

## Pioneering With Avocados In Argentina

September 5, 1938

"Los Frutales".

Obera. Misiones, Argentina

Dr. Constantino Issacovich

Mr. Dean P. Palmer, President  
California Avocado Association  
Los Angeles, California

Dear Mr. Palmer:

I received answer on my letter from your Secretary, Edna Barger, with the proposition to be a member of California Avocado Association. It is not only a favor and a pleasure, but also an honor to belong to a most wonderful cultural society, to a family of selected men, devoting their time so unselfishly to the culture of the noble fruit "avocado", fruit of the old Mayas.

I am very happy once more to be connected with the family of North Americans, this noble people, who in the last time is taking the leadership of the world not only in material things, in scientific work, and what is more important in questions of moral value.

I know the United States, I lived there for three years. Trouble is that I was in your East up to Colorado Hills. If I could come up to California, I am sure that I would be one of the planters of avocados over there.

In this moment to belong to your cultural society, that so many decades with such interest, with such enthusiasm and love, is cultivating avocados, following scientific methods, not applied yet to many cultures—is a great thing for me as a beginner of this culture.

I will be able to use your authority, your knowledge, interchange ideas, ask questions, probably receive material of proper varieties—have information, literature.

Apart from my medical profession I am a pioneer and planter of different fruits in Misiones, new country, that starts different new culture. This Misiones is filled with emigrants of all nationalities, people that came to hospitable shores of South America, to start the new life, to look for opportunities, and to take rest from the troubles of the Old World.

### **LAND OF OPPORTUNITIES—A NEW COUNTRY**

They all found in this country goodwill and possibilities. Plenty of uncultivated land,

wonderful unexhausted soil, good climate, and went to work hard. Misiones made big progress, the basic industry is plantation of Yerba Mate. It gave to everybody the financial resources to look for other cultures. The most natural is the culture of the fruits. And because Misiones is the forest country and the people worked on the culture of another forest tree—Yerba Mate, they have the preparation to start planting of other fruit trees.

Question is to have the proper orientation, advice, necessary material to start from the beginning in a right way. Your unselfishness, your cultural interest in planting avocados for the best of humanity gives me the hope to receive from you the lacking elements.

We have avocados in Misiones, scattered over the country—but not a single collection of better varieties, the trees are not classified, they are all seedlings, without name. Nobody knows from where they are originated, orphans, without proper care, without proper help. No nurseries of avocados, where to acquire what one needs. No people with experience in this culture.

And in those conditions to find your society is to discover once more America. Not being able to receive any information on avocados in Argentina, I wrote a letter to Calif. State Dept. Agriculture and received the bulletin of Professor R. W. Hodgson. Through the index of literature, I discovered your society and wrote immediately a letter. The rest you know. Quick and nice answer, yearbook of the society, proposition to belong to the society and the rest that is connected with this.

I am one more unknown soldier that plants the avocado, permit me to send to your societies library my book written some years ago in the United States, as card of introduction and as a token of my great appreciation and estimation of your society. If from my part I can do anything for the society here in Misiones, I will be happy to do it.

Yours very truly,

(Signed) Dr. Constantin Issacovich  
Obera, Misiones.

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Mr. Carter Barrett  
Variety Committee Chairman  
California Avocado Association Los Angeles, California

Dear Mr. Barrett:

In last letter that I received from your Secretary, the most obliging Mrs. Edna Barger writes me, that in due time and at your earliest opportunity, you will write me a direct letter regarding seeds and budwood. I would like to say to you in advance my thanks for promised cooperation.

You know better than anybody, what means cooperation of accomplished avocado

planter for a beginner enthusiast, who in his sixties got in love with this divine fruit palta and is trying to cultivate it in a new, but in the same time very appropriate country like our Misiones.

I am a medical man by profession but with long years of experience in cultivating different fruits here, I am sure that the culture of the avocado will be successful. There are few places in Argentina cultivating avocados, but they are in need of scientific methods worked out by your association and followed for many years with so much of success.

### **ONE COLLECTION NAMED VARIETIES**

Seven years ago my friend, Mr. Mayne of Naranjito, Misiones, showed me the avocado seeds received from Buenos Aires, latter one saw there the seedlings and trees bearing fruits in the fourth year, and having in the fifth year up to a thousand fruits on a tree. Three years ago the same gentleman received some grafted trees from California, they had last year few fruits, but this year they are all blossoming. Among those Californians are the Fuerte, Puebla, Duke, Leucadia and a few others, the names of which were lost on the long way to Argentina.

At this time in different places in Misiones are single scattered trees, originating from seedlings from Brazil and Paraguay. Immediately I started planting and collecting of the seeds of different varieties, and have now up to fifteen different kinds of avocados. Three years ago I found, what seems to me, a Mexican variety, small, green and violet palta seeds, and started to graft on those seedlings—serving me as rootstocks. Result is very satisfactory. In grafting I was more successful than in budding, and at this time I have two hectarias of paltas of different varieties. Of course they are not classified, but now having your Yearbook, reading your descriptions, and seeing the Californian fruits, I can **mas o menos** say, what it is.

To me they all are beloved children, but in this case for the future plantings and developing of this culture is necessary to adopt another point of view. I am acquainted in the culture of the other fruits with the questions of acclimatization, pollenization, grafting, selection of strain, budwood— and being in cooperation with your cultural society, having necessary literature, information, advice, seeds for proper rootstock, budding and grafting material, I will be able to learn your ways and do the proper work.

Reading in your Yearbook the fascinating stories of past work done, I feel I belong even now to the great family of Californian pioneers—but it is feeling, but what is important— is to do properly. Selecting the proper place, selecting the appropriate variety, best strain of this variety, proper rootstock, cultivating and other necessary things, one cannot learn quick and so easy. One life is not sufficient for this big work.

### **DESCRIPTION OF MISIONES' CLIMATE**

Avocados are doing very well in Misiones. Plenty of room for this culture. Misiones has two and a half hectarias of virgin forest. The height is from one hundred up to three hundred meters. The average year's temperature 70-75° F. Eighty inches of rain, falling

practically in intervals. Seldom long time without any rain. Winter is mild. One or two days of frost during the months of May, June, July, August; some years no frost at all. But it freezes on low ground. On the high places no frost at all.

Plenty of water in every ranch, creek, fuente, laguna. In many ranches in different places different climate. Hundreds of thousands of hills, most wonderful valleys, also anybody can select places for cultivation of avocado, clear up the forest.

Grafting and budding are easy. The best time for grafting is August, September; for budding, November, December, January.

In Misiones grows anything. All sorts of citrus, bananas, ananas, gua-vas, marnon and many other subtropical fruits of minor importance. Pigs, nispero de Japon, Kaki, Pomegranates giving good results.

For ten years I am experimenting on apples, pears, prunes, peaches and have enough of good varieties. We cannot plant them yet industrially, but for our own use with success. Now I am trying the nuts—olives, almonds and your pecans. We are few men in Misiones doing this pioneering work in the culture of the fruits in Misiones. Results are encouraging. Under the stars of the United States and especially under the strain of California, I am sure that we will advance in a proper way. I, personally, am doing what I can, planting, experimenting, collecting, corresponding, writing popular articles in local newspaper and giving conferences. The population is very much interested in culture of the fruits, but we are so far from the cultural centers, and it is so difficult to receive the proper information and help.

## **ENJOYS EXPERIMENTATION**

This work gives me greatest satisfaction and the biggest joy in life. I don't know of any nobler occupation than the cultivation of the fruits, than the life in the vicinity of the nature, away from the noises and smoke.

Que descansada vida	What a restful life
Del que huye el mundial ruido	For him who flees the worldly noises
I sigue la escondida senda	And follows the hidden path
Adonde han ido	Trodden by the few wise men
Los pocos sabios	Who have existed in this world.

Que en el mundo han sido.

God bless you all and give you the health and the strength to follow your most wonderful work for the best not only of Californians, North Americans but also for the big world. I consider your people the leaders of the world in many things and not only of material but of moral value and it gives me the right to ask you for help.

With all my best regards and good wishes,

Yours very truly,

(Signed) Dr. Constantino Issacovich