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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.

Letter from Wilson Pope to Ernesto Cossares (in Chile) a year before
his death in Guatemala (Antigua) of cancer at age 83. (1975)
Pope was born Topeka, KS in ~~1892~~ 1892.

15/5/74

Recibido ~~15/5/74~~

Mayo
Antigua, Guatemala 7 ~~agosto~~ de 1974

Dear Ernesto,

Long time no see, no hear. I would like to know how things are going with you and what the near future holds in store. I do not even know that you are still in Chile.

Lately I have ~~been~~ ^{up} receiving communications from the boys in the Dominican Republic, regarding the forthcoming meeting of the Tropical Region. They have even invited me, in the name of the Minister of Agriculture, to come as a guest of the government. I wish most terribly I could go, but what gets me down is three or four days of meetings and dinners and late evenings. My 82 years are telling on me and I can no longer stand up to those international affairs which for so many years I enjoyed so much. I was more or less out of circulation for a few months around the end of last year and first part of this, but I am now getting out around the country a bit, to watch the development of the temperate zone fruits here on the highlands. My doctor tells me that I must not forget what Winston Churchill called "the ruthless and irreversible march of senility", or what I prefer to call senile decay. Pink Pills for Pale People don't seem to do much good - perhaps because I am not pale, just feel pale.

I gather that Quique Fernandez is doing his job well, and that Doc Krezdorn has become quite active in the Tropical Region. I think it is fine that we have a good anchor to windward, i.e., Florida.

Old time regards to Virginia and your good self. We miss you up in this neck of the woods.

Siempre su muy afmo.

Old Doc Pope



Antigua Guatemala, 12 June 1965

Dear Ernesto:

Sorry I havent kept you better informed re my talks in Florida with our fellow members, but there really isnt much to say. At Gainesville I talked with Dr Wolfe; I think I have written you that he would be glad to be one member of the Editorial Board and he would be a good one. In my mind, in addition to the Editor, there should be one member who is an authority on fruit crops, and on on vegetable crops. The bigger the Committee, the more work it is going to mean for Bob without commensurate results. But I suspect the meeting at Jamaica will want to name a lot more. In my experience, we never got anywhere with big Committees. Three is just right. Put that in your pipe and smoke it.

John Popenoe showed me your letter to him (have I written about this before? Since I came home I have been so swamped I havent known whether I was on foot or horseback). In that letter you mentioned that you might feel it necessary not to carry on for another year, after this one. I sure cant blame you. There has been a tremendous amount of work involved and you have done it nobly. Bill Cowgill started our little group and got it off to a good start. I carried on for a while and I dont think we lost any ground. But the Caribbean Region never really amounted to anything until you took over. And now it seems to me it is the most important regional group of ASHS. Does any other group get out such a volume of Proceedings as we do?

The boys in Florida with whom I talked, Wolfe, John Popenoe, Burt Colburn, Bill Krome and one or two others are in favor of a Board of Directors. I think all of these men, except perhaps Bill (who is tied up with the offshore labor problem) will be at the Jamaica meeting (and I want to mention that the program looks awfully good to me) and they will bring along some ideas. But even with a fine Board of Directors some one man is going to have to do practically all of the work, if you feel you must lay down the load - and again I say, you certainly have done your bit. I dont know who that man should be. I imagine you have thought this over and have someone in mind. I wish he could be a young and active Latin American; do you know of such an one?

I sure wish I could be with you in Jamaica but I have my hands so full right here that I must not tear myself away. If you can think of anything I can do to help, you know you can count on me to the limit of my strength - which isnt what it was 25 years ago. But remember what Napoleon said, the Old Guard dies but the Old Guard never surrenders.

With all good wishes,

J. Popenoe

Antigua, Guatemala, 23 March 1971

Dear Ernesto:

Replied 9 May 71

How delighted I was to receive your first letter from Stgo de Chile, of which my memories are so vivid and so happy! I think I have told you that I went there, at the end of a two year trip for the USDA, in 1920. My contacts with two men, don Salvador Izquierdo who had a big nursery at Santa Ines ^{de} (Nós) and Elbert Reed down at El Vergel, seems to me it was not far from Temuco. I took back to Washington a big trunk full of plant material, including the "Luidobro" apple. Of course I visited Quillota to see the avocados and cherimoyas, but there werent so many of them in 1920 as there are now. By the way, I hope you will meet Roger Magdahl. Maybe you know something about him - in fact I am sure you do, for his son Frank is in Mexico. Don Roger, a German, seems to have made some money in Chile - I doubt that all of it was from avocados and cherimoyas! But he had started the little experimental orchard at Almuñecar in southern Spain when Helen and I went over there in 1958 and spent nearly a year helping his local man, Luis Sarasola, introduce and propagate some 25 avocado. Don Roger's place is at Quillota.

Yes, I will try to go to the Nicaragua meeting - I dont yet know when it is to take place but I dont plan to wander afar this year. I always enjoy going to Nicaragua; quite a few Zamoranos there who have done very well. As for the 1973 meeting, I will certainly be thinking about it. Offhand, I would be rather inclined to favor Salvador if it will be possible in 1973 for the hondureños to attend. Though I am afraid interest in horticulture is a bit slack there right now, with Chico de Sola out of the picture. He wrote me recently that he is switching to Angus cattle. To my mind, Costa Rica would be good for this reason: interest in fruit culture is at a low ebb and we might

pep things up a bit. After my visit down there, some six weeks ago, I prepared a popular sort of paper - by that I mean non-technical, which I called "Mas Fruta y Mejor Fruta". Hernan Fonseca intends to publish it, probably in La Nacion, to give it wide distribution. The fruit program which Juanito Leiva was employed to push did not seem to get to first base. Gurdian is about the only man right down who is active, in the professional field - or so it seemed to me. You, of course, are much more familiar with the situation than am I.

You will of course come up to the Nicaragua meeting. By the way, don't let the new administration fail to get out good news letters on schedule. You and I have talked much about the tremendous importance of news letters, when we have a group of men so widely scattered as those of the Tropical Region.

I sort of envy you, working in that California of the south (in my day they always spoke of California as the Chile of the North!) Of course you are not going to be working directly in the field of horticulture. You will be among the higher-ups in the field of education and I just hope you will tell them once in a while that post grads will make better Ph D's if they ^{have} a background like ~~which~~ Zamoranos get. Or am I wrong?, I don't think so.

Affectionate regards to both of you. I hope we will soon be eating turtle eggs together up in that fine club in Managua.

Ever yours,

Wilson Peraza

Addendum to the letter of May 7, 1974. from W. Pogner to E. Cossin
in Chile.

NO LO DIGA - Escribalo

FECHA:

A:

Incidentally, when I came back from Chile to Washington in 1920, one of the Errazuriz boys (I believe they turn out that fine Undurraga Rhin wine) was a secretary in the Chilean Legation in Washington. He took me to call on the Minister (it was not Ambassador at that time, I believe) and we arranged for the USDA to send, thru Dr Fairchild's office, some interesting plant material to Chile, Somewhat later Errazuriz got me the Orden al Mérito, of which I am very proud, one reason being that I am told it was the first decoration to be established in the New World. It was established ~~by~~ ^{by} that fine old Spaniard Barney O'Higgins, and my diploma is DE: signed by Arturo Alessandri. It hangs in ESCUELA AGRICOLA PANAMERICANA, INC. my bedroom here.

508ks 7-69 Solo

The Brown Palace Hotel

Denver, Colorado

16 Sept 1948

Dear Doctor Lincoln:

We are just winding up the Inter-American Conference on "Renewable Natural Resources" and Monday next I fly to California for a few days, then back to Honduras. But what I want to tell you about, briefly, is the avocado hunt in Mexico.

Dr. Coit, Dean Ryerson and Carl Crawford of California were there; Cithron and Bill Cooper from Texas, and Williams and I from Honduras, and C.A. Schroeder of Calif. (U.C.L.A.) part of the time. We got butwood of more than 20 promising seedlings, mostly Mex-Gust hybrids (apparently) and this material went to Calif with Schroeder, Texas with Bill Cooper, and to our place in Honduras. I did not try to ship you any because I

thought it might be just as well to send -
good fresh material from Honduras 6 or 8
months from now. Don Foster writes me that
he put in at least 20 birds of each var.
at our school.

These things are of the same general
character as the set of 10 I sent
you from Honduras. You should
try them all, I think, in central
Florida. The more I see of avocados,
the more I feel you never can -
tell what to expect.

Sincerely,

W. Copeland

Dr Lincoln: I thought this letter might be of interest to you,
so am sending you this copy. WP

20 May 1949

Dr C A Schroeder
College of Agriculture, UCLA
Los Angeles 24, California.

Dear Art:

Many thanks for your letter of the 10th, with the two photographs of the Four Caballeros sin Caballos. We have had these framed; one is to hang in my office and the other I am giving to Don Fiester as you requested.

About the problem of nomenclature or numbering of the Atlxco introductions: Personally we feel that it is going to complicate things to add a second series of numbers at this time. In a year or two we can give names to any of the 1947 introductions which look good, and a year later to the 1948 lot. In the meantime, we would like to stick to the Williams series. I realize that these numbers seem a bit cumbersome, but I got used to long numbers when I was in Dr Fairchild's office at Washington and they don't scare me any more. Here is the main point: The Williams numbers are tied up with (1) herbarium specimens which will be permanently on file here, (2) the photographs of the fruits taken by Williams at Xahuentla, and (3) the transcript of the field notes made by myself. If we switch to a new and simpler set of numbers now, we have to correlate all of them with 1, 2 and 3. And we have to do this not only for California, but for Texas and Florida as well. There is the further argument that the Williams series for the 1947 introductions has already been published in the Yearbook, in Don Fiester's article.

What we would like to do is this: Keep the trees under the Williams numbers until they come into fruit, here or elsewhere, and then, when we have material for pomological descriptions, name and publish the varieties which look promising. For example, if 13520 matures fruit here this year, we think it would be worth while to put a pomological description on record in proper form.

As to the wild forms or relatives, I think your solution is perfectly allright. In some cases we can't do much with them until they are straightened out botanically, and this may take some time. The one you list as "Pedra Azul", incidentally, is almost certainly a West Indian seedling from Brazil. The Mexican seedlings we have here from Chimaltenango, Parramos, and Chocoman are dying out so rapidly here that they won't be in the list much longer.

Let us have your reaction to the above. And let us send you budwood of any of the Mexican introductions which have been lost or may be lost in California; we must be sure this whole set gets tested in all interesting regions.

With best regards always,

Sincerely yours

Hunt Institute for Botanical Documentation

C O P Y

C O P Y

C O P Y

ESCUELA AGRICOLA PANAMERICANA

Tegucigalpa, Honduras
Centro America

21 October 1948

Dr. Francis B. Lincoln
Sub-Tropical Experiment Station
University of Florida
Route 2, Box 508
Homestead, Florida, U. S. A.

Dear Dr. Lincoln:

On returning from the United States last week I found your letter of 23 September, and I am delighted to see that you saved all of the hybrid Mexican avocados of which we sent you budwood some time ago. Since you will be able to supply Dr. Loomis with propagating material in case he desires it, I will not bother to send any from here. The grafts you have established will serve as nucleus for further propagation and trial of these varieties in Florida.

While it is a bit early to make definite statements, Mr. Fiester, our horticulturist, feels that we shall probably save 23 of the 24 varieties which we sent here from Mexico in late August. Some of the buds are already six to ten inches high. I hope you will prepare sufficient stock plants so that we can send you budwood of all of these in about six months.

Most of this second lot are similar in character to the varieties obtained last year, which is to say that ~~xxx~~ they appear to be Guatemalan-Mexican hybrids of the same general origin as Fuerte. We included this time, however, four or five varieties of the Mexican race selected for very strong growth or good fruit. The strong growing ones we thought might prove useful as rootstocks.

When I was in California last month I saw buds which were put in at Los Angeles, and they seemed likely to save the collection there. Bill Cooper writes from Texas, however, that they did not have good stock plants on hand, and we shall probably have to send him budwood from here next year if they are to establish a collection there. Incidentally, they seem to feel that West Indian-Mexican hybrids may prove very adaptable to the Rio Grand Valley, more so than any other avocados. They have found a group of trees which they believe to be hybrids of this sort at Ciudad Victoria in Tamaulipas and plan to get budwood from there. I hope to visit that region myself in a year or two in order to make a study of this group.

You can count upon my continued interest in the development of the avocado industry in Florida.

With best regards always.

Sincerely yours

signed: Willson Ropence

ESCUELA AGRICOLA PANAMERICANA

TEGUCIGALPA, HONDURAS
CENTRO AMERICA

15 May 1949

Dr Francis B Lincoln,
Subtropical Experiment Station,
Homestead, Florida.

Dear Dr Lincoln:

Our good friend Dr Swingle jumped the gun when he told you I was shortly to leave this school. The situation is this: the man who has been Assistant Director here for the past five years has transferred back to United Fruit, and that post is open. In filling it now, we should have in mind that I am not as young as I was 30 years ago, and whoever becomes Assistant Director should be a man qualified to step into my shoes when I step out of them. We are in the market for a good man, and I wrote Doctor Fairchild to that effect, which probably started the ball rolling - and it was a snowball, apparently, for it has gained considerably in size as it went down hill.

Probably the fruit Dr Swingle mentioned, which is considerably like an avocado, but aint an avocado, was Hufelandia anay, now known as Beilschmiedia anay or something like that. I found it in Guatemala in 1917 and Dr Fairchild, using my notes, went right back to the same tree almost 30 years later. I have one specimen growing here in my garden, and have tried to bud the avocado on it, but cant get any "takes". We think Persea schiedeana a better bet right now, as a rootstock; we budded upward of 100 plants this year and got better than 80% takes. We are testing this stock in soils where avocados on avocado roots have died out at an early age. So far plants of 13515 are growing lustily on it, Fuerte not so well. We have some trials here with different rootstocks and wish we could lay out a nice little experiment, putting about 5 varieties on each of the three races, Mexican Guatemalan, and West Indian. We have recently sent to Mexico for 500 seeds. I wish we had more time for this sort of thing; we can do it so much more easily than you because there are no restrictions on bringing seeds in here. And we get tremendously rapid growth. And our soils are so heavy that we get a good test of resistance to tree decline or root rot or whatever it is that kills avocado trees. I still cling to my belief that you dont have much trouble with this disease in the right soils but I may be quite wrong. Our soils here do not drain well, even when of apparently open texture.

Now regarding the varieties we sent you from the Atlitxco collection of 1947: We did not send 13523 because we lost it here. We got it from California last December and can send you buds later. We did not send you 13515 because we had only one small plant at the time we shipped to you; we now have budwood available. Fiester thinks quite possibly the one you are carrying as 13522 is 13519. In any event, I think we had best send you additional budwood of any which are in doubt, when we make the next shipment to you.

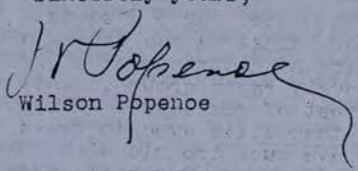
What we want to know right now is this: did you get a good start with 13520? This is the most promising one of the 1947 introductions, so far. Out of ten which blossomed this spring, it is the only one which is carrying much fruit, and there is a fine crop on all four of our trees. It was the strongest grower of the whole batch, right from the start, and it is a curious variety; growth which looks like that of a strong Mexican variety, with lots of anise odor, but the fruit (on the original tree) was nearly a pound in weight, thick-skinned - more like a good Guatemalan or one of your Florida hybrids between Guatemalan and West Indian. Be sure you get a good start with this variety. We can send you more buds at any time. Fruits are now about an inch long.

Did I sent you the transcript of our original notes, made at Atlitxco, with outlines of the fruits? If not, I must do so. We made up 5 or 6 copies including the collections made in August 1948 and sent several to California, one to Bill Cooper at Weslaco, and two to Mexico. You must have one for your files.

Before long now we can send you budwood of the 1948 selections. Several are available right now, but some of the others are not yet quite large enough for us to cut buds from them. When do you think you can get a permit for importation? When you send it down, we will ship all of the varieties we have available, which you do not have safely established in your collection.* I suppose you are using West Indian rootstocks. We think these are giving better results here than Guatemalan or Mexican. If you finally get some schiedeana plants from Washington, by all means try some of them as rootstocks.

Now is the time for us to get a lot of those Atlitxco hybrids established for trial in Florida. I believe we have just about 30 of them growing here at present - perhaps a few more. We got a few varieties of the Mexican race in Atlitxco last time, and also from over towards Michoacan. They may not be so interesting, but I still have to be convinced that there is not a place, in California, for a really good Mexican variety. Dr Coit thinks it will be hard to find anything better than some of those they already grow, and he may be right.

Sincerely yours,


Wilson Popenoe

* Including those of 1947.

ESCUELA AGRICOLA PANAMERICANA

APARTADO 93

18 June 1949

TEGUCIGALPA, HONDURAS
CENTRO AMERICA

Dr. Francis B. Lincoln, Horticulturist
Route 2, Box 508
Homestead, Florida

Dear Dr. Lincoln:

Your letter of the 13th has just come. I am greatly interested to learn that the package of 13520 which I sent in a pliofilm bag got through in perfect condition. We are right now conducting a small experiment with another fabric known as Goodyear Vinyl. The Goodyear people sent us about one square yard of this saying that it was not yet available for commercial export but would be in a few months. Three weeks ago today I wrapped six avocado bud sticks in a piece of this material about 14" square. No packing of any sort was used. These sticks are still in excellent condition. They have been kept at room temperature which is approximately 60° to 80° at this season. This material looks even better to us than pliofilm. We have heard of another material called Airwrap which is sold by Airwrap Products at Laurel, Florida. You doubtless know all about this. If you believe it is worth our while to test this material or even to use it rather extensively for making air layers I wonder if you would be good enough to obtain 5 lbs of it for us and the next time you are in Miami send it down by air express via PAA. This I realize is asking quite a favor but if we order direct and they ship by mail it may be six weeks getting to us. I imagine it would be difficult to dispatch by air express from Laurel where presumably there is no agency of PAA. If you are able to do this for us, please keep track of all expenses and let us send you a check to reimburse you fully. If you do not think the material is worth our while just forget about it.

Harold Loomis, Plant Introduction Garden USDA
Miami Station

I am glad that you mention that Mr. Loomis knows you are getting our Avocado varieties and that he can get budwood when he wants it. I hope you will make it plain with him that I have not forgotten his interest in these matters. Harold is one of my good friends and our reason for sending the wood to you instead of him is simply this: It is my impression that you have a freer hand in distributing material of this sort than he has. As you know we consider these varieties to be of interest principally to the central part of Florida and I feel you could get them there more promptly than Harold.

When you receive the transcript of our notes and drawings I believe you will find that some of these varieties are as small as you want. If we look for smaller ones they will have to be pure Mexicans I think.

I do not understand the root stock problem any more than you do, in fact probably less. We have tried two or three avocado relatives as root stock but so far have only been successful in obtaining unions with schiedeana. We have three or four wild avocados which we are growing for this same purpose but they do not look at all promising.

Dr. Lincoln

ESCUOLA AGRICOLA - 2 -

18 June 1949

Because it is so difficult to import seeds into California and Florida, we are trying here to do the preliminary work on wild avocados and avocado relatives. It is going to be a long time job. If we get anything good I suspect we will have to send bud wood to the States instead of seeds and you will have to wait until you can fruit the buds before you can do anything. This makes a pretty dark picture not to mention the discouraging results we have obtained so far with our seedlings which are growing in our experiment plot. Many of these at two to four feet high are dying out already.

Sincerely yours,

Wilson Fopenoe
Wilson Fopenoe
Director

jwm

Blossoming season.

Seeds of avo. Relatives.

ESCUELA AGRICOLA PANAMERICANA

APARTADO 93

TEGUCIGALPA, HONDURAS
CENTRO AMERICA

4 June 1949

Dr Francis B Lincoln
Subtropical Exp Station,
Homestead, Fla.

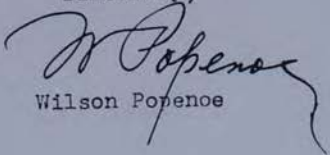
Dear Doctor Lincoln:

Yours of the 1st has just come. We are delighted to hear that the budwood went through in good shape. We are going to keep on throwing this stuff at you until you have all of the new Atlixco selections safely established in several parts of Florida. Three or four months from now you can tell us what numbers are still lacking and we will complete the set. I am sending you by ordinary mail two copies of the transcript of the original notes covering all of the new introductions, which will give you a chance to check up and see what you lack. You can file these notes wherever you wish - one copy at your station and one copy elsewhere might be the best bet.

You say you want small avocados. That was the very thing we had in mind during the Atlixco explorations of the past two seasons. The folks in California are out for the same thing - but maybe you want them even smaller. They want an eight or ten ounce fruit. While on the subject of size, I might mention that when I was at the meeting of the Calif Avocado Society in 1947 I told them that I had ~~just~~ thrown away ten years of my life. When I was sent out to hunt for avocados, a one-pound fruit was our ideal, and I passed by several thousand good-looking eight and ten ounce fruits! When you get the transcript of our notes you will see that there are plenty of small fruits among the Atlixco set. As small as anybody could want, I reckon. If not, we will get you some smaller ones.

We are finding we can send avocado budsticks packed in pliofilm bags and in similar material without the use of sphagnum. These can go by airmail and get through very promptly. You probably know a lot more about it than I do. We learned several things from Dr Ochse who was here last week and told me of seeing you recently in Florida. Recently I sent two lots of budwood to Mexico by airmail - one in sphagnum and waxed paper, the other in a pliofilm envelop, and the latter got through in better shape than the former. I was raised on sphagnum moss and it is hard for me to give it up; but this new system seems mighty interesting. We may send you some buds of 13520 one of these days to try it out.

Sincerely,


Wilson Popenoe

ESCUELA AGRICOLA PANAMERICANA

APARTADO 93

TEGUCIGALPA, HONDURAS
CENTRO AMERICA

25 May 1949

Dr. Francis B. Lincoln, Horticulturist
Agricultural Experiment Stations
University of Florida
Homestead, Florida

Dear Dr. Lincoln:

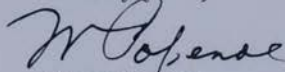
Your letter of the 21st with the shipping tag has just come. We are going to dispatch some more bud wood this afternoon using this tag. We will send as many of the 1948 varieties as we can. Also a little more bud wood of 13520.

We want you to have a copy of the transcript of all our Mexican notes and as soon as we can get around to it we will have several of these prepared to place on record in Florida. There are several available in California, one in Texas and two in Mexico.

We shall be interested to hear how this shipment reaches you.

With best regards always.

Sincerely yours,


Wilson Popenoe
Director

:fwm

ESCUELA AGRICOLA PANAMERICANA

APARTADO 93

TEGUCIGALPA, HONDURAS
CENTRO AMERICA

19 January 1951

Dr Francis B Lincoln
Subtropical Experiment Station
Homestead, Florida.

Dear Doctor Lincoln:

^{Thank} Thanks for your letter of the 16th and the clipping
regarding the Meyer Medal which I had not seen.

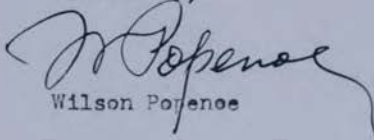
I have been in Cuba quite a number of times, beginning in 1914, and while I have never seen there any avocados definitely earlier in season than the common West Indian seedlings, I know that there is an occasional tree which ripens later than the average. Such a tree is Trapp of Cuban origin, I believe. I have always felt that we should make a thorough search in Cuba for late-ripening West Indians. I do not believe it has ever been made. There was a variety propagated some years ago under the name Catalina, which came from Catalina de Güines between Habana and Matanzas which was reputed to be quite late in ripening. I do not know what has become of it. In recent years there seems to have been a lack of interest in avocado culture in Cuba. Back in the 1920s there were several orchards of hybrid Guatemalan-West Indian varieties mostly from Florida, but I did not hear anything about them on this last visit - just after we had been in Miami. I did not have time to get about very much, however.

As to the oil content, it has always been my impression that the West Indian varieties never run as high as some of the Guatemalans and even less so than the Mexicans. But maybe this point is a factor: Do not varieties which are late-maturing and hang a long time on the tree develop a higher oil content than the earlier or mid-season varieties? And you have to remember that there is always a tendency to pick the mid-season varieties as early as possible, and on the other hand, there is a tendency to let the late varieties hang on as long as possible to get higher prices.

We are glad you like our Monthly News Letter and will continue to send it to you.

It was a pleasure to see you, and I only wish we had been able to spend more time talking about our mutual interests. Best regards always.

Sincerely,



Wilson Popenoe

ESCUELA AGRICOLA PANAMERICANA

APARTADO 93

TEGUCIGALPA, HONDURAS
CENTRO AMERICA

14 June 1952

Dr. Francis B. Lincoln, Horticulturist
Agricultural Experiment Station of the
University of Florida,
Route 2, Box 508,
Homestead, Florida.

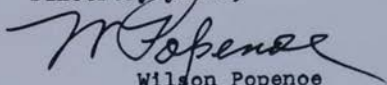
Dear Dr. Lincoln:

Replying to your letter of 25 April, I am afraid we cannot
send you seeds of Calocarpum ^{Mamey Zapote} mammosum because there are no trees
in this part of Honduras. This fruit is not common here, even
on the coast.

The best source I know is Cuba where it is abundant and the
fruits are larger and better than in most parts of Central Ameri-
ca. You doubtless have contacts around Havana, if not I would
think the Estacion Agronomica at Santiago de las Vegas could
fix you up. There are plenty of trees right on the station
grounds.

With best regards.

Sincerely yours,


Wilson Popenoe
Director

ESCUELA AGRICOLA PANAMERICANA

APARTADO 93

TEGUCIGALPA, HONDURAS
CENTRO AMERICA

10 Nov 1949

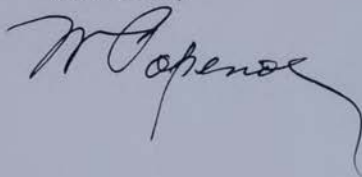
Dear Doctor Lincoln:

Here is a picture of 13520 - photographed exactly 2 yrs after insertion of the buds. Fruits are 10 to 14 ozs; bright green; skin thin and leathery with no stone cells - maybe a little thin for a commercial avocado. Quality excellent. All in all, seems to be a Guatemala x Mex hybrid which has leaned way over toward the ^{*Florida*} Mex side. Should be very interesting for trial in the Ridge section.

When do you want some more budwood of the Mexican introductions? We have recently sent a lot to Bill Cooper at Weslaco, Texas, and will send him more in Dec. We hope you will try to get the whole collection established in Florida. We are shipping a batch of budwood to Venezuela today, packed in the "Airwrap" which you sent us. We have already made one shipment successfully to that country. Cheapest method known, in spite of high expense of airmail. When you can introduce 10 new vars. for ten bucks, you cant kick.

With all good wishes,

Sincerely,



* This is the area northwest of Lake Okeetobee with deep sand lands and somewhat hilly.

* * Presumably JORGE SENITEZ, (Ecuadorian living in Guatemala)

Antigua, Guatemala
17 July 1962

Dear Ralph:

Jorge ^{??*} received your shipment of budwood and we took it over to Quezaltenango last Sunday where he had to use it for cleft grafting as his seedlings were much too large for budding. The material was 10 days from mailing in Gainesville. Two varieties could not be used - he put in grafts of six.

Jorge greatly appreciated your sending the material. We went over his 2-yr old variety collection. Armstrong's "Earligold" had just ripened a tremendous crop. I tried a few of those left - excellent. The standard Florida varieties - Jewel, Angel and so on, are carrying fine large crops and the trees look vigorous and well adapted to the climate - 7700 feet. On our way to Sta Cruz Quiché we went through a valley at 7500, just fine for peaches - all very large, healthy seedlings, and all white-flashed freestones, all very much alike. Practically no peaches around Quezaltenango - they say it is too cold for them, - though it is no higher than the valley just mentioned. Topographical difference of some sort, I guess.*

Sincerely yours

Wilson Popenoe

* or is it simply that the people of Quezaltenango have found it more profitable to grow apples and plums?

Antigua, Guatemala, 22 June 1967

Prof. Ralph H. Sharpe,
College of Agriculture, University of Florida,
McCarty Hall,
Gainesville.

Dear Ralph:

Two days ago Arturo Falla, Alberto Bianchi and myself had a session on peaches, with some attention also to pears. I would like to tell you about a few recent developments, and at the same time ask for your further assistance on a few points.

Arturo Falla made a fine showing this spring with Florðawen. This matures well ahead of most local peaches. He picked the fruits hard ripe, put them in trays with the apex upward, and sold them in Guatemala City. They went over big. Arturo is propagating this variety rather extensively, realising at the same time that you have warned that you do not consider it the ultimate thing, but it bears so heavily at his place (6900 feet); it is so pretty, and so tasty, that he intends to go ahead with it until we get something better. He has also done well with Florðahome, of which he has some 50 trees in bearing at 6900 feet. Lower down, at 5000 feet, Okinawa has produced another beautiful crop this year and surely is good enough to eat, but of course we are counting on this mainly as a rootstock. Arturo is planting more for this purpose.

As you know, we failed to get much action out of Haley Nurseries this past season. I have kept after them but do not get much attention. I feel pretty sure our trouble is that we are small fry, shipping is a problem, and they are in Big Business.

This coming season we must get stock of some of the new varieties which we have not tried yet. You have mentioned ^{ca}Tejon, Rechen, and a

number of others. Is there any way in which you can encourage Haley to take care of us this coming season? We would be glad to get trees in December, or in January at latest.

Having noted that Glen Saint Mary has gone in for some of the newer peaches, I have recently written George Taber, asking if he will supply us this coming season, and what varieties? We have dealt with Glen Saint Mary for more than 15 years; they have known how to ship, and they have sent good stock. But I understand that they are now only in the wholesale business, and they may not want to bother with an order for 300 or 400 trees, to be shipped abroad. I shall be interested to see what Taber writes - if he is willing to help us - but in any case I am not sure he has all the varieties you will recommend for trial here.


Apple planting is going ahead well here and does not need much help. Plums are so abundant that it is not wise to push this fruit very much. But we are just getting a start with pears. This is a harder job than peaches. Arturo Falla, who is a great propagator, has established the Tennessee variety of which you gave me budwood (scions), but we are anxious to get "Mericourt", which has been published recently by the American Pomological Society. Do you know much about it? The Tennessee Experiment Station offers scions, but I doubt if they will send them this far. Do you think you could get us a few, which Hugh could dispatch to me by air mail, and I could turn over to Arturo? I am wondering if this variety has enough Chinese Sand Pear blood to be good here at medium elevations - say 6000 feet. Baldwin is doing beautifully with Falla at 6900 feet; you may recall that we brought in 100 trees from Glen Saint Mary in January of last year. Here at my place, 5000 feet, this variety has not done well, but conditions in my garden are not favorable - mainly soil.

Returning to peaches: What we have not done, is make any progress in connection with "canning elings". Slightly over two years ago a pretty complete set was introduced from California, but as was to be anticipated, peaches from Central California are not for us. At our meeting the other day, it was asked if we could not get canning elings from Florida. I said that in my talks with you, I had gained the impression that you do not have canning elings in Florida. Is this not right? There is a rapidly growing interest in processing here. Before long there is going to be a demand for canning elings. It has been my feeling that our best bet is to hunt for good melocotones, like these you saw at Santa Maria de Jesus, and propagate them. They will be in season here in another six weeks, and we are determined to scour the highlands for good seedlings. Of course I cant forget your experience with the seeds you took from Santa Maria. But do you know of any better way for us to develop canning elings than to propagate and test some of the best local seedlings?

Looks like I wont get to Gainesville again until toward the end of the year. I want to devote a good deal of time between now and October to these temperate zone fruits, right here in Guatemala. As you know, there is a wealth of seedling peaches in this country. And the pears need a lot of investigation. Incidentally, what do you think of Calleryana rootstocks for our conditions? I believe George Taber told me he is using this exclusively. Everyone here is sticking to manzanilla (Crataegus stipulosa) partly because it is hard for us to get anything else, and partly because when planted in the orchard and grafted when the trunks are two inches in diameter it seems to give pretty satisfactory results.

Many thanks in advance for any help you can give us.

Faithfully yours,



cc Don Arturo Falla

Antigua, Guatemala, 20 Sept 1968

Prof. R.H. Sharpe
University of Florida
Gainesville.

Dear Ralph:

It was mighty good of you to go to all that trouble re. the 'calleryana' business - your letter of the 12th. Taber wrote me that they have been using it exclusively for about 15 years, and they use it because it buds easily and makes strong trees. He said when we got our first "Hood" and "Kieffer" trees from him, about 1930, they were using "Japan" rootstocks. I suppose he means something of the sand pear type. Jorge Benitez tells me he has used "Kieffer" seedlings here in Guatemala; he thinks they are allright for the hybrids such as "Hood" but not for French pears (such as "Bartlett", "Anjou", etc). I don't think he has had much experience in this respect, however. I am writing the Oregon Agr'l Exp Station to see if they can add something to the information which you have given us.

You mention that 'calleryana' is reported to be a good stock for 'Bartlett' in California. You add that there seems to be no objection to its use except that it is not winter-hardy. That would be no problem here, of course. We are going ahead to order seed from Herbst Bros - I hope they won't let us down. I wonder where they get their seed?

I am trying to get more information re the nematode problem on peaches here. I will pass on to you anything I learn. As soon as I get an opportunity, I will do some digging at the Kern place up on the road to Guatemala City, where they have dug out and destroyed half a dozen or more trees because they say they were being killed by nematodes.

Faithfully yours,

Wilson Lafence

Antigua, Guatemala, 19 August 1967

Prof. R H Sharpe
University of Florida, Gainesville.

Dear Ralph:

Very many thanks for your interesting and helpful letter of 20 July. We have been in touch with G L Taber of Glen Saint Mary who this year is offering six of the peaches in which we are interested; he says he will supply us and since he knows how to ship to Central America (we have had trees from him several times in the past 15 years) I am placing an order with him, for Arturo Falla, for 15 trees each of the peaches, 100 more Baldwin pears and two new pears we have not had as yet. I assume these will all be on Calleryana because when I visited him a year or two ago he said that is the rootstock they are using. Falla is planning to order a lot of seed of this species. In other words, interest in the Crataegus rootstock is waning; the Ministerio de Agricultura has quite a good nursery coming on, all on "French pear" roots - I suppose mostly Bartlett. This nursery is in fine condition - it is near here and I take a look at it every few weeks.

Speaking of pears, this fruit and the peach have been getting practically all of our attention this summer, though we had John Bregger with us for a few days, late last month, and went into the apple situation with him. He knows an awful lot more about apples than we do! Incidentally, he identified the famous "Juarez" apple of Chichicastenango, which I had begun to think was Ben Davis, as "Wealthy". This is good news, for "Wealthy", of which we brought in a few trees three years ago, is showing promise here in my garden at 5000 feet. The crop this year at Chichicastenango is tremendous and the fruit is selling at a fine price.

But to go back to the pears. There is a variety on the market here now which they call Kadman. I cannot find this in any of the literature I have, and when Bregger was with us we compared the fruits with those of two "Hood" trees at Tecpan which we imported 35 years ago. It looks like the same thing. If you know of a pear called Kadman, tell me. This "Kadman" is really good; has the pear flavor, as Baldwin does, is often quite large, though quite variable in size and shape. It is being propagated this summer on a commercial scale. Like Kibiffer and Pineapple, it obviously has a lower chilling requirement than the domestic pears; it is a strong grower; and it is very productive. Falla and I begin to think our future lies in these hybrids rather than in the domesticas. "Boac" is a weak grower and not very productive. "Comice" better - we are propagating some of it. But we feel that the grower is going to do much better with things like "Baldwin" and "Hood" (Kadman?).

You mention the lack of color in Flordawon. That is not ^a problem here - it has plenty of color at Falla's place, 6900 feet. But more and more we are worrying about the unevenness in ripening. We picked the last fruits of the season just last week; I have held a dozen of them here at my house, and they are all rotting at the apex while still too hard for eating at the base. Falla has a hundred trees in bearing. They have the advantage of ripening much earlier than our local seedlings, and he had no trouble selling the early ones, at a good price. But I suspect he will be top-working these trees eventually. "Earligold" and "Saturn" from Armstrong have done well at Mezaltenango. We were up there last month and "Earligold" (not so early here!) was carrying a tremendous crop of beautiful peaches. But remember, they are at 7800 feet. The eating quality is not nearly so good as Flordawon, but our public is not so crit-

ical as yours, probably; there is, however, an insistence on peaches which have more acidity than "Earligold". I think you remember I told you that Chico de Sola has given up the old "Jewel"-Angel-"Waldo" group as well as "Hall's Yellow" and "Dorothy N", ^{all} ~~both~~ of which do very well here.

Now for the canning clings: this is what all of us are after right now. Falla is propagating several from Santa Maria de Jesus. A firm in Guatemala City (Ducal) has just commenced putting out halved canning clings, copying Del Monte. Falla and I got a can last week and tried them. Pretty fair eating. What worries me is that all the large clings I have seen up to now are shy bearers, compared to the seedling duraznos or small peaches. Maybe we will find some productive ones; we already ~~have~~ have them but not of the largest size. We have some which are about as large as average "Elwertas", and may have to settle for that type. But we will keep on looking. I believe we are going to get somewhere. Incidentally, Del Monte (Calpac) has a man - one of my old Zamorano boys - covering Central America. They are out to develop production of fruits for juice and for canning throughout Central America - a situation which has been made possible by the establishment of the Central American Common Market. Del Monte has licensed a firm here in Guatemala to make four "nectars" - the sweet things are the ones which go over big in Latin America. They send down concentrates from California, at present, and are holding down to apple, peach, ~~pear~~ and apricot nectars. Three cans for a quarter of a dollar, over the counter.

The Gerber man called on me last year. I tried to interest him in Guatemala but it seems, as you mention, that they are going in to Venezuela. They can get all the peaches they want in that country, before long, It will not be so easy down there, when it

comes to apples and pears, but since they are interested in baby foods, maybe it is the carrots and that sort of thing which is their main objective.

As for importing pollen from the States, Arturo Falla is probably the only man here who could handle this sort of project, and I doubt that he is ready for it yet, but I will talk it over with him. Obviously, this will be the ultimate thing, but I suspect until we have worked through some of the things you are producing first. Falla would, I know, be happy to test some of the things you mention, varieties which are subject to frost damage with you. Falla has plenty of land at 4300 feet, where "Flordayon" has been very successful and "Okinawa" is going strong. Falla has planted quite a few "Okinawas" to get seed, and intends to use this peach as a stock just as soon as he has enough seed. I believe he had more than 1000 fruits this year but he wants a nursery of 10,000.

It is regrettable that we do not have more men like Falla. Perhaps we can turn up a few, or train a few. The government is going in mainly for apples - principally "Winter Banana" - right now, with a limited quantity of pears, mainly "Kadman". In Quezaltenango they have some really fine nurseries of "Malling Merton" stocks, regarding which we are getting a bit worried, as I may have written you, because apple trees do not grow to the same large size here they do in the States, and we wonder if we want any dwarfing.

I expect to be in Gainesville by October at latest, and I look forward to some interesting talks with you.

Faithfully yours,

Wilson

Wilson Popenoe

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P.S.

I must ^{of} amplify my discussion ^{of} the pears a bit. I said "Falla and I begin to think our future lies in these hybrids rather in the domesticas." I am afraid that isnt the whole story. We are discouraged by the somewhat weak growth and scanty production of some of the fine pears on which we have been working these past few years, but the two major varieties which have long been grown here will probably continue to hold prominent places. These are the varieties "Ticho" and myself have mentioned in our publications as "Larga" and "Redonda". The latter we have believed and still believe is "Lincoln". It does well here at 6500 feet and up to 7500. "Larga" the same. We had begun to feel that 'Larga' is "Clapp's Favorite" and John Bregger, who knows a lot more about domesticas pears than we do, agrees. Now, as you know, this is a pretty good pear in some places. Here it is the most productive of all the domesticas we have, and it matures first. This year we got some specimens early and ripened them more or less properly and they were good. Our trouble has been that growers here leave them on the trees too long; they have poor flavor, and turn brown at the core. "Lincoln" is not quite so good a bearer but doesnt turn brown at the core. I believe ^{we} will encourage planting "Larga"; it represents probably 75% of the pears now grown here, because of its good growth and heavy production. If we can train people to ripen it properly it will be allright.

JRP

Antigua, Guatemala, 7 October 1968

Prof. Ralph H. Sharpe
University of Florida, Gainesville.

Dear Ralph:

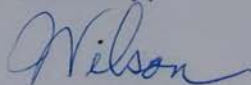
John Walker of Marshallville, Ga. has shipped us 10,000 "Nemaguard" seeds. Arturo Falla, who will handle most of them, has not had very good luck germinating peach seeds in the past - he has had little experience. So I asked Mr Walker for advice and he said to soak the seeds, right in the bag, in running water for about eight days, then stratify them and put them in cold storage for at least eight weeks, then plant about January 20th.

He also suggested that we ask for your advice, since you are in a climate more like ours. Arturo Falla has just dropped in and says what about cracking the seeds before you soak them 8 days in running water? And do you remove the kernels before stratification, or just before planting, or not at all?

Knowing our climate, we feel sure you can tell us just how to handle these seeds, if you will be good enough to do so.

Many thanks in advance.

Sincerely,



Wilson Popenoe

25

7 October 1968

Ralph: I have just eaten a perfectly ripened but rather small specimen of that 'Tennessee' pear of which you sent down budwood with me three or four years ago. 'Tenn 37-20' isn't it. Really good. Juicy, no hard stone cells, flavor equal to that of some of the European pears. I assume this has some 'serotina' blood, but not 1/2 it would seem. Color dull yellow with a reddish cheek. Arturo Falla is delighted with this pear. He has it growing at about 6800 feet; we don't know just what it will do at lower elevations.

Note
L 27212
in Florida
Honduras (20) not yet checked?

Antigua, Guatemala, 21 February 1971

Dr Ralph H. Sharpe
University of Florida
Gainesville.

Dear Ralph:

Yesterday we spent the afternoon with Arturo Falla and I have a good deal to report. As a starter, I enclose a memorandum he has prepared for you. He says it does not cover everything but I think it does include a list of most things in which you are interested.

On the mountainside at Concepción, 6800 to about 7000 feet, he is completing the planting of about 100 acres in orchard form, about two thirds in pears and one third in peaches, including your Sunred nectarine (of which he gave us about 50 fruits yesterday - please note that this is February 21. These fruits are small, about an inch and a half in diameter.

The pears are - about half of them - on Crataegus rootstocks two years old, grafted in permanent positions in the field - you know that they do not graft this rootstock in the nursery. The rest are on Pyrus calleryana grafted in the nursery or bench-grafted and kept in cold storage for a while before going into the field. Arturo is doing some fine work on this propagation business. He is the only man in Guatemala for this sort of work.

Some of the peaches he also has growing at San Sebastian, down near his house, about 4800 feet. We have agreed that it is important in connection with peaches especially, to compare behavior at the two elevations. "Sunred" has done well at both; also "Flordawon". But we feel that the higher level is going to be best, and probably many things will not be well adapted at the lower elevation.

As to rootstocks, he is still going to use Crataegus for pears to a certain extent. He is delighted with the behavior of callervana up to now, but of course we must have more experience with it. But 50 Baldwins we import^{ed} from Glen Saint Mary seven years ago, which we assume are on callervana are growing beautifully at Concepción and right now are for the first time, producing quite a few flowers and there^{are} some fruits half an inch long. For peaches, he has been disappointed with "Nemaguard", which he imported in quantity more than two years ago; he says it does not grow well. "Okinawa" has done better and he has about 100 seedlings in fruit, but as I think I have told you, the fruits he got last season contained very few viable seeds. He is using local peach seedlings more than anything else. I might add that he has about a thousand seedlings of Pyrus betulaeifolia, from seeds which we received from Oregon a couple of years ago, with which he is going to experiment. So far, he feels that they are not growing nearly as well as callervana.

Arturo showed us some two-year-old grafts of "Pera Larga" and Tennessee 37-20 which are carrying quite a few[^] fruits. Incidentally, you asked us to put a name on that Tennessee pear of which you gave me the original scions. Some months ago I told Arturo about this and he has been thinking about it. He says his men are labelling the grafts "TENN" and they will probably use this name for it.

You will note from his memorandum that we received a few scions of "Early Amber" in 1968. These have not done at all well. About a month ago we got a lot of scions of this variety and Arturo topworked them on three year old trees of "Flordaqueen" and "Flordawon". He showed me yesterday a number of these grafts which are already six inches high.

Tejon has borne fruit and Arturo likes it. Two years ago we had fruits of what was said to be "Suwannee" from Huehuetenango and we all liked it. We looked at the trees of "the California varieties" which were planted in 1966 and as he notes in his memorandum they are hopeless. 'Bonita' and "Maygold" are not going to do anything, ^{either} All these varieties are at Concepción, about 6900 feet. You will note the list of peaches which he believes merit further propagation.

In 1969 you sent us the following pears: "Surprise", "Packham Triumph" and "Mericourt". Fred Hough also brought down "Mericourt". Arturo has these three established but of course it is too early to know anything about them. I have been especially interested in Mericourt. Arturo is completely sold on Tenn 37-20 and has propagated several hundred trees and has given some scions to the Ministerio of Agriculture which are growing on callervana in the nursery at Los Aposentos near here. I have seen them, and they look well. Altitude 5900 ft.

You know that the pears which ^{are} being propagated commercially here right now are the following: "Larga" which we believe to be "Clapp Favorite", but I am afraid there are several varieties are called Larga and not all of them are Clapp. "Redonda" we have been calling "Lincoln" but we can not be sure about it. Another good pear which we have been watching at Quezaltenango we are calling "Clairgeau" and there will be a lot of it planted this year. I am not at all sure it is Clairgeau. "Hood" is being propagated extensively and "Baldwin" will begin to be this year. And "Tenn" as far as the scions will permit.

It has just occurred to me, a few months ago, that we have been terribly slow in trying to clear up this nomenclature business in connection with pears. I think you will recall that seven or eight years ago we came to believe that the "Juarez" apple is really "Wealthy" but we could not be sure, so I got some trees of Wealthy from Bountiful

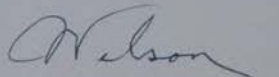
Ridge. One of them bore two fruits in my garden and I was able to compare them with fruits of "Juarez" and there could be no doubt that this variety is "Wealthy". Now, I have asked the folks at Beltsville to send us some scions of "Clapp", "Lincoln" and "Clairgeau". If we get them, Arturo will put them on calleryana of which there are now more than 25,000 seedlings ready for grafting. There is another pear here which they are calling "Mexicana" because they got it from Mexico. I don't know what it is, but it is pretty obviously pure communis. Arturo is propagating it on quite a large scale.

Just one last item: We are naturally much interested in "Early Amber" because of its importance in Florida. It seems to me when I was up there I saw a leaflet which the owners of the patent had put out and which showed the fruit in colors. Maybe this is still available; maybe other advertising literature has been put out. You will know what might be had. I wonder if you would phone Mrs Chris Gallagher in Hugh's office, tell what to get and where, and ask her to write for it, and if she gets anything to send it down to me by airmail.

In the government nurseries at Aposentos they are making good progress with apples (mostly "Winter Bananas") and with pears, and they are propagating a lot of "melocotones" canning clings of the kind they have at Santa Maria de Jesus. You know all about them. They are taking scions from any tree which is known to be a "melocoten". We all know that melocotones require more elevation than the smaller melting flesh peaches which are so abundant here, and we all know that the melocotones, so far as we have observed them, do not bear the heavy crops that the duraznos do. I am afraid we are heading for trouble.

With regards and best wishes,

Faithfully yours


Wilson Popenoe

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Diciembre de 1970

MEMORANDUM

Para. Dr. Wilson Popenoe

De: Arturo Falla C.

Asunto: Reporte preliminar del comportamiento de la introducción de variedades de: DURAZNOS, MELOCOTONES, NECTARINES, PERAS, y MANZANAS en las plantaciones en el Anexo "La Concepción" de la Finca San Sebastián.

Entre Duraznos y Melocotones, se han probado más de treinta variedades de las cuales 21 son originarias de Florida y 8 de California, a parte de varias criollas y de un lote de la Universidad de Rutgers, de las cuales estas últimas las posibilidades de encontrar una que responda será muy difícil,

Las variedades de Florida son las siguientes:

Flordahome, Flordawon, Flordaqueen, Okinawa en Diciembre 1963

Flordasun, 5-109, W-1826, 16-33, 26-31, W, 10-24, Q202-8
L-27-12, Bonita, Maygold y Tejón en Diciembre de 1967

Flordabelle, Flordared, Early Amber, 13-72 W, 5-58 en 1968

Las variedades de California son las siguientes:

Cardinal, Coronet, Elberta, J.H. Hale, Red Globe, Red Haven
Rio Oso, Suncrest.

(De este grupo ninguna existe a la fecha aun cuando fueron plantadas en 1966. Estas variedades DEFINITIVAMENTE, no deberían de importarse.)

Las ^{only} únicas variedades que hasta el momento han merecido ser propagadas son las siguientes:

Flordawon, Flordasun, 5-109, W-1826, 16-33, L27-12 y Tejón aunque Okinawa ha demostrado tener mucha adaptabilidad para usarla en el futuro como patrón.

Algunas de las mencionadas arriba, aun concidero muy prematuro propagarlas intensivamente en vista del corto tiempo que tienen aunque las manifestaciones iniciales han sido satisfactorias.

NECTARINES

NACATARIAS: Han sido introducidas 4 variedades así:

Sunred, 5-107, Q303-4 y Sun Gold en Noviembre 1968

A la fecha Unicamente Sun Red demuestra aunque dado el tiempo de sembradas un comportamiento extraordinario, muy buena producción y plantas muy vigorosas, por lo cual se ha propagado intensamente. No así las otras que se pueden descartar momentaneamente.

Antigua, Guatemala 29 March 1971

Prof R H Sharpe
Gainesville, Fla.

Dear Ralph:

Arturo Falla fairly jumped out of his shoes when I read him your letter. He feels flattered to think that "16-33" is such a good peach, tho. he had sized it up as the best thing we have received from you and has already budded a couple of hundred seedlings to this variety.

I will not write at length until I have had a chance to talk with him more at length, but I am writing now to say that Arturo is going north to attend the annual Board meeting of Escuela Agricola Panamericana in New York, 3 May, and would like to stop off a day or two in Gainesville on his way home, if it will be convenient for you to spend an hour or so with him. To avoid making you write a letter, I am enclosing a slip which I will thank you to fill out and mail to me. Arturo will be arriving in Gainesville May 4 or 5 I believe, - Tuesday or Wednesday. If you have any budwood that he can bring down with him, he will be delighted to pick it up. I told him about the 200 new peach seedlings which you want to send to someone down here to work them. I will say in the first place that Arturo is the only man in the picture. He still has a lot of "Floridaawn and Floridahome", 3 and 4 yr old trees, and would use them. (He has already topworked a lot of them to "Early Amber").

He would be glad to bring back with him your new rootstock selections. I told him about the Okinawa see's (I was talking with him over the phone; I have not yet seen him personally since getting your letter) and he says it wouldn't do any good to clip off the end of the

pit, for so far as last year's Okinawa fruits were concerned there was nothing inside!

We are enthusiastic about your TENN seedlings, better than Hood or Baldwin. We sure want to get them down here as soon as possible. Yesterday I took Hugh and Dean Browning up to Concepción where Arturo has most of his pears and peaches, and we were all surprised to see so many two-year-old pear grafts on Crataegus which are carrying quite a few fruits.* The 50 seven year old Baldwins which I got Arturo from Glen St Mary are fine tall (too slender) trees and are beginning to produce a few, very few fruits. Hugh asked why we had not headed back these trees when they were young, and formed better crowns. I wish you would talk to Arturo about forming good trees of such varieties as Baldwin and Pineapple. I don't know just what you do in Florida.

Arturo will tell you all about "Sunred". The fruits I sampled in February were not normal, and it wasn't due to crowding. As for color, they couldn't have been redder, all over, but I don't think they were full mature as I had to keep them a week or more before they were soft.

Arturo has grafted a lot of TENN this spring. My only question about this variety is regarding its chilling requirement. You know that Clapp Favorite (if this ^{is} our "Larga" does well at 6500 feet. Arturo's Concepción is pretty close to 7000, but that isn't a great difference. "Bartlett" has to ^{be} put ~~right~~ close to 8000 to do anything. Baldwin is doing well near Antigua at 5500.

Best regards always

Faithfully yours

Wilson

Wilson Pepee

* not top-worked; grafted on 2 or 3 yr old Crataegus seedlings,
1 to 1 1/2 inches in diameter.

Antigua, Guatemala 10 March 1971

Prof Ralph H Sharpe
University of Florida
Gainesville, Fla.

Dear Ralph:

1967
Last year, I believe it was, I wrote you that Arturo Falla has one of your numbered peaches which he thinks is good. This morning I was at San Sebastian and he gave me a specimen to sample. He says it is your number 16-33 and that budwood was received here on 5 December ¹⁹⁶⁷ ~~1967~~ (this seems too early to me). The fruit we sampled is a melting flesh clingstone, about two inches in diameter, without the objectionable beak of Flordawon and evenly ripened over the whole fruit. Lots of red color on the surface. Flesh very juicy, flavor spicy, plenty of acid; quality very good by our standards. Arturo says the tree is productive and you will note that the season is very early, though you know that peaches and other fruits are inclined to lose their seasonality here. It was grown at Concepción, altitude about 6800 feet.

Faithfully yours,

Wilson
Wilson Popenoe

Antigua, Guatemala 14 April 1971

Prof Ralph H Sharpe
University of Florida, Gainesville.

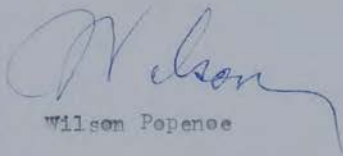
Dear Ralph:

Yesterday I went down to San Sebastian for the second time in a few days. I had already given Arturo Falla your memo, telling him how to find you in Gainesville - and that you would meet him if he would send you word. Arturo said he has written you. He is absolutely delighted at the invitation and I think his visit is going to do a lot for him and for peaches and pears in Guatemala. I hope he brings back a lot of experimental material. He has thousands of calleryana stocks ready for grafting and will top-work as many peach trees as necessary.

He gave me a flt^a of "Floridawns". Beautiful. They had just been picked. Fine coloration. This morning when I started to work on them I found that they were already beginning to break down at the tips, and were still hard-ripe at the stem end. But mighty good eating.

Guillermo Arriaga is doing quite a good job on apples, pears and peaches at the government nurseries near Chimaltenango and Quezaltenango. But the only peaches being propagated are, the malacotones, seedling trees from various parts of the country. We know very little about them and we all wonder about their productivity. I am afraid we are (or may be) heading for some disappointment with our "canning clings". I wish you would discuss this problem with Arturo when he comes.

Best regards always,


Wilson Peñeque

Antigua Guatemala, 10 August 1971

Prof. Ralph H Sharpe
University of Florida,
Gainesville.

Dear Ralph:

I sure had luck with the budwood (scions) you gave me in Gainesville. Kept them ^{cool} ~~on ice~~ until I got to Tegucigalpa and then wondered how I would get them over to Guatemala (I didnt come here on my way south). Just the day I arrived in Teguci I found that Arturo Falla was there and was flying back to Guatemala the next morning.

When I came over here a few days ago I phoned Arturo and he dropped in. Told me that the scions were in fine condition; were grafted promptly; and he thinks practically every one has stuck; most of them have broken into growth already.

I talked with ^{Arturo} Ralph about my talks with you, and passed on your advice about thinning "Sunreds" and a few other matters. I also gave him the bulletins I got at your office.

Arturo brought me half a dozen "Tenn" pears. They are absolutely good enough for anybody (in Guatemala, at least). Biggest about 3 inches in diameter; clear yellow with red over about half the surface; very juicy, flavor almost as good as some of the French pears (we think) and I dont see any signs of brown core rot which is so troublesome on communis pears here. Arturo is propagating "Tenn" heavily.

You sure are helping us a lot and we appreciate it.

Faithfully yours,

Wilson Popenoe



ESCUELA AGRICOLA PANAMERICANA
TEGUCIGALPA, HONDURAS

*

Antigua, Guatemala 27 May 1974

Professor Ralph H. Sharpe
University of Florida
Gainesville.

Dear Ralph:

Yesterday Arturo Falla brought me a flat of 18 peaches which made my eyes stick out like those of a land crab. Gosh! Nothing like it has ever been seen in Guatemala.

This is a peach of which I believe you gave me budwood one time when I was with you, and brought down to Guatemala several of your hybrids which you had not named and perhaps would not name. Arturo has it under the number "L 27". Does this mean anything to you? The specimens he brought range from 2-1/2 to 3 inches in diameter. They are well colored - about like "Flordawon" - but round, with no "beak" at the tip - or at least nothing to bother about. Not like "Flordawon" in that respect. Yellow fleshed clings of course, and I had some, sliced with sugar and cream, for breakfast and they strike me as excellent. And the size! That will make a hit here, where big fruits are the thing (you know my motto, a fruit to become popular here in Latin America must be the largest of its kind, highly colored, and sweet. Flavor doesn't matter too much as long as the flesh is sweet).

I have been waiting a long time to write you a general letter about our progress, which has had something of a setback. I don't know why but the Ministerio seems to have lost interest in everything but apples. For the moment - for the past year or so, at least. But I hope to be writing ^{again} about in a month or so. This "L 27", you will note, is not in season here until the middle of May. Perhaps too late for you?

Flordawon has been available for several weeks ; there have been a few fruits in our roadside market up at San Bartolomé, and I know of one small orchard in bearing a few miles from here at about 5500 feet. Incidentally, Arturo told me the other day that several peaches which he thought had gone out of bearing after giving two or three crops seem to be producing more this year than they did one and two years ago. And we have begun to think and talk about seasonality, after had you ask some questions. Our thinking hasn't been well organized and no one has maintained any records, of course. We are having the same trouble ⁱⁿ connection with our apples and perhaps pears too. In fact, what we need is one man, just one good man, to sit down on the job and make and keep observations and not mind if the government changes his program and puts him to work on Santa Gertrudis cattle. If I had the money, I would get you to send me a good young fellow and I would guarantee him a job for ten successive years. Apples, pears and peaches.

Confound it all, I thought we were off to a fine start with the new pear varieties of which you got us budwood. Arturo had 50 "Baldwin" trees which I got for him seven or eight years ago; they haven't borne well as yet, and Arturo does not ^{think} much of the fruits produced (which does not jibe with our experience at Zamorano). These Baldwins are on calleryana roots, I feel sure. Arturo topworked some of these Baldwin trees to the new varieties - Mericourt, Maxine and several others, and they just won't make good growth. They shot up a foot or so, then stopped growing. I am going into this matter with him soon and see just where we stand.

With best regards always,

Faithfully yours

Wilson

2085
Antigua, Guatemala, 29 June 1974

Prof. Ralph Sharpe
University of Florida, Gainesville.

Dear Ralph:

On coming back from three weeks in Honduras a few days ago I found your letter of 6 June. Yesterday we went down to see Arturo Falla. He looked up his records and found that he received material of peach 15-39 from you in July 1971. I brought down the budwood, apparently at the same time I brought the "Anna" apple which is making such a tremendous hit with Arturo at 5000 feet. He has recently planted 150 trees of this variety at his new place, Tempisque. Incidentally, he had given us some fruits from the original 1971 trees just before we went over to Honduras on 1 June. We had left three of these in the refrigerator, here in our kitchen, and yesterday I ate one of them. It was absolutely delicious, better than the "Delicious" parent, to my taste at least. Slightly more subacid - "Delicious" is too bland for me.

Now about that 15-39. We are delighted to hear that you think of naming it and putting it out to the public. Arturo says that this year's production has been very good. And as I have written you, the fruits are 2-1/2 to 3 inches in diameter, with no beaks at all, and we think the quality excellent. Arturo had given us a "flat" of about 20 fruits just before we left for Honduras on 1 June. Alice had left ~~six~~ in our kitchen refrigerator when we went away to Honduras. When we came back most of them were still in perfectly good condition and I had two breakfasts of sliced peaches and cream, on the 26th and 27th of this month. Arturo is going to propagate this variety as fast as he can. If you name it, give us the name so Arturo won't do as he usually does, put a name to it himself! *It is now growing at*

6900 feet, nowhere else.

Of course Arturo would be glad to try any other selections which you think interesting. We will try to watch for an opportunity to get them down here. Hugh is so much on the run and his plans so indefinite that it is hard to get things lined up through him.

You ask about Anna apple and other selections I brought down in 1971. I have mentioned Anna above. It is hard to get details regarding introductions in general, because Arturo, who is pretty good about keeping records regarding receipt of new material, doesn't put much on the books afterward, and his men are ^{not} always too careful about labelling things. But Arturo is better than most other folks here. You ask about the Hough introductions. I think Eduardo Matheu is the only one who has done anything with these. And so far, he has only one introduction which he thinks is a hit and this is an apple which he has named Vista Bella and is propagating. Eduardo's place is at 7500 feet so we don't know anything about the suitability of this apple for low elevations, though Eduardo seems to think it has promise in this regard. I have not seen the fruit as yet. Eduardo is the only one here who has tried to follow, more or less, the Hough introductions. I will see if he has been able to accumulate any further information. The things that were in the nursery at Aposentos near here have disappeared, so far as I know. There have been changes in personnel, and they shifted some of the stock to Quezaltenango. Some of the material was given ^{by Hough} to Peter Carlin at the latter place, but I understand nothing has come of it. About the only two places where we can count on getting some results are Arturo's and Eduardo Matheu's. And in both cases it is going to ^{take} ~~get~~ some testing to determine the altitudinal limits. For example, Arturo and I often mention the "Tenn" pear which is still doing so well at 7000 feet and of which he has propagated a large number - two or three thousand I believe. Because

we were told by Dr Drain that "Tenn" is $3/4$ Anjou and $1/4$ Gerber it may not be any good below 6500 feet. But I must say the fruit looks to me as tho it has more oriental blood than it would have gotten from the combination mentioned.

Arturo has just sent a batch of grafts of Anna, peach 15-39 and the Tenn pear, which we are calling Ayres when it isnt called Tenn (because that is what Dr Drain thought it was) over to Zamorano, but I dont know just how much they can do with them right now; the work up on Uyuca is almost at a standstill for the moment. The boys will probably put them in pots in the nursery at Zamprano, 2500 feet, for the moment.

Incidentally, at Arturo's Tempisque, about 4800 feet, I ate a few Stover grapes yesterday. The plants are about two years old, I think, tho his man says less; the fruits are only half the size they were at Leesburg but the flavor is excellent. I ate this variety at Leesburg and was greatly impressed, because it tastes like a Muscat or Malaga. Maybe another year if the vines continue to grow well the fruit will be larger. Right now Arturo is all pepped up about a grape I got from a man over in Puerto Rico. He calls it "Esperanza", and said the fruit is not terribly good, but the vine at Arturo's place is a very strong grower, looks much like Isabella, and is now hanging full of clusters of fruits which the size of BB shot. We will learn something about this variety in another 2 or 3 months. (I have just looked up the man's name who produced this variety; it is Frank Watlington, Santurce, Puerto Rico).

I hope to get out in the field a bit, from now until September, and will try to get some more information of interest to you.

Faithfully yours,

Wilson

Wilson Popenoe

Letters from W. Popenoe

Antigua, Guatemala, 16 September 1974

Prof. Ralph H Sharpe
University of Florida
Gainesville.

Dear Ralph:

Thanks for your letter of August 15. We are delighted that you are planning to come down to the Tropical Region meeting which will be held here in Antigua next Summer, and that Dr. Sherman will be with you. Eduardo Matheu and I are still trying to figure out the best time to have the meeting, but it will probably be in July. Or early August. Our problem is to have it coincide with the season of the melting-flesh duraznos and still give us a chance to see the cling criollos. As you say in your letter, the melting-flesh duraznos come in about two months ahead of the cling melocotones but I have been watching the market up at San Lucas closely this season and there are still some duraznos coming in, and the melocotones are still abundant. As for apples, Winter Banana comes in early, altho the first ones to appear in the market are not mature. August is allright for that variety, but most others arent ready until September. (I wonder why that name "Winter Banana"; it is an early apple.) As for pears July is good for several communis varieties; most of the Oriental hybrids are better in late August and from there on.

I went over to Quezaltenango two weeks ago with Eduardo Matheu to look into this Seven-day-wonder the "Salcajá" melocoton, which the originator claims he produced by bringing Elberta pollen from the States and outting it on a criollo peach. I have been very skeptical, because he is the same man who still insists that Winter Banana, in his orchard, is "Red Astrakhan". There is an orchard of "Salcajá" near Santa Lucia, only ten miles from Antigua, 6800 feet. We went there

a week earlier and the owner was very nice to us, and gave us a couple of dozen fine peaches. I don't ^{know} whether or not I told you previously that this fellow, and Oscar Ovalle at Salcajá, are getting nine dollars for a flat of top-sized peaches and selling quite a lot of them in Guatemala City. *48 fruits*

You look at a flat of these fruits and you think you might as well be looking at your 15-39. The large fruits run about 2-1/2 inches in diameter, a few up to 3 inches; there is plenty of color on them and they are very attractive. There is a tendency toward a "beak", a slight tendency, which ^{to} me is the earmark of the Honey peach (or South China group, as I call it) and the flesh is firm, firm and the peach has a long "shelf life". I have kept some of them here at the house for ten days.

The flavor of Salcajá is excellent, and it is sweet which is what our folks want. Everybody eats it out of hand. The flesh color is deep orange yellow, slightly reddish around the seed. For myself, I would rather have 15-39, because ^I can slice it and serve it in a bowl as peaches and cream. I grew up eating peaches that way. Of course you can cut Salcajás off the seed and eat the pieces out of a bowl, but that firm flesh doesn't seem like a peach to me. My wife tells ~~we~~ she has been watching the "gente" up at the San Lucas market, where ~~we~~ go every Sunday, and there are many more people standing around eating hard fleshed clings than there are eating melting flesh duraznos. I think they may be right; the Honey peach flavor of Salcajá is good.

I go into all this detail because Salcajá is taking over the peach business. Nobody is planting anything else. (Of course Anturo Falla hasn't any nursery stock of 15.39 yet). Oscar Ovalle ^{is} ~~want~~ ^{at} home ~~when~~ Eduardo and I visited their place but his son told us they *have* 80,000 grafted trees in their nursery, which ^{later} reduced to sixty and they maybe have 40,000. The boy took us out to a six or seven yr old

orchard, where the trees were loaded down with fruit, much of it not nearly mature as yet, and I asked him the question which has been worrying you and me: How long, how many years, will these trees remain in good commercial production? He replied, (what you read in the text books from the US) twelve to fifteen years. Now, it so happens that Jorge Benitez knows the whole history of the Salcajá peach and he told me the following story. Oscar Ovalle's father had some seedling melocotones in his yard, along with apples and pears, including Bartlett, and seven or eight years ago Oscar selected the best seedling in the group and propagated it and named it Salcajá and dignified it with Elberta parentage. Jorge has worked in that area for fifteen years and I think he knows what he is talking about. So I don't believe we can yet say what the commercial life of a tree will be.

The rootstock used is the ordinary seedling durazno. The government nursery near Salcajá has about 10,000 seedlings ready for grafting and the man in charge says they will all be grafted to Salcajá.

The question you raise about the market for fresh peaches here in Central America is interesting. I think there will be a market for both, with Salcajá and eventually others of its type in the lead. We must not forget that melting flesh peaches like 15.39 will be in the market at least six weeks earlier. Arturo Falla has had no trouble selling his crop of Flordawon every year, but he has to move them so fast to Guatemala City, only five hours from his orchard, that he is cutting out all Flordawon trees or topworking them. If I were going to plant a commercial orchard myself right now, I would load up heavily with Salcajá and then when Arturo has nursery stock of 15.39 I would put in a lot of them. BUT we have to remember that we have not mentioned the altitude of our orchard. We have reason to believe that clings of the Melocoton group, like Salcajá, need 6500 to 7500 feet, and the melting flesh duraznos will go much lower. The altitude require-

ment and the season of ripening are two factors that a lot of guatemaltecos who have never grown peaches before are likely to forget, just as we have had a terrible time teaching people that Florida avocados like "Pollock" won't grow at Teopan, 7500 feet.

Your last paragraph, in which you mention that 15.39 will stand transportation sufficiently well and has good enough keeping quality to be a satisfactory commercial peach for this country I believe is absolutely correct. Jorge Benitez son, who has just come ^{back} from a year in Spain, thinks our two or three year bearing life is due to nematodes and ^{we} must quit using criollo rootstocks. I want to ^{push} him further about what he learned in Spain and will probably ^{pass} some of his ideas along to you. I would not be so ^{big} impressed ^{by} what he tells me, were it not for the fact that his teachers over at Zaragoza were Germans or ^{from} some other east European country.

As for testing some newer selections you have made, I would say give part of the material ^{to} Matheu at 7500 feet and some of it to Arturo who can put it ^{at} 5000 to 7000, whichever you think best. I wish you could see how the Anna apples is doing at 5000 feet! A fellow from Israel whom Matheu met at Santo Domingo told him he thought he would ^{find} 7500 feet too high for it. If I hear of anybody coming this way I will ask him to get in touch with you and pick up anything you have for us to try. We can't get far with Hugh; he never knows far in advance when he is coming this way and is always in a rush. They have him loaded down up there with too many things utterly unrelated to horticulture.

"Baldwin" pears we brought from Glen Saint Mary some 7 or 8 years ago are maturing and are pretty fair, but for cooking we think what they call Kadman here and which Benitez and I believe is Hood, is better. If you have ever heard of a pear called Kadman tell me about it.

Best regards always,

Faithfully yours

Wilson
Wilson, Ecuador