

# South America Boasts Biggest Jungle, Biggest Casino In Whole World

BUENOS AIRES (UPI) — South America, as any schoolboy knows, is a neat triangle with a geographical bump on top.

Any regularity ends there. It is a land of the world's biggest jungle, longest river and largest gambling casino. It is the land of the tallest mountain peak in the western hemisphere (23,065-foot Aconcagua in Argentina). And it is a land of fascination.

Distances are deceptive in South America. The straight line between two points is not always the institution it's cracked up to be. From Asuncion, Paraguay, to La Paz, Bolivia, for example, is 1,100 airline miles. Overland, it's 3,000 miles. There just isn't any direct overland route between the two capitals and the traveler must backtrack to Buenos Aires before going on to La Paz.

Incidentally, La Paz is so high

(12,130 feet) that the city hardly needs a fire department. Not enough oxygen to feed a fire.

Speaking of altitude, there's a sightseeing cable railroad in Bogotá, Colombia, that climbs Mount Monserrate at a 75 per cent gradient.

In Quito, Ecuador, there's a 281-mile stretch of railroad that takes 40 hours to negotiate because of the loops, zig-zags and switchbacks necessary to climb 11,841 feet.

Roads and railroads are old hat in South America. Both the Chileans and the Peruvians claim the first railway on the continent (1854). For roads, look to the Incas. When Columbus was still talking about reaching India, the Incas had constructed a wide road from Cuzco to Quito, more than 1,000 miles.

As for the natives populating South America today, not all of

them are friendly or content to sell souvenirs to the white man. Reports still trickle out of raids on Amazon frontier villages, and even in the oil-rich country around Maracaibo, Venezuela, there is a tribe called the Matlones who attack not only white men but other Indians as well.

In Chichicastenango, Guatemala, the natives usually conclude elaborate Catholic rituals by scattering to worship at pagan altars in the hills.

In Iquitos, Peru, the big evening diversion is bus riding. It's so popular that the bus companies hire musicians to entertain the passengers. Outside Concepcion, Uruguay, many women set off their colorful costumes by smoking big cigars.

South America is a land, too, of sightseeing grandeur. The Andes include more than a score of

20,000-foot peaks. From Latacunga, Ecuador, it is possible to see nine volcano cones on a clear day.

Also in the Andes is the world's highest navigable lake, Titicaca in northwestern Bolivia—3,500 square miles of water 12,500 feet above sea level.

South America registers well in the waterfall department, too. Best known is the series of cataracts on the Argentine-Brazilian border where water cascades 200 feet over a two-mile-wide rim.

Even tiny Costa Rica boasts an entry in the "mostest" competition: the world's largest crater, one

mile across and containing a lake of boiling water. It occasionally spouts steam and water 2,000 feet into the air.

There are, of course, the other well-known wonders of South America: the harbor of Rio, the cosmopolitan life of Buenos Aires, the beaches of Montevideo, the Inca country of Peru, the jungles of the north, the lakes of Chile and Argentina, and so on.

Not to be forgotten either is that gambling casino—situated among Miami-like hotels at Mar Del Plata, pride of Argentina's ocean resorts. The casino's capacity is 20,000 persons.

## Homemaking Center Now Necessity For Housewife

Modern woman is probably the most efficient homemaker in history. Not only have various cleaning appliances and gadgets emancipated her, but contemporary house design, too, has had its effect.

Today's home is made up of well-defined work areas in which the little woman can complete her chores while hardly taking a step. The result — a tremendous saving in time and energy and a more relaxed homemaker.

Fifty per cent of any job lies in the planning, however, and again, the planning center included in many new homes has increased efficiency by an amazing amount. Smart women, with an eye for saving space, incorporate their planning center into a multi-purpose homemaker's corner for all of her hand chores; the sewing, the record keeping, and paper work for meals, parties, and the like.

Her homemaking corner should include a desk, a sewing counter, and storage cabinets, all of which are easily fashioned from a workable softwood like durable, good-looking Douglas fir.

The handiwork corner is usually filched from the family room or utility-play area where she can work and keep an eye on the offspring at the same time, and it is adjacent to the kitchen so cooking operations can be carried on while she's doing the family mending.

Her desk must have adequate drawer space where records, lists, and accounting figures may be kept. This is best located on the outside wall of the room and will

economically put to use dead space under a window.

The sewing center can be most easily incorporated into a counter-like divider on the room side. One very clever plan calls for the sewing machine to be mounted on a heavy, two-inch thick board which swings up into a wall cabinet and forms its door. The counter on which it rests has a corresponding, two-inch depressed portion into which the door fits when let down. Inside the cabinet are pegged shelves for thread. Mounting the sewing machine permanently in this manner eliminates the juggling act of setting it up, and it's quickly shut out of sight when the counter is needed for other work.

Plenty of cabinet space should be provided in the homemaker's center, for she'll want to store all sorts of bulky odds and ends, like boxes of greeting cards, and here she can keep unfinished items such as table decorations which are being made a little at a time.

Natural finish for the cabinets, sewing counter, and desk is by far and away the most popular because the tawny beige of Douglas fir is easy on the eyes, but a bright, cheerful shade of paint can be used on the wood if preferred.



**HOMEMAKING SPOT A NECESSITY** — Latest building trend calls for a floor plan including a homemaking area for the mistress of the house. This lovely homemaker's corner occupies a nook of the family room and features a built-in desk and sewing counter. Sewing machine is mounted on a heavy hinged board which folds back into the wall, leaving the counter clear for other uses. Durable Douglas fir, satin smooth, was used for all cabinetry and painted a cheery rose to enliven the spot and underline it as a feminine possession.

## All Can Share Cabinet Of Many, Varied Uses

Mom and Dad can each have their way plus a share of new-found storage space when careful thought is given to designing multi-purpose cabinets. The first

problem is to take inventory and discover hidden storage possibilities. The second is to create cabinets that are really convenient and serviceable and that will im-

prove the decor.

One of the best materials to use in constructing sturdy, handsome cabinets is lumber from the western pine region. The ten woods from this area are perfect for building in any part of the house. The lumber is easy to obtain and to work and adds beauty to any surroundings. These woods are versatile, too, because all of them take well to clear finishes, stains, or paint.

In making your plans, decide first what things should be stored in areas convenient to their use. Out-of-season clothes needn't be really handy since you'll probably go through them only several times a year. However, you don't want to store a card table in the attic so that you must carry it up and down stairs every time you play a game of bridge.

In the living room, den, or family room you can have cabinets that will give everyone a break. The lower section of a built-in can house games, card tables, or perhaps movie or hi-fi equipment. Give thought to a special section for card tables so that they won't have to be hoisted over everything else and stored at the rear. Also bear in mind that if you panel your room at the same time your cabinets are built, the whole thing will be even more attractive.

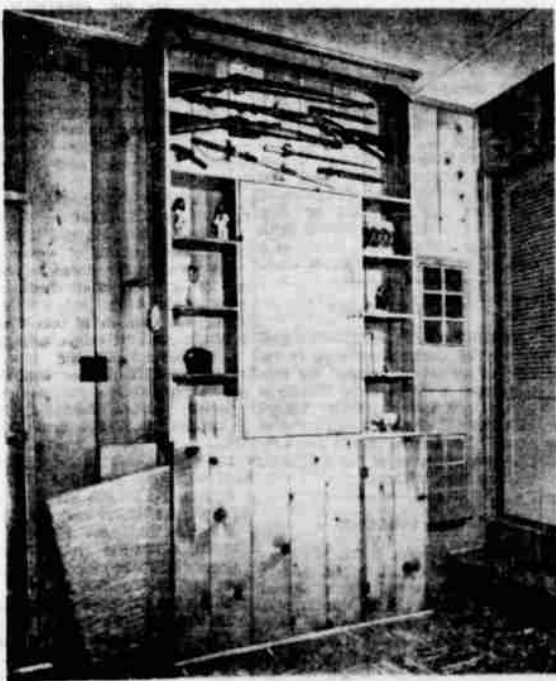
Above your cabinet base you might well want open shelves to hold bric-a-brac, books, plants, or flower arrangements. This also might be a good spot for your radio-phonograph speaker. Then, above these shelves you might hang guns or any arrangement that represents your particular in-

terests. Remember to put things that are to be used within easy reach.

Bedroom closet space is a big headache for many people. If you have a free wall, consider building a "his" and "hers" wardrobe made of one of the woods from the western pine area. It can be painted to match your walls or to contrast. You can also paint the interior sections in different colors to create interest, and this is especially nice in a children's room.

These dual closets can be placed side by side or you can build only one unit if space is limited. The wardrobe should have one large section for hanging clothes. To the side can be a drawer section. Make some of these of incense cedar to give your clothes a pleasant fragrance. On the inside of your doors put hooks, rods, and shallow shelves for belts, neckties, jewelry, and items such as shoe polish and brushes. You might have room for shoe racks, too—footwear is a lot more accessible here than on the floor. High up you may have room for dead storage cabinets. Give them separate doors for convenience.

These are a few of the often-overlooked areas that offer storage possibilities, but dining rooms, kitchens, cellars, and attics all hold possibilities. Every room in the house can offer solutions to storage problems and now, thanks to new sealing agents, paneling from the western pine region is going into bathrooms and built-ins in other high-moisture areas where wood was almost unheard of a few years back.



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