

This country has a hot climate and fewer clothes are worn. I have been tempted to use the movie camera to show how hot the climate can get but know that such evidence would be censored at the Kodak Processing Plant. If I ever have a car accident in Guatemala it will be at a bridge ^{however,} or I'm getting now so that I can cross a bridge without looking at the road!! I am quite convinced that I should become an engineer and build bridges in Guatemala.

The road from Retalhuleu to Chomperico is paved and takes only 30 minutes to drive. Before the paving the trip took 8 hours of dusty, rough travelling. You can just imagine how beneficent such roads are to people who have milk, butter or perishable fruits that have to get to market. Most of these new paved roads were built by the Communists! All along the way the tropical forests were being burned and cut down to make room for cane sugar and cattle grazing. The waste of a forest by burning is inexorable - the wood should be cut to lumber or used for heating and cooking. At Chomperico observed the full influence of the hurricane that struck a hundred miles or so of the coastal forests. It will take many years for Chomperico to dig out and rebuild. The natural forests are all wind eroded in the upper story and the fallen trees make passage almost impossible. Chomp - is right on the beach but was not suitable for trapping area so went east to a finca owned by David Percy who is interested, luckily in preserving the wild life of the area. I camped on the beach where there ~~was~~ were no natives or other human beings but a prodigious number of birds. I have never been so alone as at this camp.

I was almost within spray distance of the wild ocean and only a few feet from a tranquil inland lagoon. For 4 days I swam in the surf 3 times a day - at about sunrise - 3 o'clock - and at sundown or late