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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.



Carnevali in costume, Firenze, Italy

What did Paul Allen
finally do?

LA DANZA DE LOS VIEJITOS
MICHOCAN, MEXICO



Marcolor

50 CTS
CORREO
AEREO



We saw these
viejitos in
Patzcuaro.

Sometimes I've
lost your letter
naming the three
Orchiobea (I think
I left it at Sibul)
Please send me their
names again if what

EDITORIAL DE ARTE, S. A.
(LITO OFFSHIN SANCHEZ, S. A.)

Dr Wilson Rapana
Calle de la Noblesse #2
Antigua
Guatemala

12
MAY
1958



30-9-59

Portugal is nice
but the language is
me completely baffling.
I can read quite a bit
but when they speak —
ni una sola palabra —
I'll bet if the sounds
"s" & "sh" were suddenly
removed from their
language they'd all
be dumb —

How are our
orchids?

160 Sevilla — Catedral
Cathédrale
Cathedral

admo



ESPAÑA
PAIS
COL
GUATEMALA
PRINCE

LOS ANGELES
GUATEMALA

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PIRELLA

Calle de la Nobleza #2

Antigua

Guatemala

Depósito legal M - 2.372 - 1959

America Central



30 Oct 1951
Just got in + am staying
at Residencia America -

Dona Francisco
complains that she
hasn't heard from you.

Tomorrow + Sunday we
are going to rush
around since we have
to be back in Malaga
Mon + W for classes.

Incidentally our French
professor tells us he

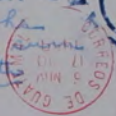
is precisely
what we need
for our
studies

ARCHIVO "ARTISTICO" - BARCELONA (ESPAÑA)



Mrs + Mrs W Papen
Calle de la Rabeya - # 2
Antigua

Guatemala
America



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[Newspaper clipping removed]

ESCUELA AGRICOLA PANAMERICANA

APARTADO 93

TEGUCIGALPA, HONDURAS
CENTRO AMERICA

June 10, 1957

Dr. Wilson Popenoe
Antigua, Guatemala

Dear Wilson:

This is a continuation of the "crisis." On Friday morning Eduardo came to see me and said he wanted to explain his borrador. I told him that I would talk first and promptly proceeded to lay it on the line. I told him that I hoped it would not be necessary to fire anyone, but if it came to that point, it was going to be somebody else's head and not mine. He left here considerably chastened.

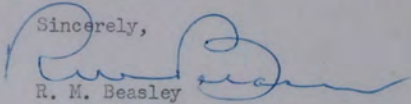
Last night they had their meeting, but got only half-way through the various points. I am informed that the tone was considerably changed and that the first 15 or 20 minutes were taken up by a talk by Eduardo in which he stated that the only thought in mind was to improve relations between the Direction and the staff, but that the borrador without his knowledge had been turned over to the Dirección and that a misunderstanding had resulted. Following this, they took up about half the points and will finish tonight. Apparently, Luis Morcillo was the most level-headed of the bunch and proved of considerable assistance in preventing any hot-headed, unacceptable decisions. I expect that in a few days a committee will bring me a list of suggestions for discussion. I will discuss these and, if not unacceptable, pass them along to Boston for further instructions.

Yesterday we went to Danli and spent the day with Marina, going to Jamastran and Villa Ahumada. Although both phases of the day were interesting, particularly so were our impressions of Villa Ahumada.

Enclosed is a clipping from El Cronista (a fine upstanding outfit) of June 7 entitled "Gringos Utiles al Pais: Dr. Wilson Popenoe."

I shall keep in touch with you from time to time.

Sincerely,


R. M. Beasley

21 Avenida Roosevelt, San Salvador
6 July 1957

Mr R M Beasley
El Zamorano.

Dear Bob:

Not until yesterday did I get around to ~~writing~~ writing any letters, since I left Zamorano. Now I have gotten myself established here, have been out in the field all week, and can settle down to regular work. The job is highly interesting and I believe we are going to accomplish something.

I have rec'd copies of one or two letters from John Killey about the creamery business. Looks like you are set to go ahead with it. That job will take some time but when it is finished we are really going to have something.

Pelen wrote about the problem of letting the boys who get D's take make-up exams to raise their grades to C's, but I appear to have left the letter in Antigua. I am afraid it would complicate things a great deal, and it is not standard practice in the first place. We let Villeda do it, so that he could go to Florida without having to repeat some subject - I forget which one, but if we made the practice general don't you think a lot of the bright boys would say, que caramba, I went study because if I only get a D at the end of the semester I can easily study a couple of weeks and take a new exam and knock out a C? There are so many D's in school that I think it would throw an awful lot of work on the teachers - for it is a sure thing that every boy who got a D would try to make it a C if given the chance. The real argument, however, is this: D is a passing grade in our school as in others. The others do not give students a chance to take make-up exams and raise D's to C's. It is a different matter with F's.

You are probably going to have a few worries in connection with getting the becaries up to Florida. (I wonder, by the way, if anything was ever heard from Carvajal in Ecuador?). I think Pelen will keep things in hand, however, and also remember that the boys who are up there on our becas probably have to be sent their first semester money next month. I don't know just how the matter stands; I know we sent them their summer money.

I have a new and I think very practical idea, based upon reading all the nice things said about me in connection with my retirement. They sound like the usual obituaries. Now why not organize a society for the purpose of having obituaries written and published while you are still alive, so you can enjoy them personally? Your friends of course are never much interested, and if you yourself are dead and gone to Hell there is not much likelihood of your seeing them I assume.

I understand that Kitty Coolidge, who reached Guatemala on 20 June and has been with Helen in Antigua ever since, may want to visit Tegucigalpa. Helen will keep you informed. Just after I left Antigua on the 29th Kitty had a pretty bad attack of tourist's disease but I am sure she's allright now. Chico de Sola's brother who is a big medicine here has pretty well cleared up my views on this trouble. He says it is a sudden change in the intestinal flora which may be caused by almost any number of things, water or food or even thinking about it too much!

Ever yrs,

El Zam
July 13

Dear Wilson:

Well the "crisis" is
over. Yesterday Eduardo
brought me a very attentive
letter saying that his
motives has been misunder-
stood; that there has been
much wrangling; that the
present was not a
propitious time & that
in fin he wanted to
withdraw from the
whole business of darbs
por terminado -

Asi es -

Will drop you a
line from time to
time

afmo

Bob

21 Avenida Roosevelt, San Salvador
11 July 1957

Mr R M Beasley
Zamorano.

Dear Bob:

We are getting into our stride here, Chico de Sola y su servidor, and beginning to think about useful activities. In connection with the fruit improvement program, we must build up in this country sources of supply for budwood or other grafting material of the best fruit varieties. It is too late to do anything more about avocados this year, as the nursery at Zamorano is cleaned out - it was when I left. But I do not think the mangos have gone yet, because most of the grafts were coming along at a pace which would make them ready for transplanting about the latter part of this month or in August.

I do not believe we could make better use of some of our trees than to place them in the hands of the Central Nacional de Agronomia here as a future source of propagating material. If you agree, I wonder if you would be good enough to call in Mario Jalil and ask him if he could let us have 100 Hadens and about 50 Julies and maybe 25 Aminis and Mulgobas as soon as they are ready to move?

I have sent a note to Armando in this same envelop, telling him that Helen may be away from Antigua for a couple of weeks, and in any case, I am settled here at 21 Avenida Roccevelt until the end of August, and when you want to get in touch with me the best thing is to write or telegraph me here, though of course you can also reach me thru Arnold Canton who knows this pensión and can telephone me here from the UFCo office - when I am in town, which is not all the time. With the backing of Chico de Sola I think we are likely to do something worth while here, but we are going to need badly a couple of good nurserymen and I cant yet see them in the offing.

Best regards to Mary and yourself.

Ever yrs

ESCUELA AGRICOLA PANAMERICANA

APARTADO 93

TEGUCIGALPA, HONDURAS
CENTRO AMERICA

July 16, 1957

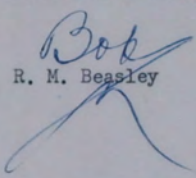
Dr. Wilson Popenoe
21 Avenida Roosevelt
San Salvador, El Salvador

Dear Wilson:

I was glad to get your letter of July 11 and know that things are going along smoothly with you. Here the same applies except that we are having a little trouble getting the first year boys into the habit of studying. However, I understand that this is not a new situation.

Mario Jalil tells me that the mangos and citrus fruit were budded so late that we shall have very little to offer in the way of propagating material this year. However, we have agreed to maintain sufficient species of the mango varieties listed in your letter for the Centro Nacional de Agronomía. These will not be ready for shipment, however, until the latter part of September or the early part of October.

Sincerely yours,


R. M. Beasley

ESCUELA AGRICOLA PANAMERICANA

APARTADO 93

TEGUCIGALPA, HONDURAS
CENTRO AMERICA

July 30, 1957

Dr. Wilson Popenoe
San Salvador, El Salvador

Dear Wilson:

It was nice to get your letter of July 23 and to know that everything is going along satisfactorily. In accordance with your request, I am sending you one of the School intelligence tests with the answers inserted.

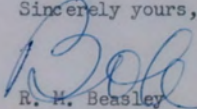
I spoke with Julio about the guineas, and he assures me that about June 20 on his return from El Salvador he wrote a letter not to Professor Russell, but to the Sunday School class. For your information, the guineas have not done particularly well here. Quite a few were dead on arrival, undoubtedly due in part to the fact that on account of bad weather the plane had to go to Managua and was considerably delayed in reaching here. Furthermore, about a month ago we lost 10 or 12 due to the fact that they had eaten grass, but failed to digest it. We now have some 40 odd and hope that they will survive.

I am glad that you told me about Paul Standley. I shall talk with Antonio Molina without delay.

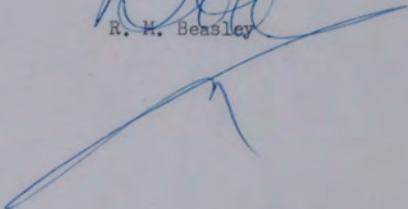
Dr. Paddock and family arrived last Saturday, and we are having a busy time getting them settled. They are very, very fine people, and I am sure they are going to make a hit at the School.

I shall drop you a line from time to time to let you know how things are proceeding.

Sincerely yours,



R. W. Beasley



Mexico City
April 8, 1959

Dear Wilson:

I am sending this letter to Maria with the hope that she has your address and that it will reach you before you return from Venezuela.

The purpose of this letter is "un favor por favor." You told me you were going to buy a lot of very fine orchids in Venezuela and Colombia. If it is not too much trouble, I would greatly appreciate it if you would buy a dozen (more or less at your discretion) extra nice specimens, bring them back, and keep them at your place for me until we get settled. This may be my only opportunity to get some nice ones.

You can write to me c/o Whit and let me know how much I owe you. I will see him before we leave for Spain. Hope you and Helen are having a fine trip.

Incidentally, when you write me about the damages, please include the names of a couple of books on orchid cultivation and classification which you would recommend for an amateur like me. I have gotten very much interested again in orchids.

We arrived in Mexico City yesterday, expect to stay here about a week, and then move on for longer stays in Morelia and Guadalajara.

One more thing -- we stayed Monday night in Puebla at the Hotel Colonial. I am sure that you and Helen would like it very much (perhaps you already know it). It very successfully bears out its name and is filled with beautiful tiles, statues and busts (not so beautiful), and carved woodwork. The whole place has a delightful atmosphere (we were told that the building is over 200 years old) and is not expensive -- 90 to 100 pesos per day for double room and bath and meals for two. My only suggestion is to bring your own toilet paper. The local product leaves much to be desired.

Afmo.

Bob
K

ESCUELA AGRICOLA PANAMERICANA

APARTADO 93

TEGUCIGALPA, HONDURAS
CENTRO AMERICA

[1951]
Antigua G, 25 Nov - Tomorrow Thanksgiving

Dear Bob and Mary:

Shortly after I had written Mary plus Bob I get Bob's letter plus Mary. And then both Helen and I break down and cry when we get your card from the Pensión (now Residencia, new law) at Granada. If you didnt eat well there, by Spanish standards, then there ~~ain~~ no God in Heaven. We just love that place; it is like home to us and at half the price of home.

You asked about Semana Santa and the Feria at Sevilla. I would enjoy one day of Semana Santa; but to sit on one of those hard chairs every evening from 7 p m to 12.30 light face figures, while 1725 penitentes walk by with candles and 34 santos are carried by 34 hombres each is just too, too much. I wished we had taken the Feria instead. The hard part is that you cant get a place in Sevilla unless you take the whole Semana Santa and peraps - I dont know the whāne Feria. I would gamble on the latter. Good Catholic as Mary may be and is, that Semana Santa lasts too long. I think I told you about the Hotel Simon in Sevilla. Usual rate about 100 or 125 pesetas mit grub; will cost doble in Semana Santa. Awfully nice little hotel, we think. But I wōgt pay more than 125 pesetas per diem nowhere in Spain - and I am sure by now you both agree. They double the rates in Sevilla for Semana Santa and you have to book about three months in advance.

Finally I dug out the big map of Spain and found your billage. (B de vava, not V de burro). We have rolled by there a dozen times. You were smart to stay away from Torremolinos. Perfectly allright if you dont mind the fat old ladies in shorts. I do. I prefer thin yo ng ladies in shorts. Did I tell you about the big row here? They started a new custom here on the 15 Sept. Majorettes in short skirts. Quite short. Tela too expensive I suppose. But the papers are still publishsing long articles about the triste decadencia de la moralidad chapina.

I hope by this time you have visited Rancho California at ~~Mamuecar~~ Mamuecar I wrote you all about it, and the Hotel Mediterranea in the old arab town. And drop in at the Café Novo and tell Manolo you are compadres.

I enjoyed Venezuela tho an American is just as popular there right now as an ecuadorean in Peru. I am carrying on with the work. I hit the country at the wrong time for orchids but brought back about 20 wh I am not sure will grow. If they dont, we will get you some from Hugh Craggs here at Palin, next door to Ed Farnsworth. I think I write you that Paul and Dorothy Allen re-joined the Company; Paul now in the Philippines looking for bigger and better bananas, Dottie's probably going out to Hong Kong to spend Xmas with Paul. UFCO stock now down to 23 - radio says Fidel took over the Cuban properties last week. Bill Paddock in Bostob; Ufco says they will not name a new member of Board of Trustees of EAP (to replace Jeff or Ken Redmond) and as soon as possible they want to retire ~~the~~ financial support; will not sell the school down the river but the river may dry up before long. Perhaps Rpekefeller Foundation will help out; I dont know. Proposed budget for 1960 is \$415,000 operations and \$72,000 betterments. Estimated income from endowment fund this yr \$220,000. Ever yrs

Villa Sta Ana, Rincon Victoria Malaga

Antigua G, 25 April 1960

Dear Bob and Mary:

Just recd a letter from Ed not Walt Whitman wh says that Bob broke his arm not long since. I hasten to write to tell you how sorry we are, and to add that we are sorry not to kept in closer contact with youall. I think one or two letters have gone astray. We recd two from youall, long since, and we have written two which were supposed to have gone your way.

We have been awfully busy here. So many visitors! Then I flew up to Florida in January to be with you when he got his Ph D (his Union card, as he rightly calls it) then we went over to the graduation at Zamorano on 19 March. Bill Paddock writes that he is mighty glad to get rid of that class - guess I'll enclose you his memo. In a letter which he recently wrote Hugh, he says: We are making considerable progress and it is my belief that in a very short time we will have the recognition of being the principle (sic) agropecuaria university (italics mine) in Latin America. Doris and I are not in favor of changing our status from that of what you might call a Junior College to the University Level, but I do not doubt that Bill will do it. I feel that we already have enough agricultural colleges, here in Latin America and in the US, to meet all needs on the university level. I feel that what we need is more schools on the level we had Zamorano. But I am living in the horse and buggy days.

I sent you a letter via Mr Turnbull not long ago. In the letter I got today from Whit he says, quote All I can tell you is that the Company's position vis-a-vis EAF is that I have been told not to identify the Company with the school any more unquote. Incidentally, when Bill applied to ICA not long ago to build five new faculty houses like the big ones you were in, someone in ICA called up Jasper Baker and said in effect, Isn't that a Fruit Company school? And apparently Jasper hadn't been fully advised and said yes, so ICA didnt see any reason for the US govt to put up \$75,000 for new housing.

Did you ever get over to Almuñecar and visit Rancho California, where Helen and I spent so many happy months? We still hope to go back there by next yr. My trouble is to get away from other jobs. I have just written Wicaragua that I will come down next month to help formulate a fruit improvement program. I guess I wrote yot they have asked me to come to Colombia to do the sort of job I did in Venezuela last yr but I think I can do it at long range. We are trying to get Kitty Coolidge down here in August, for a trip to Machu Picchu (Incidentally, one of the old time jefes from Boston mentioned recently when here, "The Company would not be in the present mess if Jeff Coolidge had lived

What exchange are you getting for your \$\$\$ now? Espasa Calpe wrote recently that we could send our personal checks in payment of books at 59.35 it seems to me. The Bank of London and Montreal (Formerly London and So Am Ltd) offered me 56½ yesterday. No takers. I am toying with the idea of opening an account the Banco de Bilbao for about 2000 US dollars, think they might come in handy some day.

How much longer do you think of remaining in that dear España? Did you take in Semana Santa at Sevilla? Dont think you could have had any more processions than we had here in Antigua and we still have to go thru the Corpuses of about 8 surrounding pueblos.

Elena joins in affectionate regards you both.

Villa Sta Ana
Rincon de la Victoria
Malaga - España
[Oct./NOV. 1959]

Dear Helen + Wilson

We haven't yet been to Granada but we expect to go soon. We spent several days in Sevilla + liked it so much we're going back. So the Semana Santa + Feria worth paying the increased prices for. I am told that Malaga has a nice Semana Santa.

For the first time in over a year we are staying put more than a few days. We have rented Villa Sta Ana + like it so well we're going to spend the winter here. Do you know Rincon? It's a little fishing village as yet unspoiled - as is Tarremines + the coast on the other side of Malaga - Sta Ana to downtown Malaga is a matter of 15/20 mins in our cab.

The yards - front + back are full of flowers + there's a tiny fountain with 9 goldfish. The house is whitewashed brick + it is full of pictures painted by the owner's wife + cute ceramic tiles. It has 3 bedrooms + a model 2 piano complete with brass brackets for candles. On the roof is a sun terrace, which is gilding the lily since our back gate opens at this point a tremendous racket (its 8:30 PM) and we were given a serenade.

(Belén - our cook calls it). Eight boys -
10-14 yrs - with the damndest assortment
of so-called instruments were there and
they sang song after song in a dialectic
Spanish. I got about 1 word in 20
of course there were 100 or other kids - ~~hundreds~~
~~and~~ At the conclusion I gave the singers
20 pesetas + had to refuse an offer for
another serenade (Belén) tonight.

But, as I was saying, the back gate
opens onto the beach of the beautiful
blue Mediterranean. Every morning I
am up early watching the fishermen with
their sea of Galilee ~~net~~ nets.

(Mary just found out I am
writing you + informed me that she
wrote you a few days ago - so
pardon the repetition.)

How was Venezuela? Did you
get any orchids? And when are you
coming back to Spain? What
happened to Paul + Dorothy Allen?
Now that we have an address (don
Antonio - postmaster - personally
brought our first mail yesterday)
we'd be most happy to have a
few lines from you -

Hasta Luego

afino

Bob B

Oct. 22 [1969]

Dear Helen and Doctor -

We are nicely set for the winter in a little town east of Malaga - 15 minutes drive to there - our house is right on the beach - the beautiful blue Mediterranean lines up to its name. Our house is completely furnished - three bedrooms - bath - living room with fireplace - dining room - kitchen - maid's room and bath. For this we pay \$38 a month. We have a maid-of-all-work who is an excellent cook, and we pay her top wages of \$7.50 a month. We found out later that most people pay \$5.00 at the most.

Our address is: Villa Santa Ana
Rincon de la Victoria
Malaga, España

We came into Spain from France at Puy corda - then Barcelona - Zaragoza - Madrid - Oropesa - Gredos - Avila - Segovia - Salamanca - Burgos - Santander - Oviedo - La Coruña - Pontevedra - then went to Portugal for ten days - back into Spain to Merida - Sevilla - Jerez - Algeciras & Gibraltar - and at last Malaga.

We have yet to visit Granada and Cordoba and so many other places, but with this as a base, we plan to take all those trips. We were both getting tired of traveling. Malaga never gets really cold - so they say, as it is right on the sea.

Since we hope to visit Italy, Switzerland, Austria, Germany, & go back to France before returning to the States, we have started

Pen. - before one very cheap for 1.00 - but this means one of 8 percent plus service & taxes which works out to \$1.70 per meal per person - & one has to take the food home. Very expensive!

taking French and German less one three times a week, and later on plan to study Italian - not to be proficient - just not to be completely ignorant of the various languages.

Portugal was frightfully expensive. We were glad to get back here.

There are three English & Scotch couples in this pueblo, who have retired here. We don't see much of them, as everybody seems to go their own way - but one elderly Scotch couple told us that they live - and live well - for \$11.00 a week, not including rent, which can't be more than \$5 a month. They have wine and contact all the time. Bob and I don't hope to equal that, but there is an abundance of all kinds of fish, sheepfish, lamb, pork, beef, fruits, & vegetables at very low prices.

We were shocked to learn of Neil Turnbull's death. It is unbelievable that one so young should die.

What do you think of the upheaval in the Company? I hope the new President makes good - we miss our dividends.

What do you hear from Zamorano? Is the new deal a big success?

We have a very nice yard, with lots of flowers - bushes - trees - Bob keeps very busy in it on the days we don't go to Malaga for our lessons.

Every morning around eight they deliver the most delicious crusty French bread we have eaten anywhere - still warm from the oven - for less than five cents a loaf. Bob got awfully tired of Continental breakfasts, so he really enjoys his *parade huevos* with the warm bread and good freshly roasted Colombian coffee.

Do let us hear from you - love from both
the Beards

May 2 [1960/1961]

Dear Wilson -

(This is Mary writing at Bob's dictation. How we regret having left our typewriter in California!)

It was with a great deal of pleasure that we received your letter of April 25 accompanied by Bill Paddock's report. I also received the letter you sent via Don Walter.

My right elbow was shattered to the point where the doctor had to take out some of the bone that was in fragments. Frankly, never in my life have I put in such a six weeks. However, it is improving poco a poco, and the doctor assures me that I will have practically full use of it in time. That, of course, is the only thing that matters.

As soon as my arm is all right, we plan to take off for France, Italy, Switzerland, Austria, etc. As we contemplate matters at present, we'll be so broke after doing all that traveling that we'll have to come back here next winter to get our finances back in shape. We may end up in Almuñecar. We intend to drive there and look the place over before we leave.

Bill Paddock has certainly changed the good old EAF, hasn't he? I find it hard to believe that the United Fruit Company prefers not to be identified with the school. It is my opinion that Zamorano is one of the best things from a public relations point of view that UFCO ever did ———
Thanks largely to you.

Incidentally, soon after Paddock arrived at Zamorano he told me that he wanted to get the endowment built up to the

point where the income from it would be sufficient, & he would not have to ask Boston for money. What a plum fell into his lap. Nobody in Boston has cared anything for the school since Mr. Coolidge and Martin Connelly left.

I am rather taken back by his printed statement that the graduating class had always been a source of trouble? To what do you attribute this? I have my own ideas.

Obviously you are keeping very busy, which is most important when one retires.

As regards exchange, you mentioned 54.35 and 56.50. If I were to come to Spain, I would bring my money in American Express Travelers checks which, as you know, can be cashed anywhere. In many places the Banco de España will give 60 pesetas for \$1.00. Here in Malaga we get 54.85.

In recent years Malaga has reached the point of challenging Seville as regards Semana Santa. Rincon de la Victoria, as you probably know, is only 15 or 20 minutes by car from Malaga, but we did not see any of the processions. My arm had just been taken out of the cast — was very sore and swollen — and I didn't dare get mixed up in the jostling crowds.

How are your orchids? That is one thing which I have missed very much, and when we eventually get back to Guadalajara, will be the first thing I'll take up.

Our love to you both —

My doctor is Dr. Alfonso

Queipo de Llano — a very famous name in Spain. His father's brother was the famoso general.

Bob



SS Atlantic
June 11 [1960]

Dear Helen and Doctor -

Bob has been having a lot of pain & stiffness in his right shoulder. The elbow healed beautifully; but he still has far from complete use of his arm. He felt he needed professional therapy that we couldn't seem to get in Malaga. The doctor was wonderful, but he said it was up to Bob to exercise the arm back into shape.

We had to give up our house. Rents triple in summer. Our place is rented for three months for more than we paid in nine months.

So, Bob decided to go back to the States, & we arrive in New York on the 14th. He's going to New Orleans to see Varoy Drennan & Dr. Faust, & I'm going to Milton. I hope they tell Bob to go to some place like Hot Springs, Arkansas, where we can rent a furnished apartment. At any rate, we'll do whatever they say. Bob says right now the one important thing is to get his arm back in shape.

We hated giving up our trip and still hope to go back and do it.

We never did get to Almuñecar - these past few weeks Bob had diathermy treatment every day. We passed through Almuñecar last fall on our way back from Granada, but didn't stop.

Doctor, do you remember Mike & Mollie Lathrop? He was accountant in Tula at the time of the Tula robbery? They live in Torremolinos, & Mike has controlling interest in a popular cafe catering to Americans & Englishmen. Mike had cancer of the throat five years ago - had his larynx removed - learned to talk again. However, he has started having bleeding of his throat & is quite worried, although the doctor says it is not a recurrence of the cancer.

The pitiful part is Mollie. She is a hopeless alcoholic who couldn't care less - has no desire to be cured. This started about eight years ago in India (where they had eight servants). Mike has to run the house - order the food - do everything. Mollie gets up at noon - proceeds to drink all afternoon - takes a nap - gets up & starts in all over again.



When I think of what a dashing guy
(too gay, I guess) young couple they were!

We saw Mike several times a week -
we'd meet in Malaga - He is trying
to get her to go back to the States and go
in a sanitarium, but Mollie says she
hasn't any intention of quitting drinking.
He did put her in a place in Madrid for
four months, but the first day she was
home she went to bed with a 40 ounce
bottle of whisky. She has her own
money - plenty of it.

They never had any children - Mollie
never wanted any. A case of too much
money & no responsibilities. They remind
me of a couple that F. Scott Fitzgerald
could have written about in the 1920's.

Torremolinos is a dreadful place with
a bad reputation. It is beautiful as
regards houses, layout, facilities, etc.,
but it is crawling - alive - with
foreigners. And most of them are
lukes - a lot are perverts of one

kind or another - there is a big bunch
of homos there. We wouldn't live there
for anything. There have to be a lot
of fine people there, to be sure, but
the odd balls outweigh the good ones.

Bob wants to add a note.

door
mou

We're going back to
Europe when this damn
arm gets cured. Its wonderful
what probably we'll do is
take our M-Benz direct to
Italy, then Austria, Switzerland,
Germany + back to Spain
for the winter of '61.

Afmo

285 Edge Hill Road
Milton 86
Massachusetts

Bob

Antigua Guatemala, 2 July 1960

Mrs R. N. Beasley,
285 Edge Hill Road
Milton 86,
Massachusetts. USA.

Dear Mary:

Many thanks for your letter from the S.S. Atlantic, dated 11 June. I had already heard through Ed Whitman that you were safely back in the States, and I suppose raising plenty of hell about the high cost of everything in our part of the world. If you were not raising any hell, then you have a lot more money than I think you have and enjoy throwing it around.

I did not realize that they raised the rants on you in Málaga during the Summer season. Those folks are getting just smart as us "gringos". The thing for you to do is to move up to Rancho California with a letter from me saying that Bob is a big aguacate man and I think he could be of great help to Luis Sarasola if he stayed there for a year or two, but it would not pay to settle down for less time than that. What a delightful little apartment we had there! Helen is crazy to go back and if I can get rid of all the compromisos I have in this part of the world I think we will land at Madrid again about next May. There is an important meeting of tropical horticulturists in Southern Florida around next Eastern and I feel I really must be there.

Amado Pelén who is over here on vacation has just had a card from Morecillo who is staying with his cuñado at Alexandria, Virginia. We understand they found at John Hopkins a small tumor in the lower part of his left lung, and he wrote Pelén that they were going to operate the next day. I am very sorry because I do not think lung operations are minor things. And speaking about sick people and operations, we greatly hope Bob found that New Orleans was the right place and that he is on the road to rapid recovering. You simply must be back in Málaga next spring so we can take you to that Restaurant down on the beach in the edge of town and order about two dozen cigalas.

Yes, I remember Mike Lothrop very well, but I do not remember his wife. I am awfully sorry to hear about her. We never knew that they are in Torremolinos. When we get back to Spain, we will get a meal at Mike's restaurant. I must say, however, that we share your feelings about Torremolinos. The only places we like on the Coast are Málaga and Almuñécar. I have no doubt you have eaten at the Casa Curro in Málaga, where we always thought the food was excellent and not at all expensive. I think we told you that we always stayed at that Hotel while in Málaga. If you ever want to stop in Almuñécar, go to the hotel Mediterráneo. We used to eat there once in a while. The hotel de lujo in Almuñécar is the Sexi, which is pretty expensive and I do not like the name anyway. And I still remember that they had in the window of the drugstore, close by, a Fraddy of which the name is Godamit. Do let us hear how things are going on and when you are going back to Spain. Helen joins in affectionate regards to you both.

~~XXX~~
154 Thrasher Way
Fletcher Hills
El Cajon, Calif.
Sept 20, 1960

Dear Wilson:

Well, at last we have lighted (or is it "alighted" or "lit"?) Anyway we are here and have signed a lease for seven months. We had expected to stay the winter in Prescott, Ariz where the Shearers live (remember them?) but at the last minute the owner sold the house so, after spending about three weeks in Whittier (Martha Lee & family) we set out anew. First we went to Escondido ("Largest avocado packing house in the world") but could find no furnished house. Then we came to El Cajon. We were told by two realty companies "no hay nada" so I sat down to drink a cold beer and saw the ~~ad~~ ad for this house. It belongs to Navy people. He has been sent to Hawaii for a year and she has gone out for the winter. There is a sign over the front door "The Reynolds" but I think of it as The Three Bears: one bedroom has a single bed, another has a queensize and the third a kingsize. The furnishings are lovely - wall-to-wall carpeting, vacuum cleaner, disposal, 2 electric clocks, one of those newfangled gas ranges with the oven built in the wall and four top burners on a counter with cabinets underneath, a 2-door 15 ft refrigerator with a spare in the garage which opens onto the kitchen. The neighborhood is only 8 months old so the front and back yards, although planted need a lot of attention. This suits me as it gives me something to do. We are, as you probably know, only 14 miles from downtown San Diego. The Urquharts live there and came out the other day for lunch. At nearby La Jolla lives don Henrique T Heyl whom we are going to look up soon. I understand he is pretty feeble and has a very bad heart. A couple of weeks ago we were in the famous San Diego zoo when a man came up and asked: "Is your name Peasley?" It was Capt. Card. He lives near San Fisco.

Slowly, ever so slowly, the arm improves but I still have a long way to go, according to the Doctor at the Oschner Clinic in N.C. I still have to do exercises 6 or 8 times a day. It lacks a little of being straight and the Dr says it probably never will get completely straight again. I have to go to an orthopedist every month or six weeks and send a report to Oschner. I am due now so wrote Ed Faust and asked him to send me the X-rays of the arm. He sent me \$2.50 postage worth of pictures - none of the arm, I'm sure his secretary got fouled up.

The reason we wanted a furnished house is that, if the arm gets well enough (and I see no reason why it shouldnt) we are still planning on going back to Europe ~~XX~~ and take up where we left off.

And what have you been doing and to what distant places have you been gallivanting? Incidentally, we stopped in Abilene Texas long enough to have lunch with Ed Farnsworth. They have a muy lujosa ~~XX~~ casa.

Do write when you have time, we always enjoy your letters - greatly.

Afmo,

Beb
X

Antigua G, 30 Sept 1960

Dear Bob and Mary:

What a surprise to get a letter from you postmarked El Cajon, California. I was expecting one from Zamboanga or Papeete, but not El Cajon (which region by the way, conozco coma la palma de mi mano). If I had enough money to live in California, by the way, I would go to Sta Barbara, my favorite town. Far enough away from Los Angeles - I would not want to be any nearer, and an excellent climate for tropical plants. It has always been a horticultural Mecca.

But you are signed up for seven months in El Cajon! Well, you ought to be able to live on avocates pretty cheaply - the growers this year have only been getting 6 to 8 cents a lb. I know the packing house at Escondido when I was there a couple of years ago they were shipping seven carloads of Fuertes per day. Which reminds me of the poor guy who went to my cousin the psychiatrist and said Doc, you've got to save me. I'm going crazy. And my cousin asked, what's the matter? And he said I just can't take it any more. I do nothing but make decisions. And Doc said What do you mean? And he said I stand down at the end of that chute in the avocado packing house and all day long the avocados come rolling down and I have to pick out the big ones and put them on one side and the little ones on the other. All day long; nothing but decisions, decisions, decisions!

Too bad your arm improves so slowly. We have just got Helen's leg out of a cast, after five weeks. She broke a tendon in her right ankle. You say your arm may never get completely straight again, but if the curve is at the right side it may not interfere at all with your membership in the Society of Hoisting Engineers which Dinty Moore organized in Sta Marta.

Boy, things down this way - well, I see them as through a glass, darkly. I enclose a news letter from Charley Averre, assuming you do not receive this regularly. I do not. This is the first copy I have seen; Mark Palmer brought it to me a couple of days ago, just after he had signed off the payroll. He has joined the colony near the airport in Guatemala City - Bump has bought a house there, Taillon has rented one and Mack has owned one for a long time. If Charley's only solution is for us to grow two dollar fruit I am afraid the future does not look too bright. You probably know Bill van Diepen has gone to Boston to coordinate Research and Production and Johnny Silver has taken over Tiquisate. I hear that the idea of giving the Tiquisate farms to nationals is not too popular; they say they can make no money because of the blowdowns and would go into beef cattle. Just got a letter from Tommy Grieve at Quepos; one of old henchmen. He is being dropped next month. Walter Turnbull writes that when the Cubans dispatched the gringos they took off all their clothes and stripped them of every cent. But I must say Fidel couldn't do anything better than to make such a fool of himself as he is making in New York.

Well, maybe we will meet next year at the Casa Curro in Malaga for a good meal or maybe you will end up by joining the colony at the airport in Guatemala City. Either one will be satisfactory, tho I rather lean toward the Casa Curro and those sigalas you get on the beach - I forget the name of the restaurant. But I can find it very easily and would like to do so.

Helen joins in affectionate regards.

154 Thrasher Way
Fletcher Hills
El Cajon, Calif
Oct. 25, 1960

Dear Wilson:

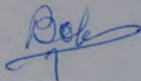
Time marches on and another winter/ (I hope approaches. that this isnt the one of our discontent). A year ago we had just moved into Villa Santa Ana in Rincon de la Victoria. If I had the months there to live over again there is only one change I'd make - I'd ALWAYS put a bath mat beside the tub.... which reminds me; I went to an orthopedist in San Diego a short time ago for a periodic checkup. He agreed with the exercises I am now doing 6/8 times a day but added another which I call Wadding Words, or The News In A Nutshell. As the name implies, it consist in taking divers sheets of newspapers and wadding them into as small messes as possible. Incidentally, the doctor told me that, taking into account my age and the battering that the right arm has undergone, the recovery, as far as it ever will recover, will be complete in about two more YEARS.

Prices come high in California. The other day we read an ad about a ~~two bedroom~~ three bedroom house for sale in a nice locality so we went to see it. It really was lovely and the view - overlooking all El Cajon - was magnificent. But we left on tiptoe when we learned that the price - unfurnished - was \$60,000. But listen to this: I had the bad luck to break a front tooth and went to a dentist who repaired the damage in two half-hour sittings; at a cost of NINETY-THREE DOLLARS!!!

The Urquharts live in S.D. and we see them from time to time. Sometime ago we went through Tijuana (what happened to that first "a") and on down 75 miles south to Ensenada. The drive is very pretty and we liked Ensenada. Tomorrow we are going on an all-day trip through the fruit and vinyard (are they the same ?) country around Julian, Ramona, etc.

What is the latest about the School? I'll never, never lose my interest in that wonderful institution, despite a letter I saw in Time from Bill Paddock stressing the fact (?) that the school is now entirely free and apart from the UFCO. What a wonderful job of bitching up the school he's done.

Love from both of us to both of you,



Antigua, 30 Oct 1960

Baboso, wat you talking about? As our friends in Jamaica would put it, no be jam fool. I suspect they must have given you free cocktails to entice you out to see that \$60,000 house. And do you know where you are at, as Louis Wms used to write (and then tell me I couldnt use the English language). Well, some yrs ago they took a lot of folks like you and Mary out to the region of El Cajon; big new subdivsion. And the salesman said, when we get the water piped into this tract, and a few good families established, this is going to be a beautiful place. And I guy alongside said, "Yes the same is true of Hell".

And one and one only front tooth cost you \$93 U S dollars. Now old Maria got 42 (I believe that is the number, aint it) made here in Antigua for \$35 Quetzales, each Quetzal being the equivalent at present writing of one U S buck.

So dont be no jam fool. Jackass no blong in hoss race. Come down to Mexico, Michoacan or Jalisco or the region around the lower slopes of the volcano Orizaba, and get a nice little house for about \$12,000 U S Cy, and hire a servant. Reminds me of my first arrival at Veracruz, and had just my suitcase into the room, when there was knock on the door and a little girl was standing there with one foot on the other, and she asked, giggling, Do you want your clothes washed, or anything?

Or you can build a house for about \$10,000. Only dont let the so-called plumbers do what they have just done to me. I turned on the faucet which said H, and then the one which said C. And the plumber explained: H stands for Helada, and C for Caliente. Well, that's the way it stands today.

You ask about EAP. It is being run by Dows and Bill Paddock as far as I can see. They take nothing but bachilleres. This last June they took about 75 of which at the end of the first semester, I understand 46 are still on the campus. I dont know how many will be graduated, after 5 semesters more. Bill has announced in print that anybody from Point Barrow, Estado de Alaska hasta Tierra del Fuego can apply for admission and will be accepted if he can (1) speak the Spanish lingo, (2) has a high school diploma, and (3) can pass the new entrance exams. Of course I am not in favor of the gringos and the Canadians and the Argentines, the Portuguese and the Greeks (as the song says); I was interested in holding down to our original formula (a native born citizen of a Spanish-speaking tropical American republic). Why take the brasileiros; they have fine schools of their own. Why take the puertorriqueños; they already have too many schools and good ones. Now the program is to put in the accelerated course; this will be brought up the mtg of the Board of Trustees at NYC on 21 Nov pxmo futuro. The accelerated course has as its objective to cut down vacation time, give enough classroom hours in three calendar yrs to meet the requirements of 4 calendar yrs under the old US system; and then our boys can go up to the US and get a Master's in one yr.

In my opinion, what we need is Jeff Coolidge and Martin Connelly back on the job. UFCo has announced that it is thru with EAP, but Bill has got Boston to agree that ~~that~~ will continue financial support, taping off, for 3 yrs so as to give Bill time to get outside money; and he has hired a NY firm, Marks and Lunév. to do the job.

side of the page to quote Jimmy Morre, Dinty's son, when Dinty had living in a two-room house Panama Canal Zone style which Mr Rowe had decided was the thing for Armuelles. Mr Rowe and I met young Jimmy, about 7 or 8 yrs old, coming down the sidewalk. Jimmy said "My Rowé, I am going to get onna great big ship and get the Hell out of here". And Mr Rowe said, "Why,, Jimmy?" And Jimmy replied "There's too Goddam much bulla up there in our house".

154 Thrasher Way
Fletcher Hills
El Cajon, Calif
February 18, 1961

Dear folks:

I've been waiting to write until our plans had somewhat gelled. Now we have confirmation of our car (another M-Benz) in Stuttgart the latter part of May so we shall leave here about the first of April to see Farron and her children in Memphis and families in Alabama and Boston. On Tuesday of next week a freighter of the Hamburg-American line will call here in S.D. and we're going down to look her over because a sister ship is scheduled to sail for Germany from NY in early May and if we like the ship we see next week we'll try for reservations on the other from NY. In any case we much prefer freighters to the big liners.

I'm sure you must have seen in Time Bill Paddock's pointing out in no uncertain manner that the UFCO now has nothing whatsoever to say about the School. Shades of the Good Old Day of the Past!!! I suppose you keep pretty well in touch with the school still. How are things? Someone wrote that Dave Cloward is teaching there. Is this true? I know that Dave often spoke of teaching when he retired.

This is langosta season in Baja Calif and they are very cheap. Next week we are going down the coast with Don and Lilli Urquhart to bring some back.

What is the dope on that hush-hush air field in the vicinity of ~~Kakala~~ Retalhuleu? The papers here mention activity there but don't seem to know just what it is all about.

Have been having a lot of trouble with my teeth. A couple of weeks ago they pulled almost all my lowers, including an impacted wisdom tooth that had to be sawed out of the jawbone. Somewhat rough.

I remember that when you went to Venezuela a couple of years ago I mentioned the possibility of bringing some orchids back for me. Do I owe you any money????

Don and Lilli just walked in so I'll stop. Our best to you both.

Afmo

Bob

Antigua, Guatemala, 26 Feb 1961

Dear Bob and la niña María:

Yours of the 18th has just come as we say in Florida. I wonder if you got my last letter - the mails have not been working very well recently. At the risk of repetition I will give you a few items of news, after saying how glad I am that you are heading back toward Europe pretty soon. One reason I am glad is that this item seems to confirm that your arm is in pretty good shape again. Helen and I have been planning to go back to Spain in May but I begin to doubt that we can make it; too many obligations on our hands, right here in Guatemala. But things may break in the right direction for the Spanish summer, in which case we will limit ourselves to seeing a lot of Spain, over again, and perhaps a side trip into southern France.

About the air field near Retalhuleu; I really don't know very much but the President sent down a batch of journalists to see what it is all about, due to the tremendous row which was being raised over in Cuba, where it was claimed it was being prepared as a base for an air invasion of Cuba. It sounds to me as though it is a good long landing strip which could be used for military purposes, and that is the sum total of the matter.

Yes, I read Bill Paddock's note in TIME about EAP. The background is that UFCO has told EAP it is getting a divorce, and at the start they wanted to stop giving us money ya ya. Then Bill went to Boston and told them they couldn't just drop us like a hot potato, so they agreed to taper off, giving the school \$200,000 this yr, \$150,000 next yr, then \$100,000 and then stop, it being agreed that in the meantime the school would get outside funds. EAP has authorized \$67,000 to the firm Marts and Lundy of NY, fund raisers, and Bill has asked the US govt for \$389,000 this yr for betterments. I don't know what will come of all this, but I do know what I would do: hold expenses down to not more than \$50,000 more than in my time, and believe UFCO will swing back into the picture and cover the deficit as they used to do. But it isn't going to work that way, I feel sure.

Bill is determined to put the school on the University level and prepare the boys so they can go to the USA and enter as post grads, getting an M Sc in one yr. I do not think most members of the Board of Trustees favor this any more than I do. What Latin America needs are well trained vocational agriculturists; we have enough facultades de agronomia already and we have the whole USA for that sort of training, cheaper than we can do it at Zamorano.

I am sure you know Paco Sierra went back to La Lima research. Walter Fick quit and went to his farm not long ago. Doc Peruga the vet quit and went to Nicaragua. Memo Herrera leaves this month and goes back to Costa Rica. You doubtless know that Morcillo has cancer of the lungs and is not expected to live long - though he is not supposed to be aware of his condition.

I did bring some orchids from Venezuela - they were given to me by the Fundación Mendoza for which I worked - but they have not done at all well here, too cold for them. If and when you settle down I will see that you have some good stuff to start with, provided you settle in the right climate. I wish we could hope to meet you in Madrid this summer.

Ever yrs

ESCUELA AGRICOLA PANAMERICANA

APARTADO 93

TEGUCIGALPA, HONDURAS
CENTRO AMERICA

Antigua Guatemala, 2 March 1961

Dear Bob:

Hugh goes back to Florida tomorrow, and he will (I hope) take with him a small carton of orchids for you. The Plant Quarantine permit is in the carton, but it remains to be seen tomorrow if they will stop the shipment on the grounds we do not have an export permit. The latter meant a day's hard work in the City.

I hear that Bowman Crandall has already gone up to see you about the kenaf business. I have a reservation on AVIATECA to fly to Miami on Friday 17 March, arrival at Miami somewhere around six or seven p.m. I think I will go down to Homestead to look around that region with John over the week end. Monday morning at the Everglades Hotel in Miami to start action with the mtgs of the Caribbean Region, ASHS. Hugh and I have been discussing things and have about decided that I will go up to Gainesville after the mtsg, about the 26th or 27th, and probably visit the Glen Saint Mary Nurseries and so on. I shall be seeing you anyway at Miami, I am sure, or on the Grand Tour of the Caribbean Region which includes Belle Glade I understand.

If you get the orchids, they are all natives and included are two plants of what you call the brown Cattleya, E. aurantiaca. I am not labelling the plants because it aint worth while; your friend would lose the labels in two weeks and then blame me for sending the wrong things.

Ever yours,

January 27

[1963-65]

Dear friends -

I have not written for a long time because there has been so much uncertainty. At last things are beginning to jell. I told you about buying two lots high atop a hill - rather, a knoll - with a beautiful view of mountains, canyons and tremendous boulders on all sides. On one of these lots (which we think is the better) we are about to build a home. As a matter of fact, last week the lot was bulldozed, and they have started the foundations. After more than five years of nomadic and largely out-of-suitcase living, this is going to be a wonderful realization.

The house will be ranch type and will snuggle against the ground. It will have slightly more than 2,000 square feet. The attached double garage will have one of those gadgets - I don't know what you call them - whereby, on pushing a button inside the car, the garage door will open, thereby eliminating the necessity for getting out of the car to open the door.

There will be three bedrooms, each with its own bath - two on one side of the house and one on the other. There will be a modern kitchen with double wall ovens, dishwasher, disposer, etc., etc. There will also be a desk for Mary and, above it, shelves for her multitudinous cookbooks.

The living room, bedrooms and hall will have wall-to-wall carpeting, while the kitchen, dining room and family room will have vinyl floor covering. Incidentally, the family room will have an open beamed ceiling and birch walls, with an old brick fireplace - and off the family room there will be a roofed patio. We are also going to have a separate utility room, with washer, dryer, broom closet, etc.

We hope you will all come to visit us, and the welcome mat will always be outside the front door.

And now to things and people other than the Beasleys.

Dear Wilson - It was extremely nice to receive your last letter, even though it was quite a while ago. I hope things are about straightened out at the School. That so-and-so came damned near ruining it and, as you and I both know, his ideas were a far cry from those on which the School was originally founded and which you so competently carried out. I am very optimistic that, with Bert Mueller there, the situation will return to that originally envisioned by Samuel Zemurray.

So you spend much time in Antigua, or do you spend most of your time at Gainesville?

We still hope to make one more trip to Spain, but that will have to wait until we get settled in our house. We wouldn't stay very long - just revisit some places we loved and see some old friends. From what we hear, prices are rising astronomically since the rush of tourists to the Costa del Sol.

afm

Bob

Beasley

145 West Hill Ave

Esccondido, Calif.

July 4, 1963

Dear folks:

I am making this another of those round-robin letters because what I have to say is as much - or as little - interest to each.

I may have told you that we plan on leaving here about August 2 for Fresno, where we will visit a day or two with Martha Lee and family and then proceed to Gallup, New Mexico, to see a part (August 10/11) of the great Intertribal Indian get-together, which is quite famous and which is the reason for our traveling at the height of the hot period.

We have been wavering as to where to go from Gallup, but have finally decided to go directly to New Orleans, where I can go to the Ochsner Clinic. The local ^{proctologist} ~~proctologist~~ thinks I may have a rectal fistula which may require another operation - the ^{second} ~~second~~ within a year - God forbid!

I think and fear that I am becoming a victim of Parkinson's disease. The local internal medicine doctor is giving me medicine to be taken every four hours, but after about three of these, I am so sleepy that I am about to fall asleep in my chair while watching the news on TV. At any rate, I want to get the whole damned situation cleared up before I go to see my family, Farron, Whit, and Mary's family.

If, as I hope, the doctors say that an operation is not entailed and that my situation will permit it, we plan on making a final trip to Europe in the spring. We will go by Ireland and thence to Stockholm and Copenhagen - then to Stuttgart to get a new, and undoubtedly our last - Mercedes Benz. We will proceed from Germany through Switzerland and France to Spain for a few weeks and then come back to the States and to Escondido, which we think is ideal.

Here in July, the days are quite warm (in the 80's), but the temperatures go down to the 50's at night.

We are looking around at various houses offered for sale, but in reality I think we shall end up by building on one of the two lots which we bought on the outskirts of Escondido.

Our neighbors and other people whom we have met here have been perfectly delightful, and we like everything about Escondido, even though a traffic cop gave me a ticket for speeding the other day - my first.

We see the Urquharts about once a week. Don just had an operation for hernia, but is out of the hospital and doing fine.

We were sorry to learn of Pete Wetterhall's death. We always considered him a good friend, and we never failed to visit him when in New Orleans.

My diabetes seems to be under control. I have never found a trace of sugar in my urine, which I test three times weekly.

Should any of you write us during August and September, please send it to Martha Lee: Mrs. H. J. Olivier, 1011 East Cambridge Street, Fresno 4, California.

Dear Dr. Popenoe: I don't know whether you are in Gainesville or Guatemala, but I am sending this to Gainesville, feeling sure that if you are not there, it will be forwarded. There is a possibility that on our return from the east, we may make a trip by auto down into Guatemala sometime in October or November. Will you be there then?

ROBERT M. BEASLEY

Route 3 - Box 527-C
Escondido, Calif.,
30 August, 1965.

Dear Wilson:

The other day Marian Clason sent me the clipping from La Prensa about you and your house AND Maria. In general, I thought it quite good and it gave me a hefty lift. And how is your health? Mine is fair. I have diabetes (a mild case) and have to take digitalis daily for my heart. Some months back I was visiting my older daughter, Martha Lee, in Fresno. One night, rushing down the stairs (an appurtenance to which I am not accustomed, I slipped and fell --- broken right collarbone. The orthopaedic surgeon botched the job and instead of healing as it should, it healed with one end of the bone on top of the other. It gives me trouble - especially if I try to sleep on my right side - which is where I have always preferred. If that were not enough :- about six weeks ago I got up in the night and not wanting to disturb Irene, I didnt turn on the light and stumbled over my slippers and fell. Result: a cracked left wrist and a badly torn tendon in the shoulder which still gives me trouble..... But enough of the jeremiad.

I am sure you know this part of southern California. It is only 30 Minutes to downtown San Diego, so we have the advantage of living in the country (which we like) and yet readily accessible to a city (600,000 plus). We are not in the city proper but on the outskirts and can be in downtown Escondido in about eight minutes. Our house, which Mary and I started, sits atop of a hill with a 360 degree view of mountains, canyons and huge, weather-beaten boulders I have had the land landscaped (that isnt very good, is it?) but the soil is nothing but decomposed granite, which doesnt make for favorable growing conditions. But even worse than that is our chief problem: the rabbits. They - cottontails and jacks - eat up the flowers faster than I can plant them. I have tried three classes of repellants but none have deterred the visitors so, when we return from our trip to the East and Southeast I think we shall get a dog - much as I dislike doing it.

ROBERT M. BEASLEY

But we have one source of great pleasure and that is the birds. From the rafters of the patio we have suspended two hummingbird feeders. To these come hummingbirds all day long. At times there are as many as twelve fluttering about. To these feeders also come house finches and a pair of orioles (the male is beautiful - all orange and black). On the floor of the patio we have a feeder with bird seed and here come an endless string of catbirds plus lark sparrows, California thrashers and the beautiful, topknotted California quail (they are our favorites). The other day I counted 24 of them marching in pairs across our back garden. We also have one road-runner but we haven't been able to get him to come up and eat. All of the feeders are visible from the breakfast area. As a result it often takes us an hour to eat breakfast.

Earlier I spoke of our trip eastward. One of my sisters recently ~~died~~ died and two other members ~~xxx~~ of my family are in bad shape so I thought it better to make this trip before it is too late. We plan on going from here to Grand Canyon, Oak Creek Canyon and Monument Valley - none of which Irene has seen - then through the Ozarks to Memphis, where my younger daughter - Farron -, lives. From there to Hopkinsville, Ky. where Buck (84 yrs) lives. Then to Massachusetts to visit Irene's people and Mary's family. Next south to Alabama by way of Williamsburg, Va. From Alabama to Louisiana to see UFCO *hasbeens and then through Texas (Lic. Maverick and Ed Farnsworth), and so back to Escondido. That will give me a belly full of traveling for quite some time - unless we make one more trip to my beloved Spain.

Well, I have babbled along enough, and furthermore it is almost time for the mailman, so will close. Do write when you have time to the above address. I have arranged with our only neighbor to forward mail.

Most sincerely,

Bob
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Route 3 - Box 527-C
Escondido, California
30 November, 1965

Dear Wilson:

I am sorry that I have not sooner answered your letter of 8 September but we have been on a rather extended trip (2 months) and have just recently returned. We went to Alabama, where I was born and raised; 10 days on the Florida beaches with a niece who has a cottage near Panama City, Memphis, where my younger daughter lives; Kentucky to see Buck; then Massachusetts, where Irene's folks are; and New Hampshire. The latter, with its mountains, lakes and its undescrivable autumn foliage was perfectly beautiful. We flew back non-stop from Boston To Los Angeles and from L.A. to Fresno to see my other daughter. The day we flew back the weather was absolutely perfect. The sun shining on the snow atop the Rockies made a beautiful sight and when we passed, mile after mile after mile, over the Painted Desert and along the Grand Canyon, although we were flying at 31,000 feet, one felt that he could reach down and touch the earth..... We traveled about 6,200 miles without the slightest hitch or delay - and then when we got back to San Diego and got a Yellow cab to bring us home (25 miles away) the damn thing broke down three times and finally gave up the ghost about half a mile from home. Fortunately a road crew was working at that point and the foreman kindly brought us the rest of the way in his pick-up..... but it was nice to get home; even if we did find that the damned rabbits had eaten more than half of our flowers. A week later it started to rain and rain like the devil for a week. It was the wettest week in Escondido in forty years. Our front and back yards, still not fully protected by cover crops, were nothing but a series of gullies.

When we were in Alabama I went one night to a football game between two local negro high schools. The game was very close and near the end the referee penalized the home team 15 yards. Moans and groans went up from the crowd. One cheer-leader, overcome by anguish, shouted in a loud voice: "That stinks". The referee picked up the ball and marched off an additional 15 yards and, turning to the stands, called out: "How do THAT smell?"

One of our neighbors the other day brought us a bag of what he called zapotes (actually he called them zapotas). They were a far cry from what we knew as zapotes in the Tropics, but they were very tasty and not as deadly sweet as the Tropical product. They have a very thin light-green skin (one can eat it), and the fruit is yellowish-greenish. Instead of one shiny big seed, this has one much smaller central seed and several minor ones, probably not viable. What could it be???

I know that you must be enjoying your work on temperate fruit culture. Does this involve a lot of traveling? And speaking of traveling, we have been talking about going to Spain next Spring but I am of two minds: I don't know whether to go then or wait another year in order to get our grounds established.

Must stop now and head for San Diego to fulfill that delightful assignment: Going to the dentist.

Most sincerely,

Bob

P.S. I have a vague idea that your street is no longer called Calle de la Nobleza.
If so, what is the present name?