

Costa Rica Life Told In Letter To Pilot Subscribers

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are almost due south of Chi-

We didn't get to see Mexico City, as the airport is several miles from the city and our plane had to leave at 11 a. m. The airport there is a very busy place; work is going forward to make the cramped building facilities adequate for the growing demand for air travel.

Going south from Mexico City, we enter a twin-motor Pan American which carries 21 passengers, 18 passengers boarded the plane. So many of the fields were barren and dry, and not until we reached southern Mexico did it change very much. Over the southern part our view was restricted much of the time by clouds as our plane traveled up above them. We also ran into a strong head-wind, immediately, the light appeared above the door when seat-belts fastened.

We experienced our roughest weather and were bounced around considerably. It seemed at times we would take 25 or 30-foot hops. One lady became quite ill; neither Mrs. Graham nor I were upset in the least. At a small airport in Tapachula, the Mexican field, we turned our Mexican cards over to the authorities.

We found the weather there quite warm. We landed at Guatemala City at 3:30 p. m. Wednesday. The landing field there is the most beautiful of the entire trip. It is long enough for planes of the largest size, and is paved. The entire field aside from the runways is like a large lawn. The buildings are the nicest and most artistic of all, with better facilities for handling the passengers. Guatemala City is a place of interest with many places around of equal interest. It takes three days to make the rounds by sight-seeing busses and \$65.00 please.

The Palace Hotel where we spent the evening and night is managed by a Norwegian, and we were quite happy to find English speaking help. The main court and lobby was decorated with palms and beautiful poinsettias. The weather was just right, cool and balmy. The city contained one of the largest markets I have ever seen under one roof. It seemed as if everything was in it, and some things one hurried to to get by the smells.

Here one didn't need to contact a money changer, because Guatemala and U. S. currency are on par. Saw some of the largest macados I had ever seen, some large as a medium-sized cocoa nut sold for 3c each. Bananas, for 1c. There seemed to be no shortage of anything one could wish for or needed. The most customers were around a small booth where ladies hose were

sold. Our stay there was brought to a close all too quickly when we had to leave the hotel at 10:30 a. m. for the airport. Arriving there we found our plane would be an hour late; which was caused (the captain said as I interviewed him about it) by the landing field in Cuba being too small to handle the business, and it was like trying to park in a downtown business section with all the parking places full. You just had to mill around until someone pulled out.

So, in stead of leaving at 11 o'clock, it was a little after noon when we started on our last lap. The four-motored planes have five seats abreast and carry 55 passengers; the twin-motors have 3-abreast, and carry 21. There were only 15 passengers on board, and they are able to reach their altitude more quickly than when the load is heavy.

There was one plane crashed not far from here, not long ago; a full load and too heavy. It just couldn't make the altitude, and crashed against the mountain. All were killed; a veteran pilot was at the controls.

From Guatemala City the land below seemed covered with dense vegetation, which proved to be mostly coffee. Among the short coffee trees is grown plantain, a slim tree that grows near 15 to 20 feet tall and has a top that spreads out and affords shade for the coffee trees as the coffee can't stand much sun.

The average grade of coffee this year is bringing 36c per lb. here. The best grade brings more. They claim the best coffee in the world is grown around San Jose, and it all goes to England, as they pay more for it.

We made one stop between Guatemala City and San Jose, at San Salvador, in El Salvador. We were there 20 minutes. Soon after we reached the cruising altitude (9,500 feet) dinner was served, and I think everyone was ready for it. It hadn't been served sooner because the going was so rough, and you couldn't be sure the tray and contents would stay put.

From San Salvador we traveled a long way over the shoreline of Spanish Honduras and Nicaragua, coming over the mainland as we cross the boundary line of Costa Rica.

We were much surprised to see such fine looking cows as our plane sought a lower level, preparing to land. Good cows cost from \$800 to \$900 here, and not too good at that.

The landing field in San Jose is a nice one, but not long enough for the large planes to land. The buildings also look very nice. For the first time on our trip a stewardess looked after our welfare. From Los Angeles to Guatemala City, and Guatemala City to San Jose a steward looked after our needs. Above every seat on the wall is an air tube 1 1/2 inches across, this device controls the amount of air you want, also the direction in which you want it.

A light and call bell also, which you operate by a button are close. Have made two trips to San Jose (12 miles away) with my son-in-law, Ray Comstock, to buy produce in the open market. He buys two days a week, Tuesdays and Fridays, for the school.

One thing that struck me as out of the ordinary in these days, I saw but one woman smoking.

Some things here are cheap, others are very high. Electricity is 2 mills per kilowatt hour. Nice sweet oranges are one-half cent each; bananas, \$1.25 large bunch; potatoes, \$5.50 per hundred; beans are 9c and 10c per pound; eggs, 65c per dozen; butter, 80c per pound; fresh tomatoes, 25c per pound. Potatoes are put up in 260-lb. sacks and a 150-lb. man will walk off with it after someone helps him get it on his shoulder. Onions are high, \$29 for 100 pounds; honey, \$20 for five gallons. Local Spanish peanuts are 15c per pound; shortening not now available. Have all kinds of American soap. A tailor-made two-piece suit brings \$65 to \$70. These prices fluctuate from day to day. As soon as prices advance in the U. S. they immediately go up in this country.

Everything that has wheels and is used for moving anything has a license; hand-carts, ox-carts, trucks, passenger cars, bicycles, and you see them all. To obtain a car license, brakes are checked, lights, windshield wiper, wheel alignment, and even the paint job must pass inspection. Gas is 40c per gallon. Water tests here 99 per cent pure.

School is out this week. Vacation until April. Coffee picking is now starting. Soil is deep. Pit silos are 20 feet deep, and reveal the same kind of soil all the way down.

Usually the sun shines in the morning until about 11 a. m., then intermittent rain finishes the day. This holds good for about eight months of the year, then four months of sunshine and no rain. We will soon enter the sunshine period. At this altitude of about 5800 feet, we don't suffer too much from heat.

San Jose is 1800 feet higher. There are many beautiful homes here. Most buildings have galvanized sheet-iron roofs. You wonder why—earthquakes disturb the peace once in awhile and a galvanized roof isn't as hard on ones head as a tile roof, although they have many tile roofs.

There are four active volcanoes in Costa Rica. The one nearest here has the side out opposite us, so we don't worry about it. Seemingly there isn't any worry about anything especially among the people of the country.

Noticeable, also, is the absence of the middle class of people. It is either the rich or the poor. I guess I had better bring this to a close before the Pilot editor decides it is too long. Harry H. Graham, San Jose, Costa Rica, C. A., Apt. 1320.

Auction Sales To Be Regulated Soon

GOLD BEACH—A state law to establish workable control over livestock auction sales in Oregon evidently is one of the topics that will occupy attention of the Oregon legislature at its next session. Basic principles of proposed legislation in this field were considered by western Oregon stockmen last week at the annual meeting of that association at Salem. Representatives of the auction sales business were present to give their views.

The two groups were in agreement that legislation should designate auction sales houses as quarantine areas to secure satisfactory disease control measures. They also agreed that auction

sales houses should employ only bonded weight-masters, make brand inspections of all stock arriving at the yard, and keep a record of all transactions to facilitate theft investigations. The stockmen concurred in the request that a state board to control licensing of livestock auction sales rings be set up and also

recommended that a ceiling be established on feed that could be charged by sales rings.

Local News Items

Mr. and Mrs. Norris Kemp and children visited, over Christmas, with relatives in the vicinity of Salem. They returned home late last week.

HAPPY NEW YEAR

We Will Be Able To Do More, Now!

1946 was good to all of us, but 1947 promises to far surpass all the hopes we held for the past year. With our complete freezer unit, we are now in a position to do even more for the community than we even thought of last year.

Let us, at the beginning of this new year, apply our efforts in a co-operative way, and make this area the greatest of the entire state. That is our NEW YEAR'S WISH TO YOU!

BROOKINGS MARKET

Thor and Peggy Ask

Happy New Year Thankful For Blessing of Past Year

At the New Year, we wish to pause a moment to reflect upon the blessings received during the past year, 1946, and to thank people of this area for the patronage since we opened up our new business in the area. We are grateful for everything you have done for us.

In 1947, we hope to continue this friendly association, and at this time we wish to extend to you the best wishes for the NEW YEAR!

HENDRICKS FURNITURE CO.
Johnson Bldg. Archie P. Hendricks

An Announcement

Community Progress Continues
—and we are proud and happy to be associated with the latest step forward.

A New Shell Service Station,
as modern in design and construction as any in the largest cities, will soon open in Brookings, and it was our good fortune to be granted the operator's franchise. We recognize both the opportunity and the responsibility this carries.

We feel that Roy Sunderland is to be congratulated on this latest community asset. It's his property and his idea. We'll give our best. This new establishment will be known as

Haggerty 'Twin-Service'
Formal opening will be announced next week.
HOMER AND HOWARD HAGGERTY

THE TISDALES

GROWERS OF THE WORLD'S FINEST
CROFT EASTER LILY
PLANTING AND FORCING STOCK

Brookings, Oregon

U. S. A.