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Nebaj, Guatanala.
Dec. 20th., 1954.

Dear Annette: If the weather gives us a break, we will depart from Nebaj tomorrow. The last week has been exceptional as far as weather is concerned-rained all the time and temperatures at noon between 45 and 50° Fahr.-one of those exceptional spells, I am told. The Arctic was never like this. Our problem is to get a dry day so we can negotiate about 3,000 feet of steep grade. The road continues thru the cloud forests which have received a continuous downpour since we have been here. If the road is washed out we may spend X'mas and New Year in Nebaj.

On my way to Chemal, which is about 12,000 ft. alt., I will drop Carlos at Huchuetenago-he returns to Guatanala City for X'mas, then, he will be back and remain with me until Jan. 1st when we will return to Guatanala City. The work at Chemal will finish the northwest part of Guat, and the areas of high elevation. then, I can concentrate on the lower regions -- the plateaus and the tropics.

I never realized that X'mas was so popular in Central America. The people have been planning for this holiday since I came to Guatanala. On X'mas I will be about as far out of circulation as one can get in this country but I will be with you in spirit on that day.

Last night the Elliotts invited Carlos and me to supper. In their front room stood their tree decorated in the traditional way. The Elliotts live in a comfortable house except it lacks heat (I just about froze)-large enough for the four children. It is Spanish in design and crude but adequate. The bathroom tub and sink are made of cement. The cook stove is made of bricks and cement.