



Hunt Institute for Botanical Documentation
5th Floor, Hunt Library
Carnegie Mellon University
4909 Frew Street
Pittsburgh, PA 15213-3890
Contact: Archives
Telephone: 412-268-2434
Email: huntinst@andrew.cmu.edu
Web site: www.huntbotanical.org

The Hunt Institute is committed to making its collections accessible for research. We are pleased to offer this digitized version of an item from our Archives.

Usage guidelines

We have provided this low-resolution, digitized version for research purposes. To inquire about publishing any images from this item, please contact the Institute.

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.

Antigua G, 9 Nov 1960

Dear Pablo:

A couple of professional questions:

Item 1. How shall I handle the manzanilla in the book on which I am working, or trying to work. I am following Bailey pretty closely on nomenclature in general. In Hortus Second (wh, being more recent than the Cyclopedia, I assume should be preferred) he lists Crataegus pubescens (syn. C. mexicana) which he says is "Mex" and fruit greenish yellow or orange, 1 in. long; and he also lists C. stipulosa also "Mex" with fruit also 1 in. long, orange red.

Do you think more than one species is involved in the manzanillas of Mexico and Guatemala? If only one, which name shall I use?

Item 2. Herbert Wolfe came out with quite an article in the last Proceedings of the Caribbean Region, ASHS, on nomenclature of the Citrus fruits - and I mean botanical nomenclature. He says Swingle went way off the beam. He seems to think Tanaka was more sound - one of the two, he says, was a splitter, the other a lumper. Just as I am a lumper when it comes to the genus Persea. I think Louis Wms leaned over backward when he named P. gigantea and P. nubigena. Just as good old Sidney Blake, on whom be Peace and the Blessings of Allah, leaned over backward when he set up the Tapp avocado as P. leiogyne. He later told me it was a mistake, and he intended to reduce it, but I don't think he ever did. What shall I do about the botanical status of the various cultivated citrus fruits?

Item 3. I still believe that more than one wild species of Mangifera is involved in our cultivated mangoes. I don't suppose you want to go on record about this, but I am going on record though I am stymied when it comes to what wild species of Mangifera are involved. I am going to say that I think that more than one wild species is in the picture.

Item 4. As for the avocados, I am going to stick to my thesis that we have only one sp, P. americana, and a geographical form which we name P. americana var. drymifolia. Though I am rather sorry we ever adopted the drymifolia business. We have nothing to tie onto, except the anise-odor of the leaves and we have this in the wild Persea which grows near Lancetilla. (I notice Bailey says in Hortus 2nd that the perseas are propagated by seeds and cuttings!)

Item 5. What would you do, botanically, with those damn bananas? I am inclined to call them all forms of M. paradisiaca. I can't see any reason for splitting them up into paradisiaca and sapientum and Cavendishii and nana and chinensis. Much less M. orinocensis which Bailey has in Hortus 2nd but says "probably a hot. form of banana". But which banana? Of course he says the banana is M. paradisiaca var. sapientum. I think I might go along with him on this.

Ever yrs

FIELD MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY
ROOSEVELT ROAD AND LAKE MICHIGAN
CHICAGO

June 6, 1938

Dear Wilson:

This is just a note to state that a week or two ago I was assured of funds for a visit to Guatemala this year, so probably I shall be going there about the first of next November. I should judge that that must be the best time of the year for starting work there. I am planning, if all goes well, to spend perhaps five months, or even more, there, and in that time hope to get around to a good many places.

Before leaving here I should like, if possible, to obtain a letter from the United Fruit Company recommending me to the various officials in Guatemala, and should like to ask you to whom I should apply. I should like to have the privilege of staying for at least a short time at one or more of the places on the Atlantic side. The Atlantic tierra caliente of Central America is the region most neglected by most botanical collectors, and the area in which the largest number of interesting plants is perhaps to be found.

Please let me have your advice in the matter, since I do not wish to make a faux pas, as I evidently did a few years ago when I tried to obtain a favor for someone else!

Today I was very much surprised to receive a visit from Oakes Ames, whom I had scarcely ever expected to see in Chicago. I understand he is sending someone this year to Guatemala to do some work with the orchids.

Sincerely yours,

Paul C. Standley
Paul C. Standley.

Antigua G., 5 Sept 1940

Paul C Standley Esq
Field Museum, Chicago.

Dear Pablo:

I am delighted to have yours of August 15th, which unfortunately has been slow in reaching me. But I think there is still time to obtain the letter you request, and I am taking up the matter today, asking that a letter of introduction to Mr Heyl be sent you at your Chicago address.

I feel sure you can arrange to spend as much time as you wish at Tiquisate. I would suggest you make the acquaintance of Mr A J Mackinnon, superintendent of agriculture there, and a good friend of mine. He has a house, is a bachelor, and might be glad to have you stay with him, which would assure you of good quarters. I am going down there shortly and will speak to him about it.

There is also the possibility of your staying at Finca El Naranjo, elev 3800 feet, right above Chicacao. This is Merck and Co's Cinchona plantation where I have been working this summer. It is right in the cloud forest if that is of any interest to you. Keep it in mind.

I am sure I shall be here at least part of the time during your visit and I look forward to seeing you. I am delighted that you are pushing ahead so vigorously the work on the flora of this country. It will be a tremendous help to have your final publication. We need it badly.

Best regards always,

Sincerely yours

FIELD MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY
ROOSEVELT ROAD AND FIELD DRIVE
CHICAGO

September 11, 1940

Dear Wilson:

Many thanks for your letter of September 5, that arrived several days ago. The time is getting close for me to leave Chicago, and I hope to get away September 30. I have so many things on hand that I should do, but once I get on the train, they won't bother me at all until next spring. What remain when the time comes to leave, I shall just sweep under the bed, and let nature take its course.

Steyermark and I have been doing a good deal of work with Guatemalan plants during the past summer, and we have two papers, one just published, the other soon to appear, that will have a good deal to say about them. We have no less than four new genera, one a Dahlia-like plant of the Occidente, so showy and handsome that it is hard to believe it wasn't discovered long ago.

I should like very much to go to the Chicacao region, since no collecting has been done there, so far as I know. All the Pacific bocacosta is exceedingly rich. This year I must spend considerable time in the Pacific lowlands, since neither Steyermark nor I have done much there, he, in fact, nothing at all. I hope to spend some time with either Retalhuleu or Mazatenango as headquarters. The jungles between Retalhuleu and Champerico I found exceptionally fine, but I had only one day to spend there.

This year I expect to have Arturo Pellecer working for me, as last time. He is as capable and efficient as anyone could desire. I wrote him to the effect that if he would meet me at Barrios, I would spend two weeks at Zacapa before going to the highlands. Knowing how little regard he has for the north coast and its environs, I rather expect he will find some good reason for not reaching Barrios.

At any rate, I hope that I may see you this winter, and if you should be in Antigua during October, I shall look you up immediately after my arrival.

With best regards, sincerely yours,

Paul H. Rader

FIELD MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY

ROOSEVELT ROAD AND FIELD DRIVE

CHICAGO

September 21, 1941

Dear Popenoe:

The Flora of the Lancetilla Valley hasn't been exhausted as yet, the edition I mean, and one has been sent to you at La Lima. If you need or wish further copies, let me know, for I think they can be found.

As you have doubtless learned before this, things haven't gone so well with Dr. Johnston. It is very much too bad, for he probably is going to have difficulty in finding work elsewhere, and I feel sure he is rather badly off financially. However, if his children can't find work at the present time in the States, probably they never will be able to do so at any time.

Mrs. Lewis and the children have been in the States all summer, and most of the time not very far from Chicago, but she hasn't been in the city, and I haven't seen her.

The past season I had a most successful time of it in Guatemala, and brought back some 19,000 numbers of plants. With the collections planned for the coming year we should have sufficient material for a creditable account of the plants, and I hope we may begin publication by the end of next year. Already we have a good quantity of manuscript. Work in the Museum has been delayed lately because all our WPA employees were taken away July 1. In the course of time we may become accustomed to getting along without them, but this summer has been difficult. I have had to write labels for my collections, something I certainly hadn't expected to do. Now they are almost finished, but it will be months yet before the whole collection is mounted and ready for study.

In preparing the specimens for mounting, I find there are more new species and more new records for the country than I had supposed. I do believe that the flora of the central departments is pretty well known now, but there is much still to be found in the Oriente and Occidente, and always in Alta Verapaz.

Steyermark is to make another visit to Guatemala, leaving New Orleans December 3. Probably he will be in the country until the end of next year's rainy season, ten months or so. It is especially important that a whole invierno be spent in collecting there, for it is only then that the flora of the drier regions can be studied properly. He is to give special attention to northern Huehuetenango and El Quiche, and has hopes of getting into Peten. The last I don't consider too important, for what has come out of that region up to the present time hasn't been of too great interest. At any rate, he always heads for the more remote and

difficult places, and isn't afraid of hard work of any kind. He is going to take with him a voluntary assistant from the States.

Steyermark wants to do considerable more collecting in the North Coast, a region that will yield a great deal more new material. He is planning to collect more extensively along the Rio Dulce, where he made fine collections last year, and will work also in the lower part of Alta Verapaz. He would like to do some more work also in northern Izabal, especially in the Sirrea del Mico, and along the Honduran frontier. How he can work there without association with the United Fruit Co., I don't know. After the things that happened last year, I don't feel like asking myself for anything for him from the U. F. I had hoped to talk with you on the subject while I was in Guatemala, but somehow the occasion never arose. I have heard of the matter only from what Steyermark wrote me at the time. If you feel like asking for a letter for him from the Company in Boston, it would be very useful for him, obviously, but I myself don't feel like asking you for it, and shall certainly not hold it against you in any manner if you do not refer to the subject again.

I should have done the work in the North Coast myself this year, but two years ago I didn't stand the heat there very well, and didn't feel like trying it this year. I did make a very large collection in the Coban region, and got some remarkable plants. It is hard to understand why some of the conspicuous plants growing even close to Coban have been overlooked by all the botanists who have worked in that area, but then I suppose I have overlooked a good many myself.

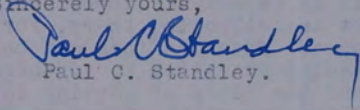
It is rather doubtful that I shall make another collecting trip to Central America. Surely not to Guatemala, much as I like that country, and like to spend time there. If I do go again it will be to either Honduras or the Pacific slope of Nicaragua. The latter I don't look forward to with any pleasure, but it should be explored. In all the herbaria of the world there is practically nothing from ~~Nicaragua~~-Nicaragua.

Dr. Dahlgren may go to Guatemala this winter for a few weeks, more or less vacation. He never has been in any part of Central America, and would like to see something of the vegetation, particularly of the palms.

Well, no more for this evening. Pittier has been on a visit to New York and Washington, but is returning this week, I believe, to Venezuela. Williams is returning there soon to spend a few months in exploration along the Orinoco.

With best regards to you and to Mrs. Popente,

Sincerely yours,


Paul C. Standley.

FIELD MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY

ROOSEVELT ROAD AND FIELD DRIVE

CHICAGO

December 3, 1941

Dear Wilson:

Today I suppose Steyermark sailed out of New Orleans on his way to Guatemala, and just about the hour when I am writing he may well be beginning to feel the effects of waves and salt water.

I trust he may have a successful trip, and bring back a big collection of plants. I hope so, for I don't expect that we shall do further collecting there before the flora is printed. It is very kind of you to offer to help him out with the Fruit Company. Just when he will wish to work in the North Coast I don't know, for his plans are still rather vague. I have suggested that the best thing he could do now would be to go immediately to the northern part of Huehuetenango, especially to the regions of Barillas and Nenton, and get that over, for collections from there are more important than anything else. I should judge that now would be a good time to go there, for the climate is said to be similar to that of Coban. Also, it is the most difficult trip he will have to make, and it would be well to get it over. Some work must be done in the Cuchumatanes, but that will have to wait until next invierno, when there is rain to bring the flowers out.

I have become so disgusted lately with Steyermark and his trip that I haven't been properly enthusiastic, I suppose. He is so extremely juvenile in his ideas, and so perfectly sure that he is right, when 85 per cent of the time he is wrong. His juvenility probably never will be cured, but he may this year get some hard knocks, which will do no harm. He is taking with him a student as "assistant," who pays his own traveling expenses. I strongly advised against that, and in the present trip I rather expect trouble will come of the matter. It is unfortunate that Steyermark knows so little Spanish that he is quite unable to collect data regarding uses and names of plants, and I don't expect he ever will improve in that, certainly not if he has an English speaking helper.

At any rate, I shall appreciate anything you may do for him, but it had better be quite impersonal, so far as he is concerned, and in the matter of getting lodging for him on the North Coast, don't try to get any special privileges for him, beyond permission to stay there--i.e., in the Company's quarters. Without such permission it is impossible, I should say, to do collecting in that region. And further, don't hesitate to speak plainly and firmly to him. I have instructed him to make an attempt

to see you as soon as he gets to Guatemala, which I suppose may be next Sunday. This is in case you happen to be in the country.

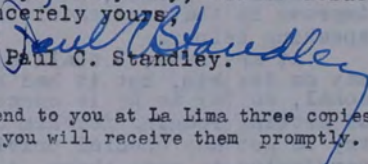
I had a letter recently from Dr. Johnston, but there was nothing, so far as I recall, regarding his personal affairs. I feel sorry for him in having to leave Guatemala, for I should greatly enjoy it there myself if I had some interesting occupation, and I know that he did greatly enjoy everything, or almost everything, connected with the country. I hope the new man at the school will make a success of it. Williams (now again in Venezuela) knew him in Venezuela, and intimated that he was too pro-Nazi. Since W. is a Welshman, with his family still in Wales, this can be discounted to some extent, I presume.

Everything here is going very well, at least so far as I am concerned. The Museum may be short of funds next year, or rather have some reduction in them because of increasing taxes, but all other museums are likely to be similarly affected. At any rate, in our work we have no lack of things to do. The collections I made on the last trip are turning out well, with many additions to the Guatemalan flora, and some new things. I have just finished writing up the Rubiaceae for the Flora, since I wished to have that group done in case anything should happen to me. If I count the number of species, which I haven't done yet, I expect it may be possible to form some sort of an estimate as to how the Guatemalan flora compares in species numbers with that of Costa Rica.

Well, I shall not bother you with any more of this. I envy you the opportunity of spending the holiday season in Antigua. I know of no place anywhere that I like better, but both Coban and Huehuetenango are very fine, and Quezaltenango is especially likeable on account of its people, if not so much for its climate. But I don't care to return to Chiquimulilla or even less to Jalapa, or very much to Mazatenango. Retalhuleu, on the other hand, I really do like.

With best regards to you and to Mrs. Popenoe, wherever this may happen to reach you. Chicago the past ten days has been just about like Desconsuelo on a bright foggy, drizzly, windy day, and no colder.

Sincerely yours,


Paul C. Standley.

I have asked the Museum to send to you at La Lima three copies of the Lancetilla Flora, and I trust you will receive them promptly.

Tegucigalpa, July 29, 1957

Dear Wilson:

I am not planning a series of daily letters, but I had a visit Saturday from Antonio, and that has reminded me of various items. He is none too happy at present, but I sincerely hope things will be better with time. His principal difficulties are with Paul Allen and the Paredes group. I wonder what the latter would hate without having you and Antonio to work on. Perhaps now that Ondina has a baby still here in the Hospital, and a BOY, ~~she~~ ^{he} may be better tempered, but with her racial mixture that is not certain.

Paul Allen has been warning Antonio not to work on the Honduran flora, but confine himself to teaching! He tells Antonio that UFC has no interest in botany. That is from his own experience, and I can understand where his ideas come from. He was taken on by the Co., and so far as I can tell from what he says he was supposed to be a horticulturist, but since he didn't want to grow roses and petunias, which the UF employees wanted, he turned his attention to the native flora of Costa Rica, and--exit!

I judge the new director is on the job, at least in spirit, today, and perhaps the squabbles may peter out.

I suppose you may get at least one Tegucigalpa newspaper, and I hope you read it. You will remember Chavarría who graduated, and has been working for the STICA (I believe it is) in Comayagua. A few days since, he was driving a jeep como al diablo, and in front of José Membreño's place he ran into a well known man of those parts who was on horseback. The man and the horse were both killed. The boy had had previous accidents in Comayagua, and had been ordered not to drive a Stica car. He is presumably in jail in Comayagua, and at the best--or worst--he will not be working for STICA any more.

The local papers these days ^{read} much like the book of Revelations. Heaven only knows will result from the death of Castillo Armas. It may well have repercussions in various places. I shall not be surprised if you went back to Guatemala sooner than you planned.

Saturday I went down to Tegucigalpa with Antonio, the first time in years. I think that I had been there on Saturday. Everything as usual, except for the flags at half-mast. I saw a good number of former students, especially Carlos Soto, but no present students. I suppose they were not on the streets. We didn't go to the Jardín de Italia.

There was a good rain the other day, of several hours, so the Suyapa corn crop is safe for the present. Many thanks for the suggestion of Pensión Rojas. I have always liked the place. I have been reading for the first time since it was written, the diary I kept in Guatemala in 1938-39. I had headquarters in Antigua, and for every day there is mention of the cold there. Especially conspicuous are the few notes that on that day I put on light instead of heavy underwear.

I haven't yet seen the papers for the Mexican earthquake. It seems to have been a bad one, especially for the great area covered.

Paul Standley

Antigua, 8 Oct 1957

Mr Paul C Standley
Hospital Viera, Tegucigalpa, DC Honduras.

Dear Pablo:

Every time I get one of the news letters from the Cosmos Club I think of you, and herewith the last one. But dont set the idea that I only think of you when I get a Cosmos Club news letter!

Yesterday when I went thru the plaza and talked to Juanito the chauffeur who now gets the trade of our friends, and sometimes a bit of our own, another guy, name unknown, came up and asked about you. Said he worked with you here sometime ago, maybe in the early 1940s. Nice chap, and sent you his best regards.

We went into town to day, primarily to get off a hasty radio-gram to the Minister of Agriculture in Habana, to tell him I will be unable to attend personally the ceremonies in the National Palace day after tomorrow when they are going to confer on me the Orden de Mérito Agrícola e Industrial, grado de Gran Oficial. I have asked Dr Frank Venning of the Point Four boys over there to do the honors for me, and please send over the decoration promptly. Frankly, I am greatly pleased to have a decoration from Cuba, because I think so much of that country and have spent so much time there from 1914 to recent date.

Just had a letter from Manuel Chavez Viaud saying he is leaving Zamorano on the 18th instant, to return to Salvador and work with a Sr Vilanova - I dont know just what kind of work, but I have known for some time that Noemi, who is a grand person (as is Manuel) wanted to go back to Salvador because of the education of the children. I will be seeing them over there shortly, because we plan to drive over about the end of this month for a few days' stay. Some fine people over there and a magnificent opportunity horticulturally.

Had a letter today from Jim Kempton, who retires on December first and moves northward, stopping here a few days en route. Says they have now decided to stay in San Francisco, Calif., for a while with his old mother - aetas 92 - and after that they may come to live in Mexico, if California doesnt throw its tentacles around him, as well it might. It would not surprise me to see Jim get into some sort of work in the subtropical field in that State. He is a valuable man, as you well know.

Yesterday, in my misguided zeal to know more about our local orchids, I pulled your Flora of Panama offn the shelves (what a pleasure it is to have all my books around me, and a little time to look into them once more) and I read the introduction - really didnt get down to the Orchidaceae, the reading was so good. So I just sat back and reflected upon what a really magnificent job you have done in this part of the world, and how well you write. I still dont understand why I have not been able to wangle an honorary doctorate for you. Maybe we can still do it.

Siempre su más afecisimo (sor y, afectísimo)

but they say that Stica paid well to get him off. Very likely
his days are numbered. 7957, Tegucigalpa, Honduras, but they are numbered. Very likely
Dear Wilson: I am perfectly at home here, and the
It scarcely seems worthwhile sending the letter to Tegucigalpa, but I
write a letter when you are coming so soon to Tegucigalpa, but I
I had better not say anything. Varela is very anxious to see you over
on business, but I presume he knows you are coming as everybody
else knows. He is scheduled to be dropped at the end of this
semester, and perhaps he has already left the school, since this
is examination week. And do be sure to get your permission
to enter the School campus before you meet the police on guard, and
and thus save yourself some embarrassment. Curiously and unexpectedly,
I was told yesterday by people from the North Coast that the school has been going to the dogs, not very gradually, since
since you left. I don't know where that rumour originated, but
perhaps at the moment it was told to me, it was not true.

But better that as it may, as Dr. Gray used to say, this is a
really beautiful morning. Apparently we are in pieno verano, and
as H. O. W. used to remark, we get a very slight shower now and
then, but there are really the marks of the change of seasons.
Honduras is now getting more and more publicity (now in the U. S.
U. S. papers, which should be a source of satisfaction, and a
drawing card for tourists). An article in the revista Foramen
only reports that in Gracias a Dios at present they are selling
women, one who has had 15 children for 50 petapas de oro, and
virgins (de 6 años o más) for 25 centavos c. u. I am thinking
of going over there soon to investigate the possibilities of
rice culture. And that reminds me that yesterday just leaving
Toncontín, a cotton-dusting plane of ancient vintage fell con-
siderably descompuesto, but without any human casualties. No,
it was not that h. de puta who was working last year from El
Jicarito, rather an argentino, on his way to Nicaragua. I had
read that all the cotton there had been lost because of the
Cerro Negro. And if you are thinking of going to Ruinas de
Copán, forget all about it. Planes are not going ~~xxx~~ there now,
nor to Juticalpa, S. Francisco de la Paz, et al., but service
may be resumed when the weeds are cut and the chahuites drained.

I haven't yet been able to get the information about
publications from Antonio Molina, because he hasn't been here
for two weeks or more. And when he does come, he usually is in
a great hurry. I have had the good fortune to run across various
people from the School, here and down town. Doña Mangui was
greatly interested in your decoration from Cuba, and sends
you all best regards. Sotto voce, as they say in Kissimmee,
I don't recommend you to be seen in Hotel Macarthur. Just
how it differs from an ordinary house of prostitution, I don't
know. But there are white pekin ducks that can waddle across
a black pool of water and come out pure white on the other side.
I am told by don José--of Resterán Priental, if I understand
him properly, which is very unlikely, that Wing is now working
in the kitchen at U. S. Embassy. I expect he will be waiting
for you in the airport. I had a long talk with Wing one day
down town. Also, a few days ago I had a talk with José Membreno,
who, if half what he says is true, is doing very well in his
work, and certainly looks better than I ever saw him before.
He sends you his best regards, and would like to have you come
to visit him, and stay as long as you wish. As I wrote you, I
believe, that Costa R. graduate who killed a man with a jeep
in front of D. José's house some time ago, got off scot free,
and never got into any trouble.

but they say that Stica paid well to get him off. Very likely his days are numbered. For, the man killed was well known, of a prominent family, and of considerable property.

There is little likelihood of my leaving here on an unkindly at least at this time. I am perfectly at home here, and the idea of going elsewhere is repellant to me. I don't please don't suggest to anyone in Guatemala or El Salvador that I may be able to live there soon. When all elections in Central America are over, I will probably think of considering the matter. I have the feeling that Honduras, El Salvador, and Nicaragua are the safest places in which to live at least at the moment.

Many thanks for your kind words about Panama. I am sure your (not mine) friend Dr. Anderson has no interest in seeing it completed, and they have no one there who could do it. Well, this is more than enough for today. I hope you will find time to read it on the plane coming over. The distance is terrific. They are at work now doing over the carretera del Sur, which is said to be in very bad shape. It was done by a gringo, you know. I wish I were many years younger, and as some engineering interest (that is probably the least essential qualification) and had enough education to get some U.S. Govt. contracts in Central America. I think there is a great future in that work, especially for people without consciences, and I don't think

With all best regards, I am, very sincerely,
Only reports that in a survey of 50 regions for 50 years, and women, one who has had 50 children for 50 years, and 50 children (deceased) for 50 years. I am thinking of going over there soon to investigate the possibilities of rice culture. And that reminds me that yesterday I was leaving Toncontin, a cotton-quitting plane of ancient vintage. No, it was not that. It was a plane who was working last year from El Cerrito, rather an Argentine, on his way to Nicaragua. I had read that all the cotton there had been lost because of the Cerrito Negro. And if you are thinking of going to Rivas de Copan, forget all about it. Planes are not going now there now, nor to Tutulapa, S. Francisco de la Paz, et al., but service may be resumed when the weeds are cut and the chubuttes drained. I haven't yet been able to get the information about publications from Antonio Molina, because he hasn't been here for two weeks or more. And when he does come, he usually is in a great hurry. I have had the good fortune to run across various people from the School, here and down town. Dona Margu was greatly interested in your decoration from Cuba, and sends you all best regards. So to voice, as they say in Kissimmee, I don't recommend you to be seen in Hotel MacArthur. I don't know how it differs from an ordinary house of prostitution, I don't know. But there are white bekis who can waddle across a black pool of water and come out pure white on the other side. I am told by don Jose--of Western Frontal, if I understand him properly, which is very unlikely, that Wing is now working in the kitchen at U.S. Embassy. I expect he will be waiting for you in the airport. I had a long talk with Wing one day down town. Also, a few days ago I had a talk with Jose Membrano, who, if half what he says is true, is doing very well in his work, and certainly looks better than I ever saw him before. He sends you his best regards, and would like to have you come to visit him, and stay as long as you wish. As I wrote you, I believe, that Costa R. Graduate who killed a man with a jeep in front of D. Jose's house some time ago, got off scot free, whatever that means, and is now

However, a few days ago, El Día published an account of a marine accident in Salvador, Dec 20, 1957. Tegucigalpa, Honduras. They also expressed their sympathy for the persons in the water. The next day they apologized to all. The newspaper noted the mention of "Salvador," which happened to be in Bahia. I trust I am not suffering from hot weather. Neither are we in Florida. They were badly hit there and a good part of the citrus crop was lost. They are making a profit that, however, by changing triple for what is left. The California growers probably are regando sus narajales pero con lágrimas.

The Zamorano fiesta apparently made no friends for the School. The only newspaper man of Tegucigalpa who reported on it was from El Cronista, and it was plenty dirty but apparently more or less accurate. Mrs. P. did not want to have the visitors in the house, but did let them have tragos outside. As I understand it, and on the best of authority, all ate in or near the Comedor. At 2:30 it was announced by loudspeaker, by a student, that visitors would fine their cars behind the director's house, or in front of the Edificio Principal. The people took the hint, and left. Children were turned back.

The representative of El Cronista interviewed the director, and made him appear an almost perfect fool. The house had no festive decorating. According to one who helped at one of the gates, there were a little over 400 "guests." Among those who were not present were the President and cabinet, and of course many people had gone just to see him.

Presumably because of the impression left by that newspaper account, there appeared another one, in the social news of El Día a few days later a different account, written I judge by Luis Morcillo. giving the number of guests as 800, and describing the brilliance and elegance of the function. Incidentally, in the Cronista article, the director's name appeared twice, and spelled differently, and very unlike the name Paddock. That was no accident. I had never seen it misspelled before in a local newspaper.

I had lunch Christmas Day with the Guilberts, mostly their family and relatives, and it was very pleasant. Dr. G's mother looks so much younger than she did a year ago. For weather, it was a beautiful day, and we ate in the corredor. That house before long is going to be choked by the Benjamina trees; and I remember when they were set out, little bits of things.

Here in the Hospital there have been few patients, but they are beginning to come back. In the Central America the best medicine is a fiesta, which will empty the hospitals rapidly. After Wednesday I suppose we shall settle down until, more or less, Holy Week. We shall see.

I hope you may have a good election in Guatemala. Why can't all countries have quiet and good-humored elections like Venezuela and Mexico. In the latter country they have surely been a success, so far as material prosperity goes.

At the Guilbert house the other there was a small boy who had received a rather expensive doctor's kit for Christmas. He wants to be a doctor--he is perhaps eight or nine years old, the only small boy there. I asked him why he wanted to be a doctor, and he said he wanted to give injections to people (doctors, perhaps). Some other people feel the same way. I much prefer injections to castor oil and some other oral medicines.

You don't find much humor in the papers these days.

A day or two ago I had a card from the Adam Sedgwick family. Tegucigalpa, Honduras, 20 December, 1977. It must be about a month since I last saw them. I might be well for them to remember that I haven't been able to let a word about the whereabouts of René Díaz, and don't know where he now is. I should like to see him, and I should like to see his wife, and I should like to see his children. I haven't been able to let a word about the whereabouts of René Díaz, and don't know where he now is. I should like to see him, and I should like to see his wife, and I should like to see his children.

Dear Familia Ponchoe:
This is a lovely morning, the finest we have had in many weeks, or perhaps months. We have had miserable weather for several weeks, cold, windy, and frequently with rain. The last doesn't hinder the drying up of vegetation. The poinsettias are the poorest I have ever seen. Tomorrow, the sky is as it is today, there will be plenty of gentle rain. The fiesta begins ~~tomorrow~~ this afternoon with a parade of carretas, at least so they say, one for each department. Tomorrow there is to be the inaugural ball, which they think is under control, since only 2,000 (!) have been invited, and the hoi pol., is to be enticed away by a pyrotechnic exhibition in the Estadio, but I expect the hp will be able to presenciar both. One of the highlights will be the pilgrimage Sunday to El Zamorano. I am curious to see how that will turn out. I am told that recently an important ambassador drove to El Zamorano, and when he was told he would have to obtain a diplomatic permit him to enter, he quickly turned the car and drove back to Tegucigalpa.

Lately there have been some short but nasty attacks on the School in the papers. One suggested that the Ministerio de Trabajo should make an investigation of labor conditions there. A dispatch from Intibucá stated that men from the school had been there in search of new students, but that among the various applicants they had found none worthy of acceptance. It was suggested that the proper Ministerio investigate the matter. And so it goes. What has happened to Mr. Beasley? The new Tela R. R. chief is already here and working, according to the papers.

The Dr. Zúñiga died a few days ago. He received a great deal of space in all the periódicos. A Zamorano fiesta will not be the same without him.

Florida has been hard hit this week by cold--that is where ours has come from, I presume. At Fort Myers they had the lowest temperature in more than forty years, but apparently the damage was not too great. In Miami there was an auto accident caused by ice in the street--northern papers please do not copy. Apparently the greater part of the orange crop has been lost. So I was informed in a letter received last evening. On the other hand, or perhaps the same, turkeys have been the cheapest in many years in the States. In supermarkets in N. Y. they were selling as low as 28 cents per pound, and in Florida at 30. And in Chicago not many years ago I have paid one dollar the pound. We have two beautiful big turkeys waiting outside for Noche Buena. I am invited for lunch--probably around three, or four--at the Guilberts. Heliodoro Valle is to be one of the guests. I should rather see Germán Arciniegas, who happens to be in town for the festivities.

Yesterday I met on the streets Manuel Rubio. He had with him their little boy. He was so tiny at first, much like his real father, that I didn't expect he would ever grow much, but actually he is good-sized for his age. Whom should I see here in the Hospital the other day but that young man from California who was in the School for two years or so--I can't remember his name, nor do I care to. But he went to Olancho and took up with the Holy Rollers there, and is now a missionary, which perhaps is just the right place for him. He was a short distance away when he recognized me.

A day or two ago I had a card from the Adán Zepeda family. It must be about time for them to be coming back, if they are coming. It might be well for them to remember that Ein Mann ist kein Prophet in dem Vaterland. I haven't been able to get a word about the whereabouts of René Díaz, and don't know where he may be. Dr. Lazarus apparently out of politics, and I should think he would be glad. He has been blamed for everything, especially in San Felipe, which seems to be in a mess--as usual. S. F. does have plenty of business, always. Several patients, whom Elviera have been taken away to die in a Polyclinic, which probably was agreeable to the doctors here, who don't like to have patients die on their hands.

So that is about all. A Merry Christmas to all, and to all a good night! With all best wishes, I leave you. Tomorrow there is to be a party at the school, and the not pol. is to be entered away a pyrotechnic exhibition in the Estadio, but I expect the hp will be able to pre- senter both. One of the highlights will be the pyrotechnic Sunday to El Samorano. I am curious to see how that will turn out. I am told that recently an important ambassador drove to El Samorano, and when he was told he would have to obtain a diplomatic permit him to enter, he quickly turned the car and drove back to Tegucigalpa.

Lately there have been some short but nasty attacks on the School in the papers. One suggested that the Ministerio de Trabajo should make an investigation of labor conditions there. A dispatch from Intibucú stated that men from the school had been there in search of new students, but that among the various applicants they had found none worthy of acceptance. It was suggested that the proper Ministerio investigate the matter. And so it goes. What has happened to Mr. Beasely? The new Tels. R. chief is already here and working, according to the papers.

The Dr. Nájera died a few days ago. He received a great deal of space in all the periodicos. A Samorano fiesta will not be the same without him.

Florida has been hard hit this week by cold--that is where ours has come from, I presume. At Fort Myers they had the lowest temperature in more than forty years, but apparently the damage was not too great. In Miami there was an auto accident caused by ice in the street--northern papers please do not copy. Apparently the greater part of the orange crop has been lost. So I was informed in a letter received last evening. On the other hand, or perhaps the same, turkeys have been the cheapest in many years in the States. In supermarkets in N. Y. they were selling as low as 28 cents per pound, and in Florida at 30. And in Chicago not many years ago I have paid one dollar the pound. We have two beautiful big turkeys waiting outside for Noche Buena. I am invited for lunch--probably around three or four--at the Guiberte. Heliodoro Valle is to be one of the guests. I should rather see German Archbishops, who happens to be in town for the festivities.

Yesterday I met on the streets Manuel Rubio. He had with him their little boy. He was so tiny at first, much like his real father, that I didn't expect he would ever grow much, but actually he is good-sized for his age. Whom should I see here in the hospital the other day but that young man from California who was in the school for two years or so--I can't remember his name, nor do I care to. But he went to Olancho and took up with the Holy Rollers there, and is now a missionary, which perhaps is just the right place for him. He was a short distance away on the porch, and I thought I should mention it.

Dear Popehones: I doubt your enjoying the new elections in Guatemala. From what I read in the papers, they may well come sooner than expected. Considering what the weather has been, and still is, here, Doña Helena should not worry about frost in the ground in Spain! Recently I read, for the first time since I wrote it, a diary that I once kept in Guatemala, on my first grand tour of that country. I find that it is full of references to the horrible weather of La Antigua, with emphasis that nothing was being done to remedy it. The Central Americans have the idea that weather is sent by God, so nothing can be done about it. They blithely bang open the doors, and the windows si las hay, when they get up in the morning, and close them when they go to bed at night, complaining about the slamming of doors and windows, and emphasizing the necessity of fresh air which they do their best to avoid at night.

I suspect that the California-inspire account of deaths from freezing are a canard, perhaps fabricated for the occasion. I have seen nothing about frozen people in the Miami Herald, and the deaths may well have occurred instead in Virginia or Idaho. I did read in one of Nixon Smiley's columns that a palm tree had been frozen in or near Miami.

Have you seen the latest number of Ceiba? I saw it for the first time this morning. It is hardly highbrow, but the cover is an improvement, if not very well chosen.

I did something surprising to me, and I think also to others, on New Year's Eve. Antonio came here and told me I had to go with him to El Zamorano. The invitation was presented in such a form that I couldn't very well refuse. We left here about four in the afternoon, going and returning by the new road to Suyapa, which is a considerable saving. We had an uneventful trip to the School, arriving at 5:30. The cipotes were in Tegucigalpa. Tina has arranged their new house remarkably well. It is not too big, but best of all, they are now far removed from your friends (??), the Paredes, in Piedras Gordas.

I enjoyed everything very much, but being dark, I did not see much, or anything to attract attention. The people were all in the cine, so I saw very few of them, a few students. We had a wonderful dinner, with a turkey that weighed 28 lbs. before it was drawn. I had had no lunch, so I ate voraciously, or at least plenty. We made little impression, the four of us, on the turkey. About nine we left for Tapa, bringing the turkey, for they were to have midnight cena with Antonio's mother. I reached El Vier before 11, a little tired, but noticeably so. I don't know when I had been in Tapa at night, but I was amazed at the abundance of light, and that night, believe it or not, a good part of the stores were open, and ablaze with electricity.

At the Carpentería in El Jicarito I noticed a great pile of new packing boxes, which Antonio hadn't seen before. They were for either the Allens or the Russells. It is expected that both are to leave soon, para todo.

Luis Morcillo is now the fair-haired boy of the School, and I shall not be surprised if he gets to be head of it. He appears con frecuencia in the social columns of El Día. In the last fiesta report, of an affair at the Colombian embassy he was almost at the head of the list of pailas, just after the Papal legate. That is not surprising, since on inauguration day, the diputados seem to have had precedence over the ambassa-

I really can't imagine how L. M. gets all his publicity! The School also is getting a good deal. I am told that three

graduates of the ~~NEW YORK UNIVERSITY~~ School have rather high places in the new government, but I don't know who or what they are.

I doubt your enjoying the new elections in Guatemala. From what I read in the papers, they may well come sooner than is planned. It looks like all that happened when Castillo

Armas took over will have been done over once more. You would do well, I suspect, to take a vacation at election time in San Salvador or ~~Guatemala~~ Honduras, or in Nicaragua. I

trust you will have a happy visit in Spain, although I suspect the best part of it is in Portugal. Ask Mr. Keating. I am glad to have your itinerary in the States, and shall be glad to get your address in Spain.

At present, as for the just nine months, I am feeling well as could be expected. I should be glad to make it 75 years, but it is not important.

No more for today. I hope you are all in the best of health. How is the cat? With all best wishes, sincerely yours

I suspect that the California Inquirer account of deaths from fire is a general purpose fabrication for the occasion. I have seen nothing about frozen people in the Miami Herald, and the deaths may well have occurred instead in Virginia or Idaho. I did read in one of Nixon Smiley's columns that a palm tree had been frozen in or near Miami.

Have you seen the latest number of Celia? I saw it for the first time this morning. It is hardly highrow, but the cover is an improvement. It is not very well chosen.

I did something surprising to me, and I think also to others, on New Year's Eve. Antonio came here and told me I had to go with him to El Zamorano. The invitation was presented in such a form that I couldn't very well refuse. We left here about four in the afternoon, going and returning by the new road to Guaya, which is a considerable saving. We had an uneventful trip to the School, arriving at 5:30. The ciphers were in Tegucigalpa. This has arranged their new house remarkably well. It is not too big, but best of all, they are now far removed from your friends (??), the Parades, in Piedras Gordas.

I enjoyed everything very much, but being dark, I did not see much, or anything to attract attention. The people were all in the cine, so I saw very few of them, a few students. We had a wonderful dinner, with a turkey that weighed 28 lbs. before it was drawn. I had had no lunch, so I ate voraciously, or at least plenty. We made little impression, the four of us, on the turkey. About nine we left for Tepe, bringing the turkey for they were to have midnight cena with Antonio's mother. I reached El Viequesote 11, a little tired, but noticeably so. I don't know when I had been in Tepe at night, but I was amazed at the abundance of light, and that night, believe it or not, a good part of the stores were open, and ablaze with electricity.

At the Carpenteria in El Viequesote I noticed a great pile of new packing boxes, which Antonio hadn't seen before. They were for either the Allenor the Russells. It is expected that both are to leave soon, but today.

Luis Morcillo is now the fair-haired boy of the School, and I shall not be surprised if he gets to be head of it. He speaks con frecuencia in the social columns of El Dia. In the last latest report, of an affair at the Colombian embassy he was almost at the head of the list of pallias, just after the Papal legate. That is not surprising, since on inauguration day, the disputes seem to have had precedence over the ambassadors. I really can't imagine how I. M. gets all his publicity! The School also is getting a good deal of publicity.

of abnegate read his fifth. won reject and one rejected had had
Tegucigalpa, 18 January, 1958, Honduras, his boy

Dear Wilson:

Although not important to you, I hope this letter may reach you before you leave Antigua. I am well fixed here, in all respects, and trust everything may continue in order for a long time. If anything unexpected should happen here, probably I am as well off here as anywhere else. I don't know whether I ever told you that my bank account was transferred months ago to the Bank of Lee County in Fort Myers. It is a joint account with my sister, Margaret Standley, and is open to both of us, or to the survivor, who presumably gets anything left. Her address is 1606 Sunset Place, Fort Myers, Florida. Recently I also left some directions and data in the American Consulate here.

Tomorrow, I suppose, will be a busy day in Guatemala. There has been nothing of importance about political conditions there in the Teg. papers. I trust everything may go off quietly, but scarcely expect it will. Soon comes the election in Costa Rica, which seems to be rather messy, then the toma posesión in Venezuela, si la hay, and various others as time passes by, not to mention U. S. A.

Dr. Bográn has been named Director of San Felipe, which is a nursery of gossiping women, and in financial difficulties. Yesterday there was in El Cronista a complaint by the altos poderes of some ministerio a complaint that their predecessors had left affairs in such a state that they could make nothing out of them. I should think it would be well to appoint some experienced people to disentangle them. Affairs on the North Coast are bad. There have been various brief strikes and some robberies. I don't understand why the Company doesn't close all the commissaries except in Tela, La Lima, and Puerto Cortés, and let the people get their groceries where they can. I suppose everybody knows who is doing the stealing, and it could be stopped if desired. Probably too many people are getting mordidas out of it.

The past Sunday I had 11 visitors here, certainly a record. One was Dr. Paddock! I had expected to see some one with cloven hooves, a tail, and with fumes of sulfur, but he looks quite normal, everything considered. He is so white that I can't believe he ever gets out in the sun. Mr. Ludin was with him, and also a tipo from Gray Herbarium, a Mr. Curley, of whom I had never heard before. Who is he? Not of the Curleys, I suppose. He is hinting of some millions of dollars he has or expects to have for the encouragement of systematic botany. Why doesn't he give them to Harvard so they can have something new to fight over? He wanted to know whether five millions could be spent in Latin America in five years. I told him that I doubted it, in consideration of the scarcity at present of systematic botanists. But I suspect that we both underestimate the ability of latinos in this respect.

I hope that your weather is not much worse than ours, which has been bad most of the time. I am very doubtful about the people frozen in Fla. In the Miami Herald there was a foto of a beautiful snow scene, with some indications that it emanated from Fla., but on close inspection, I learned it was really in Alabama, where snow is no great rarity, at least in the mountains. One day the weather bureau predicted for Fort Myers, the first time in history, but none arrived.

but had better end the letter now. With all best regards to
you all, sincerely,
Paul Standley

Dear Wilson:

Although not important to you, I hope this letter
may reach you before you leave Antigua. I am well fixed here
in all respects, and trust everything may continue in order for
a long time. If anything unexpected should happen here, prob-
ably I am as well off here as anywhere else. I don't know
whether I ever told you that my bank account was transferred
months ago to the Bank of Lee County in Fort Myers. It is a
joint account with my sister, Margaret Standley, and is open to
both of us, or to the survivor, who presumably gets anything
left. Her address is 1808 Sunset Place, Fort Myers, Florida.
Recently I also left some directions and data in the American
Consulate here.
Tomorrow, I suppose, will be a busy day in Guatemala. There
has been nothing of importance about political conditions there
in the last papers. I trust everything may go off quietly,
but scarcely expect it will. Soon comes the election in Costa
 Rica, which seems to be rather messy, then the same passes by
in Venezuela, and various others as time passes by,
not to mention U. S. A.
Dr. Borja has been named Director of San Felipe, which is
a nursery of bossing women, and in financial difficulties.
Yesterday there was in El Cronista a complaint by the alfores po-
sessed of some ministerio a complaint that their predecessors had
left affairs in such a state that they could make nothing out
of them. I should think it would be well to appoint some ex-
perienced people to disentangle them. Affairs on the North Coast
are bad. There have been various brief strikes and some top-
peries. I don't understand why the Company doesn't close all
the companies except in Tela, La Lima, and Puerto Cortes, and
let the people get their groceries where they can. I suppose
everybody knows who is doing the stealing, and it could be stopped
if desired. Probably too many people are getting mordidas out
of it.
The past Sunday I had 11 visitors here, certainly a record.
One was Dr. Padock! I had expected to see some one with
cloven hooves, a tail, and with fumes of sulfur, but he looks
quite normal, everything considered. He is so white that I
can't believe he ever gets out in the sun. Mr. Madin was with
him, and also a tip from Gray Herbarium, a Mr. Chisley, of whom
I had never heard before. Who is he? Not of the Cutreys, I
suppose. He is hinting of some millions of dollars he has or ex-
pects to have for the encouragement of systematic botany. Why
doesn't he give them to Harvard so they can have something new
to fight over? He wanted to know whether five millions could
be spent in Latin America in five years. I told him that I doubted
it, in consideration of the scarcity at present of systematic
botanists. But I suspect that we both underestimate the ability
of Latinians in this respect.
I hope that your weather is not much worse than ours, which
has been bad most of the time. I am very doubtful about the
people frozen in Fla. In the Miami Herald there was a photo of
a beautiful snow scene, with some indications that it emanated
from Fla., but on close inspection, I learned it was really in
Alabama, where snow is no great rarity, at least in the mountains.
One day the weather bureau predicted for Fort Myers, the first
time in history, but none arrived.
Well, I could run on in the time

Tegucigalpa, 15 January, 1959

Dear Wilson:

It is good to know that you are all well back in Central America. Too bad you came back so soon, and be unable to take advantage of the present more favorable exchange rate of the peseta! There are some great bargains being offered at present in exchange in many of the Latin countries.

Everything here is well enough, except the weather, which is bárbaro: Wind, cold, rain, and more rain; and this is the middle, más o menos, of January. I am feeling as well as I can expect, but a man who was here the other day told me he had understood I was in very bad shape. I don't know where he had got his information, but he had just come from El Zamorano. I am sure some of the people there hope it is true, even if they know nothing about the matter--as they don't.

Have you heard about the recent accident in Lake Yojoa? A few days before Christmas, Dinty Moore was drowned in a boat that was overturned there. The few other people in the boat were saved. He had come here shortly before to have charge of STICA in Honduras. Just 30 years ago, I had a most unpleasant experience in the same place, with some 15 other people, but we were fortunate. It was, I believe, the worst experience I have ever had in Central America.

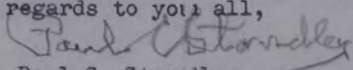
The nine volumes, or rather parts of Flora of Guatemala, are all published so far, and probably no more will ever be printed. There is manuscript ready for publication of four or five more parts, but I doubt they ever will be printed. I don't care any more, and probably no one else does.

I was much pleased to receive a visit, two in fact, from the Allens. I get a good deal of information from the School, in one way and another, but they had news from all sides. Apparently everything there is going well, and many important changes are being made. Paul Allen says the campus looks like an English park, more or less, and if our rains here continue, there is no reason why it shouldn't.

Mario Jalil once refused to get seeds of kohlrabi for the School, saying it wasn't eaten here. He was misinformed. It is just about the most abundant verdura of the Tegucigalpa markets, along with that luscious Costa Rican favorite, the patate. And why can you get fine tomatoes in Tegucigalpa, but not in El Zamorano. Apparently, there they don't know how.

Well, it is just about time for lunch, and I will stop. I hope I shall be hearing again from you when you are settled down,

With all best regards to you all,


Paul C. Standley

Antigua, 20 Jan 1959

Dear Pablo:

Just after I had mailed a letter to you today, asking if you are still alive, to which you might of course have replied No, in comes yours of the 15th with the sad news of Dinty Moore's death. You may perhaps know that we were close associates and good friends in UFCo from the year I came to Tela, 1925, until about 1935 when he left the Company to go to Davis and get his Ph D in soils and then went into government service. I must write his wife, Adele; I suppose the folks at the Embassy in Tegucigalpa ~~will~~ know where she is.

I am glad to hear that Paul and Dottie Allen visited you in Teguci. The way things now stack up, we may be seeing them in Salvador in late March - the license tags for 1959 may have reached Antigua by that time. The main thing today is that your letter reassures me that you are OK as us gringos like to say, and when we get over there we will see if we cant stir up some work for you to do. All reports I get from Zamorano are like yours; things seem to be going very well, they are giving Bill all the money he needs, and I gather the school is heading toward a higher academic level which is OK by me (again) so long as they dont let the studes stand by and watch 12 mozos milk the cows as they used to do at Medellin.

As previously advised, we are off for Calif this week, via Mexico. Maximum 30 days so drop me a line to arrive here about 20 Feb. I sure like to be at home, and in Guatemala.

Ever yours,

Tegucigalpa, 26 February, 1959

Dear Wilson:

By this time, I trust you have returned from the California trip. I trust you were in one of the more tropical parts of our second largest state. I understand that the Texans now are boasting that they live in the largest state of the Union that has no glaciers. Our weather is beginning to get settled into normal verano, which pleases most people. Incidentally, how can you endure the terrible tropical heat of Guatemala? I have been asked that question by people of the States who should know better, and many times.

Everything here is about as usual, the customary machetazos, quiet Saturday and Sunday celebrations. I hardly know of any place that is in better conditions, at least in Latin America. Some things are improving. Cuba no longer has a dictator, just a mess of assassins running the government. The other night here a young man was shot by the police for whistling the Marcha del rfo Kwait; and one of the boys working here was ordered to stop whistling the same tune, unless he wanted to get into serious trouble.

I have seen at various times several people from El Zamorano. They have just occupied a new three-room primary school, and with three profesoras, they must be well housed and staffed. For this part of the world that really is something.

There is plenty of local gossip, rumores, and chismec, but I will leave that until you come over here, which I hope may be soon.

Florida seems to be doing well this season, and it is almost time for settled weather. By the last Miami Herald, I see that the farmers are complaining of overproduction, and low prices. They are having to dig their potatoes and sell them at \$1.50 per quintal. In the course of time they may learn that the people in the North can't see much difference between new potatoes and those stored over the winter. Ditto for cabbage.

No more for today. It is easier to talk than to write letters, and I hope I shall see you soon, around the middle of next month. With best regards to you all, sincerely yours

Standley
Paul C. Standley

Tegucigalpa, 21 March, 1959

Dear Wilson:

At least, I sent off to you the other day clippings about the graduation etc. It was pretty much as usual, I understand, with the smallest number of graduates on record. I dare say they were very choice. So far I haven't heard much that was authentic, and even little of the chisme. However, it seems that the Mrs. Director, who they say now runs the school, was walked over by Mrs. Stone, much to the distress of the latter. The day after there was a meeting of the faculty to plan the graduation of next year (hombre o mujer prevenido vale por dos), and some one said next year we will do it so. Yes, says the director, we will if Mrs. Stone will permit us. It looks like a hot time in the old town, tra la la.

Among other things, I have heard some of the people here complain about how the President was treated. Mrs. P wanted to have all the people choose their own seats, because here, as in Ioawy, all people are equal. She doesn't yet realize that some of them are also a lot more equal than others. Of course, V. M. had his innings last year, running them up to several dozens, and he should feel satisfied for a while. Everything that appeared in the papers about the graduation was in praise, partly, perhaps, because it was written in the school, and carefully edited in the hand-outs. I suppose that next year the guest of honor will be Fidel Castro, if he lasts that long, which it is to be hoped he will not. All over C. Am. the political news is very bad these days, except in Nicaragua and El Salvador. They say there are twice as many beggars in the streets ~~as~~ than ever before. At least one thing is true: Here we don't make a public spectacle of the murderers, nor are they praised by the people. I suppose we are not so cultured as the Cubans. Which reminds me that the people of Belice are apparently going to instal open gambling in their world. I wonder what they are going to gamble with? The tops off beer bottles?

On the street the other day I saw doña Marina Gallardo, but I hesitated to speak to her, because I couldn't believe what I saw. She looks much younger, and has a new wig, a great improvement over the former one. They say she is seriously ill, and under treatment here, but not in a hospital.

If I end this letter now, I think I can get it off in today's mail. There won't be much mail next week.

When I left Washington, I was urged not to resign from the Cosmos Club. It would be so nice to put up there on the numerous visits I would make there. I resigned, and I have never seen Washington again, even from a plane. It was one of the few times in my life that I have exercised good judgment.

Did Mrs. Greene of Winter Haven knock at your door? She was going to visit here and in the School, but the letter she got from Dr. Paddock was about as warm as a Nebraska blizzard. Apparently he has a passion for making enemies. If I am not too mistaken, among other things she has a bit of money; but perhaps he finds moneymaking too easy to interest him.

With all best regards to all

Paul C. Standley

ans may 30

Tegucigalpa, 24 May, 1959

Dear Wilson:

Amado Pelén tells me that you are back from Venezuela. I trust you had a good trip. I expected to write to Helen long before this, but time here does fly rapidly, believe it or not, although I suppose it does not for those who are bedridden, which I am not--so far. Actually, I am fairly well, except that I get tired easily, and my memory gets poorer almost every day, which perhaps is no great loss. Dr. Paddock has at last given me a half-hearted invitation, and indirectly, to go to EAP, and even a salary of £100 per month. Actually I have not wanted any salary, for with room and board there I would not need it, and with room and board I would be very well off. Maybe at the end they can give me a box and a burial place. I think El Chahuite would be the best burial place, and it will be of no interest to me, in the end, where I am put away.

I hope you are having more favorable weather than we are. It is all right for temperature, but we have had only a few token showers, and none recently. The farmers can not be very happy. The water situation in Tegucigalpa is bad, worse than usual, and next year probably still worse. It is better not to think about the financial and labor situations; but let us drink--if we can find any beverages--eat, and be merry. I don't see and hope for Honduras anywhere.

Pompilio Ortega died in the first part of this month. The day he was buried, Antonio Molina went with a friend down to San Pedro, almost passing by La Libertad, but he had heard nothing about don Pompilio until I told him about it. So it is that news sometimes does not spread in Honduras.

If I go to Tegucigalpa on Saturday, I frequently meet people from EAP, and get news from there. I judge things are going as usual in the School. You can make what you like out of that statement. Apparently they are just as badly off for water as we are here. Actually, in the Hospital we have water sufficient for most purposes most of the time.

Miss Clara left recently on a three-month vacation. She is getting old, and unless she improves while in Jamaica, probably she will not come back. Lately there have been lots of patients in Viera.

I hope all goes well with you all in all respects. If you can get me any of the stamps mentioned in the enclose clipping, I shall be very grateful--used or mint. I have seen none of them here. I do not need more than one of a kind.

With all best regards, sincerely yours

Pablo

Tegucigalpa, 7 June, 1959

Dear Wilson:

It is good to hear from you once More. I did write a letter to you recently, having heard from our mutual friend, Amado Pelén, that you were already back in La Antigua about ten days ago. It always is worth while to have dependable sources of information. It is only by rare luck that I am writing to you now in San José. Your letter sent from there reached me promptly, but there was no indication of what part of that metropolis you might be installed in. However, I sought advice from some of our best fortune tellers of Tegucigalpa, and especially El Viera, and trust these lines may reach you in due time.

No news or but little in these days. Helen says there is too much rain in Guatemala, but we have had none to speak of, and water is still scarce in town. In EAP they are fortunate if they have continued their practice of planting corn June 15. Perhaps there will be rain by then. Quiensabe.

José Paz' wife had a baby--girl--in this hospital recently. I presume you know he was married here last year. Pompilio Ortega died in May. Luis Landa is still going strong.

I was told yesterday by Manuel Wong that Kaiser as he is known among the Chinese here--your Wing--is about to open a chop suey place near the Teatro Pálace, perhaps as a part of the Restaurante Oriental, which is now run by a Chinaman by the name of Chávez, but until last year by don José Yun. Incidentally, do you happen to know Samuel Young Puik? He wants me to lend him some money, at good interest. I have always understood that all Chinese are honest and responsible. How about it?

Day before yesterday I at last saw Adán Zepeda, the first time since he left EAP. I don't know how he does it, but he certainly gets better-looking every year; and he never has been anything else since I have known him. Clara Buchanan, chief nurse here, is on a three months vacation in Jamaica. If her health does not improve, she probably will not return here, but I hope she does come. However, everything in the Hospital is running smoothly.

The ribbon shift of this machine is acting up this morning, and I am going to quit. I am glad to hear that you are getting along so well. I have little to complain about, but, unlike Adán Zepeda, I am not getting better day by day.

With all best regards, sincerely yours,

Tablo

Tegucigalpa, 30 June, 1959

Dear Wilson:

For the past few days it has been disagreeably cold, damp, and cloudy, but this morning we are once more in sunshine. Of course, there has been little rain, and it is doubtful there will be much. I hope I am mistaken, but I suspect that it is going to get drier ever coming year. Not so in Florida. In Fort Myers last week they had more than 14 inches of rain, in two days. Dr. Mendoza was in Orlando early this summer, and found himself right in the middle of a tornado. It was a tourist attraction that had not been predicted.

Here things are limping along as usual, as you probably/noticed by the Guatemalan press. Even the staunch El Cronista, pillar of the Liberales, said the other day that in order to get Honduran news you have to read what they say in Guatemala. They would get even more if they read the Salvadoran papers. The Cronista, incidentally, was bombed about two weeks ago. The Señora de Valladares was sleeping on the second floor, but was not harmed physically, and the presses were not much damaged--and insured. On the first floor an old lady has a small librería, which I suppose is about all she has to live on. It was left a shambles. She had just bought a new ice box, and for some reason, that night she left its door open, so the box was not harmed. In another ice box in the building, the door was closed, and it was completely wrecked. Moral: In bombing centers, leave your refrigerator open at night.

Almost every Saturday I see one or more people from El Zamorano, but there is little news from there. They almost had a riot among the students when the new director decided that hereafter only black beans can be purchased for the comedor. They are a cent a pound cheaper than the red ones, and he as a good Ioway agriculturist, knows that beans are beans, and color has no importance, unless esthetically, and to hell with esthetics in agricultural science. Of course, as everybody knows, on one occasion the use of chile was likewise forbidden in the same comedor on even slighter pretext.

There have been strangely few obits in the newspapers of late. I have seen only the mention, in Miami Herald, of Ludlow Griscom. I suppose you must have met him at some time. I met him first in Panama.

It was announced recently in the papers that Expresident Galvez was operated recently, in Miami or New Orleans, for a small tumor on one eye. However, I am told on the highest authority that the operation was really for cancer of the larynx. He can not talk, of course, but one woman remarked when she heard it: Well, he never did talk much. Incidentally, I don't suppose you have heard any news of Zetek in Panama? I didn't get a Christmas card from him, and I am afraid he may have passed away. I have always been very fond of him.

I hope everything is going well with you all. With all best regards to all,

Pablo

Tegucigalpa, 24 July, 1959

Dear Wilson:

You are fortunate in living in a country where they kill people just a few at a time. We do that on a larger scale. I have thought of living down town, but I just don't know what would be a safe part in which to live. I don't believe there is any. We had in some ways a safe place up here, and there were no shots very near us, plenty down below in Guanacaste, La Leona, et al. Of course, we have on one side Casamata, on the other El Edén, El Bosque, Buenos Aires, etc. The first day, Sunday, except for firing all day long, we had the most tranquil day I have ever known in El Viera, including Viernes Santo.

Monday morning I was informed that all the bulla had passed, so when the car went down I went along. Everything was about as usual, most stores open, lots of cars running. Then just after noon all hell broke loose, and I was just about in the middle of it, sharpshooters firing from the highest buildings, mortars booming, and other entertainment. It didn't take long to clear the streets. I had a little girl sitting on my lap for 15 minutes or so, unable to find her mother.

The whole block of Police headquarters burned, roasting most of the petty malhechores, because no one could open the cells. One of the lesser tragedies, I suppose. Nobody knows how many deaths there were, or ever will. The new building of Cantero was badly damaged, and some of the almacenes completely ruined and looted. At present, as of Wednesday, everything was about normal. There are no military police any more, but don't let that fool you. One or two days they had boy scouts directing traffic (also cub scouts), then the women workers in government offices replaced them--not quite satisfactorily, because the drivers had their eyes on the señoritas instead of the streets. But that again is settled now.

So far as I know, Calixto Carías is still asilado in the Costa Rican Embassy, so there was at least one representative of the EAP. Apparently all the trouble was confined to Tegucigalpa, except that it was started in Comayagua.

I am not thinking of going to Habana for the week end. There may be some political activity in Miami. on the part of the Cubans. I don't see why Miami doesn't put in jail the Cubans who do the rioting, but I suppose the city is making money out of them.

Tomás Martínez is said to be in the Policlínica and is likely to lose one leg. General Carías was reported as wounded, but actually he was cut by flying glass, which was plentiful in some ~~places~~ places.

I hope you have had more rain than we. Unless it rains before long, things will be in a bad way. It is said that in Nicaragua they have been having too much, as has been the case in south Florida.

Wing has opened his new chop suey place, across from the Macarthur, but I haven't been inside it yet.

No more for the moment. With best regards to all, sincerely

yours

Tabla

Tegucigalpa, 18 August, 1959

Dear Wilson:

It may well be that the old timers are rapidly dying off in Washington, and specifically in the Cosmos Club, but I note that when one of them does pass off, there usually is some still older one to write his obituary notice. Also, those biographers seem to have attained membership in the Club within the last few years. It looks like they were scraping the bottom of the keg. Their writing is not brilliant, and suggests to me the verbatim reproductions of Mr. Eisenhowers English in his press conferences, as cruelly printed in such papers as the Miami Herald.

There isn't much news these days in the local papers. Calixto Carias finally reached ~~xx~~ Costa Rica. Roberto Villeda has just been married, or is about to be very soon. Just the other day I met down town Carlos Soto. He didn't tell me, but I read in the papers, that he has just expelled 12 students in Catacamas who were in a bochinche there. It is good that there still is some discipline in some of the schools of Central America.

We have actually had two or three small showers in this valley, not enough to do much good. What we are going to do this year for water is to be seen. Of course, a good part of the people here can get along very well without water, but Saturday afternoons and Sundays, when no liquor is sold, present a problem.

Recently I have seen some large, bright red apples for sale on the streets here, and earlier there were some equally large that they say come from El Salvador. I suppose they are actually from Guatemala. I have here on my desk just now some perotes from Guinope. We are having fine elotes lately, rather large ones, not too ripe, and, believe it or not, sans worms. In spite of all opposition, Honduras is gradually improving in some respects.

Well, as Mr. Eisenhower says, I find little of any interest, to write about this morning. I trust everything is going well with you all. With all best regards,

Pablo

Tegucigalpa, 29 September, 1959

Dear Wilson:

It is good news to hear that you both may be in Honduras in early November. Things seem to be going well in El Zamorano, so far as I have heard from the people from there that I meet now and then, especially on Saturday. Of course, they all have their complaints, but then they always have them. The chief complaint seems to be the shortage of water everywhere--except in Florida where they still have too much, such as it is. We have had very little water this season, and it is too late to expect much more. I don't know what Tegucigalpa will do for water this coming year.

I am surprised to hear that Rock is still in circulation. I knew him fairly well, and he was a great friend of the Maxons. If you would read BOHEMIA, especially the frequent articles dealing with international spies, of the past and present, you would find some curious and interesting material, treating of how such people work. Yes, Rock had money, and it didn't all come from the National Geographic.

You will scarcely be able to find your way about in Tegucigalpa any more. There are some good new buildings, and some of the old ones have been torn down. It will interest the US tourists to see the new skyscrapers, a pizza shop, and the like. We have no police any more, and their substitutes carry no arms. In a way, we are getting to be just like the English, as the latter advertise themselves (read recent English news for home consumption). There have been the usual strikes of school children (not Universitarios), who have even accused the President of genocide. What that is, they don't know, but it sounds good. Actually, some good genocidists might do a lot of good in various parts of Latin America.

There really isn't much to write about, but things are generally good enough here. Nobody, probably, knows what may happen tomorrow.

With all best regards, sincerely yours

Valley

Ficus costaricensis is easy enough to recognize by its flat-topped crown and low growth. There is plenty of it in Antigua, along the streets just below(?) the market, where I have seen the people cutting the branches for fodder. The leaves are of medium size, narrow, pointed; stipules rather large, and remaining on the branchlets a long time; receptacles sessile. After all is said and done, a *Ficus* is a *Ficus*, is a *Ficus*. It is not like something I read the other day in a very good English biography.

A very prim and elderly woman met in the road a little girl leading a cow. Where are you going little girl? I am taking this cow to the bull. Tut, tut. Couldn't your father do that? No, it has to be a bull.

Tegucigalpa, 3 November, 1959

Dear Wilson:

Several times I have reread your letter regarding fern trunks for the enterprising horticulturists of Florida, and the only satisfaction I can get out of the matter is in telling the truth: that I don't know the names of the tree ferns used in various ways in the various parts of Central America, and that I don't believe anyone now alive or dead knows more than I do. Maxon never got around to studying them, except for a few isolated species, and I don't believe Morton has done any more. People just aren't interested in tree ferns, except the ones who hope to make money off of them.

I judge the smartest man involved is Mr. Craggs, who wishes to keep the south coast tree ferns for his own use. The tree ferns of Cobán are well guarded by the Indians who will give no information regarding them except for personal profit, which never is much.

I can't believe that tree fern trunks are very important for growing orchids, else Dr. Dyckman would have carried off all of them from Uyuca long ago. When everything is gone from Central America that is movable, they can do here in Honduras as one of the Turcos offered to do for the house where Morazán is supposed (by someto have been born): tear down the old dilapidated house, and build a finer one in a more attractive location.

Incidentally, just ask Mrs. Petersen what she thinks of this and similar matters in Guatemala.

Nothing new around here at present. Things seem to run along about as usual, if you understand what I mean, and I am sure you do.

With all best regards, as ever

Tabley

ESCUELA AGRICOLA PANAMERICANA

APARTADO 93

TEGUCIGALPA, HONDURAS
CENTRO AMERICA

Antigua G, 5 Novbr 1959

Prof. Dr. Paul C Standley
Hospital Viera, Tegucigalpa, D C

Dear Pablo:

Helen said at bkfst just now, what's the matter with Paul Standley? We haven't heard from him in several weeks. And I replied "What's the matter with me. I write Paul that we would be over there shortly and he figures he doesn't need to write." So now this is to say what you almost certainly know, that we are not coming over right now because the annual meeting of the Board of Directors of EAP has been shifted in location once and in date three times and at last report will be held in NYC on 24 de los presentes. I just don't believe I can make it, that far from here; I have so much work in hand and so little money ditto; and say what you will, all expenses paid etc etc, every time we go to the USA we come back \$2000 poorer. And we need those \$2000 right now to finish putting in the two new bathrooms with hot water complete, which Helen has been planning on for several years and which I don't need but she does so there you are. I have a nice little shower in my shack with some pipe coils out in the sun; and when it is hot and dusty I have a fine bath every afternoon and when it is cold and rainy as it has been for the past two weeks I don't want a bath anyway.

Not much news from this side. I do think I will go over to Salvador next week (Helen swears she will not go but you wait and see) just to find out how the agrl school and the fruit improvements program look; and have a good visit with Chico de Sola. But you know, Pablo, I am getting less interested in travel every year. It's pretty comfortable here in Antigua and I have a nice little library - and Oh this reminds me, I got Azmitia to bind up my volumes of your Flora of Guatemala. One he did upside down but that doesn't really matter - and will you believe it, he does a good sound job of binding at \$1 I mean \$1.00 per volume. But the point is this: I have vols. 1 to 6 of the Flora of Guatemala; one vol. of Mosses of Guatemala, and two vols. of Orchids of Guatemala (all in the same series of course). Now how many vols. of Flora of Guatemala are still lacking? And when do you think they will see the light of day?

One of these days I think you better come over here, now that we are going to have light and hot water in the Guest House. And hombre, I have just got a fine collection of hybrid *Watsonias* from California, and *Lilium philippinense* var. *formosanum* is really sumpin, and we have a magnificent lot of *amaryllis* in bloom and quite a few *camellias* and some good horseradish and rhubarb and mutton chops and fried chicken and other botanical rarities. I'm going to get you over here before you have a chance to bury me up in the cemetery at San Antonio de Oriente, alongside of Manuel Cruz.

Rev'r yr devoted friend

Tegucigalpa, 20 November, 1959

Dear Wilson:

In all probability, we are having just the same kind of weather that you are: cold, dark, cloudy, also windy, and in general disagreeable. That is why I haven't been writing, for I hope that tomorrow will be better.

From the titles that you mention, of the Flora of Guatemala, I believe you have all the published volumes. There is completed manuscript for the rest of the series, but I don't believe any more will be printed, and I don't care particularly. Apparently, few or none care. I think that both Steyermark have been badly treated in the whole matter, and in some other matters besides.

Doña Rosa v. de Fortín died recently. I understand that another member of the family also. passed on; I don't know who she was. Arturo and his wife have been here at the Hospital several times lately, as visitors.

Every Saturday that I go down town I usually meet someone from the School. Things seem to be going all right in El Zamorano, but you can't really tell by all the gossip you hear. I believe I told you that some one employed in the office got away with a considerable quantity of money. The best opportunities now in this region are in robberies, which continue apace. Tegucigalpa is terribly dull now, and the government is very short of money, according to all reports. Anyhow, we are much better off than Cuba

Well, there just doesn't seem to be any real news, which is just as well. I read that Guayaquil is now the greatest port of the world. How times have changed in that business! On the North Coast, apparently they haven't had any blowdowns this season, but there still is time.

I hope everything is going well with you all. With best regards, to you all, sincerely

Hablo

ESCUELA AGRICOLA PANAMERICANA

APARTADO 93

TEGUCIGALPA, HONDURAS
CENTRO AMERICA

Antigua, 29 Nov 1959

Dear Pablo:

Thanks for yours of 20th pte. But you disturb me; how many more tomes of the Flora of Guatemala should be printed? And can they leave a Flora with everything from Persea to Zea unprinted? And another thing, in using the volumes I now have, it takes an awful lot of time to look up Arthrobromia rigida when I cant recall whether it is a gymnosperm or an angiosperm. We need a general index to the whole work. Do give me a definite idea of how the matter stands and where we are going to be at (as L O Wms used to say, after critiquing my use of the English language) if no more volumes of the Flora of Guatemala appear.

Sorry to hear about the death of Doña Rosa de Fortán; she and I got along very well, but I remember having heard her make some remarks regarding the ancestry of José Membreño which werent too flattering.

Just been reading Ceiba, Vol 8 No 2 (I dont know just how they skipped Vols 6, 6 and 7) in which Bob Hunter says that his system of land classification is "more exact and less cumbersome and much easier to work with than the system explained by Standley (40) and Popenoe (33) of equating the temperature zones of "tierra caliente" and "tierra templada" and "tierra fria" with wet, semi-arid and arid rainfall zones. Then he goes on to elaborate a classification which sounds to me a lot ~~int~~ more complicated than ~~count~~. After all I think Juan Garcia and Julio Gomez know what tierra caliente means, but do they understand the meaning of a Lower Montane Formation? And when you boil it all down, I cant see that he has changed the climates very materially; just complicated the terminology.

All well here; I dont want to leave again, much as I enjoyed my brief stay in Salvador, until we come over to Honduras for the graduation at the middle of March. Yesterday Hilda Taillon and Lydia Dunlap née Cloward stopped in; I promised Lydia we would visit Lima at the time we go to Zamorano and we will also drop down to Lancetilla I hope. I cant quite say plus je vois l'homme, plus j'aime mon chien, but I can say truthfully that the older I get the more I like to sit around this patio in Antigua; which reminds me, how would you like to come over here for a week, if S. Claud put a round trip ticket via Taca in your sock? Get out a new pair so the ticket wont drop out thru a hole and be picked up by the yard boy as we dont have room for him.

Ever yrs

Tegucigalpa, 11 December, 1959

Dear Wilson:

This week end I should like to spend in Mexico, or in southern New Mexico for the celebration of the day of Our Lady of Guadalupe. In New Mexico it used to be, and I suspect it still is a really pagan celebration, and brought out many things never seen at other times. You may say there is a Guadalupe church in Guatemala, but it isn't the same thing.

It is very kind and thoughtful of you to invite me to Antigua for the pascuas, and I should enjoy going, but I was invited two weeks or more ago to visit El Zamorano at that time, and think I had better go. They have invited me there so many times, and if I don't go this time, I may not get another chance.

Things here in Viera are upset again, and there is a new reorganization. I trust I may come out all right. If not I may have to move down town, to Comayagüela or some other part, where living is cheaper, if not so comfortable or agreeable. If that doesn't work, I shall have to hunt something else somewhere. I don't like the idea of down town, because conditions are very bad at present, and likely to be worse, perhaps. The best Central American country in which to be at present is probably El Salvador. There they seem to have been civilized to a greater extent than in the other countries. That is doubtless because they have better leadership.

Our weather here goes from bad to badder, like yours probably does, and it has been just about the worst I have ever seen in Honduras. They say a good many people--probably three or more--have died from the cold in Intibucá.

I just can't give you any more information than I already have about the Flora of Guatemala, and it is best to just forget the whole matter. In the Chicago Museum they have two new young men to take care of the Herbarium, but that has nothing to do with the Flora. When they fired Steyermark, that was the end of the Flora, and I don't care. I don't expect to be around much longer, to bother about Guatemalan or other botanical matters.

There is no new news around here, so far as I recall. In spite of the showers we are getting almost every night, the hills are already dry and brown, as they ought to be at this season.

I am glad to hear that you all are well, or at least I infer as much. I don't have much to complain about, except that I am just going to pieces, you might say, in all directions.

Withall best wishes, sincerely yours,

Tabby

Tegucigalpa, 18 January, 1960

Dear Wilson:

It is good to hear from you again, and to hear about your plans for coming to the graduation. Apparently, various elaborate plans are being made for that, especially plans that involve no money.

Here in the Hospital things are getting straightened out, and some improvements are being made, also there are more patients I rather think everything may turn out well in time. I certainly have nothing to complain about. Of course people don't like to have their routine changed, and some of the old employees here are standing around in groups in the corners, whispering. And there are some who probably will lose their jobs, and as things are going, they will have to work harder, and for some that will be quite an innovation.

Anyhow, I find that I can get lodging etc. at various places down town, and considerably less cost than here. Outside people have long been telling me that I pay too much here, but there are certain advantages in Viera. Your suggestions about Antigua are tempting, and I might get around to considering them more carefully. For one thing, I just don't want to get stranded, and it would be my usual luck to settle down in Antigua, and then have something happen to you. I really don't care to go on just living for much more time, but it would be natural~~ly~~ for me to go on until ninety, or something like that. How that would irritate some people!

Dr. Steyermark was fired and thrown out of the Chicago Museum almost by force one day, and told never to come back. He was particularly told to leave the MSS of Flora Guat. behind. I don't know what he did, but evidently it was something disgraceful, and I am not surprised. I was not at all surprised, for I had warned him more than once. If I were at the Museum, I could easily find out which one of the possibilities he committed. I have tried to learn from people that I asked to investigate, but they had no luck, and those who do know what happened, will not put it into writing, quite naturally. All that happened some time ago, four years or so. Steyermark has been unable to get work, except in minor teaching jobs, and I suppose he has been blackballed for botanical positions.

I was at El Zamorano two nights, and enjoyed everything very much. We left here about nine at night, and went down to Tegucigalpa where we had toreadas and other things, getting to El Zamorano pretty late. I supposed I would have to go to sleep quickly, but I didn't, and took in everything except the Misa del Gallo. Then the cena, which was good as always. A lot of the students spent the night here in town, but there were enough children, dozens of them, to fill all the tables. I got to bed after four, slept until eight, and felt none the worse for it all. I didn't have time to see everything, but there are certainly lots of changes everywhere, and mostly for the good, it seems to me.

Well, there are lots of things I could tell you about, but it is better to wait until you come over here. Writing seems every day harder and harder work for me. The weather since Christmas has been good, lots of sunshine and dust, and lately it has not been cold.

With all best regards, sincerely yours

Table

Antigua, 12 Feb 1960
ESCUELA AGRICOLA PANAMERICANA

Dear Pablo:

APARTADO 93

TEGUCIGALPA, HOY
CENTRO AMERICANO

Just back from two weeks in Florida; first to Gainesville to make sure Hugh got that doctorado he has been talking about for the past couple of years (glad to say his hood is not as swell as mine, us-honorary-doctors have a wide gold band around the edge, no extra charge); then I talked him ~~into~~ into a horticultural tour of the land of Sunshine Fruit and Flowers. We rolled southward in his flamante 1956 Ford to Bradenton where we had a fine morning with your and my old friend and colleague, Ralph Robinson, who sends you his regards - and old Ralph looks well, I am glad to say; better than he did when I was there about three yrs ago. Then we went on down to Ft Myers and after many arguments with the Motel keepers finally got put up for \$8 count them \$8 per night (I think they have a motel keepers union; it is the same price everywhere); then we rolled over to Belle Glade to see Bob Allison for a couple of hours then down to Homestead where we put up at the Hotel Seminole where I used to stay 40 yrs ago and which I still like, partly because they only charge you five bucks per night, but I almost lost the friendship of the Krome family who said Why didnt we come out and stay with them. Hugh said, why dont we roll down to Key West and get a conch chowder so we did, and I thought I might get a few Cuban cigars so I went into a Cuban grocery and asked the guy in my best cubiche where to look for them and he said "Oh you want some Cuban Cigars? Pues, vaya a Duval, ahí vira a la izquierda, y let me see, dos cuadras adelante." Cayo Hueso dint what it used to be but there are a lot of fine tropical tress there, including A. squamosa.

Now as to el futuro: Helen and I plan to leave here by Volkswagen about 10 marzo pxmo futuro; stop in Salvador a couple of days, proceed to Teguci, and be available for graduation at EAP on the 19th marzo. After that we may take a run over to Danli, and most assuredly a walk up to San Antonio de Oriente. We will look you up on arrival in Teguci, and maybe you will consent to go out to the graduation since you consented to go out for Xmas. I am very glad you did that. And glad to were pleased with the improvements which have been made.

In suggesting Antigua as a possible hogar for you, I just wanted you to know that we would be glad to have you over here and you could get pension at Benes Estrada's place around the corner for \$50 or \$60 per mensem; and if I die and go to Hell Helen will still be here and can take care of you; but as you say, I think you are better off in Teguci, with the many friends you have around there; we will talk this over when we see you which should be soon. Thanks for the info about the retirement of Dr Steyermark; reminds me somewhat of the guys who say "my resignation was accepted". But Pablo, they must get out the best of the Floradde Guatemala. No self-respecting institution could publish nine volumes and not complete the job unless in bankruptcy and I dont think the museum is facing such a situation, in any means.

Well, this is just a warning that you can expect us to descend upon somewhere around the 15 pxmo futuro, y mientras tanto y siempre

En muy afmo y SS

Tegucigalpa, 29 April, 1960

Dear Wilson:

Holy Week has passed, and things are getting more or less settled; but Sunday is day of los Obreros (?), and the Día de la Cruz comes a day or two later, also the Cinco de Mayo, if you are in that country, then the gas chamber for Chessman (maybe), Princess Margaret's wedding (perhaps), and many other similar items of scant importance. Also the US campaigns are beginning to weave their weary ways. I expect it will be a dirty campaign, but that is nothing unusual in USA.

Politics here is just as bad or worse, and we, unfortunately, can not expect anything better, although we may get something better. The most cheerful news in the daily papers is of the picturesque murders, some of which are really delightful.

Amado Paz died day before yesterday in the Policlínica. Adán Zepeda said to me one day, "Nada puede matar aquel Viejo," but his time did come. Luis Morcillo spent a few days in Viera recently for a chequeo, and his family and friends are muy preocupados about the results. The doctors could not agree as to whether he has tuberculosis or cancer. I understand he is going to the States for confirmation. I am none too well, but I am better off than some.

Things are in a mess at El Zamorano, and the principal trouble is lack of funds; more or less the opposite of your experience there. Dr. P wants to publicize the herbarium and library, but he doesn't know where to get the funds. I should think so! The people who have funds, so often wish to spend them on themselves. I have told you, I believe, that Iowa State University, Dr. Paddock's own school, recently put up 40 thousand dollars to publish Steyermark's flora of Missouri. Just after you left the School, Dr. P himself brought up here to see me an old man from Harvard who was ready to give 500 dollars for collecting by Antonio, but so far as I know Dr. P wasn't interested in the matter. Now he is beginning to learn some of the facts of life. On Good Friday Dr. Mendoza went to El Chagüite, where he has a finca. On his way he visited Dr. Paddock, who apparently took his hair down, and told him about his troubles in some detail. Some of the details were rather interesting.

There is some good news. We have had three mild showers, which were not important here, but down below they washed down some shacks, and will take more if there is more rain. At El Zamorano this week they had five inches of rain in two days. In the past two years here in Viera, you might say we have had no rain, and I am expecting that it will be worse every year. The first year I spent here there was lots of rain, but it would be a catastrophe if we had more of the same now. The many new shacks, literally hundreds, that they have been building, are expected to go to pieces when there is a hard rainstorm.

With best regards to you all

Pablo

Antigua G, 5 May 1960

Dear Pablo:

Good to have your letter of 29 pxmo ppdo, but I am sorry to hear of the death of Amado Paz and the possibly serious ailment of Luis Morcillo. I remember when he came back from Michigan he was not at all well for several months, but I thought it was just over-work - and he did work hard to get his MSAE. I tried to let him take it easy until he got in good shape. I tried to do that with all my men but I think some of my intentions were misinterpreted.

I like the idea of building up the library at Zamorano. It appears that during the past year which is said to be the first time the boys have ever had access to the books, they stood in line to get into the library of evenings and it was thrilling sight to see five boys poring over one and the same book at one and the same time. It is a matter of record that during our first years, we had a pretty good library for the students up in the main building - I think you must recall it. We didn't put Die Natürlichen Pflanzenfamilien up there because I didn't think many of the boys could or would care to read it. We finally moved all the books down to the Science bldg, when that was finished in 1949; and I always felt that Louis would let any boys come there who were really serious. I don't know. I have been urging that the school buy all the good available texts in Spanish, mainly from Salvat Editores of Barcelona, and a couple of publishing houses in Buenos Aires and Mexico. If the boys really want to read along technical lines, this is the stuff to feed the troops. As for the 500 (and I quote five hundred) journal subscriptions which the school is to receive or is receiving, I doubt that we need so many.

I wish you would send a few of those 5 inch 48 hr rains over here. We are overdue - nothing worth measuring hasta la fecha. I am trying to clean up a lot of very delayed correspondence to get off for Managua on 16th instant, to see if I can be of any help there in developing commercial culture. Don't let anybody tell you "Ya ve, el viejo trying to make a lot of easy money". I didn't take any money for the job I did in Venezuela nor in either job in Spain or Israel or the job I did in Mexico. Just my actual expenses. I am not interested in making money though I could like the other expertos ask (and almost certainly get) \$50 a day plus expenses. But that isn't my idea. I want to keep on being useful as long as I can, and that's all.

Helen joins in affectionate regards.

Ever yrs

Tegucigalpa, 3 June, 1960

Dear Wilson:

26/6/60
done
The opportunity to aid the Agave sujeto of southern California, "where the suckers come from," is a great temptation to do something for Science, but I think I will stifle my enthusiasm until a later date. Of course, it is a very generous offer, for he is willing to pay the postage. Evidently Mr. Breitung doesn't know anything about Agaves, and he has omitted from his list half a dozen or so species that are known from Guatemala. This tip suggests to me Dr. Rose, who once sent to Otón Jimenez a money order for three or perhaps five dollars, asking him to do him the favor of going over to Guanacaste ~~there were no planes in those days~~ and get him some plants of a cactus which grew somewhere in Guanacaste. The money order was returned to sender with pithy remarks anent the general subject.

We don't need any more rain at the moment, but I expect we shall get it anyway. It was a long time coming, and it did the usual damage in Tegucigalpa. The doctors like the wetness, for it fills the hospital with respiratory affections, etc. This hospital has been full most of the time. I am a refugee at present from the room I have had until now. It is being done over, and will be considerably better when finished, which I hope will be soon.

I have had some very bad news lately. My brother is in the Veterans Hospital in Miami, where he is being treated for cancer. He is to be given X-ray treatment for six weeks. He is 60, and so far as I know, the first one of my relatives who has had cancer. Of course, they don't know what is going to happen to him. I hope he may be improved, but if not, it is to be hoped he will die quickly. My sister Margaret is staying in Miami with another sister, and goes each day to the Hospital. Ted has just passed his 60th birthday. They have sold their home in Fort Myers, and got a good price for it, and when things are more settled, they probably are going to live with another sister (it is worth while to have lots of kinfolks, and I do have a lot of them, many of which I have never even seen).

All of this worries me considerably, for I have always thought that at the worst I could go to Florida to live, or to die. I am left pretty much an orphan. In case you should need to communicate with my sister in some emergency that I am not really expecting, you could address Miss Margaret Standley, cdo. The Lee County Bank, Box 711, Fort Myers, Florida. However, I trust Margaret will have a proper address in the near future. I have a joint account with her in the Lee County Bank, and she could send funds to you or to the Hospital there.

It would be just my luck, as I have often remarked, to live the longest of all my ~~close~~ relatives.

Well, I do hope that you all are enjoying the best of health, and continue so for a long time to come. With all best regards

I am glad to hear
that Don Francisco is
now associated with
the E.A.P.

Pablo

Antigua Guatemala, 9 June 1960

Dr. Paul Standley,
Hospital Viera,
Tegucigalpa, Honduras.

Dear Pablo:

Thanks for yours of 3 June. I am sorry your friend in California Mr. Breitung did not offer to pay you \$500 a month to go out and look for the plants he wants. This would have been a fair proposition.

No hay mal que por bien no venga. Those heavy rains probably washed down the valle de Fonseca a lot of good soil in Monte Redondo in Zamorano, but at the same time put a fine lot of "enfermos" in Hospital Viera, none of whom died, I'm sure, after they got a few inyecciones.

I'm sorry to hear about your brother's serious illness. When I get cancer, I shall try to finish up as much important work as possible for I shall not expect to live very long. This sort of thing is not a pleasant subject for discussion, but you know that you and I have several times talked it over. When I was there last time I again brought up the matter with Antonio Molina. Amado Pelén who as a matter of fact is writing this letter, also understands the situation. The agreement is, if I die first, you are going to bury me on the top of Uyuca, with my head toward the school where I can keep an eye on those boys, and if you die first, you can be buried up there or at San Antonio de Oriente which you once told me would be your choice. Anything but Comayagüela. Pelén says Comayagüela is becoming a very nice place. He says the Banco de Fomento has a nice building there. But what is the Banco de Fomento going to do for you after you die?

Frankly I'm glad that you are so well fixed. You eat and sleep and have your clothes washed. Along with Chico de Sola the one thing you ought to do is to go over to San Salvador occasionally and give a little botanical help and go out to Zamorano occasionally and do the same. What has kept me alive since I left Zamorano, and perhaps considerably more lively than I was during my last year there, is that I am so damned busy I do not have time ni para rascarme la cabeza. Helena is in Tegucigalpa today and I'm sure she will try to see you. You ask her how many jobs without pay I'm turning down. This is a fine business. I can get plenty of jobs without pay, but when I stipulate the customary \$50 a day, plus expenses, I will soon find there are no jobs.

You are not as happy as I am to see Chico de Sola on the Board of Trustees of the EAP. He is a wonderful man with the right outlook and will be a lot of help to us.

Always affectionally yours,

Feb 13

Luis gets today \$4⁵⁰
which cleans up the
\$20 he first borrowed,
He now owes the second
\$20 he borrowed from
me and \$15 from you
Gonzalo was given \$5
pay me this morning
and now owes \$9.

Arturo will get 12 today
Emilio " " 5 25

$$\begin{array}{r} 380 \\ 22 \\ \hline 760 \\ 8360 \end{array}$$

SEASON'S GREETINGS FROM HONDURAS

WILSON AND HELEN POPENOE

$$\begin{array}{r} 175 \\ 145 \\ 160 \\ 120 \\ \hline 595 \\ 150 \\ \hline 735 \end{array}$$

Dec 19 Lina paid his
£2 instalment and was
loaned £20 more to
be paid £2 per week

Feb	20	
	27	
Mar	5	
	12	
	19	
	26	
Apr	2	24
	9	
	16	
	23	
	30	
May	7	

Octubre de 1959

Luis Santis pidió prestado, en la ultima semana de octubre 1959, la suma de Veinte Quetzales, los cuales iba a desquitar a razon de Dos Quetzales semanalmente. Los abonos eran los siguientes:

31 Octubre abonó ~~Q2.00~~ ^{10.50} de su sueldo semanal de ~~Q2.50~~ ⁸. Recibió ~~Q7.50~~

Tegucigalpa, 12 July, 1960

Dear Wilson:

As I understand it, the people at El Zamorano are not too happy about the rains in their region this year. They have had too much of them for the good of the crops. The same is true here; quite different from the past two years here when we had no water worth mentioning. They had better make the best of it now. Maybe they can even get some corn in the Suyapa region, but more likely only the maicillo will be worth harvesting. I have never seen the hills as green as they are now.

I was told that Luis Morcillo was to arrive in Tegucigalpa. Also the doctors at Johns Hopkins say he may live for three months more. That information came from a man from Rosa Margarita's family.

Antonio Molina and family were here the other day. They had with them two young ladies from Oregon, who are spending two months of vacation in El Zamorano. I don't know what they are doing, but one said she wanted to learn Spanish, so perhaps the students can help her in their spare time.

It seems to me that things in El Zamorano go from bad to worse. Several of the staff have been leaving, but the poorest, of course, stay on. I see Zamorano people frequently down town, especially on Saturday. The other day I was told of something that had just happened to the chofer Antonio. Various times he has told me he had been driving a car for many years. He never had an accident, and no one needed to have one. He was riding a bicycle the other day, fell off, and broke a leg. His record still stands for driving cars.

My brother is so-so. My sister says I must not mark him off until they put him in the "hopeless" room. He refuses to take sedatives, so I judge he is now suffering too much pain. My sister says that she does not know just what she will do, but she suggests that it would be well for you, in an emergency, to use the following address: Miss Margaret Standley, 6327 Southwest 10th St., West Miami, 44, Florida.

There are plenty of our families around there, and a letter for her would be forwarded to her promptly. She seemed to think I had my death in mind, but actually I am doing very well, and am not expecting to pass off immediately. With the Tegucigalpa traffic, anything can happen any day, but I am very careful with that.

I would like to be able to listen to the convention in Los Angeles today, but it looks like it will be not too interesting. None of the presidential hopefuls are very impressive, and Nixon least of all. He is the most unfortunate of all. He reminds me of a man just married who has to take his mother in law along on the honeymoon. Mr. Eisenhower is not making a very graceful exit. What is going to happen with the communists in Latin America can hardly be guessed at this moment. There is plenty of so-called communism here, but it doesn't seem to go far, and actually it is forbidden. But, and so on. There are said to be Chinese communists around, but it is said that that report comes from their competitors in business.

And more of the same. I hope that all goes well with you. With best wishes to you all as ever,

Pablo

Antigua G, 17 July 1960

Dear Pablo:

Thanks for your epistle of 12th which came yesterday. We knocked off for a day to celebrate the Fall of the Bastille. I dropped into our tienda to get a loaf of bread and asked the genial & gentlemanly owner don Fernando, When are we going to have a dia habil? To which question he replied without hesitation, Domingo.

If they are not too happy about the rains at Zamorano they better come over here for a few days and they they will go home and think they are in the heart of the Sahara.

It is terribly sad about Morcillo. Of course something might happen to curb the development of his affliction. I hope so, but it may be a verlooren hoop. We shall just have to wait and see. Hugh blew in here last night, almost literally speaking, having just stopped over in Belice while Hurricane Abby passed by. He spent half an hour with Morcillo in the airport in Miami. Hugh left this morning to fly up to the Polochic valley with his pal Chris Hempstead. He goes down to Costa Rica at the end of this week, to take part in some sort of a discussion re Conservation in the Caribbean, then he plans to join us for a brief flight to Peru. This is out vacation - Cuzco and Machu Picchu, and Helen insists on taking the train over to La Paz where we shall perhaps spend a couple of days at the Hotel Sucre Palace, better known as the Suckers' Palace. And not so far wrong, either.

Thanks for the information re your family. I shall keep the address of your sister at hand, though I have the conviction that you will be one of the pallbearers when they unload me in the cementerio general over here in Antigua. Helen will pay your transportation for the occasion.

The democratic convention didnt seem to take much time, did it! I wish there were a statesman of the stature of Charles Evans Hughes on the horizon but I dont see him. What has become of the old-school statesmen?

Probably I wont have a chance to write you again before we hop off for Lima on 28th instant. I might send you a card from Machu Picchu saying, "Having a fine time; wish you were here" but maybe there is no P O at Machu Picchu. Furthermore, I would rather have you with us at the Hotel Maury in Lima, downing a plate of Papas a la Huancaína. I hope that hotel, which I understand has been rebuilt, is as good as it was when I first went there in 1919.

Ever yours

Hugh says he has been offered a complete set of your Trees and Shrubs of Mexico for \$20 US cy. I told him by all means grab it if still available. And I told him never to sell my complete set of Engler and Prantl for less than a thousand bucks. Hugh, by the way, is now an Assistant Prof at the Univ of Fla.

Antigua G, 26 July 1960

Dear Pablo:

Last week there came a knock at the door and I said to Helen, the tourists are early today; and then I went and who do you suppose was standing out in the rain? Assistant Professor Hugh Popenoe, who got tied up in Belize by Hurricane Abby, not née Burleson. He just stopped overnight to put down a one and one half libbit beefsteak, as Herb used to write it, then he went to the Verapaz with his compadre Chris Hempstead; came back here overnight, again, on his way to a meeting of the Caribbean Conservation Commission in Costa Rica - and if he and the other members can conserve the Br West Indies, or what were the Br West Indies, I am for them. What rapid strides toward independence we are seeing in the tropical world! As I look back, I think we did not do a bad job in those Philippines. We took a little time. Nobody wants time any more. The place that really presents a problem now - perhaps not right now is Israel. Those folks can never produce enough food to support their country. They are working ^{with} a religious zeal which I have never seen equalled. You have to admire them.

Helen and I are hopping off tomorrow for Tegucigalpa, to transfer to one of those TAN economy flights (\$250 from here to Lima and back) in order to meet Hugh and Kitty Coolidge at the Hotel Maury, where you get the best papas a la Huancaina, a dish even you would like if they would take out a little of the Capsicum frutescens, because there is no kalbfleisch in it. Wh reminds me of the party which came in yesterday and after I had shown them around a bit, I said to one of the women, You are german, aber das macht nichts aus. And she replied "Das macht viel aus". They were all speaking Spanish to me! I have reached the point, not quite like A. Robertson Prochowsky, when they come to the door, I ask, Now what language shall we speak (well aware that I can only speak two).

And speaking about languages, you and I look back on our days in Br India, and the Salkia Nursery kahān hai. Well, I have just been reading a very official book on "Mango in India" I don't know why they can't say "The Mango in India, but they don't. The authors express sincere appreciation to Messrs Rajindra Ice and Cold Storage Coy, Delhi, for providing storage facilities for their mangos; Also to Mr L R Garg, proprietors of L.R. Brothers, Nursery-men (sic) at Saharanpur, and the colour illustrations were prepared by Mr K.K. Pasricha, Artist-cum-photographer.

I am having quite a time getting some avocado budwood over to Mr Zervaducchi in Alexandria. They have all the material next door, in Rehovot (Israel) but que esperanzas. The world is too much with us, late and soon.

We turned loose our three artisans yesterday; Helen says there are still some jobs to be done, but since we are going away, I had a good pretext. The house is in pretty nice shape. Helen said the bathroom was far too large but she has changed her mind. I am having a hard time to find a place to park my toothbrush. Don't fail, to tell my pañi huahua to let me know how many huipiles she can give away, after she gets those which Maude has on hand. I have such a stock of them here and would like to put them to some good use.

We join in much love to all,

Tegucigalpa, 14 October, 1960

Dear Wilson:

Hurrah for the Pirates! I am not fond of them, but I prefer any one to the New York people.

It is good to hear from you once more. Antonio Molina was here the other evening, and told me about your work together in Guatemala. The School must be hard up--and it is--when they have to send a man to examine two candidates in Chiapas. I judge they are not expecting students this year from Cuba or la República. According to the prospectus as published in the newspapers this season, they are ready to receive students from any part of the Americas, which will include USA, Hawaii, Canada, Brazil, and the like. The more the merrier!

I am so completely out of touch with scientific affairs now that I doubt it would be worth while to send me Science, which never has been especially thrilling reading. I do appreciate your thoughtfulness in offering it to me. I doubt that it would be useful in El Zamorano, which is not very highbrow and more, to speak plainly.

Why does it take 15 days for a letter from Guatemala here? We can get mail from Miami in 24 hours, if it is handled properly. The mail here is frustrating, generally, since it is handled by one of the doctors, who is speedy in the matter of money, but somewhat lethargic in most other matters.

As I understand it, L. Wms. is going to Chicago to be curator of Central American botany, and nothing else. They already have a very able Chief Curator of Botany, also two other botanical curators, who seem to be doing well, one of them being a Harvard graduate. So far as I know, the later part of the Flora is in good condition, and ready for the printer. The chief editor of the Museum is the final word generally in the extensive printing office. I suspect that LOW has been fired, and he certainly is going down hill. I just wonder if he is dragging along to Chicago that atrocious dining set that he designed. Such things are not appreciated in apartments, but they might be able to fit it in to one of the old former mansions that are now given over to the colored people. Mr. W will not have in Chicago the freedom to run things that he had in El Zamorano, which is well for everyone except him. His pickings will be scant indeed, but he doesn't know yet. As for Central American botany, no one knows less about it than he. His knowledge of the subject, was gained wholly from roadsides.

Perhaps Antonio has told you that Ceiba is far extinct, but it is better not to advertise the subject yet.

I see there is another Dr. Popenoe working now in south Florida, not Hugh. Where is this one from?

The hurricane has come and gone, and it did plenty of damage, though not as much as California hoped. Of five families of mine in the Fort Myers region, none lost anything of importance, more than fallen branches. Of the three groups now in Miami, none lost anything of importance. Their worst losses were from the heavy rains that fell a few days later. The Fairchild Garden had lots of damage, but I believe they have now opened most of the Garden to the public. They lost a good many old trees, which is not surprising since they were growing on the limestone rocks. The papers are now advertising baskets of citrus for the coming months.

My brother is still alive, but I hope for not much longer. For some time he has been reduced to throat and stomach tubes, but he had refused all sedatives until a few days ago. The nurses said they did not know how he could for so long.

As much rain as we are, but perhaps you would like it. It surely has been a wet summer.

With best wishes to you all

Antigua G, 20 Decbr 1960

Dear Pablo:

Yrs of 8th recd and contents noted. Helen and I have been thinking and talking of you quite a bit, these past few days, and wishing you could be here with us for Xmas, for we have a fat turkey and 12 cohetes de tres colores and we could take you (I doubt it) to the Misa del Gallow at 12 midnight. You could vote my proxy, because in all probability I shall not go. But Helen and Kitty Coolidge (who is to be with us over the holidays) will doubtless want to go and so what chance have I of dodging? We had expected Hugh here also, but he writes that he simply cannot get away from his work at this time. I guess he is carrying a pretty heavy load.

So now you want to get me off mangos and bananas and onto chayotes - *elisquiles incolunt vocantur*. Not a bad idea. If I live long enough, which I doubt, I shall look into the possibilities. But hombre, dont you realise that not even L H Bailey was quite happy about the botany of the Cucurbitaceae? Any more than I am happy about Louis Wms Lauraceae. I feel some folks do their botanical classifications like the horticulturists do the pomological: Round green avocados, long green avocados, pear-shaped green and pear-shaped round. That might be fine were it not for the fact that when you plant seeds of a round green you get a pear shaped purple - and I forget to mention that color factor. People over here continue to tell me that purple avocados are so much better than green ones.

I have been delighted at the notice in the last Journal of Forestry (Tom Gill made me an honorary member, along with Franklin D Roosevelt, some 20 yrs ago) about a possible reprint of your Trees and Shrubs of Mexico. I send you a copy of my letter to the Journal of Forestry asked everybody interested to write the Smithsonian. I do not have a full set here, myself; and I would like one for Hugh and another for Hugh Craggs who has a swell library at his beautiful home near Palin, but is weak on botany. I am going to see how many of your works I can get for him. Perhaps not many. I cant understand why the Chicago folks didnt print more of your works. Here we are, and they cannot even supply all of the published volumes of the Flora of Guate.

Of course I am greatly interested to know that Louis plans to come back to Honduras to collect some more plants. To me it seems quite possible that he might be interested in returning there for a permanent job. He had such a free hand before - in my time - and was able to name a lot of new species. I have never quite figured out what reason or reasons he had for becoming so outspokenly bitter toward Helen and myself.

The address I have for your sister is Margaret Standley, 1606 Sunset P.ace, Ft Myers. Does that still hold? I shall probably be in So Fla from about March 15 to 30, attending the meetings of the Caribbean Region, Am Soc Hort Sci. I am sorry they have chosen that season for the mtgs; I dont know why it couldnt have been the last week in August or first in Sept, when there are a lot of free mangos and avocados to be sampled. I like free samples. (Maybe I have the address of your sister in Miami; I believe I do. But in my little address book I have it for Ft Myers as above).

Tegucigalpa, 8 December, 1960

Dear Wilson:

With regard to the cultivated tropical fruits that you mention, I would repeat the words of the late Asa Gray: A plague on both your houses! All the Boy Scouts will be turning them over for years to come, and the systematists the same, just like making compost. Give them any name you wish. I am disgusted with the whole matter. Of course, in most of these groups there are really different species, such as mangos, which have little or no practical application. I don't care to dabble in the bananas, and there are many of them I don't care to eat, or even look at. There certainly is a large number of recognizable units among them. Another interesting but heretofore unstudied native plant is the chayote, especially as it grows and varies in Guatemala.

I suspect that Williams is not very happy in his new job. If he is going to take up systematic botany, that is fine, for he will learn something worth while, for he has never studied the subject before. Now hear this: He has written to some of his two friends in El Zamorano that he and his wife are coming this summer to visit them, and study the flora of Honduras. That is a special subject about which he knows nothing, and I think he is too aged to begin, for he doesn't learn quickly. I suspect he is trying to get a job in Honduras. I don't know whether Dr. Paddock knows about this or not.

There is a complete manuscript in El Zamorano, ready for printing, if it has been typed. I asked that my name be not figured as a contributor, for Antonio should have the credit to help him along. I am afraid that he is not going to do much more in systematic botany. In this case Antonio has done the work of collation, which was quite a task. It is only a list of the names of all known Honduran plants, but I did insist that the vernacular names be cited, so far as they are known.

I hope you can read what I have tried to write. It is a bedlam here with all the work they are trying to do in working over this building. They have spent a lot of money, but actually the place looks about the same. Lately we have had a lot of cold weather, the worst I have seen in Honduras, I believe. And of course there is no heating, except for babies. I am not feeling too well, and I don't know how long I may hold out. As a matter of fact, I prefer that I do not last much longer.

My last brother died about two weeks ago. He held out too long, but apparently he did not suffer much. The doctors in the Veterans' Hospital spoke highly of his power of endurance. He was buried at Fort Myers, where I already have a good number resting in the cemetery. I sent you the permanent address of my sister in Miami, which you may need to use some day.

I hope all goes well with you. With all my best regards,

Pablo

[Signature]

Tegucigalpa, 13 January, 1961

Dear Wilson:

The present and probably permanent address of my sister
is Miss Margaret Standley
6327 Southwest Tenth Street
West Miami 44
Florida

They are building a room for her there, attached to the house,
so it looks rather permanent, except for hurricanes and the like.

About the reprint of the *Trees of Mexico*, I am not enthusiastic
but it will do no harm. A very large edition of that work was printed,
and there should be many copies available; but you may not know that
many copies of government publications are just thrown into the gar-
bage. Librarians, even, do not give them a second glance.

Of course, during Mr. Coville's regime, his "botany" had to
be used, and so the nomenclature--American Code--had to be followed.
Don't tell me that there was freedom of speech and publication in
the Dept. Agr. and its branches at that time. But let all that pass.
Most of the people concerned were placed in their graves long ago.

I think you are rather naive when you state that you can under-
stand why LOW was so bitter against you. Sierra long ago told me
that he would bet any amount of money that our good (?) Wyoming fr-
iend would be the next Director of the EAP, not for his interest
in the institution, but for the pickings he could get from it.

Amado Pelón howled with delight when I told him about LOW's in-
terest in worming his way into EAP, and said they have no money to
spend on anything. I hear that Memo Herrera is finally leaving the
School, also various others that I don't recall at the moment.

Antonio Molina has not been well here lately, just how bad, I
do not know, for he is not very communicative.

I hope things are going well with you all. Especially in the
case of the weather. It has been cold, cold, and we are still hav-
ing frequent showers. I can't complain very much, but I do not en-
joy it. Very likely it is better in Guatemala, somewhere.

With all best regards,

Tegucigalpa, 2 April, 1961

Dear Wilson:

Very well do I remember one cloudy night in Guatemala when the Johnstons and I went to the the railroad station and paid five cents each for tickets to enter, sat there waiting for the train to arrive from the North Coast. All of us were waiting to see the appearance of the new bride, and finally the train came slowly into view. That was the first time that I ever saw doña Helena, although she had been living only about one block from our apartment, where I had lived a good many years.

That seems a long time ago, and there have been many changes. No one could expect Helen to be the first to go, but everyone knew that she was going to take a great part in the building of the Escuela Agrícola Americana. She worked so hard to make that undertaking a success, and was so proud of the results, rightly so. It is hard to believe Helen has gone, but she will long be remembered by a host of her friends, especially the boys of El Zamorano.

I am anxious to hear of your plans for the immediate future. Whatever else you do, don't give up your work. That is where I made a great mistake. When you do that, you begin to die, as I know too well. It will be hard for you to adjust yourself to many changes, but I hope you will find some practical way. You know better about that than I do, and I am sure you will manage better than I could.

With my deepest sympathy, sincerely yours,

Salda

If at any time I can help you out, just let me know. I won't be much that I can do, but it is good that you have so many friends who can do better.

Antigua, 13 May 1961

Sr don Amado Pelen C
Escuela Agricola Panamericana
Tegucigalpa, Honduras.

Dear Amado:

Your letter of 25 April was a long time in reaching me. Probably in part because I was up in the Alta Verapaz with Hugh for a week.

Day after tomorrow, Monday, I am going to the cemetery with Arturo to start him to work on a mausoleo for Helen. I will check up on the matter of your suegra's nicho and do whatever is necessary and let you know that the matter is in order.

I enclose copy of a letter I have just written Paul Standley. I haven't yet heard whether or not the solicitud you had Jose Antonio Maradiaga make out, was granted or not. I have written Mr Cloward that I will send the 25 Lempas just as soon as we know the solicitud was approved and that I am the owner of the lot. Don Pablo thinks some sort of authorization may be required for him to be buried up there. I would think this might have to be given by the alcalde. Please look into this. I don't think it will present a problem.

It might be well to show the enclosed letter to Mr Cloward since he has taken part in the arrangements. I don't want to burden him too much. And we must remember Mr Standley has more or less left all his affairs in the hands of Antonio Molina, provided Antonio is there at the time Standley dies. I don't think this will be very soon. My guess is that he may last 1 to 3 more years.

Nancy stayed a week and went back to her family in California. Hugh is with Chris Hempstead up on Lake Izabal; expects to come back here toward the end of the month and return to Florida about June 10. He has talked me into sharing an apartment with him in Gainesville, myself planning to spend a few months there every year, writing and lecturing. I am thinking seriously of doing it. Maybe going up there in September when the new school year opens.

Ever yours,

Tegucigalpa, 8 May, 1961

Dear Wilson:

By this date I trust you are once more at work in your home, and more or less settled down. Aquí todo va lo mismo, como siempre.

I have been seeing a good deal of Antonio Molina. He is still on vacation, and he has come up here several times, and he often sees me in the China Restaurant, which seems to be doing well, and I hope will get a lot more trade. I am quite fond of the Chinese, and there are a lot of them in Tegucigalpa. Each group says the others are communists. It is somewhat better here since the Fidelistas left here--at least some of them. I judge from what I hear there that there are plenty of communists of Honduras still about, some in high places, and others would like to be.

Antonio is enthusiastic about buying me in San Antonio, and it is the place that I like best. The only thing against it is the difficulty in getting up there. Antonio would like to have some papers from you so that there will be no difficulties about the cemetery. Here we are a long distance from San Antonio, and it is important to have everything in order when the time comes. Perhaps there should be a copy of your authority for me and one for Antonio. I shall greatly indebted to you for this, as I am already for a great many other favors. When I do go, I hope it may be quickly, and I have a suspicion that it will be.

Our weather has been good of lately, with plenty of heat, even up here. Down town it is sweltering most of the time. I certainly like heat better than cold. I suppose Miami would would be warm enough to satisfy me, but I don't want to overdo things. I suppose our temperature is about the same just now as in Miami.

I trust you have some interesting problems to work on, for I know you have lots of material that you should put on paper, where it can serve others. I personally have nothing worth while to record, especially in the field of botany; writing is difficult for me now.

With all best regards,

Pablo

Antigua, Guatemala, 12 May 1961

Mr Paul C Standley
Hospital Viera, Tegucigalpa, Honduras.

Dear Pablo:

Your letter of the 8th has just come. I am glad you are satisfied with the arrangements Mr Cloward, Amado and I were making at San Antonio de Oriente. Amado made a solicitud for a lot in the cemetery; we at first thought it should be in your name, then José Antonio Maradiaga who has been alcalde several times, said it had best be in my name; that I had the right to bury anybody in the lot, no question about that. If the solicitud has been granted, then I think it might be well for me to give a letter of authorization so that you can be buried there. Amado will let me know about this.

You dont need to worry about having your friends get you up to the cemetery when the time comes. This has been done many, many times; dont you remember when our ex-student Manuel Cruz died?

When I talked with you a long time ago, you mentioned that you had a little money in a bank in Florida, I believe in a joint account with your sister. If I were you, I would have the lawyer at the TRR Co draw you a very brief will, and of course the people at Viera will see that the proper certificado de defuncion is made.

I am just going through all this unpleasant business, and I dont like it; but I guess we might as well face it, sooner or later. Though I still think I may win our bet, i.e., that you will, live to bury me.

Ever yours,

Wilson Popenoe

copy to Amado Pelen