

UNKNOWN PANAMA



Nut Palm Beside the Jungle Trail.

I BELIEVE it will surprise most Americans, and perhaps a few of our field naturalists, to learn that right at the back door of the Panama canal lies an almost unknown jungle wilderness, unmapped and practically uninhabited in the interior except for a few very primitive Indians. Virtually the entire eastern portion of the republic of Panama lying between the canal and Colombia, roughly 200 miles long by from 50 to 100 miles wide, is unknown, and the published maps of this country, except for the seacoast and the location of half a dozen small towns, are all faked, writes Lieut. Col. Townsend Whelen in Natural History.

It was my good fortune to spend the entire dry season (December to June) of 1916 and 1917 exploring a part of this country. We found it necessary to know something of that portion of it nearest the canal, and it fell to my lot, assisted by Companies E and H. Twenty-ninth United States Infantry, to make a preliminary exploration with a view to planning and expediting its accurate mapping by the engineer corps.

It is because this little piece of jungle probably will remain virgin and unspoiled for many years that I think it ought to be brought to the attention of our field naturalists. It is so easily accessible, and yet only the borders of it have been scratched by the scientist. No one yet knows what is in the interior, what secrets it contains, what new fauna and flora its exploration will reveal.

In the Real Jungle.

In the Canal zone, which extends five miles to either side of the canal, practically all of the jungle forest has long since been cut off, and in its place has grown up a dense, impenetrable second growth of small trees, palms, creepers, thorns, and coarse grass. But if one cuts his way through this tangled growth for about five miles in from the canal he comes to the real jungle, standing up like a gigantic wall of green verdure. Once in it all is different, even the very climate itself. Here one can wander at will, unimpeded by thorns and creepers. It is even easier traveling here than in the woods of our own Northeast, because as a rule there is much less "down" timber. It is like a new world, a world that one has not even read about.

From the blazing sun and sweltering heat of the second growth one enters what is almost an underground world, cool and balmy. Everywhere the giant trees go up limbless for from 100 to 200 feet, and then spread out their verdure, literally hiding the sky. Beautiful slender palms grow in great profusion in the semidarkness forming the lower growth, impeding one's view but not one's progress. Scarcely ever can one see more than 50 yards, and never does the explorer get an extended view, even from the tops of the highest mountains. When I first entered the jungle it was with an indescribable feeling of awe and wonder, and this feeling has never left me; nay, it persists, drawing me, calling me to come back, more insistent even than the "Call of the North."

Unexplored Mountain Ranges.

That part of the jungle in which my most intensive exploration was conducted lies to the east of the city of Colon, between there and the town of Nombre de Dios, and extending from the Caribbean coast inland to the headwaters of the Chagres river system. Between the Chagres basin and the Caribbean coast rises the cordillera of Cerro Bruja, a mountain range that starts about ten miles east of Colon, and rises steadily, culminating in the peak of Cerro Bruja (3,200 feet) about 15 miles south of the town of Porto

Bello. East of Cerro Bruja peak the Rio Piedras rises almost in the basin of the Chagres, flows north around the base of Cerro Bruja, then west, and empties into the sea half way between Colon and Porto Bello. The Piedras is one of the largest rivers of Panama, but you will not find it on any map, even its mouth having been mistaken for a lagoon of the sea when the coast line was charted.

The Rio Grande, figuring largely on existing maps, is an insignificant little stream, several miles long, really unworthy of a name. Beyond the valley of the upper Piedras rises a really imposing range of mountains called Cerro Saxino, culminating in a peak somewhere south of Nombre de Dios, which must attain an altitude of from 6,000 to 8,000 feet. I think I am the only one who has ever viewed this range, as it seems to be invisible from any place where there is any trace of human beings, and its presence is barely noted on only one old map, with no indication as to its altitude.

Beyond Saxino neither I nor any one else knows what. There are rumors that the interior beyond is inhabited by Indians of the San Blas (Cuna-Cuna) tribe, and that they are very hostile to invasion of their country by whites.

Plant and Animal Life.

I must confess to absolute incompetency when it comes to a description of the flora of the jungle, incompetency both scientific and linguistic. I doubt if the jungle as a whole can be described—it can only be marveled at. It is beautiful, appealing, terrifying. Never cease to wonder at the trees—giant moras, borigon, cavanillesia, celbas, rubber, and fig. The enormous trunks with great buttressed roots rise 100 feet without a limb, and then spread out literally to hide the sky. Limbs, so high that one can scarcely see them among the leaves, drop lianas to the ground—long tangled lines like the wrecked rigging of some masted ship. Then there is the secondary growth, a hundred varieties of tree ferns and palms, suited by nature to grow in semidarkness, robbed of the sunlight by their giant neighbors.

The bird life is no less wonderful than the vegetation. The Panamas jungle is alive with birds. The variety and coloring are truly remarkable. On the ground I observed several varieties of quail, tinamou, and pheasants. In the low-bush area are wrens, humming birds, thrushes, ant birds, and a variety of other species either common to the United States or unknown to me. In the medium zone, half way to the leafy ceiling of the jungle, dwell doves, guans, owls, motmots, and trogons. High up in the roof are parrots, parakeets, macaws, toucans, and cotingas.

The mammal life of the jungle is also very abundant. The ordinary traveler, however, will see little of it owing to several conditions which only a man with extensive hunting or collecting experience will realize. Among the animals I observed were tapir, deer, peccary, agouti, paca, sloth, coatimundi, kinkajou, anteaters, monkeys, otter, puma, jaguar (spotted and black), ocelot, squirrels, opossums and many varieties, and rabbits.

Snakes were fairly numerous, the harlequin snake, box constrictors, and a very long and thin bright green tree snake being the most numerous.

Dad's Position.

"Nope, you can't marry him." "But, papa, consider his wavy hair, his soulful eyes. He is my ideal." "Listen here, girl. If you could meet up with an ideal earning as much as \$30 a week I wouldn't say a word."—Louisville Courier-Journal.

WHITE BUNGALOW ATTRACTIVE HOME

Has Compact Room Arrangement and Pretty Exterior.

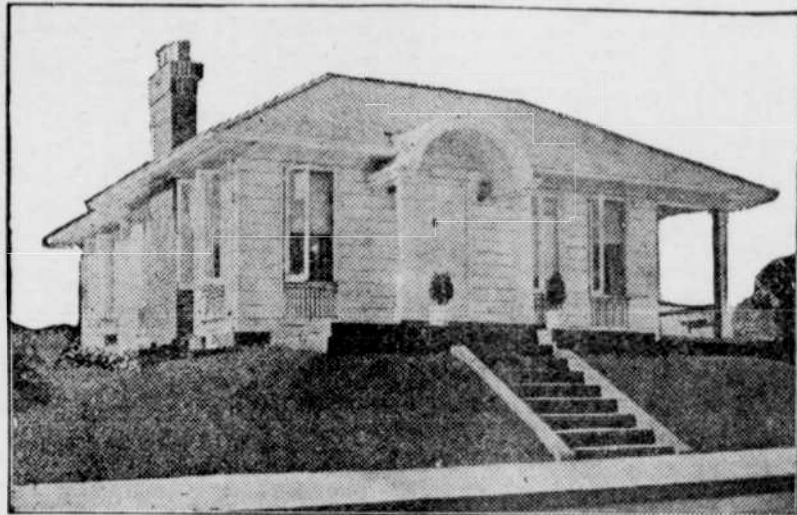
ADAPTED TO SMALL FAMILY

Design Is Equally Suited to Country or City—Has Commodious Living Room and Conveniences That Appeal to Housewife.

Mr. William A. Radford will answer questions and give advice FREE OF COST on all subjects pertaining to the subject of building, for the readers of this paper. On account of his wide experience as Editor, Author and Manufacturer, he is, without doubt, the highest authority on all these subjects. Address all inquiries to William A. Radford, No. 1827 Prairie Avenue, Chicago, Ill., and only enclose two-cent stamp for reply.

Planning to build homes of their own is engaging the attention of thousands of American families this year. Never was the average American more able to pay for a home; neither has he so thoroughly realized the advantages of becoming a home owner. With his mind made up to build, Mr. Average Citizen now is scanning architect's designs and selecting one that will suit his needs and his pocketbook.

For the small family there is no type of home that so nicely fits its needs as a bungalow. The accompanying illustration shows a four-room white bun-



galow that will suit those who want a home that is attractive to the eye and has an interior arrangement that provides the comfort and convenience that are features of modern dwellings.

This bungalow is 30 by 36 feet 6 inches in dimensions. This size is excellent for a lot of 50 or more feet in width, as its breadth allows for plenty of side yard, and its depth permits of a large space both for front and rear lawns and a garden. The addition of a garage of the same architectural design rounds out a fine home-building group.

Built of standard frame construction this bungalow is not expensive to build. The hip roof, outside brick fireplace and the arched roof over the entrance all combine to give it an exceptionally attractive exterior. Exterior features also are the terrace on either side of the entrance and the small side porch.

The four rooms consist of a combination living and dining room, kitchen and two bedrooms. Off the kitchen also there is a breakfast nook, to be used by the family when alone.

The living room is of extraordinary large size for such a small house. The dimensions are 20 by 13 feet. Win-

box, so that it can be used without going into any of the rooms.

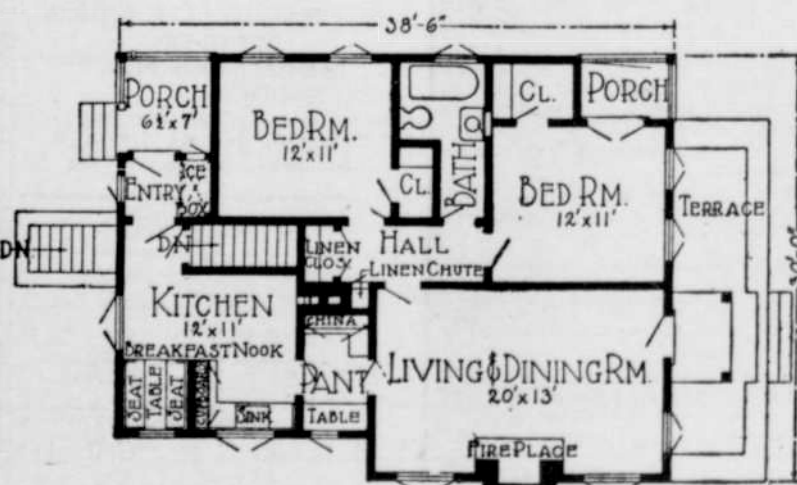
Ranged along the opposite side of the house are two bedrooms, each 12 by 11 feet, with the bathroom between. A small hall connects the two rooms. Entrance may be gained either from the outside through the front bedroom or through the hall from the living room. It will be noted by a study of the floor plan that a great deal of closet space is provided.

The basement extends under the whole house and provides room for the heating plant and fuel, and space for storage of vegetables and other articles. Basements of modern homes usually are divided with full partitions, which makes for cleanliness and prevents the heating plant from warming the storage rooms.

This design is equally suited for country or city, except in the larger cities where restrictions as to fire-proof construction are in force. By its arrangement it has the efficiency of a five-room house, without the cost of the extra room.

There are many good reasons why everyone who can should build a home. The home owner is not a lucky person, but on the other hand, a substantial member of the community in which he lives. He does not have the inconveniences that come from living in a rented house; neither does he have to fear that if he beautifies the lawn or furnishes the house to suit his ideas that it will be sold and his work and outlay will be lost.

It does not require a great amount of ready money to build a home; but it does require a considerable amount of character to assume the burden of paying for a home. However, as the years go by that monthly sum that heretofore has been spent for rent will



FIRST FLOOR PLAN

dows on either side of the fireplace and one on the terrace side make this a sunny, pleasant room in winter and permit plenty of ventilation in the summer. Between the living room and the kitchen is a good-sized pantry, with a china closet in one end and a table, under the window, in the other. This arrangement gives the housekeeper easy access to the dishes and provides her with a serving table when more formal meals are served in the living room.

In one corner of the kitchen, which is 12 by 11 feet, there is a breakfast nook, with partitions half way to the ceiling. Under the window is the dining table, while on either side are built-in seats. This is a cozy place for the members of the family to have breakfast and luncheon, and even dinner if desired. Another popular arrangement in the kitchen is the sink underneath the window. The entry leading to the rear porch is of sufficient size to accommodate the ice

tastes and located in a neighborhood where the people he wants his family to associate with live. These are what make life worth living.

Playing Baseball in the Air.

Airmen at one of the flying fields in the South devised a new sport some weeks ago, and now word comes abroad that Yankee "sky pilots" over there are adding thrills to it. The game, incidentally, seems to be most excellent practice for baseball outfielders. As originally devised, says Popular Mechanics Magazine, it consisted in endeavoring to catch baseballs dropped from an airplane flying at an elevation of 700 feet. As revised by the overseas force, it includes the award of a world's championship medal "and everything." To go the home crowd one better, the overseas men began the game with the pitcher at an altitude of 750 feet. A ball dropped from that elevation and caught at the ground means that the next one must be launched from 800 feet, and so on.

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HAVE TO PURCHASE BRIDES

Santali Indian Bridegroom Must Lay Up Money Before He Can Aspire to a Wife.

The Santali Indians must literally purchase their brides. They pay a sum of money to the girl's parents—usually about 100 ducats—and, in addition, they present the mother and the female relatives with new saris or shawls.

Should the bridegroom choose a widow for his wife, she will only cost half the sum mentioned. The reason why the Santali Indians hold widows in less regard than unmarried females is because they assert that in the next world man and wife are reunited, hence a widow who marries again is only "lent" to her second husband.

When a young man courts a girl who does not favor his suit, he adopts an eccentric way to cure her stubbornness. After having dipped his finger in red paint, he goes in search of the lady and imprints his mark on her forehead. Then he may claim her as his wife.

Right Locality.

"It is all right to talk about eating locusts, but where are you going to get wild honey?"

"I think you'll soon be able to get some in our back yard if you care to go there. The auto backed into the hives and there are some very mad bees around."

Twenties?

Householder—Ye little gods are great fishes! \$207.09 for decorating my downstairs?

Decorator—You must remember paper runs into money this year. Householder—But, Great Scott! why didn't you use more one-dollar bills?

Its Class.

"Would you classify telephone operating a profession?" "Well, it is a calling."

LEECH AS WEATHER PROPHET

Those Familiar With Small Creature's Habits Can Foretell Changes That Are at Hand.

An excellent weather prophet can be made by placing a leech in a glass jar of water.

If the weather is to continue fine the leech lies motionless at the bottom of the jar, and rolled together in a spiral form. If it is to rain, either before or after noon, it will be found to have crept up to the top of its lodging, where it will remain till the weather is settled.

If we are to have wind, the poor prisoner gallops through his limpid habitation with amazing swiftness, and seldom rests till it begins to blow hard.

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Age Counts.

Two very dirty little youngsters were standing in front of the Monument betting the other day. Finally one of them said: "I bet you a nickel I'm dirtier than you are."

The other little fellow, whose bets on his prowess had been large and vigorously made, was confused for a few minutes. Finally he admitted: "Well, you ought to be. You're older than I am, aren't you?"—Indianapolis News.

Suit the Bugs.

"How yer taters doin' this year?" "Th' bugs seem t' think they're fine."

What a pity that the truth is the most disagreeable thing one can say about some people.

A Health-Bringer!
Make your morning cereal dish a strengthener.

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is not only most delicious in taste, but is a builder of tissue.

"There's a Reason"