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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.

MAJOR C COLLINS
RT 1, BOX 251
TIFTON, GA. 31794

March 15, 1972

Dr. Wilson Popenoe,
Antigua, Guatemala,
Central America.

Dear Dr. Popenoe;

The writer of this letter is author of a weekly column, "HORTICULTURE - NOTES AND COMMENT", which appears in four South Georgia papers. I do not get any remuneration for this. This is not a typical 'Garden Column', but one that hopefully, might get general readers interested in the subject of horticulture, ~~by general readers.~~

I have, from time to time, given brief sketches of outstanding persons in one way or other, involved in horticulture, as Swingle, Rock, Fortune, Fairchild, to name some. As an outstanding person in this science, and having contact with many if not all of the great of the immediate past, it would be most interesting and greatly appreciated, to have a sketch of you, and your observations. Whatever you choose to write, do not let the limited space of my column be any handicap, for I will gladly run it in as many instalments as is required. That is, if you will consider to do such a sketch.

I might say here, that, coming from one in the present, it will be a very great contribution.

Thank you for whatever consideration that you may give this request.

Sincerely

Major C Collins
Major C. Collins

MAJOR C COLLINS
RT 1, BOX 251
TIFTON, GA. 31794

May 6, 1972

Dr. Wilson Popenoe,
Antigua, Guatemala.
Central America.

Dear Dr. Popenoe;

I am indeed grateful for yours of April 9, 1972. I must say though, that you are far too generous in your kind remarks about this amateur horticulturist. I have learned enough about this subject to know how little that I know. But to me, it is a most fascinating subject to read about, and to work with. I do not have to remark that plants become personalities when one plants, and watches its growth on into maturity.

Please permit me to mention that my father had many fruit trees on the place where I was born, near Atlanta. It was a family custom to eat apples at bedtime during the winter. He shipped his surplus apples to Atlanta markets in barrels. At an early age, I vividly recall being the power at the end of a sprayer outfit, transported through the orchard in a wagon body. I also recall seeing some branches on apple trees with leaves some different from those on all the other limbs on a given tree. Thinking surely, this must be a diseased limb, it was promptly lobbed off. I still wince to think of the bud sports that obviously were forever destroyed.

Relative to the enclosures. The feature article about the Collinses, I feel sure, you will perhaps, get a little of the ideas and thoughts of us. The account of the arboretum and the lack of follow through by Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College, in my opinion, an example of poor administration and leadership. At the last conference with the President of that college, he remarked "you do not expect Professor _____ to get his hands dirty, do you? He should have hired help". I could think of no civil answer to that stupid remark. I could have cited him on the many scientists at the Coastal Plain Experiment Station, right next to the college, and how ALL of them indeed do get their hands dirty, and that's the reason that scientific advancements are made. But why argue with such a person.

He, of course, would not know of the many hardships of those greats of plant exploring of the past. Yet he enjoys benefits this fine day by their personal sacrifice and comforts of a President's home that he now enjoys; the fruits and vegetables, the ornamentals, and the like.

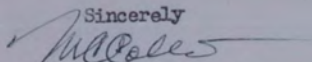
Your remarks of the influence of the teacher on the pupil, I can easily understand. I was one of the fortunate to have graduated under Dr. M. D. Collins, who was one of the greatest, if not the greatest- I believe that he was the greatest educators this state has ever produced. He is no kin that I know of, so I can speak freely. We learned much more than the text book part, and that is character. And really fighting for a just cause.

Mrs Collins was a teacher of Home Economics until she resigned a few years ago. It had gotten to where classes were much too large; administration was exceedingly poor, and she aptly stated it by saying that she just could not face those students knowing that she could not give them the learning in this subject that they should know, and should have. She holds a Masters degree in Home Economics, so as one pestered by poor absorption, I can derive benefits, but even so, I must take large amounts of vitamins also. I am paying for poor eating habits as a bank clerk, who ate after two o'clock, and the food had been on the steam table until about all that was left was the minerals in the pot-liquor.

Back to horticulture. One thing that I am trying to do here is to demonstrate that many fruits can be grown in South Georgia door-yard plantings, contrary to the belief that we are between the sub-tropical and the temperate climates, and fruits cannot be grown.

Thank you again, for your wonderful response to my letter.

Sincerely



Major C. Collins

MAJOR C. COLLINS
RT 1, BOX 251
TIPTON, GA. 31746

FRUIT SPECIES AND VARIETY INVENTORY

APPLES

Collins June
Baladi
Willis
Ben Hill
Caroline Hopkins*
Muz Alma*
Kil Alma*
Granny Smith*
Shockley
Mollie Delicious
Barry

Pink Pear
Cauley
July Red
Saint Clair
Prince
Marchant
Yates
Hollin
McLemore
Red Beauty

*Warm Climate Varieties

CITRUS

Satsuma
Meyer Lemon
Duncan Grapefruit
Citrus taiwanica
Ichang Lemon
Thomasville citrangequat
Sinton citrangequat
Sacaton citrumelo
Troyer citrange
Carrizo citrange
Rusk citrange
Hong Kong kumquat
Hindii kumquat
Ponkin mandarin
Citradia
Yuzu

Triphasia
Bael fruit (aegele marmelos)
Matsu daidai
Kunenbo mandarin
Changsha tangerine (actually
mandarin)
Yuzentine (hybrid)
Yuzendarin (hybrid)
Timkat mandarin
Calamondin
King mandarin
Imperial grapefruit
Everina buxifolia (Box orange)
Natsudaidai (Bloomsweet grapefruit)
Poly. 8C-7-23
Poly. 8C-5-26
Louisiana Sweet Orange

PEARS

Mericourt
Moonglow
Magness
Baldwin
Princess
Dumont
Casey
Anding Special

Devoe
VB-3
Anjou S.
Anding Bartlett
Triumph
Eldorado
Monterrey.

FIGS

Celeste
 Brunswick
 Discovery
 Guilbeau. (Extra large fruits)
 King

Large Whitish-Green Fruited
 Variety - Variety Unknown
 Fontenet
 Capri. (For rootstock)

PERSIMMONSOriental (Diospyros Kaki)

Okame
 Fuyu
 Hanagoshō
 Seedlings

Diospyros Lotus. Native to N.
 China and Korea
 Tamopan - D. K. K. I

Native USA (Diospyros virginiana)

John Rick
 Darden
 Davis
 Burke

Chickasaw
 Ennis
 Diospyros Texas. (This is a small
 leaved variety native to Central
 Texas.)

MISCELLANEOUS FRUITS

Jujube
 Hybrid American Chestnut X Am. Chinquapin
 Loquat
 Pawpaw

Pomegranate (seedless variety)
 Dwarf chinquapin
 Hawthorne
 Tea (Thea sinensis)

THESE ARE NATIVE PLANTS, BUT NOT ON THE NATURE TRAIL, BUT IN THE YARD AND
 ADJACENT AREAS.

Red Bud
 Beauty berry (Callicarpa)
 Holly (Ilex decidua ?)
 Pitcher Plant
 Trailing hibiscus
 Rhododendron
 Pinckneyea
 Atamasco lily (Zephyr lily) two kinds

 Gordonia - This is a Chinese species

Grancy (Grandsir) Graybeard
 Ash
 Gallberry (Ilex glabra)
 Turk's Cap Lily - Native
 Azaleas
 Ladies tresses (Spiranthes)
 Golden Club (Orontium)
 Ferns - Two or more species

Major C. Collins
 Route 1, Box 251
 Tifton, Georgia 31794

Antigua, Guatemala 6 July 1972

Mr Major C. Collins
Tifton, Ga.

Dear Major:

Your interesting letter of May 6 - just two months ago - has been on my desk for some days, and more recently I have received a letter from Mr Gibson of Portland, Oregon, asking if he could reproduce the notes I sent you in his "North American Pomona". I have just written him that as far as I am concerned, he is welcome to do so. He sent me a copy of his "Pomona" which I find very interesting, in fact right down my alley; I like news from all sorts of people who are experimenting with all sorts of fruits. I told Mr Gibson if he thought it would be appropriate I would send him some notes about the behavior of apples, peaches and pears here in the tropics.

The printed "biography" you sent me I found fascinating, and the list of fruit varieties astounding. In my earlier years, when I was in California, I used to get the catalogue of P.J. Berkman, I believe it was, and just a few years ago we had a visit from a man, I think he came from the experiment station at Tifton, who was sent down to help us grow more and better peanuts. I "sat in" on a lecture he gave to some potential peanut growers over in San Salvador, and when the meeting broke up, I told Claw Horn, who was sort of an agricultural attaché at our Embassy, that I had never heard such a clear and useful presentation of my subject. I wish I could remember the peanut expert's name; I bet you know him.

Here I am, mightily close to the end of my active life. Sometimes I get desperate and ask myself, Among all these bottles of pills I see on the shelf at the drug store isn't there a pill which can keep me at work ten years longer? And then I calm down and say, The only way the work can be continued is through training young Latin Americans to carry on, and that is just what we have been doing at Escuela Agrícola Panamericana for 25 years now. Only yesterday a handsome young fellow dropped in on me, with his wife and six children. He said to you remember me? Class of 1956. Well, I have a fine leaves sock farm down in Costa Rica, my home country, and my success is due to what you folks taught me at the school in Honduras.

Your letter shows me that you agree with me about teachers and teaching. Here in tropical America we place too much importance on text book teaching. You agree. My son, who is now Director of the Center for Tropical Agriculture at the University of Florida, went thru the College of Agriculture at Davis, California. It is a good school, one of the best in the United States I believe. (Someone has told me it is one of the five best). The day I went up to California to see him get his diploma, with a major in irrigation engineering (one of the most fields of action here in Latin America) he said to me, "Dad I could have gone through this college without even getting off the sidewalk."

We need more vocational schools. My policy was at Zamorano, as they called our school in Honduras, choose ten percent of our graduates who wanted to be soil chemists or plant pathologists or irrigation engineers and send them to the States for professional training. This program has worked well.

Best regards always.

Truly yours,

Wilson Popehoe

MAJOR C. COLLINS
RT 1, BOX 251
TIFTON, GA. 31798

October 9, 1972

Dr, Wilson Popenoe,
Antigua, Guatemala.
Central America.

Dear Dr. Popenoe;

First, please permit me to do some explaining. The past summer seemed to me, one of the worst in recent years; seemed that I could do only a few of the many things I had in mind to get accomplished. I had blamed it on the exceedingly warm temperatures- mostly in the high nineties.

About the first of September, I asked my doctor to examine me. He found a condition where heavy fluid had seeped down into the scrotum from the peritinum. He advised an operation called hydrocele, and went on to say that if allowed to go too long, it would destroy one or both testicles. He performed the operation September 18th, and found conditions worse than he had anticipated. In fact, one testicle had already been ruined, and had to be removed. He operated starting at 7:20 A.M., and I was talking with ~~some~~ another patient in the corridor when he came by later in the day. I felt no pain- in fact, I felt very good, although I had little rest the night before due to the other patient in my room snoring, and talking so loud in his sleep. Doctor allowed me to go on home so that I could get more rest that same afternoon. Everything seemed to go along nicely for a few days, then blood began to accumulate in the cavity of the operation. Then the pain really begun. I was given pain killer tablets- the first such medication even aspirin I had had in at least forty years. That upset my stomach. Finally, the accumulated blood began to seep through the suture, which greatly pleased the doctor. But it will take some time to absorb the remaining blood in the cavity.

This is all to say, that the above explains a lot as to my condition through the summer, and barely keeping ahead in writing my column, and just doing the most urgent tasks. This condition creeps up, and with no pain as a warning, although I did know that my hips would get unbearably tired, but assuming it ~~was~~ the excessive temperature.

MAJOR C. COLLINS
RT 1, BOX 251
TIFTON, GA. 31794

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Now, I find myself very weak, but should pick up fairly soon.

I had wanted to write to you and at least give some expression for the delightful letter received from you, but it just seemed that I could not accumulate myself, to use my grandmother's expression.

So, this is more of an explanation, rather than any attempt at answering your letter as it so needs to be answered.

So, I ask your indulgence until a later date, which I am hopeful won't be too long.

With kindest regards,

Sincerely
Major C. Collins
Major C. Collins

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MAJOR C. COLLINS
RT 1, BOX 251
TIFFIN, GA. 31794
U S A

July 31, 1973

Dr. Wilson Popence,
c/o Casa Popence,
Antigua, Guatemala.

Dear Dr. Popence;

I have been concerned ever since the terrible earthquake in your vicinity, lest you might have suffered physical harm, or otherwise been discomforted. On my part though, I have worked to my utmost in promoting our arboretum in Reed Bingham State Park ever since late winter, so have neglected writing as much as I would like. I have put the arboretum first, and have felt that if it succeeds, even if it is my last active effort, I would have been well repaid, for such a facility surely is needed.

I feel that after the public gets used to it, they will wonder why it was not begun long ago. And not being connected with any institution, but is the State Parks Department own project, it should do all right, for if it is neglected, the citizens can get after their state representatives and get action and finances.

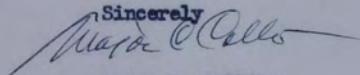
To sum it up, I am doing as little as possible just now, to regain the strength and stamina that I had expended.

One of my concerns is that of food. In the U.S., our food, especially grains are so processed that little nutrition remains. For myself, I take large amounts of vitamins and minerals, and we do not have white bread or cakes. We eat enormous amounts of fruits. But as I look around, I see so many people that show the effects of poor nutrition.

I might say here, that Juliana taught home economics, which includes nutrition. She has a master's degree, and has kept up to date, so we are fortunate.

It is my great hope that this finds you well, and in good shape.

Sincerely



Major C. Collins

MAJOR C. COLLINS
RT 1, BOX 251
TIFTON, GA. 31794

January 29, 1974

Dr. Wilson Popenoe,
Antigua, Guatemala.
Central America.

Dear Dr. Popenoe;

I had fully expected to write you long before now; it seems that they don't make days as long as they used to up here. Nor the years, for that matter.

I wanted to be sure to include my column containing Mr. Frank McGill's letter, and it is included herewith.

I have a nice note from Mrs. Catherine Sweeney (Mrs. E. C.), 4013 Douglas Road,, Coconut Grove, Florida "The Kampong". She says; Thank you so much for sending me copies of your columns, most particularly the ones referring to Dr. Fairchild and Dr. Popenoe. I'm sending the articles to Dr. Graham Bell Fairchild (Sandy), in Gainseville, Florida, as I know he will be very interested in them."

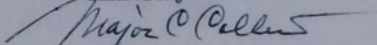
I had "^{KAMPONG}~~knowing~~" confused with the Fairchild Tropical Gardens, until she got me strait, and that she owned "The Kampong", and has continued it in the Fairchild manner.

For the past weeks, the temperature here has been much too warm- just like late spring. Mighty afraid that a hard freeze will blow down from Canada, and ruin many plants that have begun to leaf out. Fortunately, so far, the bearing age citrus trees have held their dormant condition, for which I am thankful. South Georgia usually has temperatures in the twenties during January and February, these lows coming as cold waves. Every now and then it hits a low of ten.

I suppose that Dr. Graham Bell Fairchild must be with the University of Florida, being located in Gainesville, the location of that university.

With kindest regards,

Sincerely



Major C. Collins