

It was so arranged and I have crossed a border that would have otherwise required visas, custom inspection, fees etc. ^{but on return to Guatemala paid an unanticipated entrance fee.} The country in this area is dry and hot and is a continuation to the south of a dry belt that runs irregularly through the Republic of Guatemala. The animals I captured there are similar to those in Mexico.

The entire country was in fire, beautiful forests in the higher mountains being completely destroyed. No attempt seemed to be made to check them. I believe that it is easier to clear land for grazing and farming by burning than to cut the timber. The newspapers here suspect that many of the fires have been set by communists and arsenals. I think that it is just carelessness ^{and ignorance} on the part of the people in trying to burn localized fields or slopes and then having the fire get out of control. At the Salvador border I camped at a rather pretty lake. The road is terrific. The first night out I got onto a new road construction and followed it for about 30 miles until I came to a dead end. There was no way to turn around so had to back up for about 3 miles until I could finally dig out a place to turn around. There are no detour signs, warning signs.

or even highway numbers - you get about the country by inquiry - Cual es estos caminos va a ciudad de Chequumulilla? etc. A small piece of brush ^{laid} across the road will signify that a bridge is out or that the road is impassible.

The next trip was in the opposite direction - to Champerico in the west. The first night out I camped at Escuintla. This was one of the centers of intense communistic activity because of its high value for agricultural purpose, especially sugar cane. They tell me that during the reign of Arbenz the natives