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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.



EMBASSY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
TEGUCIGALPA
March 10, 1954

Dr. Wilson Popenoe,
Director,
Escuela Agrícola Panamericana,
El Zamorano.

Dear Dr. and Mrs. Popenoe:

I have been so snowed under with presenting my credentials and making official calls that I have not had a chance to write you to thank you for including us in the very nice graduation ceremonies and lunch last Saturday. I found the whole thing most interesting and illuminating and wish to compliment you on the appearance of your School and on the fine looking class which was graduating.

Louise and I are looking forward very much to seeing you again on Saturday with our friends the Stillmans.

Best regards,

Philip Willauer

EMBASSY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
TEGUCIGALPA

March 14 [1954?]

Dear Mrs Poppenoe.

We are most grateful to you for giving the Stillmans such a delightful and interesting day yesterday, not to mention our own pleasure in seeing you again + participating in the #C Tour of the good work

2
you are doing. By the
time I arrived home both
shoes were equally dry +
clean, so I did not even
have an odd-sized pair
of shoes to mark the
memory of Zamorano.

We hope that you and
your husband will find
an excuse to come in
to Tegucigalpa while the
Bursleys are here and
either lunch or dine
with us. By next week

P.S. Did not hand this to
you yesterday after all.
Would you + the Bursleys
be able to dine with us
on either Tuesday, the 23rd or
Wednesday, the 24th of next
week, + you and your
husband spend the night
with us — or would you
prefer to lunch with us?

LW

we will have the deep freeze ^{is}
staked so all we will need
is a half-hour (cooking time)
warning. I am deliberately
making this an open instead
of a specific invitation be-
cause I can't imagine your
wanting to tear yourself
away from your lovely
home, particularly for a meal,
unless you have to.

If you could be persuaded
to remain in town over night
we would be delighted to
have you stay with us.

most sincerely -

Monday, the fourteenth - Louise Willauer

EMBASSY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
TEGUCIGALPA

June 10, 1954

Dear Helen -

Just a note to tell
you that I am back
in Tegucigalpa at last
& that I was delighted
with the first sight
which met my eyes
when I entered the
Embassy - the patio
with its haircut. Thank

you so much for having
it done for us. And I
also want to thank the
Piperacs for the good
fresh milk which comes
regularly.

We are looking forward
to seeing you soon +
hope you will let us
know if you are coming
to town and can have
a meal or spend the
night with us.

most sincerely,

Louise Wilbauer

EMBASSY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
TEGUCIGALPA

June 21, 1954

Dear Helen,

It is hard to say which one of your guests enjoyed the day the most yesterday, but Che is the one who shows the result the most.

He had been dragging around recently looking lonely + miserable + ever since we returned

last night he has been his ²
old smiling self. Wing
should be thanked, but also
you + Wilson who are
such good hosts that you
make everybody feel com-
pletely at home - so
much so that Whitney
slept all afternoon!

We have just had
a feast of lettuce +
corn for lunch. Since
you have not eaten
corn from the Tegucigalpa
market you have no

idea how good your corn ^{is}
is.

I have told the girls
about the plans you + I
cooked up + they are look-
ing forward to the excursions.

They say they hope Wilson
is not hoarse after the
quizzing they gave him.

We all thank you +
hope to see you again
very soon.

Fondly -

Louise

EMBASSY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
TEGUCIGALPA

August 23, 1954

Dear Helen,

We all had the most wonderful weekend with you. You and Wilson certainly have the knack of making people of all ages feel completely relaxed and happy and at home. Of course we have raved about San Antonio until Whitey is jealous and now he wants to see it himself.

It was most kind of you to go to Mass with Sukie, and it did help to pull her out of her mood. I am sure that I was right in not going with you as it turned out that I was very right about her feelings when we were in the Church at Suyapa. On the way down from San Antonio Skip asked her about the model at Suyapa, apropos the modern Church that the villagers of San Antonio want. Sukie drew herself up and said, stiffly, "I didn't even see the model. I don't go into a Church to sight-see!" So I guess she thinks we are sinful heathens ^{just to ir-} ~~ritate~~ ^{ritate} her. I don't know if this attitude of hers about religion is because of her new beau, or because it is linked with her feeling that her Grandmother and her Aunt are down on her Mother, or ~~wether~~ ^{whether} it just became something personal when she was angry with Skip. She has visited us often before and she never seemed very devout and did not bother to go to Mass on Sunday any time that I can remember. But whatever was bothering her was all smoothed out by the time we left Zamorano.

Martha sent my cable off just the way I had written it so you lose your bet and I had to send another cable, feeling very foolish. Saturday was really one of my worst forgetful days. I forgot to take any money and I forgot to take the picture I was going to give you taken at the Fourth of July party and I forgot a cheese which was too smelly to put in my suitcase. There is no point in my sending the cheese now since you are leaving on Thursday and it won't keep until you return. But I will send the picture and also the book about the Amazon which Pat has finally finished. And I will also enclose a small remembrance for Wing and the girls. Please give it to them with our thanks. Oh, and the book which Skip borrowed from Wilson.

As I told you, I could tell that both Skip and Sal were so interested in San Antonio and your Velasquez that they would be thrilled if I gave them each one of his paintings as a Christmas present. I am hoping that between now and Christmas you ~~can~~ ^{can} persuade him to do two good ones for them. Meanwhile I will be delighted to sell any but the enlarged postcard ones to people who come through by hanging them on the walls of the Embassy in lieu of our WPA art.

And speaking of art and skill, I don't believe I succeeded in telling you how very thrilled I am with the plates which you had made for us. Please let me know how much or what you will let me give to the man who made them, since you (stubbornly) refuse to take any credit or thanks yourself.

And as for thanks, it is very hard to thank you for the very many things you do for us and send to us - from milk and orchids, up and down. I know you live in the land of plenty (entirely a Popenoe land, as I well realize) but I wish you would let me know if a time comes when I might have some little thing on hand which isn't available to you. I told you that I am about to order some supplies from S.S. Pierces in Boston by the case. Wish you would let me know what tid-bits are worthwhile to import from your years of experience - as the things I might need to have on hand would be the same things you might want to have on hand - and, after all the people you have to entertain and the people I have to entertain most always turn out to be the same people.

Whitey tells me today that he is definitely planning to leave her on September 1st. I do not know how long we will be up there, but will try to keep track of you and arrange to meet around Boston if at all possible.

If for no other reason, I should go to the States because this typewriter is having a nervous breakdown. I have decided to let you in on the secret that I have an aversion to my own handwriting and always use a typewriter when writing to my friends except for letters of sympathy about a member of the immediate family or in answer to an engraved invitation. Please realize that when I say you will never receive another handwritten letter from me it means that I consider you a good friend and I wish you well. If you don't like typewritten letters we will have to stick to the telephone from now on.

When I am writing on the typewriter, even though the keys are skipping and jumping, I think as if I were talking - and since I feel I am talking to you now there is something which I wanted to tell you. I thought you did a wonderful job with Father Humphry the other day. But there is something which I wanted to tell him which I couldn't put into spoken words, which you might or might not want to hand on to him if he has not found his own solution by the time you next see him. Instead of giving him the obvious answers - that the student body had the excuse (which all young men look for) of not really knowing that he was there and that Mass would be said - and that he has a bigger battle on his hands than any man in his job has had before, the big battle against Communism, which always manifests itself first in a nebulous defiance in students, and which we all, Catholics and Protestants and worldly-wise people are fighting with our lives as well as our standards at stake - I wanted to give him a challenge using my own experience.

I wanted to challenge him with the fact that if he really thought he had made mistakes and was at fault, I envied him! You see I made a mistake of omission - I did not warn our little boy of the dangers of digging tunnels in the sand. I would give anything to be able to go back and do it differently, but I can't. Our kid is dead and I haven't another chance. I cannot allow myself the luxury of being depressed about it or I would go under. Therefore I truly envy someone like Father Humphrey who is depressed by a feeling of personal failure and has the opportunity to go back and do it all over again after thinking it over. I like him personally very much and think he is a thoroughly sincere and good person and therefore I am writing this to you to pass on to him if you think it would help him.

With love to you and to Wilson,

Louise

P.S. This letter did not go off yesterday or this morning as it was supposed to do, because I was trying to locate some blackberry juice with proper instructions for you to send up to San Antonio for your baby. And now I am covered with confusion and reminded that I went through a "Forgetting" weekend because the dress and shoes I left in your closet have arrived. I thought we agreed that only pearl necklaces and diamond tiarras were to be returned. Can't think why I did not look in the closet when I closed my suitcase, but am thankful to remember that I closed it before we sat down with a drink and not after.

L -

EMBASSY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
TEGUCIGALPA

Saturday, [1955?]

Dear Helen,

With all the traveling I do you would think that I would have trained myself not to leave things behind - and I usually don't, but seem to do it each time I visit you. I presume Freud would say that my subconscious mind does it on purpose because I want an excuse to return - and Freud would be right.

We certainly feel relaxed and contented and happy when we are at Zamorano with you and Wilson. Your house is so lovely and ~~so~~ beautifully and smoothly run without any apparant strain on your part, and you and Wilson are such nice people aside from being so hospitable, that it is a joy to know you.

And on top of being you and being there and letting us come to visit you, you sent me home laden with gifts. I was very touched that you shopped all over New York and Paris for the butter rollers and all over Spain for the copper jug and that you brought them all the way back by air, and I am more than thrilled to have them, and also the frivolous party dress for a wine bottle.

One would think this was enough thanking for one letter but I still have more to thank you for. The duck are reposing in the deep freezer waiting for the occasion when we can impress something with Peiping duck, Honduran style. And last, but not forgotten, thanks for sending in my glasse and the raffle stubs with cash.

Have just come up from undoing Daniel's days work. Since the others insist that weeding the patio doesn't come under the heading of either errand boy or janitor (as in their contracts) and that they were never asked to do it in Mr Ervin's time, Daniel will not pull up a single weed during the week. But he will come on Saturdays and work in the patio. Don't know why I can't persuade him to stick to weeding and cut out planting. Today he planted zinnias all over the place. Since I am not fond of zinnias anyway and they seem to grow five feet high in the patio for some reason, I have just gone down and pulled them all up!

And now, off to dress for Franco's birthday. Wish you were coming with us.

With love and many thanks to Wilson and to you,

Louise



THE FOREIGN SERVICE
OF THE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
AMERICAN EMBASSY

Tegucigalpa, D. C., March 28, 1955.

ADDRESS OFFICIAL COMMUNICATIONS TO:

Dr. and Mrs. Wilson Popenoe,
Escuela Agrícola Panamericana,
El Zamorano.

Dear Wilson and Helen:

As always Louise and I enjoyed your fine hospitality last Sunday and our friends were much impressed with you and your Institution.

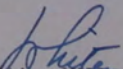
I do not know whether you have seen the Vice President's speech delivered on March 14, before the World Affairs Council at the Biltmore Bowl, Biltmore Hotel, Los Angeles. He had some nice things to say about Latin America and about Honduras in particular. He also had words of praise for you, Wilson, in the following language:

"I want to mention also Dr. Wilson Popenoe, a remarkable man, a typical Californian, whose brother, Paul Popenoe, is at the University of California in Los Angeles. Dr. Popenoe is the director of an agricultural school for boys in Zamorano, Honduras, that is doing a wonderful service for that and other Latin American countries. The school was established and is supported by the United Fruit Company as a public service.

"Each year Dr. Popenoe, with the dedicated assistance of his wife and the other teachers, graduate approximately seventy-five students who come from ten countries. Here they learn to live together, they learn to break down the prejudices that they might otherwise have and of course they go back to the countries from which they came trained in the most modern agricultural techniques. This is truly a public service since these students cannot go to work for the United Fruit Company. And Dr. Popenoe, of course, is responsible for the magnificent training that they receive."

My congratulations!

All the best to both of you from both of us.


Whiting Willauer

EMBASSY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
TEGUCIGALPA

Peru for

July 25, 1955

Dear Helen,

Thank you so much for your letter which I received when I was in the States. Can't say that I don't know what has happened to the time since I received it as I do know. I have been busy every minute and have my diary to prove it.

As is usual on a trip I tried to pack too much in too short a time. Not only did we attend Skip's graduation and give our anniversary party, but I attended Pat Lee's wedding in New Jersey, played in a golf tournament, had another tooth pulled and my falsies refitted, finished fixing up two houses for summer tenants and rented the one which had not been previously rented, did some shopping for myself and did a lot of errands and price-comparing for the Damas Voluntarias. And besides we were back here to give our annual 4th party, but I must admit that I was tempted to send a cable asking France to change holidays with us this year the way some people trade birthdays.

Since we have been back we have been just as busy. As you know, July is a month filled with National Holidays. There have also been a series of farewell parties for people who are leaving. Last week on two occasions we had to make appearances at four different places in the evening - and my days were packed with morning coffee parties as well as afternoon canasta and teas. Things seem to be letting up a little this week, thank goodness, as the pace was wiling me.

And among the festivities, there have been a flock of funerals. I suppose you have heard about those. Since everybody seems to be related to everyone else in Tegucigalpa, over two-thirds of the population is in mourning.

The girls had to cut Spain out of their itinerary as they were trying to do much too much, and they are still falling behind the schedule they mapped out for themselves, but they are having a wonderful time.

If you should happen to be buying any more copper for yourself and see a piece that you don't want, but like, I wish you would have it sent to me. I am always in the position of knowing that Christmas comes sooner than I think and one of my brother-in-laws collects copper.

Hope you are having a wonderful time. We are looking forward to seeing you and hearing all about your trip in September.

Our very best to Wilson and to you,

Fondly,

P.S. Give Cesca Lodge my love if you see her,

Louise
L-

7 Mrs Peter Nash
36 West Cedar Street
Boston 8, Massachusetts*
Wilson's Lane, Needham, Mass.

Ans May 27

May 20, 1959

Helen, dear,

Please forgive the typewriter, but I would never get around to writing to everyone I want to write if I waited for the time to write by hand.

Life has been hectic ever since I left Guatemala. On arrival I found that Sal's operation was further postponed because of her Doctor's illness, but I had a chance to spend the weekend with Skip and the girl he is planning to marry - a darling girl from Washington named Julie Arnold. They waited to announce the engagement until Whitey came up to Washington for conferences - which occurred on May 9th. She teaches at the Potomac School in Washington and will continue to teach after they are married as Skip will be studying for his PhD.

They plan to be married on July 11th. This means that we will be flying back up here right after the 14th of July parties, so I will be going back to Costa Rica with Whitey - with no time to stop in Guatemala - as soon as he finishes in Washington.

Sal is still in a long cast and has to keep her leg elevated because of swelling, but I can leave her as she has found a woman who comes in every day to clean and who can cook and also drive her in to the hospital for daily therapy. I was awfully glad I came up to be with her as she had a rough and very painful time. But it is all worth it as the Doctor says the transplanted muscle is just as strong as he had hoped and that she will never need a brace again.

It was such fun to see you both again and I loved lunching in your famous kitchen. I think Skip and Julie will be spending their honeymoon in Antigua, but I fear that you will not be there as you said that you would be welcoming your seventh grandchild in July.

With love to you both,

Loreise



THE FOREIGN SERVICE
OF THE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

American Embassy,
San José, Costa Rica,
June 16, 1959.

Dear Wilson:

In a discussion this morning with Mr. Scott Stambaugh, he was enthusiastic about the potential market in the United States for tropical fruits and their products. He told me, for example, that there is a relatively large unfilled demand for fresh papaya and its products such as pulp and papain. Mr. Stambaugh believes that the desired volume could be produced in Costa Rica by small farms and exported profitably by a well-organized corporation to the United States either as fresh fruit or semi-processed products.

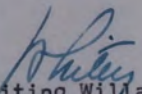
It occurs to me that the United Fruit Company might be interested in such a proposition provided that it is technically sound. Of course I have no way of knowing what they may have already done in the past to investigate this, but if they have investigated and discarded the idea I would like to know why. I noted with interest a remark by Mr. Stambaugh that a large Cuban export of papaya to the United States was now interrupted by conditions there.

The aspect of this possibility which most appeals to me is that Stambaugh feels it is highly susceptible to production by small farmers, if the collection, transportation and marketing were available through United. Obviously such a thing would be good politically.

I would appreciate your thinking along these lines and also about the remarks made by Mr. Stambaugh before the recent horticultural meeting here. A copy of his speech is enclosed, in case you either missed it, or wish to refresh your memory.

Best personal regards to you and Helen.

Sincerely,


Whiting Willauer
Ambassador of the United States
of America

Enclosure:
Copy of speech.

Dr. Wilson Popenoe,
Antigua,
Guatemala

Antigua, Guatemala, 14 July 1959

Hon. Whiting Willauer,
Ambassador of the United States of America,
San José de Costa Rica, C.A.

Dear Whitey:

Your interesting letter of 16 June had to await my return from Mexico, where I went to take part in the III Curso Internacional de Horticultura, under the auspices of the Organización de Estados Americanos.

I heard, with interest, the talk given by my friend Scott Stambaugh at the San José meeting of the American Society for Horticultural Science. He is thinking along the same lines I have been thinking for a good many years, and while the thinking has seemed promising, the going has been pretty hard sledding. It is quite a job to put a new fruit or new fruit product on the American market, but it has been done and it will be done again. It is easier when this product is grown and processed (if necessary) in the United States. Even so, there are a lot of disappointments - I became used to them during my years in the Office of Foreign Seed and Plant Introduction in Washington.

During my time, the United Fruit Company spent quite a lot of money trying to develop new fruits and fruit products, including bananas in some processed form. After many years, I understand they are now making real progress with mashed bananas for ice cream, soda fountain and similar uses. I was always strong for putting guanábana concentrate on the American market. The people in Ecuador tried hard to put the naranjilla, an excellent fruit for refrescos, on American soda fountains. The people in California did the same with Passion Fruit juice, but it did not go over.

Mr. Stambaugh is perhaps a bit too optimistic, but at the same time, sooner or later they break through. I cannot speak with authority, but on the basis of my experience I believe the United Fruit Company would have to see large and regular supplies of a promising product in sight before going into one of these projects, and frankly, I doubt that Costa Rica will come into the picture. It takes large areas suited to a particular fruit to justify a large export trade - such as I saw last week at Irapuato in Mexico, where they are shipping frozen strawberries to the United States. Big quantities of them.

My long experience has made me a bit conservative, perhaps, but at the same time you know what an optimist I am at heart, so I would say, investigate further possibilities wherever possible; but I am not strong for the papaya. Do not enough character!

Sincerely yours,



929 Park Ave, NY 28

[Dec. 1964?]

Season's
Greetings

AND BEST WISHES FOR A

HAPPY NEW YEAR

LOUISE WILLAUER (misspelled!)

I have an apartment - 929 Park - and a job - Int.
Rescue Committee - which keeps me so busy that I
won't be in Guaboncha this winter. If you should
come to New York let's get together to make up for at
least one of all those times we promised to get together
in Antigua and didn't! Love - Louise

I am glad that you are
at Zamora where I know you
are really needed, but I hope
to see you when I am in Antigua
I will go down for a short stay
next month & then for a long
one after the first of the year
I will be with Selby when her second baby
comes in November.
I do hope you are feeling
much much better - With love
from
Dorothy

[© Sept. 11 or 12 1962]

Dear Wilson-

Your warm expression of sympathy
is deeply appreciated by

The Willauer Family

Thank you so very much for
writing. You surely know how
warming it is to know that your
friends are thinking of you. ^{over}

Mrs. Whiting Willauer
929 Park Avenue, New York 28, New York

May 17, 1965

Dear Wilson,

At long last I am back in New York after a very lengthy stay in Los Angeles, which I hated.

On my way back I stopped in San Francisco - or rather in Woodside - for a visit with Carol, and that is why I am writing to you.

She is very thin and very run-down, and Chick, her husband, and I are very worried about her. Because of her asthma and emphysema she should give up smoking, but the doctor wants her to get her health and nerves built up first.

What I am going to write next, Wilson, I want to be just between you and me. I am frankly a bit afraid of suicide. This is because she did not threaten to do it. But she did tell me that she thinks when people have an incurable disease and will be a burden on their families and have nothing but pain before them they should take an overdose of sleeping pills - and she confessed to me that she already has a supply hidden away for that purpose if she gets to that point.

She was in the hospital for a minor operation and, although she stayed there for 16 days to rest up, she lost more weight instead of putting any on. Of course, when she came out, she did too much. But the straw which broke the camel's back with her seems to be the letter she received from you which gave her the impression that you will not go ahead with writing up the text for her flower paintings. Chick told me and then she also told me that she cried for four hours after she received your letter and that she threw all her paintings in the back of a closet where they have remained.

I was able to persuade her to take them out and to talk about them. I think I did rekindle her interest. One would have thought that receiving a medal from the Garden Club would have given her ego the boost it needed, but it didn't. Somehow she feels that it wasn't deserved. Chick was much more proud of the honor than she was.

I learned something in our talk about her painting which I believe will encourage you. It is about the pale colors. She says that one can always darken a color but one can never lighten it. She intends to show a photograph of the actual foliage to the printer and will do exactly what he tells her to do so that the reproduction

will come out as close to life as possible.

What I am hoping you will do on receipt of this letter will be to send along the text to go with one of the paintings as quickly as possible, and to follow it with one a week, at least until she has six, as that is what she says she must have as the minimum to get the go-ahead on the book. Of course I am hoping that you will continue at the rate of one a week (only about a page for each one is enough, isn't it?) until you have the necessary amount. At that rate it would take a year to do the required fifty - though you may work faster once you get started and when Carol is next down there - which will only be if she feels you have not dropped the venture.

My desire is not only to prop her up at this time when I feel she so badly needs a prop, but to give her the incentive to go back down to Guatemala as I don't think she gets any rest at home.

By the way, she is enchanted with the way you write. She says that what you have done to date are only rough drafts according to you, but they contain every bit of the information needed yet are delightful to read. My hope is that you will start with the ones about the flowers which will be included for sure because of the interesting story rather than because of the rarity ~~of the rarest leaves of the~~ beauty of the flower.

You may tell Carol you have heard from me, but please do not tell her all that I have written.

I would ask you to be sure to let me know if you are coming to New York and to make plans to get together, except that I learned from Carol that you are on your way to Antigua to remain all summer.

I haven't made any plans myself except to cancel my European trip because my friends wanted to go right away. You just might see me down there if I get fed up with New York and Nantucket!

Much love as always,

Louise

Mrs. Whiting Willauer
929 Park Avenue, New York 28, New York

June 19, 1965

Wilson, dear,

Things have been popping for me the past few weeks (I am still struggling to get Whitey's estate settled which takes up all of my "spare" time), or I would have answered your very sweet letter immediately.

I had chilly feet after I mailed my letter to you for fear you would consider me very presumptuous, as well you might, but you took it in just the way it was meant and were most understanding.

While I was waiting for a weekend to come along during which I could hide in my apartment and get caught up enough to have time to write to you, I received a letter from Carol which really has me puzzled.

You wrote me on June 1 that you had written to her that she would have a total of ten descriptions in hand during the next few weeks, and on June 11 she wrote to me that you had written to her that you are unable to cope with the writing. Did you change your mind in the meantime, or has Carol gone completely around the bend?

The rest of her letter made me feel that she is in a much better frame of mind than when I saw her. The medal did give her a boost. She will be going to the mountains soon and always gets a good rest up there.

Of course the time is coming when she will have to give up smoking because of her emphysema, and I hate to think what will happen to her nerves then!

Among other bits of news, she wrote: "I got sort of sad letter from our Ginny - answered it, and got an answer to that today. They are going home for the summer, with no new contract for the future. She sounds as tho they are both sad, and about to be penniless again." And this makes me sad.

Saw the Stillmans last night. Charlie seems to be busily approaching Foundations for funds for Zamorano. They will be in Antigua in August.

Do let me hear from you about the status of the text of THE BOOK.

With much love,

Louise

Mrs. Whiting Willauer
929 Park Avenue
New York, New York 10028

May 23, 1967

Dear Wilson,

This letter is being sent to Antigua as I do not know another address for you, even though I do not think you are there. I do hope that it will be forwarded promptly.

I am writing because I have just returned from a quick trip to California, during which I visited Carol. She is very ill, much more than she realizes, and I am hoping that you will be going to California, as you thought you might, and that you will make every effort to write up the descriptions of the flowers. Otherwise it will never be done.

She has forty-five paintings finished, and says she has the sketches to do the rest. I think she has the strength to do these, and that she will do it if she is given the incentive of your interest. I also feel that having something like this to do will keep her alive longer.

She has to use her breathing machine every hour, and has a tube dripping oxygen into her lungs almost all day. She sleeps in a bed which can be moved up and down electrically, and is virtually confined to her room. She is terribly lonely, but if she has a visitor who stays for more than half an hour, it tires her so that she cannot sleep at night and gasps for air. I have never known a case of emphysema to progress so rapidly. She has recently been to the Rusk Rehabilitation Center here in New York where they showed her exercises to do and how to breathe properly, but nothing can repair the damaged section of her lung, and it will become gradually worse.

I wish you could go to stay there, as Carol would like to have you do. You could take a bottle of whiskey for inspiration, and sit by the pool with a typewriter, only consulting with Carol at intervals so as not to tire her too much. They have a good cook there who would feed you. If you could take a few days to do this when you are out that way, I know it would ~~be)do~~ give Carol a tremendous and needed boost, and I do think it is a worthwhile project.

I was very much impressed with her paintings. They are much more forceful than the ones she did at the beginning, and there are some which she is

prepared to darken and liven up, if the printer tells her that it is needed before printing. As she says, one can always make colors stronger, but one cannot fade out a water color.

She has written a sort of travelogue to go with the pictures which she let me read. I did not tell her that it would be meaningless to anyone but friends of hers as I realize that she is not capable now of whipping it into shape if a publisher told her what is needed. I did tell her that it would probably have to be condensed and that the final form could only be determined after the decision was made as to whether the book was meant to be to help people identify the flowers they come upon in Guatemala or whether it was to induce people to go to look for the flowers in the illustrations. This will depend upon how much you put into the descriptive text.

If, after you have finished the text, the publishers still want some kind of a travelogue to go with it, I can offer to do that for her. It would not be very different from what I have to do a lot of time in the office when I have to take a set of facts and work them into a readable report.

Do let me hear from you to know that you received this letter, and I hope I will have a chance to see you either in Boston or here when you go to the Zamorano meeting. It is in June, isn't it?

Always fondly,

Louise

Antigua, 23 June 1967

Dear Louise:

Your letter of 23 May came just as I was rushing off to Boston. I did not stop in New York, going or coming, so did not have a chance to talk with you about Carol's paintings. I am glad you think well of them; I do, although several competent critics feel that in many instances the colors, to reproduce well, should be stronger.

But that is not our problem. It is Carol's serious condition and what to do about it. I have written her, suggesting that we do not attempt to complete the 50 paintings originally planned, but stop with 40 or 45. I don't know how she will take this, but I think you probably feel as I do - doubtful that she will be able to do five more.

There is no use in my going up there to finish the descriptions. I need a few more notes on some of those I have not yet rough drafted, to put a little more life into them - more notes from the field, which I can get over at Zamorano, but not from the literature. But here is my problem:

The original program was that there would be a very brief introduction, non-technical, followed by about 300 words (enough to fill the page) opposite each picture. I did not want to make these notes technical, I wanted to make the sort of thing a visitor in Guatemala would like to read. Carol was all for this at the start.

But as you know, she developed the idea of a rather ambitious plant geography, covering the 10 or so floristic zones of Guatemala. It would be presumptuous of me to take part in such a program. I am not a taxonomist, much less a plant geographer. This whole section would have to be put together from the works of men like Standley and Steyermark, and I would feel guilty of plagiarism or worse. Aside from economic plants, I do not know the flora of Guatemala at all well.

Then the travelogue. If Carol wants to write one, it should be a separate book. She is not a professional writer. She is professional artist, and a grand one, in the field of flower painting. That should be the book. It will be terribly weakened by a travelogue.

I have just written her, saying that if she would like to cut down the number of paintings to 40 or 45 (she doesn't have more than 42, I believe, which ought to be used - not because of her work but because they aren't sufficiently interesting) and stick to the original program, I can complete the descriptions very promptly. Then I have gone on to say that if she insists on the plant geography and travelogue, then what I will do is this: I will give her the descriptions, which she can re-write in the way she wants them (she seems not to be satisfied with my approach - says I want stories, not botany) and she can use this material, leaving my name out of the work entirely. If she has the strength left to do it, I believe this would be the best way to get out the sort of book she now insists on - but didn't at the start.

Always affectionately,

WESTCLIFF
NANTUCKET, MASSACHUSETTS
02554

July 2, 1972

Dear Wilson:

The enclosed two letters which I received from Carel will be self-explanatory. I hope you approve.

I asked Ed to check my letter as I feared it might be too harsh to someone as ill as Carel, but he felt it stated the facts and should be sent. She has been so very stubborn all along that it almost seems as if she were taking advantage of her illness to get her own way. I sincerely meant it when I wrote that it would not be fair to you to publish it in any other form than that which is approved by you.

We are in the middle of a very busy 4th of July weekend as all of my children and grandchildren are on the island, except for Whitey's youngest.

Even if I had more time I would not have much more to write as I have not seen or heard from anyone whom you know.

Ed joins me in sending our very best to Alice as well as to you.

With love to you both,

Louise

Mrs. Allen L. Chickering
300 Family Farm Road
Woodside, California 94062

May 11, 1972

Dearest Louise:

At last I have the happiest of reasons to write - one I have been waiting for for four years. I have a publisher. The University of Oklahoma Press.

We have been told from the very beginning of the tremendous cost of color plates which is what scared off other publishers. Now Oklahoma specifies a

"grant in aid" to cover this work. The reason I'm writing you now is that you said long ago you would like to help me - you and Charlie Stillman, and the thought of having you both as partners in this has made me happy all along. Would you still like to join me and donate any part you wish of \$15,000? We should be able to cover this ourselves but I hate to load it on to Chick on top of my astronomical medical expenses. Actually, it's the thought rather than the amount that counts the most to me.

Mrs. Allen L. Chickering
300 Family Farm Road
Woodside, California 94062

The "grant in aid" goes to the
University of Oklahoma Press Foundation

Haven't heard from you for a long
time. How are you? And where are you?

Write me soon

With love and cheers

Chickering

P.S. This letter dictated to my nurse.

Mrs. Allen L. Chickering
300 Family Farm Road
Woodside, California 94062

May 26 -

Dear Louise,

If this does not catch
today's mail, it won't go out till
Tuesday & I must rectify a
mistake I made in my last
letter.

Don W. wrote you
were in Antigua but leaving
the June post - I hope this
catches you in ~~Madaket~~ -

Things are very exciting here
now as we begin to collect our
promised bits for the Book -

We are fortunate that the cost
of the separation plates is so moderate
- and would take care of it
all but for the astronomical cost
of supporting my worthless life - in
which case it is happily a friendship

cooperation that so far is very
happy - I hope you feel this
way about it, and will be glad
to add something - It is, of
course a tax deductible donation
within (correcting a mistake in
my last letter) to

University of Oklahoma Foundation
{ Send it to Mr. Edward Shaw }
{ Univ. of O. Press. Norman - Okla. }

Will appreciate your letting
me know soonest what you do.
So we can finish up - The
contract is in the office - came
today !!! Just this wonderful -
Just think, I've waited five
years - I'm so happy!

Hope all continues to be well
with you with lots of love
Chickera

June 27, 1972

Carol, dear:

Just before we left Guatemala Den told us that he had heard from you that you had found a publisher for your book of paintings, and I rejoiced. It was a disappointment to learn from your letter that it is to be a private printing.

I am disappointed because I knew that it means that you will not heighten and brighten the colors. Everyone suggested that you do this, and your answer always was that colors could be increased, but never decreased, and that the printer would tell you just how much to brighten them when the book was published. With a private printing, there will be no suggestions made by the publisher.

I wish I had known that you were trying to find a publisher through whom tax-deductible donations could be made. I am sure that I could have arranged this through Johnny Mack's John Lloyd Stevens Foundation if the book had been printed in Guatemala as was suggested to you by Wilson and Den. I do believe that if you publish a book like the Tahoe one in Guatemala, all tourists would buy it, and it would sell steadily like Pat's folios. Is it too late to do this?

I have always been thrilled with your paintings, and thought they should be published as they are botanically correct as well as so very artistic. I was also enthusiastic of the concept of the book when you and Wilson first had the idea, and he spent so many days and hours taking you around the country to find the flowers which should be included. But I do not know where you got the idea that Charlie Stillman and I ever said that we wanted to help to pay for the printing. What happened was that you and Charlie told me that you wanted to organize donations for a suitable memorial for Whitey in Guatemala, and asked me to find a source through which donations could be tax-deductible in the United States.

After a great deal of time and effort on my part, I found such a source, and suggested a few projects which I thought would be fitting. You then wrote that you thought it would be a suitable memorial to Whitey to publish your book, and Charlie wrote that he thought it would be fitting for the donations to go to the Zamerano School in Honduras, of which he is a Director. Neither of these, to my point of view, seemed to be meaningful in connection with Whitey's memory, so I felt let-down and regretfully abandoned the whole idea, as it was not something I could continue alone.

Nevertheless I would like to assist you in getting your book into print, but only if the text is worthy of and enhances your paintings. This means that the text must be absolutely correct, and that every word has been approved by Wilson so that his name can appear along with yours. This would obviously triple the sales in Guatemala as well as in other places, and ^{in that} that the book would be an important book, whether it sells or not. I hope to hear from you that the final text has been sent to Wilson and that it met with his approval. Otherwise it would not be fair to him.

We arrived in Nantucket the eighth of June, but only stayed here long enough to unpack our suitcases and pick up the car. We then took off to check the farm in Maine and to attend to Dentist, Insurance, Lawyers, Bankers, etc. in Boston, as well as catching up on our respective families and doing a bit of replacement shopping after such a long absence from the country. We ended a tour with a visit to Bar (Little) and Tom Robbins in Spönnington. We had planned to go from there to see Ed's steemother who is in a Nursing Home in New London, but were persuaded from seeing her as she would not know us and is nothing but a breathing corpse. She has been in a coma since February, and we hope the end will come soon for her.

With much love, as always, to you and also to Chick,

WESTCLIFF
NANTUCKET, MASSACHUSETTS
02554

August 1, 1972

Dear Wilson:

After receiving your letter of July 15, I sat down to compose a letter to Carol, of which I will enclose the draft. I did not write and mail the letter, on advice from Ed. He reminded me that you had said that she is sick mentally as well as physically. Nothing I say will do any good, and it would only antagonize her.

I will enclose the letter I received from her. I must add that what she said about you in it made me very angry as it is so untrue and unjust. Knowing you, I believe that you would like to see it, even if it does make your hair curl.

I hope that you have kept all the correspondence you have received from her, and that you are keeping the letters I am sending you. It is doubtful that you would ever want to make use of them, but there is the slight chance that her publication would cast a slur on your reputation, and you might want to be able to defend yourself.

All my children and grandchildren are here now, so it is a busy place indeed.

I am sending this to Antigua, as I am not sure how long you will be staying in ~~Anti~~ Zamorano. I hope you and Alice had a relaxing visit there.

Ed joins me in sending love to you both.

As always,

Loise [Willam?] *Willam?*

2/copy you gave me, and do
right to sign your name in my
testimony.
Have you noticed yet that
it is illegal to sell birds
fresh in Guatemala, and po-
sibly to bring it into the
country? Other minor printed
out that Belize is not the
same as Guatemala, and
therefore not shown as a part of it!

LRI

[v/74]

Dear Wilson:

Something keeps coming
up to prevent me from going
over to thank you for the
"Story of Antigua". I am still
bumped up that some "friend"
walked off with the original

3/ We leave on May 29th, and we
hope to see you before then, but
I am writing lest you think me
ungrateful.

We are going up to Panajachel
this week to do the finishing
touches on our apartment. From
there we drive directly to Johnny
Armstrong's finca for the weekend,
where Frank Meloy will join us
to see the nesting Quetzales.

Sunday

Love to Alice & to you - Louise