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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.

THE LAWN INSTITUTE



ROUTE 4, KIMBERDALE
MARYSVILLE, OHIO
PHONE 2-1777

OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR

December 8, 1958

Mr. Paul Allen
Centro Nacional De Agronomia
Santa Tecla, El Salvador

Dear Paul:

What a pleasure to have your full summary of November 29. We hadn't heard details of you folks for many moons.

The plans to reach Panama have firmed up. We get there on the S.S. Metapan by December 28. Have until January 3, when the S.S. Junior returns us to New York.

After your letter I made plans to return overland through northern Central America and Mexico, but it got too expensive and complicated. If I were "drifting" alone it'd be one thing, but Teris & Gook miss enough school as it is.

This leaves us with 5 or 6 days in Panama. That might be enough to get to Costa Rica and back - and I suppose we could afford that hop, although not much more. Would appreciate any suggestions, including where to headquarter in the C.Z. (These would have to reach us in Marysville by December 19.) Will not try any advance writing to Central America other than to you, time being as short as it is.

I do wish we could get together. But it looks as though northern Central America is out for us. As a matter of fact 5 or 6 days may not get us much of anywhere if travel connections and over-nighting are complicated. Needless to say, any Spanish in the family is completely garbled by Portuguese, and even that is plenty rusty.

Would anything on this order be possible?

1. Leave C.Z. quickly, plane to David; side trip to Boquete and the Volcan (what transportation?). Return to David.
2. Plane David to San Jose; your suggestions followed out of San Jose Inn.
3. Return San Jose to C.Z. to pick up ship.

TIME TESTED LAWNS FOR A MORE BEAUTIFUL AMERICA

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Handwritten:
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Mr. Paul Allen

- 2 -

December 8, 1958

Maybe this is too ambitious, not knowing what accommodations and transportation are available?

An infrequent note from Woodson says M.B.G., in cooperation with Yale, plans 2 Darien expeditions next 2 years. I don't know who is going, but R.E.W. not. They seem to be getting some new life into the old Flora, and I'm sorry not to be able to help more with it. Am currently embroiled in couple of lawn books.

Thanks a million for your help, and our very best x until we can get together.

Bob

CENTRO NACIONAL DE AGRONOMIA
SANTA TECLA, EL SALVADOR

December 12, 1958

Dr. Robert W. Schery, Director
The Lawn Institute
Route 4, Kimberdale
Marysville, Ohio

Dear Bob:

While we are naturally disappointed that we will not get to see you, we can readily understand the limitations of such a tight schedule, and only hope that things go off without any major hitch.

Since it is urgent that you get this by the 19th, I will try to be brief, and for the moment concentrate on specific questions. You will remember that we have not lived in Panama since 1948, and have not so much as transited the Canal since about 1953, so our information is a bit dated. You ask about accommodations on the Zone. The Tivoli is closed to all but Government employees (or still was, as of our last hearing) so that your choice is going to have to be the Washington, in Colon, which is very comfortable, but a little bit retirado from Tocumen Airport, or the hotels in Panama City. The El Panama is very posh, but is well out of the center of things, and is quite expensive, even if you don't mind the mosquitos in the unscreened rooms. I would personally consider the Internacional, which is more or less between the RR. station & Mary Lee Kelley's, in the heart of town. Rooms are air conditioned, which shuts out most of the racket, and run about 7-8 dollars a day, sans meals. COPA airlines (and probably others by now) will take you to David, or Ammelles, and TACA or IACSA (I think) beyond there to San Jose. I don't know about surface transportation to either side of the Volcan, but they had a pretty good bus service to Boquete established as long as ten years ago. This road is (or was) paved, and the one to Concepcion & Cerro Punta good gravel, or at least gravel, that varies with the season. I have personally made it from David to Cerro Punta in less than an hour(!), but much will depend on the present condition of the surface. I should think that people in Panama City could give you pointers, since many go up for weekends now.

Since your entire program is going to cut things a bit thin, I would be sure that I understood all flight days and times pretty well before trying to leave the country (Panama). A delayed flight, because of bad weather in Costa Rica might cause you to miss your boat, which is always a relajo. In view of your personal acquaintance with Panama, I would perhaps consider playing it safe and having a little more time in Chiriqui, with El Valle and Cerro Campana

thrown in. This would put you within hours at most of the Canal, by even surface transportation, which always is available in one way or another, barring revolutions or other inappropriately termed Acts of God.

Needless to say, we envy you the opportunity to revisit the scene of so many of our early adventures, and wish that we could get away for the few days that would be needed. The unfortunate facts of life are that we have just come back from a nine day junket to Honduras, where I spent a week mulling over some two hundred species of trees that I wasn't having much luck with in El Salvador. Christmas holidays will give us a ten day breather, but I still have this damned Orchid list to get out that I promised to do for Hortus III in a moment of complete idiocy.

We follow the plodding progress of the Flora of Panama with a detached sort of interest, and only occasionally allow ourselves to speculate on what might have been. I don't frankly ever expect to live to see the last fascicle, but we set up a frail cheer everytime one appears. If you are religiously inclined, you should get down on your knees and thank whatever gods there be that you got out when you did, unless you languish for a diet of rice, beans and Milltown.

On this pious thought I will close. We naturally hope that you will give us a play-by-play, or blow-by-blow account when you return. You might pour a libation on the flanks of old Barú, and invoke our tender spirits in absentia. Dottie joins me in best wishes for the trip, and in seasons greetings.

As ever,