has a few in regard to income (have you heard?) that you problems. I hope Antonio's legal worries don't do for him.

Each day we hear of a new person who is headed for Guatemala. So say I heard that John Tomlinson from the bank is headed your way. No doubt you'll see him in adventures.

With all these - where it not for Guatemala, I should hate the passing time, but growing old has a part of something at the end; so will keep our fingers crossed these twenty years and see what happens. Our love to you both, and all good wishes.

Fred

Monday

THE ROXBURY LATIN SCHOOL

Feb. [1948?]

FOUNDED 1645

WEST ROXBURY  
MASSACHUSETTS

FREDERICK R. WEED, HEADMASTER

Dear Helen -

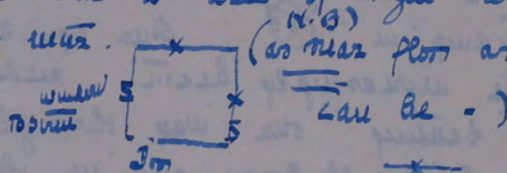
That was such an exciting  
letter of yours written Jan 14 - and  
I had and I actually jumped up  
and down with joy when we  
believed the face of our book -  
coming along so "grandly". We  
are ashamed to have waited so  
long before answering your questions  
and now - when Helen was for  
I had to have time I am really  
"breaking" in. Our lips seem  
to be unmanipulated and  
not battling our way through  
mountains of snow and in here  
just through Helen's side of  
any one more !! This winter

is "jammed" and I question that it will mix and.

Now - to the important questions and don't say again - how we appreciate your interest and your labor in regard to our house - from the bottom of our hearts. I soon how love the importance you and wisdom are doing & all single handed! and I love you both for your generosity!

We would like electric conduits put into the following places - as nearly as possible!!

I. Quot sets - <sup>outlets</sup> 2 double ~~sets~~ or 2 single outlets as near the floor as possible in middle of wall facing door as you enter from corridor and same to wall of right as you enter.



Quot Bedroom - same <sup>sets</sup> conductor

THE ROXBURY LATIN SCHOOL

FOUNDED 1645

WEST ROXBURY

MASSACHUSETTS

FREDERICK R. WEED, HEADMASTER

Bedroom - on either side of where we  
want a mirror over brub or basin  
in other words on one of the side  
walls wherever you decide the  
best place to have the work stand -

Question II

Servants quarters - space at top of  
wall - we agree with your idea  
for partition of brub - to let in light  
and keep out some of rain!

Question III

WHITE for all bedroom fixtures  
please and we feel very strongly about  
this - so if we can't get white tub,  
toilet and brub now - let's just  
wait until we can !!

When the time comes - on quartz bath -  
we would like

- 1 a Tub (no shower)
- 3 a Toilet
- 2 a work stand or brub -

as direct and simple fixtures as possible!  
and we do not want any tie up the  
walls - in the barroom - unless  
you think we are crazy - in other  
words: I wish I had the money  
not to have a real barroom -  
à la Crane or Standard! so I want  
it to look as little like a 20th cent.  
bar room as possible -

Questions

We do want the old tier in the old  
part of the house - leaving what  
are usable and good - as is -  
Other wise and definitely in the  
barroom - we feel the cleanest  
thing is a glazed variety. The  
fuller preparation sounds excellent -  
and I leave this horrible question  
of floors up to you in the final  
analysis - for to tell you the  
truth I am not to clear on the  
whole situation. It is simply that  
the kind you had in mind of  
your old house seems impossible



THE ROXBURY LATIN SCHOOL

FOUNDED 1645

WEST ROXBURY

MASSACHUSETTS

FREDERICK R. WEED, HEADMASTER

for cleaning - and "came off" so !!  
 Are the corners then always glazed  
 - from your lens & case them to  
me, & over your judgments  
absolutely as to glaze and just  
 keep us much that we want, which  
 looks "right" and softer and  
more like Antique!

Five about the stone frame on  
 the quost bedroom door opening  
 into the patio. We feel so  
 far away from our house in  
 all such discussions and our  
 house grows smaller and unier  
 all the time. It is of course  
 only about 1/100 the size of yours  
 so be sure to keep us under  
 control as to what is correct for  
our size!

If may we could afford to come  
this summer - but we can't possibly  
afford to and must save every  
cent we can & put into the  
house top - We seem to have  
never come into a true "financial  
low" - really the cost of living  
low living is appalling beyond  
description these days. 25<sup>00</sup>  
gives you nothing in the towns  
and yet we of all countries  
have absolutely no right to  
with a whisper of complaint  
we are greatly blessed and very  
very fortunate -

My love to you and Wes  
and what happy happy times  
we shall have together in  
future years

Peggy

P. G. COFINO  
ANTIGUA  
GUATEMALA, C. A.

DIRECCION TELEGRAFICA  
COFINO-ANTIGUA  
CODIGO:  
A. B. C. 6TH. ED.

June 26, 1948

Mrs. Helen Popenoe,  
Tegucigalpa.

Dear Mrs. Popenoe:-

I am replying to yours of the 18th with regard to the Weed house.-

I have written the Weeds before their funds become exhausted, but they take their time in making remittances, so that on several occasions I have advanced money for payment of materials and labor.-

Expenses to this date amount to a total of \$ 3,002.84 with balance due me of \$ 2.84, but next week we will have to pay for some materials and labor.-

I have been sending them monthly statements of their account and on the 12th inst. wrote requesting funds, with no reply so far.-

As soon as funds are available I will pay Jorge Sanchez for back taxes, and with regard to future payment of them, I will appreciate if you have Maria take care of these payments at the same time she does for you, and I will refund her on presentation of the proper receipts charging Mr. Weed's account.-

I hope to see you during your next visit in August and in the meantime with our best wishes and kindest regards to both of you I am,

Sincerely



July 25, 1948

THE ROXBURY LATIN SCHOOL

FOUNDED 1645

WEST ROXBURY

MASSACHUSETTS

FREDERICK R. WEED, HEADMASTER

TELEPHONE  
PARKWAY 7-4729

Dear Popovers:

At long last, a blotted reply to your letters. But now the boys have gone, new faculty members hired, a new cook and janitor installed; so I've pushed aside all trivial material for the great matters of Guatemala, Popovers, Weeds and the like. But before beginning our material matters of money and bricks, a few personal items.

Our last news from you indicated a trip to Antigua in August, and your last visit was in May, which is if my memory holds. Taddy is her last year of High School - Our vacations are underway. Margaret and the children are on Cape Cod for the summer, with her family. Their letters indicate much swimming and horse back riding, and a fair share of lobster. To-morrow I go down for my first week-end of the summer there, having been in New Hampshire last week and on the 4<sup>th</sup> of July in New York with her quest. We had not been to New York since our return from Guatemala last summer, so you can imagine Brooder's excitement at seeing the Weeds again.

Our unseasonable winter with a total of over 20 feet of snow kept the frost out of the ground, and the subsequent absorption of water and cool spring has given us the lushest grass and foliage I ever remember. All leaves are like putty greens and the trees are at their best now. Now here we are about to do a new year. (You might think

I was a farmer or agronomist - but as Wilson writes me  
half in Latin why should I go "herbaceous" on him.

We like our new locality and have no plan at  
visiting St. Marcos and Tumbucampo to see our friends,  
and with a son there, we are attached to the parent

group, rather than being farmer teacher and farmer.  
Herencia has had a wonderful year and has talked herself  
into both low and high society.

Amount for taxes: 10 to Frank and to the point.

We are running out of money for our Guatemala house.

I sent Don Pedro \$600. - yesterday which should  
give us a credit balance of \$500. - and we have  
only \$1500. - left here on which to draw. When  
that is gone we shall have to cease fixing. To date

we have spent:

Purchase of house	1500. -
traveling fee	125. -
Deposit Aug. 1947	1000. -
Jan. 1948	500. -
Apr. 1948	500. -
May 1948	1000. -
July 1948	600. -

\$ 5225. -

Now with \$500. - and \$1500. - still left what would

THE ROXBURY LATIN SCHOOL

FOUNDED 1645

WEST ROXBURY

MASSACHUSETTS

FREDERICK R. WEED, HEADMASTER

TELEPHONE  
PARKWAY 7-4729

room and dining room and just joining the second floor  
suite of two rooms and bath. But before we can  
think of renting - we'll have to have the one main  
floor bathroom. Or would you borrow and complete  
the job trusting in some rich New York jobbies  
to rent it for all our doors and pay off there?  
What actually and realistically are the rental  
possibilities?

I am sorry to burden you with problems which  
are ours - no yours, except for your husband's advice to  
shell out some of my 59¢ dollars. Don't think we have  
any regrets. We just find that such straightening  
and better meals inroads into a teacher's board, and  
we seem to be more proficient in buying than in  
selling.

With every many thanks for all - love to you  
both, and in anticipation of next summer when we  
again expect to see Aubrey.

30 July 1948

Frederick R. Weed Esq.,  
The Roxbury Latin School,  
West Roxbury, Mass.

Dear Fred and Peggy:

Helen and I have received with joy Fred's letter of 15 July, for we are always glad to hear from you, and to do all we can for you at this end. Naturally, we are sorry that building costs in Guatemala have gone up so much since we were in that business - I think it probable that they are 30 to 40% higher than they were five years before you started. You ask for our suggestions. They are como sigue:

Finish up the part of the house on which work is under way. This will give you a place for someone to live and care for the place, and take care of you when you come down. It will give you two bedrooms, bath and kitchen. You can eat on the corridor or you can put a nice little thatched roof over the future dining room which would make an attractive place to eat.

Then leave the old ruins of Santo Domingo for some later time. They are lovely as they are, and eventually - when you come to live in Antigua - you can see what you want to do with them. You may like to keep them for atmosphere. I reckon they are the only bits of Santo Domingo which have survived to this day.

We expect to be in Guatemala about August 13-15 on our way to Mexico and the States, for Helen is going to take Marion up to college in California and I am attending an Interamerican Conference in Denver. We will stop two weeks in Mexico on the way North, so I can have a last fling at hunting good avocado varieties to grow in California in Florida. We shall stop in Guatemala primarily to look over your house and give you a better idea as to just how things stand, what remains to be done to put the present part in condition, and what it will cost; though I hesitate to make any estimates because I am not familiar with the present situation in Guatemala; But we will do our best. The flat roof on living and dining rooms in the old section are going to be expensive because they will have to be of heavy construction. I would not put my faith in renting the house for a high figure to wealthy guys from the States. They expect a lot; they will worry you about the water supply and the leak in the roof and the dogs that bark at night in the patio next door. And any ordinary family coming down for the winter - usually man and wife without progeny on the spot - would only need two bedrooms and bath anyway. But we will tell you more after we have seen how far things have progressed by the middle of August. In the meantime and ways, with much love to all of you,

"Via Tropical"

Servicio radiofónico al mundo entero, inclusive vapores en alta mar

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SEGURO  
A TODAS HORAS

TROPICAL RADIO TELEGRAPH COMPANY



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A CUALQUIER HORA

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196

ROBERT V. HOWLEY, PRESIDENTE

TEGUCIGALPA, D.C.,

WEST ROXBURY-MASS VIAWU/TRT 38 7TH 730PM

JAN 7 1949

NLT DR WILSON POPENOE ESCUELA AGRICOLA PANAMERICANA APARTADO 93  
TEGUCIGALPADC HONDURAS

ALARMED AND CONCERNED AT LETTERS JUST RECEIVED FEAR INSTRUCTIONS  
SENT TO CALIFORNIA LOST QUESTION SENDING MORE FUNDS UNTIL ANTIGUA  
SITUATION IS CLEARER TO US LETTERS FOLLOWING

WEED

805PM AP



Sunday Jan 9

109 ST. THERESA ROAD  
WEST ROXBURY  
MASSACHUSETTS

Dear Wilson and Helen, we have been  
thinking of our house in Antigua almost  
constantly the past months - wondering  
just what was happening to it - how  
far along it is etc - and just what  
would be the next step - when -  
the letter came from Tom Piers to Wilson  
etc.

It would seem that Fred's letter to a  
California address to Helen <sup>but</sup> must have  
gone astray - for in that, were details  
of the money we had etc - the  
question that we would have to stop  
when the ground floor was finished  
etc - but we were definitely planning  
to move to live all before Antigua  
should not with his workmen - otherwise

the 5000 might as well have been thrown  
to the winds.

Frankly we are amazed and horribly  
disappointed that the money (a lot to  
us alas!) already put out - has proved  
so completely inadequate. We are  
all so conscious of the risk in  
all this - but what else - it is

unique - not New York - and  
we had hoped that in over a  
year and a half of work with  
no time pressure - + thousands of  
tons of brick - thousands of pounds  
of lime etc etc - that for a  
hour while, ~~with~~ trigally and  
strong walls standing and in  
good shape - so little has been  
accomplished considering - as I  
say the labor and money expended.

Let us win some good friends of ours  
were here, and took some excellent  
pictures for us - but other than that  
we feel unpleasantly removed from

109 ST. THERESA ROAD  
WEST ROXBURY  
MASSACHUSETTS

The scene of action, you have both been  
fully engaged about to see, but you  
are in thousands - and naturally  
prices for new over 100.

The question is - what now? As  
far as we can figure out - we get for  
\$2000 the house is pretty much  
as was - no plans in (I had thought  
they were ordered and in a year ago  
when we discovered type of stone or  
tile - color etc) - the stony 2 hole  
gravy and some jobs still in the  
front patio - no kitchen or bath -  
no front porch etc at all -  
The two front rooms at left of entrance  
not counting driveway room - were  
in fair shape when we bought  
the ruin.

We have only \$100 left in cash -  
but rather than have the \$100.00 moved

go to 0 - we could perhaps borrow enough  
to make the place suitable - or perhaps  
what we have - I take an awfully  
dim view of having Indians living  
here - knowing how dirty they are -  
then their hearts - !

I cannot see how 2500 tons is  
necessary on top of the 4100 already  
spit to make 47000 suitable -  
when the required load to quote your  
letter here, was "5000" - of course  
prices have gone up horribly since then  
but - where are we now - with  
our box to make to! Maybe we'd  
better see if we can - I am  
discouraged as you can see - more  
so than I'd. But not with the same  
reason. But I can't bear to really give to you -  
We are Hellishly poor - and  
have to be realistic about it. Don't don

109 ST. THERESA ROAD  
WEST ROXBURY  
MASSACHUSETTS

not really flourish on a school vacation  
Salary and not living in this  
country now - a prohibitive expense.

We can't possibly go anywhere to  
Quaintala this summer as we had  
 hoped. Is there a chance of meeting  
you in New Orleans for a few days or  
are you coming East at all - this  
Spring?

Again I want to stress how grateful  
we are to you for all you have done.  
Why should you get so involved in our  
present and future? I draw up a  
heavily quilted future in our house  
and sitting wide our feet up, in our  
pajamas are fast fading into oblivion

It is incredible to me what 400 can not  
accomplish!

My love to you both and wishes  
for a very happy New Year

Peggy Wald

18 January 1949

Dear Peggy:

Your letter of the 9th has just come; a few days earlier we received the radiogram. I guess I am to blame for not keeping you better informed of developments. The story is this:

When I got Fred's letter in California I was hoping that we would get to Guatemala at Christmas time, - or Helen would at least, - and could see how things stand. Fred said if the house could not be put in shape for occupancy with \$2500 you would have to shut down for the time being.

Finding that neither of us could get to Antigua at Christmas time I wrote Pedro Cofiño, and got the reply which I sent on to you. The \$2500 which Fred specified included \$1500 which was still available in August, and \$1000 which he thought you would borrow if it would suffice to finish up the job. I was very doubtful that \$2500 would be enough, and Cofiño's letter confirms my fears. So I wrote him that the only thing, on the basis of Fred's August letter, would be to stop the work for a time. But I left it open, by telling him I was sending you a copy of the letter and he had best get definite instructions from you.

Even if you had the money available, I do not know that it would be feasible to get the bathroom fixtures, including a hot water heater which you will doubtless want, and put the kitchen in shape for use, and so on - unless we can get over there and spend some time, which right now is not on the boards. However, in view of the present situation, Helen has decided to go over about February first to see what seems best. Cofiño cannot take time nor do I think he will take the responsibility of choosing bathroom fixtures and lighting fixtures and kitchen equipment. You really ought to do this yourselves, of course. But we would tackle it for you if we could take time to do it.

When Helen gets over there we will be able to give you more definite ideas on some points, but I feel certain that it will not be possible to make the place ready for occupancy by spending the amount Fred specified; and even if you go ahead and spend the necessary money there are going to be many problems connected with renting the house. Most people would want it furnished; and not many people rent houses in Antigua for long periods. The work done so far will not suffer appreciably if you have to stop for a while. The chief objection is that it will perhaps be impossible to get Arturo again. But we will let the whole matter stand, now, until we hear from you again. However, you ought to let Cofiño know what you want to do, and I suspect you have already advised him.

We join in affectionate regards to all of you.

Sincerely,

Roxbury Latin School  
West Roxbury 32  
Mass.

Jan. 24. 1949.

Dear Wilson:

I know that from our cable and Margaret's letter you can understand the quandary in which we find ourselves. Your letter to her of Jan. 18<sup>th</sup> is just in.

Originally we were optimistic as to how far our money would go. Also increased prices have caught us at both ends - here and there.

Now our dilemma is whether to borrow and continue, with the heavier carrying charges, or whether to board up our project and wait. Neither is satisfactory. The next ten years will see our heaviest educational expenses for the two children, and I can see no possibility of exceptional raises granted to school teachers, commensurate as that would be to me and my brethren.

Under the circumstances, I feel that we should suspend operations, removing such items as books etc.



which might be stolen to your houses  
for safe keeping, and then wait and see  
what the future holds. In doing this, we  
of course will suffer the deterioration of  
time, augmented when unoccupied, and  
forgo the possibility of renting.

On the other hand, we have no  
assurance of what would be required to  
finish it; there would be the interest  
charges; there would be more to lose  
through theft and deterioration.

We do feel badly to interrupt the  
work. At times it seems as though  
we might never get there and had  
thrown away what we have already  
put into it. Against that we hope  
against hope that such may not  
prove to be the case.

I can see how you might wish  
never to see or to hear from us  
again for the nuisance we have been  
to you and Helen.

When Helen goes on in February,  
could she make whatever final  
arrangements are necessary for  
putting things in Helen's hands

||  
bolls.

I am writing this decision to Mrs. Coffin, and we shall of course clear our present obligations to him.

There is the final arrangement to be made about the payment of taxes and water bills. The deed to the property is in our name, but in your hands. What should be done about these matters?

With our deep appreciation and affection to you both, and with hope still in the future to counteract our present sorrow in this decision.

And

Roxbury Latin School  
West Roxbury 32  
Mass.

Aug. 26, 1949

Dear Helen and Wilson:

This letter is as much to let you know that we are still living and able to get around (locally) as for any other reason.

Each year we seem to postpone so much until the summer months that they become fuller than the winter ones. Theoretica has been off to camp - her first experience away from us - and is home-sick only at the idea of coming home.

Peter continues his sole interest in baseball. I liked the game until we had such a fiasco in the family, and now I spend most of my waking hours endeavoring to convince him that there are other things besides balls and bats within the universe which have interested people. His reply centers largely around Ted Williams' \$100,000 - salary which he believes correctly is somewhat in excess of mine. I am glad

that he does not know exactly how  
much. I think the discrepancy might  
stunble him. Margaret has been down  
the Cape with her sister - a tall  
blonde beauty - and her family, to  
my way of thinking, leading the life of  
Reilly. She assures me that it has been  
lonely. But her letters have mentioned  
so many guests and activities with  
subsequent drinking andummings that  
it sounds about as lonely as the  
New York subway system. As for me,  
I have found a few occasions when  
it seemed appropriate to lay aside  
my habit books and hair shirt lest  
I be accused of being christened. The  
change on occasions has given me a  
slight ache in the head which I  
think may not have been wholly  
prompted by eye strain. Thus without  
talking you about specific activities  
you can gather the picture of the  
third family - much as in earlier  
years

Margaret did ask me to do one specific task when I wrote, and that was about our seed to the half-finished Green house. Could we ask you to send it to us without too much bother, or should I write Sanchez? As I recall you paid him for it and we paid you, but in the shuffle we never received the seed, nor do we know its whereabouts.

We hear occasionally of Guatemala through visiting tourists, and recently had a card from one who had just visited your house and saw Maria Robinson. She of course knows and the New York papers give some attention to the recent political "situation."

With all our kindest wishes, but more especially in hope of a reunion whenever chance presents the opportunity.

Just.

P. G. COFIÑO  
ANTIGUA  
GUATEMALA, C. A.

Condensed Statement of expenses on Mr. Weeds house:

DIRECCION TELEGRAFICA:  
COFINO-ANTIGUA  
CODIGO:  
A. B. C. 6TH. ED.

Amounts received:

1927- July 19	\$ 1,000.00
1948 Jan 31	500.00
Apr 22	500.00
Jun 5	1,000.00
Jul 17	600.00
Oct 9	<u>500.00</u>
Total	\$ 4,100.00

Expenses

Tools	\$ 15.95
Lime, brick, rock, cartage	744.25
Lumber & preservatives	1,511.78
Hardware	173 15
Taxes	24 43
Labor	<u>1,606 80</u>

Total \$ 4,076.36

Balance to his credit 23 64

January 31, 1949

My comission of 5% on total expenes, not included.

Copy for Dr. Popensol

GEORGE F. SANCHEZ  
ABOGADO Y NOTARIO

VIA AIR MAIL  
=====

\*\*\*\*\*

GUATEMALA

September 8, 1949.

12 C.O. 11-B

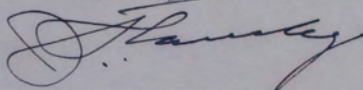
Dear Mrs. Popenoe:

It was nice to hear from you. We are sorry we did not have a chance to see Wilson when he was here.

About the deed to the house in Antigua of Mr. Weed, I have it in my office. As I also have the old deed it is somewhat bulky, may be it would be better to hold it till they come or otherwise to give it to Pedro Cofiño for him to keep it for them, together with the tax receipts, which he just told me he is paying regularly.

Our best wishes to you both,

Sincerely,



J. F. Sánchez

2 January 1951

Fred Weed Esq.,  
Roxbury Latin School,  
Roxbury, Mass.

Dear Fred:

After an absence of more than 16 months I finally got back to Antigua last week, and one of the first things I did was to look into the situation of your property. Pedro Cofiño has kindly been looking out for your interests - which means, principally, keeping the taxes paid. These do not amount to much but if they are not paid you have eventually the same problem with the government you have in the States. Property taxes are due and payable every quarter; there is in addition a small tax for water and a tax for city lighting. You owed Pedro \$8.92 so I gave him a check for ten dollars and told him to please keep on paying the taxes and I would see that he is reimbursed from time to time. He doesn't mind doing this.

A good many houses along the Calle de la Nobleza have been or are being re-built - one two doors south of yours has been purchased by an American and is being restored in colonial style. Property values in Antigua seem to be going up. There is lots of construction going on all over the town.

Arturo the mason who worked on your house is now on the job two doors from yours, and he tells me the authorities, knowing that he worked on your house, have warned him that the weeds are getting high in your patio and the neighbors are beginning to kick. Helen and I think it would be much better if your house were occupied. Maria's youngest daughter Concha (the Maria who runs our house) married this year and she and her husband would be glad to take over your house, live in it, keep the grounds clean, and pay for the water and light. I believe it would protect your interests to have them do this. I do not see that they could damage anything. Concha's husband seems to be a very decent chap, who works in one of the government offices in town, and Concha has lived in our house since she was a baby and we feel she is very responsible and will keep things clean. In its present condition it would be hard to find a renter for cash, and the way of the rent collector is pretty hard in Antigua anyway.

Please let us know what you wish done. I don't believe the place can be left alone indefinitely without the authorities doing something about its condition, and of course the taxes must be kept up. We shall be glad to help in any way we can.

Helen joins in affectionate regards to all of you.

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



15 May 1953

Fred Weed Esq  
Roxbury Latin School  
Roxbury, Mass.

Dear Fred:

Helen and I have just returned from five days at home in Antigua. While there we checked up on things at your house and had to take some action. Our good friend Pedro Cofifo died in February and we no longer have his help; but his son, who has taken over, will do what he can. I think he will continue to pay the taxes. I had not been over there in nearly 18 months and in the meantime they had paid \$15, for which I reimbursed them. Another tax payment will be due in July I believe. They have raised the rate for city lighting and water, but so far have not changed the valuation on the house, which is fortunate, as they changed ours some years ago, after we did the restoration. They would be justified in raising yours but may overlook it - I hope so.

One of the present authorities, who is a good friend of mine, told me we would have to do something about putting the place on better condition. The front was never quite finished, and neighbors have complained about the condition of the patios - shrubs have grown up and are hanging over the walls. The main thing, however, is the exterior, and my friend said "It will be cheaper for you to repair the sidewalk and clean up the front of the house than to pay the fine they are going to impose". So we got hold of old Arturo the mason, who luckily was out of a job, and told him to repair the sidewalk in front of the house, complete the walls in front of the two main windows, and whitewash the front, which has been covered with not very flattering words written by the kids of the neighborhood. I gave Arturo \$15 to buy material for fixing the sidewalk, and left with him another \$50 to pay for the work of himself and an assistant. He will render us an account when the work is done.

You will remember that the last time we were over there we suggested that Maria's daughter Concha and her husband, who works for the city government, live in the house to keep it from going to ruin. They did not seem inclined to do so at that time, but now they were willing, so we told them to move in, and before we had left they had already cleaned up the patio; and they are going to put in electric light at their own expense, and also do a little fixing up so that the place will be more livable. We think it is the best possible solution for the present, and they will, we believe, take decent care of the place until you have other plans for it. They are to pay no rent, of course. You could not get much for it if you rented it anyway, and these people will do a better job of caring for the place than would most renters.

I hope you approve of the above. It is the best we can do at this time to protect your interests. You understand, I am sure, that the present situation in Guatemala is not particularly favorable to gringos. I still believe things will get better - but it may take some years. And of course no one really knows. We are prepared for anything. If things get worse, our house might be expropriated as a national monument or something of that sort; we hear it has already been classified as a private museum.

Helen joins in affectionate regards to all of you.

Ever yours,

Oakham, Mass.

4 August [1933?]

Dear Wilson:

I have great misgivings as I finally start this letter to you. I have borrowed my daughter's typewriter. She said, "You are welcome to it, but it won't hold the paper; it double spaces after 'a' and 'q'; the ribbon clogs; and you can't type anyway." With such encouragement, I can only admire my willingness to begin.

Your last letter was dated May 16th. (I am pulling no suicidal punches.) It arrived without undue delay. I read it with interest and appreciation. It has haunted my conscience - particularly in the mid-night hours. I have been well, and no busier than anyone else. There was just one reason why I did not reply: I didn't have \$65.00! Now it's not the first time that I have been "in the pink"; the deeper shade of the same color has been my financial ( though not my political ) flag for a number of years. Yet I hated to hoist this distress signal for international display. Maybe it would have been better to throw myself on your mercy, and let you know that your reliance on Boston's oldest school tie had put your neck in a noose; that our cheer is one of strangulation, and that on occasions our creditors are either blue or black and blue.

But now that my leaky little August ship is in and the pawnshop tickets redeemed, I enclose a check which I hope will relieve your heart burn, and reestablish me in your mind as honest in intent, even if not precipitous in action.

Margaret and I can't but wish that we did not have to receive our news from Guatemala in such an indirect fashion. Letters, friends, and news items are a bit like a seeing-eye dog. And to go tap-tap with a cane or tap-tap with a typewriter is far from ideal when one would like see with one's own eyes. The general situation would seem to me less than perfect, but I could make the same penetrating observation on other parts of the globe. I was disturbed about your house in Antigua, and most sorry to hear of Don Pedro's death.

Our activities have been thoroughly

Roxbury  
John  
Sch-  
West  
Roxbury

32

Mass

undistinguished. We went through a 25th reunion at Harvard, a family wedding, week-ends of a pleasant but unexceptional nature, and now we find ourselves vacationing for a month on Cape Cod as in other years. The Atlantic Ocean, at any rate, seems to resist change, and for all its nervousness is pretty satisfying. Our house looks out on Spain, but Spain doesn't crowd us. To the west, north, and south our acreage is less extensive. Our summer's would amuse you. I can't always see them objectively, but when I can dredge up a vestige of humor I can smile. Peter has been working in a sausage factory; Lucretia, at a summer camp. Here we have ten crowded into one small house, and at times crowded into one small bathroom, it seems. The ages run from 12 to 83. In this range there can be different points of view, and the ten temperaments are not perfectly matched for hip-to-haunch proximity. I shall allow you to fill in the specific details.

This was not meant to be a tale of woe to wring the Indian hearts in Honduras, and yet as I reread it my feeble attempt to amuse you sounds like the grounings of middle age.

It is always our hope that sometime you may be in Boston, unencumbered with Cabots and Braces, and cross the tracks to West Roxbury. Margaret should be a real inducement to you, and I should certainly like to see Helen. That "seer and yellow" about which we used to laugh grows less laughable. Schools and bananas can't be all of life; so let's set our sights on some conviviality this side of eternity.

With all of our very best to you both,

*And*

*I find in rereading your letter  
my bill is \$80. - not \$65. -*

Nº 0539

ORIGINAL

Por Q. 3.80

688  
173

P. G. COFIÑO SUCS.  
ANTIGUA GUATEMALA

8.01

Recibido de Frederick R. Wood

La cantidad de tres 80/100 Quetzales

para abonar a su cuenta.  
ant Guatemala, 14 de Octubre de 1953

Saldo anterior Q. \_\_\_\_\_

P. G. COFIÑO SUCS.

Supago de hoy Q. 3.80

Recibido por [Signature]

DEBE Q. \_\_\_\_\_

NOTA: ESTE ES EL UNICO COMPROBANTE DE PAGO QUE RECONOCEMOS

IMPUESTO DE TIMBRE PAGADO EN FACTURA ORIGINAL.

Roxbury Water School  
West Roxbury 32  
Mass.

July 23, 1954

Dear Helen:

Were I as efficient as Wilson,  
you would have heard from me three weeks ago as  
the enclosed " ocho quetzales " would have by  
now been squandered. Instead you are an  
business - at least to this extent - having received  
what you loaned - which is more than I  
imagine some have done during the revolutionary  
days - not that I think of Guatemala's troublesome  
times as good subject for just. Our slight  
information of it all is just from newspapers  
and Time, and the stories in Honduras received  
only slight space. Boston has been too concerned  
with its own troubles to think much about  
Guatemala and Indo-China. In spite of my  
sister - told Wilson that the American merchant  
was a "baker" - possibly his baskets (like mine)  
are occasionally lost.

We have been largely concerned with ourselves -  
much as I hate to admit it. Our elderly mother,

but her health is poor - all in the upper 80's -

Don't grow any younger or more dear-minded;  
two children in the late teens and early twenties  
Don't either. All have been engaged partly  
heavily about our needs of late, and we have  
attempted explaining to one why we couldn't  
afford to send her to Europe and to  
another that the current month is July -  
not September.

We are, however, off to Hot Springs, Va.  
in early August in an attempt to obtain  
or regain our sanity - the patient here  
quite, knows the extent of his malady.

The next time you come to Boston -  
do give us a call. As you can imagine  
the Coolidges have something the Woods  
don't, but they wouldn't be our subject  
more pleased to see you than we should  
be.

With our very best to you both in all  
ways.

Sincerely,

Ans Wood

THE ROXBURY LATIN SCHOOL

FOUNDED 1645

WEST ROXBURY, MASSACHUSETTS

FREDERICK R. WEED, HEADMASTER

TELEPHONE  
PARKWAY 7-4729

April 12, 1955

Dear Helen:

Your interesting letter with the enclosed receipts arrived a few days ago. I am sending with great appreciation for your continued interest and assistance.

I have read about young Pedro Cofino. We of course remember his distinguished father and the happy evening at afternoon we spent with him in Cuba. It is so not think we met the son. We were also interested in your reaction to President Amos, and the excellent spirit of the people in spite of the empty treasury. The news we get is pretty mixed and one never knows how to stand.

To have had the Nixons for your graduation exercises must have been most gratifying, and we were pleased to hear of your happy reaction to them. We travel in a lesser world!

At the moment we are looking forward to a new building here. It's now in the bank and it's a real relief to have it that far along. It

THE ROXBURY LATIN SCHOOL  
WEST ROXBURY MASSACHUSETTS



I do want to admit that I am looking forward  
even more to a week's vacation which begins  
to-day. I know you know that feeling of shaking  
such from your feet and cares from your soul at  
that irresponsible zest of money to have, even

if the nest egg is only a little copper one.

We are off for Cape Cod. Far from the maddening  
crowd and any semblance of convenience - but  
there will be a lot of sand and water and sky,  
as we hope to see, after a hard, dark winter.

With my good wish to you both.

Frank



Answers  
2  
TELEPHONE  
FAIRVIEW 5-4729

THE ROXBURY LATIN SCHOOL  
FOUNDED 1645  
WEST ROXBURY, MASSACHUSETTS  
FREDERICK R. WEED, HEADMASTER

May 28, 1951

Dear Wilson:

We have received your "Emeritus" card, but before so. I had heard of your changing status from no less a figure than Cannon Forks. You may view the change with mixed emotions, but we are pleased to note the cable to the Koltzga address - and now long before your "see and yellow"; I like to think of you with your feet propped up much higher than your head in your beautiful and famous home - doing exactly what you want to do and exactly where you want to do it.

Whether you write your memoirs or just pass your papers, may the sun shine happily on your work.

Sincerely,  
Fred

# Azabu-Prince Hotel

TEL. 473-1111~7

Honmura-cho Minato-ku Tokyo

No. \_\_\_\_\_

[1961]

Dear Wilson:

The sad sad news of Helen's death did not reach us until the eve of our departure for Japan. The fact has left a large chasm where we had hoped that a close friendship would eventually grow.

Your assistance to us, & the memory of our few but happy hours together are vibrant reminders of things passed but greatly treasured.

My aunt joins me & whose is extending our deep sympathy & in the hope that our paths may again cross, be it in Guatemala or elsewhere.

Sincerely,

Leo West

U. S. # 2.25

2.25

8.00

0.40

2.50

0.30

1.00

0.50

0.04

---

\$ 17.24

## THE ROXBURY LATIN SCHOOL

FOUNDED 1648

WEST ROXBURY, MASSACHUSETTS

FREDERICK R. WEED, HEADMASTER

TELEPHONE  
FAIRVIEW 5-4729

July 25, 1962

Dear Wilson:

Thank you as I am most appreciative. Your care of our past holdings in Guatemala is generous in the extreme. A check is enclosed for our indebtedness to you - at least in one sense. If a water meter becomes necessary, we shall certainly pay for it.

Our intention still is to return sometime, but recently we have been doing things which we feel we shall not always keep up to - such as our Japan - Hong Kong trip last summer, and the possibility of Europe next summer.

We are just back from California - a three day educational conference stretched into a three week vacation, yet called "business", and in August to Cape Cod to watch the Atlantic.

Our two children, when you so kindly entertained years ago as children, are now employed. Although as yet

unmarried. Peter is with MacMillan & Co in  
college text books. I therefore work in  
Polonoi's laboratory experimenting with new  
films. Margaret runs a flourishing  
Sconating Business, as I remain in  
the kindergarten business. Whom administers  
Great Success seems to have overlooked us,  
but the Dispenser of happiness has been  
more than generous.

We hope that you're back in Antigua  
for a spell of leisure. I send you our  
appreciation & my good wishes.

Sincerely,

Leo

THE ROXBURY LATIN SCHOOL  
FOUNDED 1645  
WEST ROXBURY  
MASSACHUSETTS  
FREDERICK R. WEED, HEADMASTER

July 15, 1963

Dear Wilson:

At long last the Weeds  
are returning to Guatemala -  
after 16 years.

We expect to arrive in  
Guatemala City on Sat. July 20  
and to be at the Palace  
Hotel.

Of course we shall  
visit Antigua & hope  
to see you.

Sincerely,

F. Weed

AIR MAIL

Roxbury, Maine  
West Roxbury 32  
Mass.

Sept. 2, 1963

Dear Wilson: What a great pleasure it was for Margaret and me to revisit Antigua after 16 years and to have the good fortune of finding you at home - and sparkling with life and friendly insults. We arrived with the thought that we might sell our small ruin; but under your tutelage hired an architect instead, as you know. And now we are counting on you to live forever, for it is going to take about that long to make our place the way we want it, - I think the way you want us to have it; and we'd rather have you looking at our plans on the level as it were, rather than looking down on us from on high.

We shall look forward to what Pat Crocker may plan for us, but are more fully definite in telling him our ideas. We obviously are not going to meet someone on hand while the basic work is being done. After that we'll expect to blow our brains out on our own. We are justly steamed up about it - even to the point of learning a little Spanish - and can't wait to begin.

With the hope that all went well with you in Honduras, and that your trip to Spain lives up to your expectations

Jim Hunt

LUCRETIA J. WEED  
23 WEST CEDAR STREET  
BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS

October 6 1904

Dear Dr. Popenoe -

A copy of your picture  
has caused my great delay in thanking  
you for all that you did to make Jeff's  
and my stay in your Antigua - such  
a happy warm occasion. Your  
hospitality, charm, and personal  
assistance with our trip into the  
highlands made our visit quite unique.

We have spoken many  
times to all of our beautiful visit  
to Guatemala - Fear not - for  
the Tourist Bureau - Antigua, you,  
John and Paul will be on the  
itinerary of all my friends! -  
In fact a friend of Roland has  
been trying to locate a copy of



your "A Handbook of Sub-Tropical  
Agriculture" for years - How  
do you any suggestions as to  
where I might write? -

Again my special thanks  
for so many many things -  
Take good care of FR + MJW  
when they arrive - for you  
are Guatemala to them

Love

Lucretia

Roxbury Latin School  
West Roxbury 32  
Mass.

Dec. 31. 1946

Dear Wilson:

For your earlier letter to the one  
received to-day. I am most  
appreciative. You can imagine how interested  
we are in all that transpires. It feels  
that you are giving both birth to  
blessings to Casa Verde. In the same  
mail we also had letters from Don &  
Pat. Quite a Quakerland haul! In the  
studies of tomorrow, we'll endeavor to  
put on as proud a background as  
they give us. All agree that  
work progresses in a most satisfactory  
manner.

We'll agree with you in regard  
to the pottery. It is disappointing only  
because of your efforts. But such  
effort is sometimes unavailing.

We had a quiet Christmas with our  
two & a new daughter-in-law. All  
my happy. W. Wilson my best in all  
love. [Wend]

East Orleans  
Mass.

Aug. 5, 1965

Dear Wilson:

We are retired and we have  
money; so that now I am taking  
a moment to say hello, to wish  
you luck and to repeat the fact  
that we expect to be in residence  
on your mobile street in early  
December. And we are going to  
need you - your company in  
particular - and your help. You  
will be like new-born babes  
in our innocence of things  
quaternary.

We hear from Pat Crocker

2.  
about the progress on Casa Verde,  
but not to be able to see the  
work in progress is frustrating.

Our daughter, Lucenia,  
whom you will remember from  
our visit in 1947 is to visit  
Antigua this summer. She  
expects to be in Guatemala  
for about two weeks, arriving  
Aug. 24<sup>th</sup>. She remembers as  
a little girl playing in your  
patio, and now returns at  
the remarkable age of 28 to  
revisit Antigua. I hope  
she finds you in residence.

3

If she has that good fortune,  
she'll report to us on your  
activities; so be on your good  
behavior - if that will not be  
too great a strain for you.

You will find her lively  
as filled with fun.

With our very good wishes to  
you, heavily frosted with  
Margaret's love.

Love  
The Muses

East Orleans

1.

Mass.

Nov. 8, 1965

Dear Wilson:

I have held off writing to you, in spite of the encouragement of my daughter, until we knew more definitely about the date of "le jour de gloire," our arrival in Guatemala. We now expect to arrive in Antigua about Dec. 8<sup>th</sup> or 9<sup>th</sup>. From there on we expect to see a lot of you. I to learn heavily on you for advice in many areas.

Lucetta was most enthusiastic about her visit -

seeing you & Pat & Don & <sup>v.</sup>  
Casa Verde - in fact all the  
most notable people & places  
in Guatemala - and her friend  
Dor was equally happy about  
their project. Lucia felt  
that the house when finished  
would be a lovely abode for her  
parents and a haven for her  
when she can get away.

I am writing to Pat  
Crocker about further details.  
He assures me that work  
is progressing in spite of

3.  
customary delays & postponed  
results.

We have had a lonely summer  
here on the Cape with joyous  
friends & lonely weather. &  
after charting our start our  
leisurely progress south, with  
stops in New York, Pittsburgh,  
Atlanta, & New Orleans.

I find myself busy in the  
extreme doing little odds &  
ends of things, but a change of  
scene will do us good, & one  
of our chief delights will be  
in seeing you again. With all  
good wishes from us both. Love & Respect



East Orleans <sup>[Peggy]</sup>

Mass.

June 10, 1974

Dear Wilson & Alice:

As promised, the glamorous  
picture of you two is enclosed.

What a pity there aren't more  
distinguished people of the same  
 ilk in the world! Also enclosed  
is a picture of Alice & a friend.

We felt that it was  
a great compliment to us that  
you did not "high-tail" it off  
to Honduras the day before we  
arrived & return the day after  
we had left, as it seems to me  
you have done in previous years.

Your birthday party, Wilson,  
that lovely luncheon (I believe

Alice had something to do with it).  
was a gala occasion of our  
visit, as was your coming to  
see us of a Sunday.

We had heard of Antigua's  
flood from Don Ed from Jimmy  
Shook. What a mess it must  
have been, and no doubt still is.  
Water is all right in its place,  
but when it allies itself with  
land ed comes in through the  
front door, it is certainly an  
unwelcome guest.

We had returned here to find  
all in good order. The only  
excitement was a near miss.  
We took the Southern Railway's  
Train "The Crescent" from  
New Orleans to New York. ~~It~~

3.

The following day. The same train  
Turned over eight cars. 5  
injured 94 passengers. There  
are certain events one is glad  
to miss!

Don's last report was that  
Antigua is still very social - too  
much so in his opinion. But  
his trip to see his family will  
give him a good change.

With much affection from us  
both.

Jas. S. Pegg

CALLE DE LA NOBLEZA 51  
ANTIGUA G.  
GUATEMALA  
C. A.

[II/75]

Sny Jca Wdms Pajmox

---

for Hand

CALLE DE LA NOBLEZA 21  
ANTIGUA G.  
GUATEMALA  
C. A.

Suche with glory just  
arrived at our door -  
you are both in our hearts  
constantly - and to have  
you remember - when you  
are in a temporary state  
of "singe" (s:?) is more.  
than I can stand - emotionally -  
so much love and  
admiration for you both  
now and always - and  
deep gratitude for so much -  
Tambur.

Frank Pegg