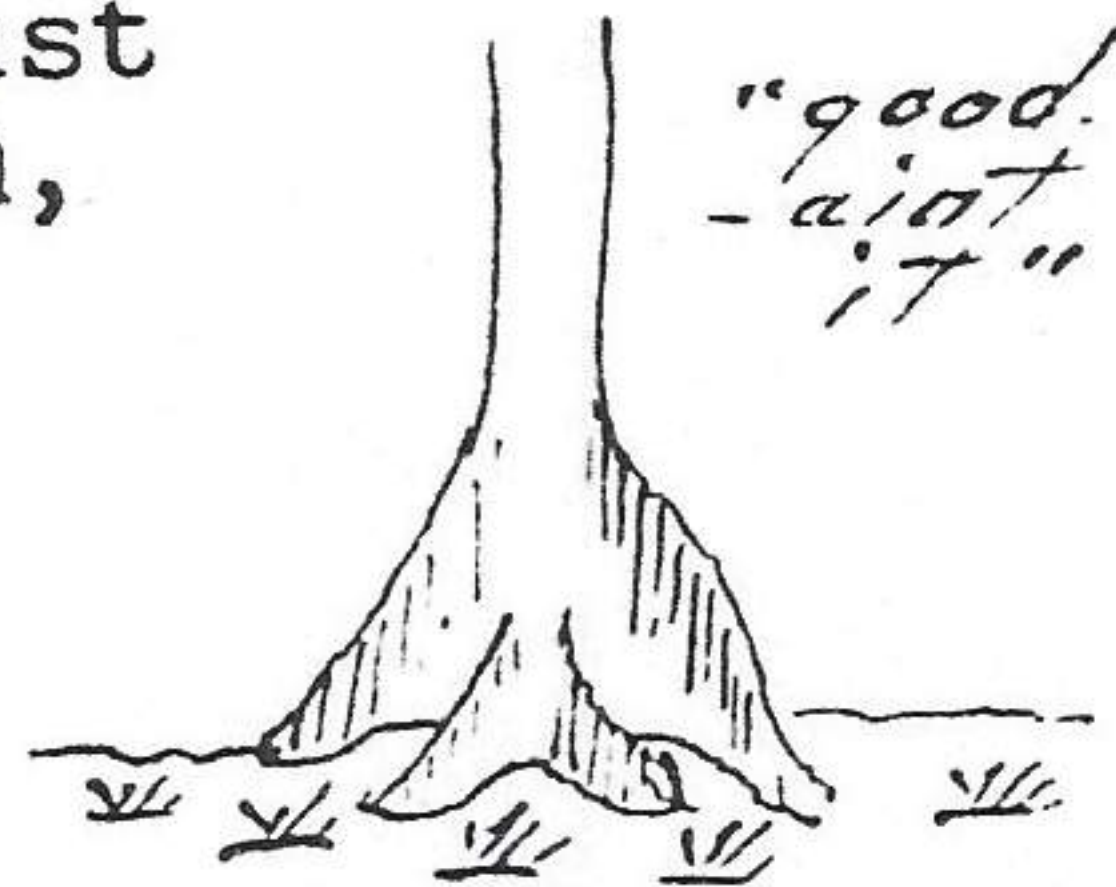


are associated with wet places, such as water lilies, grasses 30 feet high or so, large heart shaped leaves and a multitude of other aquatic plants. Some trees have bases which are as much as 20 feet across. These trees are much like the banyan trees of Assam and India. Many different kinds of colored flowers add to the attractiveness of this jungle scene. If you can imagine a jungle just twice as luxuriant as Assam, you have the picture. I think your mother would enjoy this country and it is surprising how available it actually is. There appears to be many different kinds of palms which I confuse with the coconut tree. The palms appear more like this with a large mass of small balls, whereas the coconut trees have the branches or fronds (live ones) pointed down as well as up.



Orchids grow on nearly all of the trees. The beautiful red flower which the Guatemalans call the "flower of the day," is the same ~~that~~ grows in India and Assam. They tell me that the flowers are just beginning to develop their best growth. Bananas grow the entire year but are, in the main, just about half grown and in the next two or three months will reach their best growth. However, many are being picked as of today. The banana trees are higher and less compact than Assamese bananas. As was true in Assam,

