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COSTA RICA STORY TOLD IN LETTER

Pilot readers will recall reading the letter from Mr. and Mrs. Graham when they visited their son-in-law and daughter in Costa Rica about a year ago. That letter was descriptive and intensely interesting from all points of view.

Last week Mrs. Graham submitted a letter to the Pilot from a friend, a preceptress of an Adventist school in that country. In this letter, which will be run serially because of length, one may glean the fact that Communism is more than just a threat—not only to the United States but to all Latin-American neighbors as well.

Contents of this letter are definite and need no comment on the part of anyone, except a vigilance that the story of Poland and Czecho-Slovakia may be written in other languages.

One need but to look all about us to realize the tactics coming out of Moscow. You can see them in practice in almost every walk of life. It is always the same—to foment strikes, to keep up confusion.

In the national election this fall care should be exercised to pick the candidates who have made definite commitments concerning their stands on Communism. Under different guises the fascist doctrine slowly envelopes the American way. This letter describes some of the methods employed.

Letter Describes Costa Rica Revolt

Hi there:

Of course you heard the news about the war being over before we here in Costa Rica did, but I'm very sure that the announcement didn't mean half as much to you as to us right here.

Tuesday morning everybody on the campus gathered either in my apartment or that of the dean of boys to listen to the priest (Nunez) (No one seems to know what has happened to the archbishop, but he has faded from the news of late.) read the documents proclaiming the terms of surrender of the government to the oppositionists. Every item is very fair we think. I don't see what more the losing side could have expected. They were allowed to leave the country in safety. The wounded of both sides are promised equal aid and so on. I am satisfied with everything and think they could not have prepared better terms for settlement had they asked my advice, excepting one point: Mora is still in the country and his life is assured. He's the communist leader you know. And as long as he is free, there will be plenty of trouble, I predict.

Calderon, the losing candidate, left Costa Rica Monday afternoon, and Picado, the president, with his brother (minister of war) left Tuesday morning. We understand that both the president and the losing candidate weeks ago tried to surrender, but that Mora wouldn't let them. In fact, in a conference the three men had, Mora became so angry that he drew his pistol when Picado said he as through with the government here. As a result of the fight that ensued, Picado was badly wounded, but Mora would not let him out of the country. When many of the government officials did pull out, Mora had the airport sur-

rounded to keep Calderon and the Picados from leaving. He swore that if they lost, they would all die together.

And so on May 8, Ulate takes the presidency he so rightly won. Meanwhile there is a provisional president to preserve the constitutional integrity. Communism is certainly a horrible thing. I shall always hate it, with even more vigor now that I've had a taste of what it can mean.

When the opposition prisoners were released we saw what must be only a taste of what was experienced in Europe, but what seems awful enough to me. The guards had entered the cells many times and sprayed kerosene on the prisoners telling them they were to be burned. Then after a couple of hours, back they would come with more kerosene. "We did that a while ago just to scare you," they said. "this time were really going to burn you." This was repeated, time after time. The prisoners believed the story for they had so little food and were treated so inhumanly that it seemed only logical to believe anything. One man whose wife came up here to us for protection when he was imprisoned, told us the day after he was released, how they had been treated. There were over a thousand in the section where he was kept, ordinary prisoners. Next to his was a group of over 400 of the business men of San Jose, doctors, nurses and teachers.

On Friday of last week the San Juan Dios hospital was entered by the government soldiers, (that's the big hospital we saw there on Central Avenue, you know). The place was literally raided and every doctor and nurse taken to jail. Even under the patients' pillows search was made for firearms. After some time two doctors and a few nurses were released to go back to care for the sick. One Englishman who was here as a tourist,

was hauled off to jail after robbing him of his car. It was three days before his consul could arrange for his release and in all that time he had no food other than coffee and a mere taste of rice and beans thrown at him in a cell intended for four men but containing sixteen. There was no water nor toilet either.

A number of friends came up to stay with us during the worst of things in town. (In reality we were more in the center of action here than the folks in the town, but there was always the threat hanging over San Jose that TONIGHT is the night the city will be bombed. The barber from Tres Rios came up one day and that afternoon when he and Mr. Salazar (father of one of our last year's teachers) were walking down to Tres Rios, they were siezed and carried off to jail by a fellow so drunk he could scarcely drive. Mr. Thomann went down immediately and secured their release, but of course it wasn't so easy in many cases.

After Cartago was taken by the opposition, it was proclaimed the provisional capital of the new republic. That made things all the more interesting between here and San Jose. Tres Rios was in the hands of the government and fully 800 soldiers, most of whom were from Nicaragua, prevented passage to San Jose. It seems the Figueres who headed the opposition army never did intend to go into San Jose anyway. He was more interested in drawing out all the communists and Calderonists to fight away from the city. One of the major battles was over here at El Alt, the place between here and Cartago where we passed the continental divide you know. That was something over a week ago
(To Be Continued)

Several Measles Cases Reported

Measles, from some unknown origin, have invaded the area, with several children reported ill. At the time this paper goes to press, few cases were reported among school children.

All cases so far are said to be in mild form, and the threatened epidemic may not claim too many.

Every first and third Wednesday of month, Post 966, Veterans of Foreign Wars and Auxiliary

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IT SEEMS TO ME:



By Dewey

A group of local citizens were heard discussing the facts facing southern Curry county at the present time. In the conversation one was heard to remark:

"For the future of this area it might not be a bad idea to annex to California. Oregon seems to have forgotten that this county exists and geographically we gravitate to California."

It seems to me that this fellow has a point. It is known all over the state that Oregon has slighted her coast line as compared to other state bordering it. Because centers of population are elsewhere, and the resulting pressure on legislature, this section of the state is almost ignored.

Curry county is a ribbon some 90-odd miles long. That portion of the county tributary to Coos Bay, and Coquille, has, been, through this influence, been considered more than that section south of Port Orford.

On the other hand, California interests cultivate in every possible way, trade from this section. For every wholesale representative coming from Portland or other distributing centers, California sends us ten.

Portland business figures the area too thinly populated to exert any pressure toward development. Highway 101, while ex-

pensive to build is no more expensive than the way highways are being built, forsaken and built elsewhere in Oregon. ...Possibly this fellow's remark has merit. Perhaps Oregon's come too late for Curry to be of any commercial to the state.

This statement may stir some controversy in the area but the fact remains—Oregon forgetting a good bet.

It is remarkable what a faith can do in way of building up a community. Look at willingness of local residents help in the construction of building to house the fire and ambulance. It is refreshing to behold.

Extension of such co-operation among citizens can accomplish so many in the community. Over the needs—evaluate the necessity of each, and work that point of view uppermost in mind—and watch results. It be amazing.

Every Tuesday noon, Rotary club, at Vincen's Restaurant, visiting Rotarians are welcome.

VOTE FOR DR. EMERY C. INGHAM



DEMOCRATIC CANDIDATE FOR DELEGATE AT LARGE TO NATIONAL CONVENTION

Read Statement in Your Voter's Pamphlet

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