

Nebay, Guatemala.  
Dec. 15th., 1954

Dear Annette:

If this letter reaches you I will be surprised. Guatemala is rough country in every way you look at it. for instance, it has taken us three days to travel from Guatemala City to this place, a distance of 166 miles. The factor of time is of major importance.

Before finally getting away from Guatemala, I had many exasperating rounds with customs. The car was finally released on Dec. 10th. at 6.00 P.M. In all, there has been five complete inspections of the equipment. On Dec. 11th. a permit to drive the car was issued by the police in Guat. On the evening of the 10th. I went to the police station and asked for the permit so I could get started the next day. 'Manana' was the answer. They told me just where to park the car that night which was 20 feet from the front door entrance to the Pan-American Hotel. Next morning the front side window of the car was broken as well as the lock-the door left open. I am sure I made the mistake of telling the police where the car would be parked during the night. There are two explanations of the vandalism; the one-the garrage offers protection-perhaps a gentle reminder to use their facilities; the other, communistic outburst.

On Sunday I left for Chajul. Ibarra insisted I take along one of his assistants-Senior Carlos Paredes (dusts cases) a fine fellow tho has no knowledge of collecting or cooking-one of those individuals you have to train by showing them how to break an egg. My trip was planned for 'solo flight'-an extra complicated matters. He wore ox-fords and had no bedding. He used my sleeping bag for a mattress, a blanket and all available coats for bedding. Beyond this obstacle it necessitated the removal and storing of all the gear at every stop, an operation I had eliminated in my original plans.