

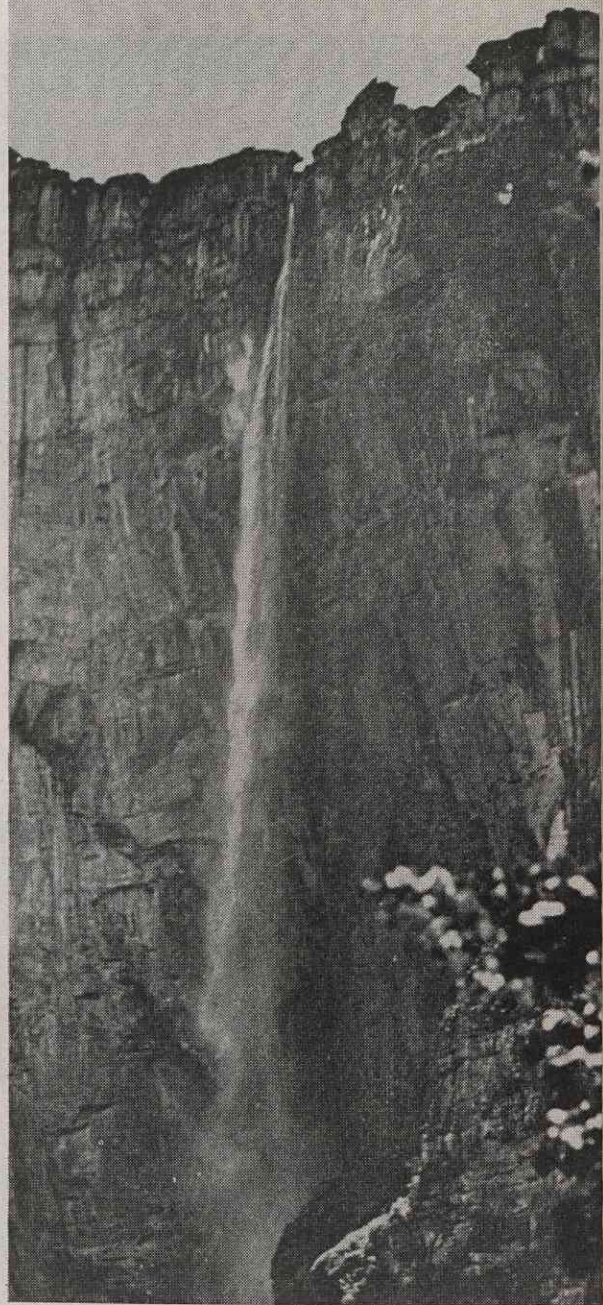
great unexplored regions on the face of the earth yielded the world's highest waterfall.

The ranks of the now tiny handful of persons who have seen Angel Falls seem destined to be swollen soon by an influx of tourists seeking something genuinely new and different. Captain Charlie Baughan of Ransa airlines, whose headquarters are in Ciudad, Bolivar has no worries about the curse of Devil Mountain. He has homesteaded some 600 acres at the foot of Hacha falls on the Carrao river about 15 miles below the temporary landing field at Mayupa. He hopes soon to be opening all of this country in the most comfortable manner. His plans envisage the construction of an ultra-modern dude camp serviced by air. It is to be called the Playa Canaima Club. One will travel to the falls by jeep. The old giving way to the new in Venezuela is found not only in the fast-growing Caracas area but throughout the entire land. Sam Fales, a well known bush pilot, already has initiated air service to a dude ranch of his own some 50 miles farther to the south.

But neither of these dude ranches will bring civilization to more than a tiny segment of the Lost World. There still will be dugout canoes manned by semi-clad Indians, in which to push through rapids and from which intimate close-ups of alligators and other flesh-loving, sharp-toothed water creatures may be obtained. There will be pack trips through the jungles and up the steep slopes of the strange mesa-topped summits of majestic mountains. Naturalists will find a new world of plant and animal life. High boots, mosquito netting, a machete, and a love of adventure mixed with a reasonable degree of physical courage still will not be amiss in the Gran Sabana.

Although most of the area now has been charted from the air there are large areas where the white man probably has never set foot. Scientific explorations of recent years have dispelled the aura of fantasy shed on the Lost World by Doyle's adventure story. Doyle wove an almost credible account of the adventures of a group of scientists matched against vicious, pre-historic beasts atop one of the mountains of the Gran Sabana. As fantastic as his story now appears it was not always considered so. Serious men of science conceded the possibility that the animal and plant life of a thousand years past still might have existed on the table-top summits of those massive mountains believed to be impassable to both man and beast.

But the lure of an unknown land—the excitement of realizing that one is stepping where man has never trod before—has not yet vanished. The Lost World is no longer lost, but visitors there will share in the opening of a new land and enjoy spectacular vistas of jungle and mountain scenery previously shared by a tiny group of spirited explorers.



*Angel Falls, recently established as the world's highest waterfall (3,212 feet)—more than twice the height of the Empire State Building—spurts from the top of the three-hundred-square-mile mesa, called Devil's Mountain, in Venezuela's Gran Sabana, a high jungle region stretching between the Orinoco and Amazon Rivers, which was the setting for Sir Arthur Conan Doyle's famous novel, "The Lost World". This photograph was taken by Nicol Smith, well known lecturer, who made the expedition to the falls by Grace Line "Santa" ship, trailer, airplane and dugout canoe.*