

VACATION IN SOUTH AMERICA

By John Goldberger



I recently had the pleasure of spending my vacation with my father and sister in Medellin, Colombia. South America is a continent of surprises and contradictions. This was the first thing that I observed when I landed at the Baranquilla airport, after an uneventful five-hour flight from Miami. I was told that they had Summer when we had Winter in the States, and I, therefore, expected to melt like a snowball, but nothing like that happened. It was plenty hot but there was a breeze all the time. "Oh, this is the cool season," replied the manager of the hotel, answering my inquiry. "You should come in Winter when it is really hot." Later I found out that the terms "summer" and "winter" are used in Colombia in a very indiscriminate way. Summer means that the sun is shining; Winter, that it is raining. You can wake up on a beautiful sunny morning and it will be Summer, and before the day is over it will be raining—Winter has come!

During my travels in Colombia, I saw jungles and swamps on both the Caribbean and Pacific coasts, with a steaming hot climate that would have been the envy of any Turkish bath manager. These lowlands alternate with mountain chains, the Andean Cordilleras, which rise to an altitude

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John Goldberger, Fundamental Research Department, is shown leaving the Asheville-Hendersonville airport for his vacation in South America; and his arrival at the airfield at Baranquilla, Colombia.