

## VACATION IN SOUTH AMERICA

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of 19,000 feet above sea level into the zone of eternal snow and ice. Mount Mitchell is a small mountain compared with those babies. The rock which form these mountains is extremely soft. When the farmers clear the steep slopes of its dense tropical vegetation, in order to cultivate the soil, it very often happens that the entire mountain slides down into the valley, taking a village or two along with it.

The greater part of Colombia lies beyond the Andean range and is completely uninhabited, except for some wild roving Indian tribes. Some parts are less explored than the darkest corners of Africa. This may explain why a country almost twice the size of Texas has a population less than Pennsylvania.

Communication between various parts of the country is very much undeveloped. To get from Baranquilla to Medellin, for instance, one can take the river boat up the Magdalena River part of the way and travel the rest by rail. This will take from three to six weeks, depending on the mood of the Magdalena. If one has the money and likes to fly, the trip can be made in three hours. There are no road connections between the major cities. This makes plane transportation in Colombia very popular, and as a matter of fact, many parts of the country were only developed since the advent of aviation. Only rugged individualists and the poor travel otherwise than by air in Colombia.

Highways, if they exist at all, do not deserve the name of highways. They are only dirt roads and sometimes not even good ones. Although right-hand driving is the rule, everyone drives where they can find a solid foundation, dodging holes, cattle and people. The inhabitants stand very dignified in the middle of the road when a car approaches and defy the driver to hit them, and usually the car has to be driven around them. The little boys act as if the approaching vehicle is a bull attacking a bullfighter. The little rascals have the time of their lives defying an oncoming car and jumping to the side at the last minute, trying to touch the fender as it goes by. This is the way some of the famous bullfighters got their first training; and it insures the unwary tourist of a nervous breakdown in nothing flat.

All in all I had a wonderful time in South America, and I can recommend it to anyone who wants to have an unusual vacation. There you can get your money's worth of sunshine, colorful scenery, interesting people, and strange plants and animals; but if someone is looking for a nice place to live, I can only advise him—stay in Western North Carolina.

## CLEAN UP FOR FIRE SAFETY

by Ernest Burch

Well! Here we are again. Spring is here. Spring in all its glory, with its sweet fresh air. Gone are the dusts of Winter. The old homestead is bathed in sunlight. All is well, on the outside that is, but how about the inside? Have we started our Spring cleaning? Have we taken stock of all the rubbish that has accumulated during the Winter, to see what we can throw away? Mr. Webster defines RUBBISH as anything worthless or valueless. This can mean sister Susie's old clothes in the attic, the bric-a-brac we stored in the garage, the old broken chairs or newspapers that we stored in the cellar. All can be fuel for fire if one occurs. After taking stock, why not give away to some worthy charity, those things we know we'll never use again. Don't put it off until TOMORROW. Tomorrow never comes—but fire does. Good housekeeping means fire safety. Clean property seldom burns. CLEAN UP!

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### TAKE A CHANCE

The chances that you will marry a person with whom you went to school are 1 in 70.

The chances of getting good news in a telegram instead of bad news are 2½ to 1.

The chances that you can disappear and never be found are 1000 to 1 against you.

If you are a man the chances are 80 to 1 against you following the same profession that your father did.

If you are married the chances are 2,300 to 1 that you met your mate through an introduction.

Your chances of living to a ripe old age are immeasurably increased if you follow common sense safety rules while at work, in traffic, and at home.

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There is the old fable of the chained eagle. Found one day by a woodsman it was chained near the cabin and each day thereafter it would walk to the end of the chain and no farther. One day the woodsman took pity on the eagle and released the chain. The eagle did not fly away. It walked only the same distance and stopped. We must never allow our thoughts to be chained the same way. If we become like the chained eagle we won't be able to cope with the changing times and new situations.

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During the 'eighties our football heroes did it the hard way. If he lost a leg or broke an arm—what did it get him? Two measly points. They didn't think much of touchdowns in those days, when football was young. They wanted goals—a goal kicked after a touchdown meant four points—and a field goal counted five.