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About the Institute

The Hunt Institute for Botanical Documentation, a research division of Carnegie Mellon University, specializes in the history of botany and all aspects of plant science and serves the international scientific community through research and documentation. To this end, the Institute acquires and maintains authoritative collections of books, plant images, manuscripts, portraits and data files, and provides publications and other modes of information service. The Institute meets the reference needs of botanists, biologists, historians, conservationists, librarians, bibliographers and the public at large, especially those concerned with any aspect of the North American flora.

Hunt Institute was dedicated in 1961 as the Rachel McMasters Miller Hunt Botanical Library, an international center for bibliographical research and service in the interests of botany and horticulture, as well as a center for the study of all aspects of the history of the plant sciences. By 1971 the Library's activities had so diversified that the name was changed to Hunt Institute for Botanical Documentation. Growth in collections and research projects led to the establishment of four programmatic departments: Archives, Art, Bibliography and the Library.

Dear Doctor Popenoe:

I'm back again, having just arrived yesterday, and am hoping that you and Helen are in Guatemala this week, so you can visit me for a day or more.

This boy is from the farm and will bring back your answer to me tomorrow, so please let him know what day you can come down next week. Any day but Monday, because I must go to the City and get supplies on Monday, as I've bought nothing as yet in the way of food.

I may have to return next Monday, I should say a week from next Monday, if I possibly can.

If you would like to come down to spend the night I'd be delighted to have you both.

Unfortunately Ernestine could not come down with me this time, but she said something about returning in October, as we hope the Arrotts will be back by then., and maybe Helen Webster.

My best to you both.

Sincerely,

Ed. Farnsworth

Finca San Jose Bella Vista
Saturday

Dear Doctor Popenoe:

I've started several letters to you, but they never seem to get out of the door.

Ernestine and I were in Guatemala for Christmas and New Years, and also went to Salvador for a week end. It was a merry round of parties due to the holiday season, and most of the time a bit too much.

We were in Antigua twice to see Doctor Chamberlain about the furniture he is making for us, and due to the time of the day we did not call on you and Helen much as we wanted to. We do not know your habits of siesta and mealtime, and both times were at noon time.

Leanora dropped us a line from Antigua when she was up there. I had hopes they would come to Guatemala in February, since Leanora said in New York that would be about the time they would come to Guatemala, as I'm anxious to have them come to the farm.

For future crops I've thought of peanuts, Macadamia nuts, etc. What do you think of these two at my place?

Rogozinski has promised to import for me several varieties of soy bean, and I'm hoping they will be there upon my arrival, as I'm leaving for Guatemala tomorrow, and will be there on Thursday at noon, and it won't be too many days after that I hope that I will be seeing you both.

I hope you will be there and will be able to come to the farm again as would be delighted to have you.

I'm wondering if the Arrotts have returned to Guatemala. I hope so as I'd like to see them also.

There is so much to be done at the farm and so little time.

Our best to both of you.

Sincerely,

Abilene,
February 9th

ans. May 27-59
EDWARD L. FARNSWORTH
P. O. BOX 1638
ABILENE, TEXAS

May 19, 1959.

Dear Doctor Popenoe:

I was sorry you did not get to the farm when I was there last. I sent a message to you with Bob and Mary Beasley.

Margaret Arrott has written about her soya bean project at my farm in Guatemala, and writes that you doubt that the Java strain is the right one for my farm. If I knew which one or ones are, perhaps I could bring some down when I come down next month. We could no doubt experiment with different varieties of soya bean, and if you have any suggestions as to what different strains I should bring with me, I will certainly endeavor to obtain them.

Since sugar and coffee are neither very profitable crops at this writing, I'm looking for something else to grow, and if you have any idea what it would be I would certainly be grateful for your advice. Margaret said that you would be interested in what I was doing, and would be willing to be helpful.

Ernestine just returned from Dallas Saturday, where she has been in the hospital for approximately two weeks, after an operation for bunions on both feet. Considering that the operation was two weeks ago, I think she is doing very well.

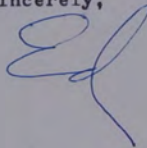
I may go to Guatemala about the middle of next month, and I hope that Ernestine can come down and spend the month of July with me at the farm.

If you are in Guatemala at that time, we would be pleased and delighted for you and Helen to run down and see us whenever the spirits move.

In the meantime my best to Helen and yourself.

By the way how is Hugh and where is he. Of your children he is the one I like best, and only wish I had a beautiful young sister to marry her off to him.

Sincerely,



EDWARD LESLIE FARNSWORTH

Dear Helen:

Thank you so much for your letter of May 27th in which you informed me that Dr. Popenoe was in Venezuela.

I still don't know when I will be leaving for Guatemala, because of business here, and Ernestine's operation on her feet. However, I have hopes of perhaps getting away next week, and will return for Ernestine later in July, or put off her trip to Guatemala until some future date.

We will miss the Arrotts also, we enjoy them so much.

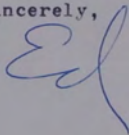
I'm looking into the soya bean proposition in so far as I can here, and may bring down the type they recommend or several and try them out.

I've just had my man plant a half a manzana of potatoes, which some friend of mine insists will grow and produce very well at my altitude. In any case there is no harm in experimenting, and with the price of coffee as it is and will be for sometime to come, I want to find something more profitable.

In any case I hope to see you both soon.

Ernestine joins me in the best to you both,

Sincerely,



Abilene, Texas.
1309 Leggett Drive.

June 18th [1959?]

EDWARD L. FARNSWORTH
P. O. BOX 1638
ABILENE, TEXAS

August 13, 1959.

Dear Doctor Popenoe:

Again we have left Guatemala without the pleasure of you and Helen visiting us at the farm. We were informed from the office here that we had to be home on a certain date, so here we are.

However, I expect to return to Guatemala alone on the 4th of next month, and although I will be alone, I hope you can come down for a day or if you have the time and desire spend a couple of days with me.

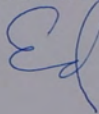
We had a wonderful time in Guatemala and Salvadore as always and we enjoyed seeing you both if only for a short visit.

We have heard nothing from the Arrotts, but believe they will be back in the U. S. sometime in September if their plans work out. We missed them this time in Guatemala.

I think I'll bring down at least two varieties of soya bean, and try them out on the farm., and see how they grow..

If you are in Guatemala when I arrive back, I will see you. In the meantime the best to both of you.

Sincerely,



[Oct 1, 1957]

EDWARD L. FARNSWORTH
P. O. BOX 1638
ABILENE, TEXAS

Dear Doc:

Enjoyed having you and Helen at the farm so much the other week, and only wish that Ernestine had been with us.

The enclosed clipping from the Wall Street Journal, and an article which appeared in Newsweek the same week is disquieting. About four or five years ago I heard this discussed in the American Club in Guatemala City and at that time this person said that they were experimenting with Soy Bean. Unfortunately or fortunately depending on which side of the fence you are on, it is too bad that the taste of the American public can be "education" to synthetics. I made the observation the other day to my wife that with the present style of living in the U. S. at the present time, that the youth would grown up without ever knowing the real taste of a fresh pea, or other vegetables with all this frozen foods which is being put out, which in my opinion is poor in comparison with the fresh product. Of course one to go on and on with pros and cons.

One of your recommendations was that I fertilize my sugar and coffee with nitrate. The only way I know to do this is to go to one of the Agents in Guatemala who handle the different fertilizers, and they would send their man to analyse the soil, and recommend a formula, and the time for application, etc. Have you any other suggestion to make about this?

Also, that the population of the coffee areas should be kept up to scratch at all time, which we have been doing, and continue to do every year.

However, there was another point, or at least it seems that there were three particularly points which you made, and which I thought I should carry out, and this third one seems to have slipped my memory. Guess I'm getting old. What was it?

I had a letter from Guatemala the other day and they told me of the changes in the UFCO. Remond and Bump being out, etc. All of which was in line with our conversation about the Company when we were together recently.

They were supposed to have started "cutting" the coffee on my place last Monday. They advised that the coffee was late in ripening this year due to lack of rain, at least at my location.

I have a dead line for 500 bags which I certainly hope we are going to fulfill.

I may try to go to Guatemala in about three weeks for a week or ten days and see how things are going, as I think a lot of what might be going on, although I think I have a pretty good man in charge at my farm.

The heat has subsided here in Texas, at least temporarily, and perhaps the Autumn has really started.

Young Bill Taillon is going to a small junior college about sixty miles from Abilene, and we saw he and his mother here in Abilene recently.

Robbie who has the tourist shop in Guatemala is arriving in Dallas tomorrow and we are going in to met her and bring her out to Abilene for a few days.

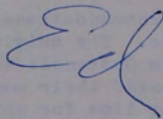
My good friend Julio Lowenthal who used to be with the UFCO is in Mexico with his wife right now, and we wished they would come up to see us, but I don't think they are.

We have had no wordd from the Arrotts and are wondering if they are back in Washington. Also whether or not Helen Webster is coming through Texas by car this month.

Ofcourse if I do go to Guatemala this month, I will most certainly see you and Helen if you are there, which I hope you will be.

Our best to you both.

Sincerely,



October 1st.

Antigua G, 18 October 1959

Mr Edward L Farnsworth
Box 1638, Abilene, Texas.

Dear Ed:

Glad to have your letter of the 1st instant. They sure have had a shake-up in Boston, but it didnt seem to strike south of the Mascon and Dixon line. Because of Bill Turnbull's death Harlo von Wald goes over to the Dominican Republic this week, to take over Bill's job, and Clyde de Lawder goes to Bananera, Bill van Diepen becomes manager at Tiquisate. You doubtless know all these details. The only thing I havent heard, is who will take Dave Cloward's job at La Lima.

That synthetic coffee business may have some real possibilities. I would be more worried were it not for this hopeful feature: the organic chemists have licked us on quinine and on tung oil to a great extent, and on rubber to a limited extent, but so far they have not licked us on anything we eat. So far, human beings dont care to be fed out of test tubes.

Now as to fertilizing your land. In the first place, dont let the fertilizer people tell you what to do. They will sell you the works, N P and K, and if they have a laboratory man he will take some samples and make out a good case. In general, excellent results have been obtained from the use of Ammonium sulfate on cane. If I were you, I would try it for one year, on alternate plots, and get some records on relative production. We used to use 800 lbs of Ammonium sulfate per acre in Jamaica - and they did in Puerto Rico. Perhaps it will not do such a good job here; our soils may not be as low in nitrogen. But anyway, try nitrogen and tr it first.

As to coffee, the less shade you have the more fertilizer you need. And here again, most probably nitrogen. The three points to be kept in mind re coffee are first, optimum population - and this depends on the system you use, shade or sun-hedge (I believe you have shaded coffee in the main - Hugh Craggs has a lot without shade); and in turn the amount of fertilizer you require will depend on your system, shade or no shade and in consequence the population per acre. Then after population and fertilizers, pruning, which is a tricky business. Properly grown coffee, especially when young, really doesnt need pruning.

Helen and I are driving over to Salvador on the 30th for a few days, then to Honduras - we havent been there for two years - and will return here about the 15th of November. If you are here at that time, do get in touch with us; we would like to go down to your place again and get a better idea of what you are up against. As I told you, I was very agreeably surprised at what a good piece of land you have, and how well things look in general.

We join in warm regards to you and Ernestine, and hope to see you both soon.

Ever yours,

Dear Doc:

No doubt Helen told you I saw her on the street, and she very graciously asked me to lunch with you some day before I returned to Texas, but as my movements are ones of necessity mostly during such a short visit, I could not say when I would be in Antigua. I did go to Antigua in a rush to see the Chamberlains about furniture, but you were not in town.

I was sorry to have missed you, but we will be returning together in February and hope to see you both then.

Once this year during my visit to Salvador Chico was telling me about his blackberry business which sounds most lucrative, and I'd like to try them at the farm. I neglected to ask him if they had to be irrigated and of course if they do I guess I would not be able to have such a crop. Do you think I could grow them at San Jose Bella Vista? Also do you know what variety of black berry they are? Also where would I buy them, and when should I plant them? No doubt when the rains start?

If you have time to drop me a line about this sometime so I can look into the purchase and shipping, I'd appreciate it no end.

I don't know what quantity I should try to plant or how many plants to a certain area. In fact I know nothing about it, so all the information you can give me, I'd like to have.

My crop this year is rather poor as I understand a lot of crops were in certain sections of Guatemala, that is coffee.

We had a card from Mary and Bob Beasley and seem very happy for the time being in California. They stopped by and had lunch with us on their way to California, and I sure enjoyed seeing them again and Ernestine liked them very much.

Christmas is only two days off and I'll be sort of glad when it is over. Ernestine is giving me a beautiful permanent registered quarter horse mare who is in foal by the International Champion Quarter Horse Stallion, and should drop her colt around March or April. With this mare and the one I have who had a colt last April, and is in foal again I'm in the horse business. I hope you come out this way some time and see them, and us.

I hope you had a good Christmas and that the New Year will hold good things for you both.

Ernestine joins me in the very best of wishes, to you both.

Sincerely,

Ed

P. S. Please say "Hello" to Hugh for me.

Abilene, Texas.
P. O. Box 1638

December 23, 1960

Dear Doctor:

Your most welcome and informative letter was received several weeks ago. and I want to thank you for it.

Leonora de Sola and Mrs. Maleady from Salvador have been with us for about three weeks to attend the Opera, and it was three busy weeks, and I had little or no~~x~~ time except for them.

They are both in New Orleans now, although Leonora may be on her way to New York as her daughter was arriving in New Orleans last night. We talked to her on the telephone yesterday morning. All this I'm sure you know since you have recently been in Salvador, and I know you saw Chico.

We are off to New York on Friday, and it will be ~~ix~~ my first Jet ride. We will be there for about ten days, taking in lots of theatre, and restaurants. I'm looking forward to seeing a good hockey game, which I have not seen since my youth, and only hope they are having them.

We will see Leonora in New York also. We have two definite dates one to see Ethel Colt in her Broadway show, and who is an old friend of Leonoras, and then a date to go to La Pavillon (have I spelled it correctly) and other than that I don't imagine either she or we will have much more time to see one another. After all we just spend three weeks together.

It is questionable just when we will go to Guatemala. If we don't go down for Christmas, then I must go down right after my New York trip. In any case we will most certainly see you and looking forward to seeing Helen and yourself, and have you visit the farm again.

Had a long letter from Charlie Arrott, and if at all possible we will stop off in Washington for a day or so to see them, and several other good friends, but it will have to be short.

My very best regards to you and Helen in which Ernestine joins in heartily.

Sincerely,

Abilene, Texas.
November 24th [1960]

Dear Doc:

It was with a real feeling of sadness that we heard of Helen's death. We were in Guatemala at the time, but it was not possible for us to go to Antigua.

I'm sure our good friends the Arrotts were of great help. They are such wonderful folks. I saw Walter and Conchita, both looking well I thought. They have both slowed down a bit, it would seem. You were no doubt more than happy to see them.

No doubt Charlie Arrott has told you that I'm going to hire young Gudenus to be administrator of my farm, as don Jose, the Italian has resigned to return to Italy. He leaves on May 31st, and Gudenus will take over as soon as don Jose leaves. Don Jose has been a wonderful Administrator in many respects, but new blood will be a help I'm sure.

Some one wrote to me about a new plant which might grow in Guatemala. I enclose herewith two original letters which I have had from these people.

Do you know of this outfit, and this plant, and what do you think of the whole thing?

I also enclose a copy of this outfit's literature which they sent me.

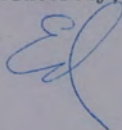
I hope you are well.

Give my best to Hugh, who I would like to see sometime. Perhaps I'll be luck one of these days and our trips to Guatemala will coincide.

You can hold these letters and literature, and return them to me when I arrive in Guatemala in about three weeks for a short stay.

Please feel free to trip down to my farm at any time, and spend the night if you want to, we'd be delight to have you whether we are there are not.

Sincerely,



Abilene,
P. O. Box 1638

April 30th [1961]

Abilene, Texas.

P. O. Box 1638

September 2, 1964.

Dear Doctor Popenoe:

I am wondering where you are, and how you are, and if you ever made your trip to Spain. If you did, I'm sure you enjoyed it and were gratified by the results of your previous labors with avacados.

Since I have no idea where you are I'm mailing this letter to Antigua with the hope that it will eventually catch up with you.

When do you expect to come to Guatemala again, if you are not there now?

Where is Hugh? Give him my best when you see him.

Last but not least, How are you?

I'd sure like Hugh to come down and see us at the farm sometime when he is in Guatemala and we are in Guatemala. Ernestine met Hugh very briefly before we were married, and I doubt that either would remember the other.

I've come to you for help again!

A good friend of mine, and I are interested in planting some apples in Guatemala, as well as any other fruits which would grow under the same climatic conditions and altitude as apples.

My friend lives in Salvador, and comes to Guatemala now and then and as you know I go to Guatemala quite a few times during the year.

I'd like you to suggest the location of the piece of land which we should buy, and what quantity we should acquire.

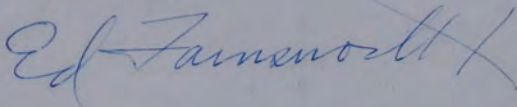
This is not a get-rich-quick project at all. We would start in in a small way and develop as time goes on, and if some day we make some money that would be wonderful.

Also we would like your advice as to the type of apple you think would do well in Guatemala, and other fruits.

Recently a Mr. Lawrence Batjer was visiting Abilene, but I did not met him. You may know him, as he is a horticulturalist. He was recently elected President of the American Horticultural Science (that is the way the newspaper wrote it up). He has been working in Wenatchee, Washington, and has been appointed as an emissary from our Government to go to Argentina to help Latin American's solve their fruit problems, so the paper says.

Ernestine joins me in sending you are best regards. We hope to see you in Guatemala one of these days soon also.

Sincerely,



Abilene, Texas.
P. O. Box 1638

December 28, 1964.

Dear Dr. Popenoe:

I hope you had a good Christmas and that meeting of the gentlemen who were going to be in Antigua with Hugh was a success, and that all enjoyed it.

We had our usual Christmas, pleasant and nothing too exciting, which is the way it should be I guess when one is no longer young.

Is my understanding of the gentlemen who were meeting in Antigua that they were reporting on the growing of temperate zone fruit for Tropical America. In other words a continuation of the findings along the lines of the paper that you and Benitez prepared, a copy of which you gave to me. If this is so, then it will be interesting to have a paper on this additional findings is and when it is prepared. In other words I'd like very much to have it.

How did you find Hugh?

Louise Willauer's sister, husband and young folks are arriving in Antigua on the 29th of January I think it is for two weeks, and she dropped a note to Ernestine and hoped that we might be there during their stay. At this writing it is hard to say whether or not we will be in Guatemala during that time. Also Louise on her Christmas card said that she was going to be in Guatemala for two weeks in February and also hoped that we would be there during her stay. Only time will tell. As it is now my plans are to leave for Guatemala on the 11th of January, to be there for ten days or so. I will go to Antigua while I am there and hope to see you. Incidentally when we were down there in November, and wanted you and Mrs. Chickering to come down to the farm so much, we thought that one day when we were driving into the City that we saw you and Carol in your car driving toward the coast, and were hoping that you were not going down to see us.

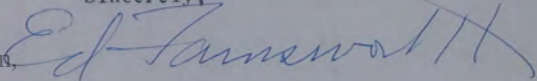
Since there is the Annual Symphony Ball on the 13th of February, and we feel that we must be here because we are sponsors of this Ball, this would prevent our being in Guatemala during these folks visits. However, we might be able to work it out. In any case we plan to be in Guatemala right after the Ball, and several friends from here are coming down to visit.

I wonder about Dr. Chamberlain. Do you have any news about him?

Here's hoping that I have the pleasure of seeing you in January.

The very best for the coming New Year in which Ernestine joins me.

Sincerely,



Abilene, Texas.
P. O. Box 1638

April 27, 1966.

Dear Doctor:

It seems such a long time since I've seen you. How are you. I think of you more often than you would think I would perhaps. Bob Beasley usually mentions you when he writes, and then when I see these small seedless avacados I have been purchasing here in Texas, you come to mind every time, because I've been meaning to write to you about them.

I think the taste of these avacados is better than any other variety which I have purchased in the U. S. They do not compare with the best flavored avacado in the Tropics, but is better by far than some.

Our of curiosity I'd like to acquire a young tree to take to Guatemala to grow on my farm. Any idea where I could get one?

I wonder what tree for a reforestation program would grown best on my place? Although I don't have the wind that some farms have in that Palin pass, I have wind and it is a factor which has to be considered.

I expect to be in Guatemala on the 21st of May, and I will go to Antigua and see if you are in residence, and perhaps you can answer some of my questions for me.

If you could come down to the farm for a week end if you'd like it, I would.

I guess you've heard of Whit's baby. I don't see the Tailions in Guatemala much when I go down.

I wonder who will be in residence among the property owners when I arrive in May? We have heard from Helen and Aubrey and I believe they are somewhere Iraq or Greece now.

I believe they wrote that they hoped to be in Guatemala sometime in June.

My best to Hugh when you write to him, and Mrs. Farnsworth joins me in the best to you.

Sincerely,

Ed Farnsworth

[Oct. 12, 1966]

Dear Doctor Popence:

Your letter of the 21st of August was received and as always I was glad to hear from you.

Ernestine and I were in Guatemala for two weeks the latter part of August. We did not go to Antigua except for a short trip with our old friends the Lowenthals. They wanted us to see the lot they purchased in Antigua, near the Posada Belem. They also took us to see the house which Fernando Pullin is doing over in Antigua. He was there, and he is also an old friend. He is doing a tremendous job on this house, and of course it is costing a lot of money. We had lunch at the Antigua hotel, and then left back for the City, without calling on any one.

That evening we had a telephone call from Mary Mathew, who was calling for Helen (Webster) Trik who had heard that we had been in Antigua, and could not understand why we had not come by. As it happened Ernestine suggested ~~th~~ that we go by Helen's house in Antigua, but I thought it a ridiculous suggestion, since I felt that if she was in Antigua we would have heard of it. In any case she and Aubrey came by and had dinner with us in the City, and it was good to see them. Ernestine is very fond of Helen, and likes Aubrey. Of course I like them both immensely, and was very happy to see them. That was the only chance we had of seeing them, as we were both leaving Guatemala within a few days of one another.

Louis Willauer wrote me the latter part of August and told about being the midwife to her daughter on her kitchen floor. She said she was getting ready to fly to London and then to Venice where she would board a ship for Hong Kong, and then go back to Vietnam.

She says she would like to go to Guatemala for a visit between Christmas and Spring, and hopes we will be there during her visit. That is rather a indefinite time. We'd like to be there while she is there as we enjoy Louise.

However, we have not definite plans about going to Guatemala. We may go to Florida for Thanksgiving, to Key Biscayne where some of our Guatemalan friends will be for a few weeks. One of the Keilhauers. Another one of the Keilhauers is coming by here the first of November to visit for a short time, we hope.

We had one of Bob Beasley's round letters from Spain, and perhaps you did also. He asked his friends to write to him, which I did.

It makes me feel badly when I know ~~of~~ the type of people like the Holcombes having big jobs in the UFCO.

Although I think the UFCO treated me badly during my last few years with them, I look back mostly of my life in the UFCO as most pleasant, when I made some good friends. One of my old friends has just been sent back to Guatemala. Aaron King, who used to work in Barrios, and then later in Tiquisate. He has been working in Panama for some time now. He is running the show in Guatemala I believe with headquarters in Bananera. I saw him in Guatemala recently, as I returned to buy a Mercedes Benz. One of my friends call me about this very good buy, and I had been being pushed by Ernestine for the last few years to buy a new car, so I went to Guatemala and bought it.

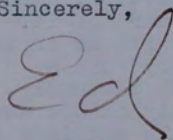
I do not know when I will be going back to Guatemala but it will be perhaps in about three or four weeks.

If you are with Hugh give him my best.

In the meantime take good care of yourself, and I hope we see you soon in Guatemala.

Ernestine joins me in sending you the very best regards.

Sincerely,



PO Box 1638
Abilene, Texas.
October 12, 1966

Dear Dr. Popenoe:

Since I do not know where you are, I'm writing to you in Antigua.

How are you and Mrs. Popenoe? We hope to be in Guatemala sometime at the end of March, and will stay for about three or four weeks I hope, and during which time I trust you will be there and we will have the pleasure of seeing you and meeting Mrs. Popenoe.

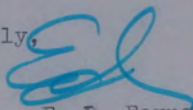
I have been thinking of what I call "blood" oranges for sometime, and though that I'd write to Florida and ask them to ship me a few to Guatemala, if I knew where to write.

Can you advise me where I could write for these trees, and what do you think of their growth at my farm. We have Washington and Valenciana oranges trees which do very well, and produce very well, I believe. Some of the Washingtons grow to an enormous size. Too large I'd say.

Our best wishes to you both, and if you have the time and can give me this information I'd appreciate it.

Thank you.

Sincerely,



E. D. Farnsworth.

March 3, 1970.

Abilene, Texas, 79604
P. O. Box 1638