



Hunt Institute for Botanical Documentation
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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.

FISHER RANCH

WAYNE H. FISHER

DANA B. FISHER / PARTNERS

AUGUST FOURTEENTH

DEAR WILSON:

HOW GOOD IT WAS OF YOU TO GIVE THE ALTRUSA WOMEN SUCH A FINE EXPERIENCE IN YOUR HISTORIC HOME.. ESTHER SEEMS TO THINK IT HELPED MAKE THE TRIP WORTH WHILE. IT SURELY DID FOR HER..

ALSO SHE WAS SO HAPPY TO MEET YOUR DAUGHTER AND FELT THAT SHE WAS SUCH A MARVELOUS FINE DAUGHTER. I AM SO HAPPY THAT YOU HAVE HER WITH YOU FOR A FEW WEEKS.

ESTHER SAYS YOU ARE DOING SUCH SPLENDID THINGS FOR YOUR CHOSEN COUNTRY AND THAT YOU KEEP SO BUSY THAT YOU KEEP WELL AND HAPPY. I AM PROUD OF YOU AND YOUR EXTENSIVE KNOWLEDGE WHICH YOU ARE GIVING TO THAT PART OF THE COUNTRY. IT IS SURELY ONE OF THE GOOD NEIGHBOR POLICIES..

I JUST RETURNED FROM A CAMPING TRIP WITH DANA'S FAMILY IN THE GLORIOUS HIGH SIERRAS. IT WAS TRULY A WONDERFUL TRIP AND I CAME BACK RENEWED IN HEALTH AND SPIRIT.

MY LOVE AND BEST WISHES WILSON

Livall

LW BRANDS
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FISHER RANCH

WAYNE H. FISHER

DANA B. FISHER / PARTNERS

September 22, 1960

Dr. Wilson Popenoe
Calle la Nobleza 2
Antigua, Guatemala

Dear Wilson:

After years of traveling on other continents, Lucille Bartlett Fisher and I have decided that we should gain a better understanding of the southern portion of our own North America. So now plans are being formulated for an auto trip in January through Central America to Panama.

Recently Lucille and I flew from our Ranch to Los Angeles and were fortunate enough to have Paul and Betty as fellow passengers. Paul told me that you have now retired and have settled down in one of the old colonial mansions of Antigua. I would like to draw on your vast fund of experience in Latin America for some advice.

Lucille and I brought back from Europe the German Opel which carried us safely and fairly comfortably for 11,000 miles in Europe and Asia Minor earlier this year. That little car has real "guts" and it covered roads in Yugoslavia and Turkey which we had been advised to avoid.

We like to cover back roads in order to observe village life and farming methods and I am wondering if Central America offers suitable lodging for travelers in the rural areas. If preferable, I will buy a new Ford or Chevrolet pickup, which can subsequently be used on Fisher Ranch, and have it equipped with a small "camper". In your opinion, would the Opel or the pickup give us the safest and most effective transportation for this trip?

Also, I would welcome any suggestions you might care to make regarding the best route to follow from the Mexican border to Panama. We realize, of course, that it will probably be necessary to ship the car by boat around that missing link in the Inter-American Highway which separates Costa Rica and Panama.

A suggestion came to us from ICA Headquarters in Washington that we spend enough time in Guatemala to investigate the aid extended and

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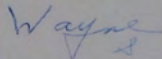
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projects sponsored by that agency. You are undoubtedly well informed regarding the American ICA activities in Guatemala and could tell us which projects are worthy of study by Lucille and me.

As we are vitally interested in farming problems of the various countries, we usually contact the Agricultural Attaches at the Embassies. In this pending trip the same system would probably be followed in order to gain added information.

You can realize from the foregoing questions and statements that Lucille and I have never lost our inquisitive approach to problems, especially those affecting people and farming abroad. So please forgive us if we bother you with requests for information to make our drive southward more effective.

Very truly yours,



WAYNE H. FISHER

WHF:es

LW BRANDS
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FISHER RANCH

WAYNE H. FISHER

DANA B. FISHER / PARTNERS

October 19, 1960

Dr. Wilson Popenoe
Pan-American School of Agriculture
Zamorano, Honduras

Dear Wilson:

Several weeks ago I dropped you a note telling of plans which Lucille (Bartlett) Fisher and I were perfecting for a drive from Los Angeles to Panama. The address which I used was one in Antigua, Guatemala, given to me by your brother Paul.

Subsequently I received a nice message from Francisco J. Hernandez, of the Washington Office of the Pan-American Union, in which he suggested that, due to our interest in agriculture, I contact you. This time I was given the address of the Pan-American School of Agriculture.

For many years Lucille and I have traveled in out-of-the-way places of Asia, Africa, Europe and South America, making a study of farming methods in developing nations. Occasionally certain researches were made for some agency of the American Government; however, on our specification that we pay our own way. The reason for our refusal to accept any semi-official status is a desire to be, say and do whatever we feel is constructive and desirable.

Last year we covered 11,000 miles in an Opel automobile, the major portion of our time being spent in Communist satellite countries and in Turkey. The Opel showed an ability to travel over very rough roads with a minimum of mechanical trouble.

We plan to start our drive into the Latin American countries in January, 1961. Naturally we would like to visit agricultural areas which are not all directly along the Pan-American Highway. We presume that smaller towns will have accommodations for Americans which are far from desirable. Of course we have learned

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Dr. Wilson Popenoe

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to adjust to poor housing and somewhat questionable food. However, a new Ford or Chevrolet pickup, equipped with a camper, could be used if such equipment seemed desirable.

So Lucille and I would greatly appreciate advice from you as to which piece of equipment - the Opel or a pickup - would be preferable for our use throughout rural Central America. Also, any information which you would give us relative to places to visit and routes to follow would be very helpful to us.

Very truly yours,

Wayne H. Fisher.

WAYNE H. FISHER

WHF:es

Antigua, Guatemala, 20 October 1960

Mr Wayne H Fisher
Blythe, California.

Dear Wayne:

Paul told me of having met Lucille and yourself on the airplane so I was expecting your letter. I shall be more than glad to help you line up your trip. If your Opel is still in good condition I would advise coming in that car, for I would not advise coming in a "camper"; too much malaria in the tropical lowlands, and there are plenty of towns along the way where you can reasonably decent accommodations.

From Mexico City you will come by Oaxaca and then to San Cristobal Las Casas, where there is a very good guest house run by a retired archeologist, Frans Blom. From there you can make Quezaltenango in Guatemala in one day, or at least Huehuetenango - both have good hotels. Then you come on to Antigua where you of course stay in our little guest house. From here you make Tegucigalpa in one day; then to Managua, Nicaragua; thence to Costa Rica where as you say you will have to take to the boats, and I would go down as far as Buenaventura, Colombia. From there you can drive to Quito if you want to; where you will probably be stuck again. In fact, if I were doing the trip I would park my car in San José, Costa Rica, and fly the rest of the way to Chile.

I can line you up as regards what you see, agriculturally and horticulturally, in Central America and northern South America. The ICA is by no means doing all the work, in fact some of us think not enough, but I know the boys and can tell you where to go, once you get here and we can talk about your interests.

You say you will not be coming before January. You better write me about the middle of December and let me tell you about the road situation; we are just ending our rainy season and the road from the Mexican border into Guatemala has been in bad shape but I am sure it will be quite passable by January.

Affectionate regards to you both.

Sincerely,

W BRANDS
F-R

FISHER RANCH

WAYNE H. FISHER

DANA B. FISHER / PARTNERS

November 16, 1960

Dr. Wilson Popenoe
Calle la Nobleza 2
Antigua, Guatemala

Dear Wilson:

I find that the Popenoes and Fishers have a very good mutual friend. Dr. Al Boyce replied to a letter of congratulation, which I sent him from Mexico, and included a very laudatory statement about you.

He wrote, "Certainly Wilson Popenoe should be a great help in this (agricultural information) and any other matters in Central America. He is easily the best informed American on all aspects of Central America." Al also told me that he had visited your home in Antigua and that your wife had written a book about the home.

Lucille and I followed the lead about the book, but always ended in a blind alley regardless of where we placed an order for the book. We would like to buy a copy, so will you please let us know the title and the name of the publisher. Thus we can be better informed about the home and the city when we reach Antigua.

Now for one last piece of information. The University of California is expanding its Citrus Experiment Station in Riverside into a top grade agricultural school and Al Boyce has been selected to head the project.

Very truly yours,

Wayne

WAYNE H. FISHER

WHF:es

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Antigua, Guatemala, 13 Dec 1960

Mr Wayne H Fisher
Route 2 Box 302
Blythe, California.

Dear Wayne:

Referring to your letter of 16 November, I am glad to know that you and Lucille are friends of Al Boyce. A pretty fine guy, says I. When Paul and I were in Riverside and had a brief chat with him, it struck me that he is the sort of man we need in our horticultural field; practical, not academic, and probably pretty dynamic.

Now to come down to your plans - and first of all, you ask about the book "The House in Antigua", written by Louis Adamic. It is out of print and I don't know how you can obtain a copy, except with luck through one of the dealers; just like my "Manual of Tropical and Subtropical Fruits", published in 1920, which is now very scarce and if and when you can find a copy it costs not less than \$35 in the U which gave my boy Hugh a chance to kid me when he got a copy in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, two years ago for the equivalent of \$1.85.

Assuming you are still planning to drive down this way early 1961, here are some suggestions, which don't cost you anything and are worth what they cost. In making recommendations, my main problem is to know how you want to live; I suppose you think a double room at \$15 a day is just about right, whereas we think \$5 is just about right. The gringos who land here in Guatemala ask about a room and the clerk says we have a very nice one with bath at \$12, and John Q. Milgust says to his wife, Mamie, ain't that fine? And Mamie says, Cheap. And they don't realize it includes three meals a day.

I won't give you any advice until you reach Mexico City. You of course come down thru Nogales and what we call the West side of interesting country. If you plan to come thru El Paso, just up into Death Valley for a couple of days and save yourselves trouble. You will find plenty of good overnight stops on the West Coast, and you will enjoy Michoacan. When you get to Mexico City you pay your money and you take your choice. We used to go Hotel de Cortés, 84 Hidalgo, in a perfectly fine old Colonial and everything fine until they joined the chain and raised it to about \$8 for a double room; now we go to the Conquistador, central, and about \$4 for a double room but you won't like it they only have two kinds of water, running and not yet. A block away is a little cafe, card enclosed, where we eat some times; very clean and very reasonable. If you go to the Cortés or elsewhere, remember that the Café Tacuba on Calle Tacuba has just about the best Mexican food you ever ate, not too much chile, and reasonable; and the Restaurant El Horreo at the lower end of the Alameda is pure Spanish and gives you a five course meal for \$1.25 and is tops. But I suppose you will fall into the hands of some tour agency and be sent to the Hotel Geneva which is just as gringo as any second class hotel in Los Angeles and I don't like oatmeal with hot milk.

Antigua, Guatemala, 13 Dec 1960

Mr Wayne H Fisher
Route 2 Box 302
Blythe, California.

Dear Wayne:

Referring to your letter of 16 November, I am glad to know that you and Lucille are friends of Al Boyce. A pretty fine guy, says I. When Paul and I were in Riverside and had a brief chat with him, it struck me that he is the sort of man we need in our horticultural field; practical, not academic, and probably pretty dynamic.

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I won't give you any advice until you reach Mexico City. You will of course come down thru Nogales and what we call the West side. Lots of interesting country. If you plan to come thru El Paso, just run up into Death Valley for a couple of days and save yourselves the trouble. You will find plenty of good overnight stops on the West Coast, and you will enjoy Michoacan. When you get to Mexico City, you pay your money and you take your choice. We used to go to the Hotel de Cortés, 84 Hidalgo, in a perfectly fine old Colonial bldg and everything fine until they joined the chain and raised the price to about \$8 for a double room; now we go to the Conquistador, very central, and about \$4 for a double room but you won't like it because they only have two kinds of water, running and not yet. A block away is a little cafe, card enclosed, where we eat some times; very clean and very reasonable. If you go to the Cortés or elsewhere, remember that the Café Tacuba on Calle Tacuba has just about the best Mexican food you ever ate, not too much chile, and reasonable; and the Restaurant El Horreo at the lower end of the Alameda is pure Spanish and gives you a five course meal for \$1.25 and is tops. But I suppose you will fall into the hands of some tour agency and be sent to the Hotel Geneve which is just as gringo as any second class hotel in Los Angeles and I don't like oatmeal with hot milk.

Oh, and before I take you out of Mexico City and before I forget it, be prepared to pay the mordidas. Our last friend who came thru said they totalled \$45 from California to Guatemala. The cop whistles you down; he says, want you see that this is a two way street and you are only turning one way? And you say, Caramba, you are right, and I know I have to pay the appropriate fine, but I am in a hurry to get to Guatemala; and you hand him a Chesterfield and say dont you think you could arrange this without my going to the police station? How about two dollars? My boy Hugh spent three days sleeping in his jeep at Nopales; he had got his papers two days before in L A and they told him there was a new law and his papers were not valid; and he said, Well I will just sleep here until they pass another law. And after three days on hamburgers they let him in. Two bucks would have solved the problem.

From Mexico City you will go thru Puebla. If you are in no hurry, stop over a day at the Hotel Colonial. Good and not expensive and there are a lot of interesting Colonial sights in Puebla. Then you roll south and you go through Atlixco, where the Fuerte aguacate from and lots of other aguacates. Stop there an hour or so and look at the fine little homes among aguacates and other fruit trees. Then you go on to Tehuacan; good resort hotel, not expensive. I would sleep there. Not much to see but famous its mineral water and you can fill up for the next couple of days.

From Tehuacan you will go on to Oaxaca, where you sure want to stop over to see the ruins of Monte Alban and Mitla, and the little Museum in which they have the wonderful pre-Columbian jewels from Monte Alban. Also, the valley of Oaxaca is agriculturally very interesting. There is a good tourist hotel in Oaxaca.

From here you roll down to Tehuantepec, where I spent a lot of time 40 years ago. The valley is full of fruit trees and good crops and I hear there is now a good hotel there - there wasnt in my day. I remember I was laid up with flu, and the room boy came in to sweep out for the first time in a week. I had bought a gallon California ripe olives and was living on them - the grub being bad. He looked in the can and asked, What are these? And I said, Those my boy are California cherries. And he sampled one, spat it out on the floor, and said in disgust, They are spoiled.

From Tehuantepec you go to San Cristobal Las Casas, at 7500 feet, and you stay at the guest house of my good friend Frans Blom, a retired anthropologist; and you tell him I sent you. You will like this town and the Indians and their agriculture roundabout; you are getting into the real Indian country (Guatemala being it); and when you leave San Cristobal Las Casas you will probably drive on into Guatemala, maybe stopping overnight at Huehuetenango or maybe pushing ahead to Quezaltenango, where the Hotel Bonifaz is excellent. Best grub in almost the whole country, and get a room with a fireplace because the elevation is 7600 and it is cold at night. This is a fine agricultural and horticultural region; you will want to look at it carefully.

From Quezaltenango you head toward Antigua. If it is Thursday or Sunday, you want to go to Chicastenango, where the market and the pagan rites in the Catholic church are famous. If you are a day ahead of time, you can stay at the Magan Inn, the best tourist hotel in Guatemala (about \$12 per day per person with meals) or you can go to the Caravansary a half day drive, and quite allright. We go to the Caravansary or course.

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There is nothing to see in Chichicastenango except on Thu and Sun from 11 a m to 2 p m; outside of those hours the town is dead. You should see the market and church if possible; and if you want to, you can drive from Quezaltenango in the morning, see the sights, and drive on down to Lake Atitlan (less than 2 hrs) to sleep at the Rancho Grande. Run by Millie, a good friend of ours. The lake is beautiful, positively beautiful, and you should hang around until you get a good look at it, depending on the weather. Millie will only charge you six bucks a day per capita, with meals, and her place is clean.

Then when you get ready to leave the lake, you go over the mountains and some of the biggest chasms you ever saw in your life, and you stop and take a look in the wonderful old church at Patzum and then you come on over to Antigua, have a hot bath and settle down in our guest house to sleep for about 16 consecutive hours. And by the way, from Quezaltenango or Chichicastenango or even Panajachel (Lake Atitlan) send a telegram to Wilson Ramos, Antigua, marked "Doble" which means Urgente saying "Llegaremos mañana" or whatever day it is going to be, so Maria can double the usual quantity of bean soup.

When we get you lined up here, and you have seen the many interesting things in this region, you can figure out how much farther south you want to go; and as for myself, it wouldn't be far. But that is up to you, and we know the country from here south pretty well and can help you make your plans.

As I wrote you, I certainly would not advise your planning to sleep out of nights; if you follow some such schedule as I have outlined you can sleep comfortably and eat reasonably well at no great expense, and as I wrote you, I am a little afraid of sleeping in the car in the tropical lowlands because of malaria. What you might profitably do, is bring along a couple of mosquito nets, big ones, which you could hang over your beds if necessary in the hot country; but you will not be in much hot country until you get here. And tell your doctor to give you a bottle of the newest and best remedy for tourist's disease, known also as the Tropical Tropical Trots and Montezuma's Revenge. You will probably get it; it is not fatal; but it may require you to lay off travelling for two or three days, somewhere along the line. Remember that for winter in the highlands of Mexico and C A you will want about the same clothes as for winter in So Cal; remember that we are not "dressy" down here, but we don't like Waikiki shirts too well and Latins don't think nice women should wear peddle-pushers or even pants or whatever you call them. The proper dress for folks you and us is: Men, white or khaki shirts, khaki pants for the field, a light woolen suit for the cities. Gals, blouses not too loud, and simple skirts; a woolen dress for Mexico City and a couple of cotton ones for the warmer country. No shoes with heels 3 inches high and 1/8 inch broad at the floor. Just good honest plain clothes, the kind you always wear.

Ever yours,

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Ever yours,

W BRANDS
F-R

FISHER RANCH

WAYNE H. FISHER

DANA B. FISHER / PARTNERS

January 9, 1961

Dr. Wilson Popenoe
Calle la Nobleza 2
Antigua, Guatemala

Dear Wilson:

Thanks for your long and informative letter. That missive will give Lucille and me considerable guidance as we head southward toward Antigua.

Our plans call for a roving stay in Mexico of about five weeks. A side trip to Yucatan over the new road will be included in the open itinerary. As we will probably not cross the Mexican border to start the trip until January 25, we will not reach Antigua until around March 5.

We will let you know at least a week in advance of our time of arrival. While we would be delighted to accept your hospitality, we are so used to taking care of ourselves that, if your guest house is occupied or if the Popenoe Family is busy with other activities, we can follow our routine procedure of staying at some hostel, or posada, in the town.

Evidently all is not going well in Central America. The enclosed tear sheets from the latest issue of the U. S. News and World Report would indicate that we could encounter some interesting - well, let's call them "current events" - along the way. In anticipation of potential troubles we arrange for notification of all ambassadors and consuls that we are coming.

Such a procedure was followed prior to our lengthy tour of Africa, all of which was quite fortunate when we were caught in the opening days of the Congo revolt. The Consul General in Leopoldville was looking for us and insisted on taking us under his wing until he could deposit us safely on a river steamer for the 1100 mile upstream voyage to Stanleyville.

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Dr. Wilson Popenoe

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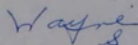
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Another advantage of notices from Washington is that we are enabled to gain more information about political and economic developments in the countries which we visit. Believe it or not, the Lucille whom you used to know has grown up to be quite a good student of international and agricultural affairs, and yet she has remained very simple and unassuming.

Both of us are truly looking forward to seeing you again, not alone for old times sake, but also because we realize that we can draw on the well of knowledge about Central American affairs when we talk to you.

Please anticipate word from us around March 1.

Sincerely,



WAYNE H. FISHER

WHF:es
encls

ESCUELA AGRICOLA PANAMERICANA

APARTADO 93

TEGUCIGALPA, HONDURAS
CENTRO AMERICA

Antigua, Guatemala, 27 Feb 1961

Dear Wayne:

Just a note, in care of my good friend Frans Blom, to say I have your letter from San Miguel de Allende and am glad you are coming by San Cristobal las Casas. And especially glad you and Lucille are going to Yucatan. I suspect while you are here in Guatemala you will want to fly up to Tikañ (you cannot drive) and see what is going on there.

I am sorry to say I have to fly to Florida on March 17th and spend a couple of weeks there, attending two meetings and so on. Helen is going to stay here in Antigua because there are quite a few visitors in the offing. If at all possible, we want to have you and Lucille stay in our little guest house. If impossible, then Helen will take you over to the Posada Belen which is really lovely and not at all expensive. But what I hope and rather expect is this: You will find so much of interest in Mexico and Guatemala that you will not blow in here until I am back from this job in Florida, for I would dearly love to be with you and Lucille here for a few days. You will want some time in Guatemala, and if I am not here when you arrive Helen can steer you to other parts of the country; then by the time I am back you will have seen them and we can settle down here in Antigua. This is a grand place; when you have seen it, you will understand why I have decided to leave my bones here (as we say in Spanish).

Ever yours,

San Miguel de Allende.
Mexico - Feb. 14, 1961

Dear Wilson:-

I was again reading your letter of 13 December. What a newsy and informative missive you sent to us.

Starting at the end and working backward, you can be assured that there will be neither "peddle pushers" or Hawaiian shirts in our wardrobes. Lucille is still the same sensible person that she was when young (except for marrying me), therefore her taste runs to practical, non-offensive travel clothes.

This is one trip when we had no set itinerary. However, we did have some ideas about the dates when we would reach certain places. Even those vague ideas have gone awry. Already we are running a week behind our theoretical schedule and liking the more leisurely pace.

Contrary to your suggestion, Lucille and I are traveling in a new Ford pickup, with a camper. Not that we expect to sleep in the outfit, except in case of emergency, but thus we can

carry a heavier load and gain far more road clearance when roads are bad.

Before turning south to Guatemala we are driving over to Yucatan. Through the years Lucille and I have viewed, you might even say "made a study" of the ancient monuments of the world. No, we do not claim to be archaeologists, but with the experiences we have had it would seem a shame to pass up the remnants of the Maya civilization.

Dr. Andrews will meet us in Merida and brief us on the work which his group is doing in the uncovering and reconstruction of Dzibilchaltun. Then we will follow the regular tourist trail to Chichén Itzá and Uxmal, unless we can induce someone of the Tulane University group to act as a guide.

Before hearing from you I had already written to Frans Blom stating that we hoped to meet him late in February. It is now evident that we will not reach San Cristobal Las Casas until about March 10th. So I will write the man again, as soon as we are certain as to our time of departure, making that you insisted that

We should stay with him.

From there on we will follow your suggestions, making the various stops, even to the extent of staying in the hotels which you listed.

Chicastenango has been a must on our list. I will try to time our arrival in that city on a Saturday afternoon.

The Auto Club had advised me to avoid the inland road on the drive to Guatemala City, taking instead the road near the coast. Such a routing would force me to backtrack in order to reach Chicastenango and Lake Atitlan. So I will probably follow the shorter route, unless I learn that it is in bad shape.

Don't worry about the Fishers and their uncertain time of arrival. We will trust to luck that you will be home sometime between the 15th and 18th of March. Naturally we will wire you in advance of our arrival.

Should you have any further suggestions for us please drop a note care of Frans Blom, figuring that we will be there around March 10th.

Sincerely,

Wayne V. Fisher.



connor-
jacobson
management

Cable Address:
"GRAN HOTEL"

Apr. 7, 1961

Dear Wilson:-

All goes reasonably well on this trip. Oh yes, there have been a few troubles to add spice along the way. For instance, Lucille was driving when a rim split and the tire gave up the ghost. Those Hondurian roads may have improved since you left, but to us they are still just rough gravel roads.

We visited the Escuela. Due to the illness of Mrs. Paddock the good Doctor was away. A new man, Dr. Herbert H. Pulsifer took a real interest in showing Lucille and me the school. He covered the facilities and buildings in considerable detail. Then Mrs. Pulsifer joined us for luncheon in the mess hall.

You have a right to be proud of the school. The campus is well arranged, the basic work in agriculture is sound, while the

need for such a type of education is pressing.

We were startled to learn, while in San Salvador, that population explosions in the Central American countries are leaving advances in food production far behind. With the emphasis at the Escuela Agrícola Pan-Americana on basic food production, rather than on export crops, a real service to Latin America is being made because of the program which you "fathered."

This morning we were assured by the engineer, who is in charge of the work connecting Costa Rica and Panama by highway, that we could get through that stretch by pickup. Sure he said it would be a tough drive, but still quite safe.

Lucille joins me in wishing for you an easing of the sorrow which followed Helen's passing.

Sincerely,
Wayne. [Fisher?]

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May 17, 1961

Dear Wilson:

As you doubtless assumed, Lucille and I reached home several weeks ago. The return was by air from Panama to New York, by train to Washington, then by plane again to Blythe. The pickup is taking a more direct, although far slower boat trip to Los Angeles Harbor.

Luck was with us most of the way as we drove southeastward to Panama. While the "impassable" section - San Isido del General to the Panama border - did provide rough going, with many a river to ford, still that was one of the most interesting drives of the whole trip.

Beyond the Canal Zone we drove to the end of the Pan-American Highway, where the road fades out into the jungle of the Darien Gap. In the March 1961 issue of the National Geographic Magazine is an article entitled, "We drove the Darien Gap." The experiences of the professional drivers who made that trip, with the backing of the Geographic Society, did not make us desire to duplicate their feat.

Lucille and I talked often about the hospitality which you extended to us during our two stops in Antigua. We discussed the sad loss which you suffered and marveled at the strength you had shown at that time.

Naturally Lucille joins me in extending an invitation to visit us at the Ranch should you find time to return to California for visits with your brothers and many old time friends in this area.

Sincerely,

Wayne
WAYNE H. FISHER

WHF:es

Dr. Wilson Popenoe
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