

May 18, 1955
Lawrence, Ks.

Dear George;

I write this letter not knowing whether you are in the United States or still in Guatemala but presuming that if the former, the mail will be forwarded to you.

First I want to thank you for your letter and the shipment of the ant-eater and bird skeletons which arrived in excellent condition and to again thank you and your good wife for your extraordinary kindness and helpfulness during my stay in your country. I only hope that I may have the honor and privilege of helping you when you visit our land. If there is any place or thing that you would like to do or see while in the United States let me know and I will let your wants be known to the people and organization who are planning your stay in our country.

At the time I said good-bye to you at the railroad station I thought my worries were over but such was not my fate. At Zacapa I checked to see if my suitcase and bag had been placed on the train and found out that they had not so I wired back to one of the stations along the way to have the second train, which was following our train an hour later, inspected for these bags. The other train did not have my bags so I wired to the station in Guatemala City and they had already found them and were holding them at the main office. As the Compañia Guatemalteca de Aviación was not flying that day I could not get my bags to Puerto Barrios before the ship sailed that evening so I arranged with the United Fruit Co in Guatemala City to have the bags sent to New Orleans by air-freight which they did several days later. During the time the porter took my bags at the railroad station that morning you and I were there and the time the bags were placed on the airplane at the Guatemala City Airport, someone had taken my gun out of the bag. It would be difficult to say who was responsible for the removal of the gun as the red-cap porter, the railroad office, United Fruit Co., customs house and the people at the airport all had possession of the bags at one time or other. I would suspect that the customs officers would have been the most logical people to have removed the gun.

I feel guilty in asking any more favors from you as you have already done more than your share in my interest but would you, if convenient question the custom people or the United Fruit Co about this gun. The disappearance of this gun is serious because if someone were to be killed by this gun which is registered in my name, I would be held responsible. If the gun can not be accounted for I wonder if you could find out to whom I should register the lost of the gun. I would imagine that the logical department would be either the police or the national defense office.

My biggest surprise came as I passed Puerto Barrios on my way to the ship and saw my car standing in the sun on a flatcar--my car that "Caniz" promised would be shipped on April 4. It was April 19 some 25 days after I placed the car in his hands that I received the car in New Orleans. I had the customs officers in Guatemala City place their seals on all the doors and motor so that no one could get into the car and disturb the specimens and these seals were supposed to carry the car "in bond" to New Orleans. In spite of this precaution the seals were broken and the car had been inspected again and the carefully arranged specimens had been literally turned upside down. In spite of the disturbance of equipment the material arrived at the museum in Kansas