



McIlone Trips

September 3 Aboard the Villanueva
stern wheeler.

A new venture and one in which
probably wishes me ill. I have
come to fear bad weather and rough
trips but if no storm arises we
ought to have a calm voyage until
we reach the mouth of the Zulia
river at least.

The "Cata tumba lights" were at last
seen - continuous flashes of lightning
which seemed to be localized at two
points, the one on the right (onlooker's
right) being more powerful
and brighter. Though they lighted
up the sky in interesting patterns

to me they were almost irritating because of their almost mechanical display. Perhaps too because they seemed to be wasted energy.

It rained a little during the night. I had my hammock put up and was almost too cold as a result. The wind blew and the trip became a little rough. In the early morning hours I was slightly sea sick.

Sunrise brought to the lake a golden glow - light reflected from the muddy water. At seven o'clock we came to the mouth of the river.

The river banks are heavy with jungle. Grasses, reeds, at places bamboo, and vine laden tall trees. A good portion of ~~the~~

strips along the banks have been turned to plantain plantations, though I have seen several fields of maize. Well kept plank, and even painted tiled brick houses are common - almost romantic in their setting with the high thick jungle behind them. Most of the people seem to be white.

A sort of reed with long wide leaves almost as big as banana leaves is everywhere. I understand that its fibre is not very good.

The river is heavily traveled with large sailboats - carrying bananas I suppose. They are the same as those seen in the port of Maracaibo.

The plant with the banana like leaves found in such great quantities along the shores is called lijas and is used as wrapping paper.

Vosinas - Indians of
(Puerto Reyes (Rio Socorro))
Are they Motilones?
"Cocina"

thin guayaban - a very tall very
thin tree

September 5.

Arrived at Encuentrados at 8 P.M.

Met at the boat by José de la Cruz Espinosa, the former assistant to Don Lacher and now to Kent.

Went to Kent's house and met his wife. Later taken to my room at the guest house.

Encuentrados is a busy terminal in the middle of the swamps.

Left Encuentrados Sept. 6 at 7:30 A.M. on a surprisingly clean train (narrow gauge) and pulled by an engine patterned after the old models. (see pictures). Fields of sugar cane along the way - real haciendas and guajiro slave-peons working

in the fields.

Tall slender trees - and at places
excessively heavy and high jungle
Very little bird life however.

At the border I was allowed to
enter without examination of baggage
(The Colombian consul in Maracaibo
telegraphed ahead to the chief of the customs.
Also I have learned that my passport
is a diplomatic one - free of stamps, etc.)

Ciuita a surprising town in that
it is large and surprisingly clean.

Howard Guinlan, manager of
the Colombian Oil Co - (Julf)
- had no room for me, so I went
to a new hotel paying 4 pesos

a day. (with private shower).

Alsoy Bell, Berbet veldt, met
Salce - fine type supt. of Petrola

Guinlan not very hospitable - in a
way. Far from being like Crebbs.
However

Sept. 7
Left Cuicatlan at 8:45; arrived
Pamplonita at 11 A.M. (fare
50¢. Pamplonia 11:30.

There is a change in the people. All the
men carry ponchos. The people are definitely
pamplonita - badly fitting clothes, bearded
faces, crooked bodies. Banqueted and
have legged.

A place on the road where there were
piles of fine coal. At another place they
were making lime. Horses and mules
used for burdens. Men carried
machetes at their side.

Pamplonia is quite cold - or cool
at this time of the day and the approach
is through an extremely narrow gully.
About 3000 meters (?)

Pamplonia

Horsemen with leather trousers
with hair on the leather; Indians carrying
loads either with strap around the
forehead or across the chest sometimes
bent double; black ponchos down to
the waist; black hats, suits, dresses;
^{some} very short people - about 4'6". A well
built church - large - of the Christian
Hermanos (Jesuits?). One of the fathers
is supposed to have an archaeological
collection. Several days could be
spent here very profitably and en-
joyably.

Pine, cedar, willow trees in valley
before reaching Pamplonia.

Houses covered with Spanish tiles. Roofs are painted the usual color but the people wear practically nothing else than black. No appearance of gaiety.

Horses are very small and some of them have longish hair. Pack bullocks are used - small but very well lined also with longish hair. Even the most of the horses - and steers are black.

Loads are also carried on the head. See a lot of stiff jerky walking suggesting rheumatism. Elephantiasis is common.

(One of the passengers too dead drunk to continue).

Soldiers - were boys in dirty uniforms and alpergates.

Reached Malaga at 8 P.M. after crossing the barren but flower covered Paramos. No trees, no bushes, grasses and flowers. Streams. Before coming to the Paramos we followed a stream bordered with trees heavily covered with painted mosses and I sawed with orchids. One latter was in bloom with a red flower and had leaves similar to the century plant. Were they orchids?

The road is remarkably good though breathtaking because of the precipices.

People are decidedly whiter though the Andean element is very strong. People have many teeth missing. Noticed no less than four with upper

lip slit. Looks as if there is
degeneracy through inbreeding.

Powerful calves but there is a
tendency towards flat feet.

Hotel price - 60¢ for bed two in
one room (double for entire room) 60¢
for dinner. Showers.

Sept. 7

Left Malaga at 4 A.M.

Bags slung out in corners of doorway.
Reached Seata at 6:30. Situated
on a bluff overlooking a deep gorge.
Beautiful. Mountains heavily
cultivated. We must be lower down
for we found banana and sugar cane
patches.

Deep gorges and canyons - several
thousand feet deep with streams at the

bottom. Terribly rough landscape
yet the people seem to be cleaner
and more prosperous looking. Again
it seems (except for racial type) something
Europe transplanted. Presently is
the characteristic feature. Country
houses of stone are of stone with
grass roofs. - square structures

The valley of Bogota is marvellously
beautiful with heavily cultivated fields.
Walls - mostly of adobe almost everywhere
with elaborate gates to enter the fields.
These gates go beyond the field of utility
since they are tall and ornate handsome.
(Tall thin trees are locally known as
ocaliptos)
Beautiful big horses and big cattle

and whereas beyond all carrying seems to be done on human back - and some mule here there are ox carts with large powerful oxen to pull the carts. Yoked in pairs but the heavy wooden yoke is missing. Sheep are plentiful - but no goats.

{ Close to Bogota we killed a beautiful sheep which dazed by the lights walked right into the car. It was agonizing to see it looking at the car - so innocently up to the time it was struck. }

Coal seems to be mined in a small way.

Duitama - pictures of church and types.

{ A Lyndon Bell
W B. Olson
Arne Birketvedt
John Sallee

{ J. J. Jones Col. - M.D.
Cicuta, Ovenda 7^o - 1920
gentleman who gave me
antigua Cicuta.

September 17.

Left Cuicuta on the 15th in the company of Kent and his wife. At the border we changed to the autotreno - a Ford motor dragging two coaches and going much faster than the ordinary train. Reached Encuentradas at 4:30 or 5.

Left the Encuentradas on the launch with Kent for Puerto Barco at 9, arriving at 10 the next morning.

The night was moonlight and the reflection of the banks and gigantic trees so clear that there was no difference between the real ^{object} and the image. The launch is beautifully designed except that it is terrifically noisy.

Saw only three or four of the river. Vegetation is very thick and

everything seems to grow in large proportions. The ceiba, the dudio des nudos, the coruba palm, the heavy growth of bijas, vines, reeds, etc. seem to be almost impenetrable. Bird life seems to be poor - practically the only ones seen were parrots - parakeets and macaws.

No animal life. Ambush is very easy since any number of people could shoot at a boat from the high banks and be practically safe from reprisal - at least immediate reprisal. The banks are high and vertical for the most part though the waters are fairly high. The

river is shallow near the camp, and only boats of very shallow draft can be used.

Byrom, a talkative young man is the supt. Conway is an immense picturesque driller. Fable is the geologist. All or almost all are from Texas.

The camp is situated on a high spot and consists of houses, power house, laundry, farms etc. Fairly comfortable and could be used as a base. However it is still a problem as to what means to use to penetrate the country. To cut trails would mean large number of men and also a definite objective

to reach which would mean an expense
to locate the villages. Such a
trail would then have to be protected
by guards in order to keep it open.

By river - going without guards or
guides would also be hopeless
for not knowing where to leave
the bank river to start cutting
a trail. This leaves, as the
only possibility, amicable contact
with outlying groups and use them
as guides.

The country on the right
bank (downstream) is flat except
in the distance where some mountains
are seen. Behind the camp
the hills begin. (actually as the
river upstream one goes the

rougher and more mountainous becomes
the ground. All is covered with
high and thick jungle with out
and any suggestion of any savannah.
Village clearings might be sighted
if a careful search with glasses
is made or with an airplane.

September 18.

Yesterday Jack Byron (supt, or as known here, tool-pusher) and I drove out to the well (no 2.) and further out along the ~~at~~ new road being built to the location of the new well (no 3.). We had to leave the truck and walk a portion of the way down to the end. It is a rather stupendous job. Fortunately there is plenty of timber at hand.

A foreman came rushing up to us with the story that the Indians had been seen just a little before, in fact while we were talking to the steam-shovel man or the road planing machine driver. The story was that the watchman

saw an Indian cautiously advancing towards the clearing holding his bow and arrow before him. The Indian, apparently had not seen the watchman. The watchman, armed with a shotgun, (single shot) tried to shoot down the Indian but the cartridge did not go off and as he broke his gun to load again the noise warned the Indians who fled precipitously. He fired after them. He also claims that there were many hidden in the bush judging from the noise and commotion they made in fleeing. The rest of the laborers rushed up but it was too late.

Byron and I with the watchman went up to the scene and found

a wide trail cut by the geologist
over which the Indians had probably
advanced. We saw nothing though
the bush was a little torn up.

The bush is exceedingly thick
with an undergrowth of palms
and reeds chiefly, and this
spot being on the side of ~~the~~ a
hill ~~was~~ is rough on account
of rocks and decayed vegetation.
One can hide in this bush very
easily and flee as easily. The
lightly armed and unwarred Indian
has the advantage of course.

It is absolutely necessary that
a man be as lightly shod, for
instance, as possible though there
is danger from snakes.

Good dogs are indispensable.

This incident illustrates the
attitude of the workmen who will
shoot on sight and therefore make
an rapprochement impossible.

On returning to camp we found
that Indians had eaten up the
sugar cane patch across the river
and taken away a great many
plantains.

The general attitude of the
American workmen is peaceful.
They want to be left alone to do their
work and there is general sympathy
for the Indians. Naturally, coming
to such a god-forsaken country
to work, they must ^{have} ~~find~~ need, and
they want to be left alone.

The men - all - are isolated from the rest of the work. Their greatest complaints are that they are kept away from women for six or seven months at a time, and that they do nothing to do. The danger from the Indians keeps them around camp depriving them even of such sports as fishing and hunting.

It would be well to found a village a few hours from camp.

The night after the attempted attack on the hill some Motilons visited the steam shovel taking some tools and a piece of canvas which they used as a shelter at the edge of the clearing. Further away there was another shelter of palm leaves. They left footprints behind in the mud. Small feet but exceedingly broad at the toes with the big toe thrown considerably inward.

Jack Byrom and a few others followed the edge of the creek at no. 3 to where it meets the Rio Esuelis - following an old Indian trail. Found a water fall and a beautiful cool pool for swimming. Enjoyed a swim.

In the afternoon went up river

and thought we saw an Indian hidden
in the reeds on the camp side of
the river.

Tried to shoot crocodiles and spiders
monkeys - Fine to watch them swinging
from tree to tree -

Went to Camp Cienaga - Olson's
first camp where he had built
several houses - and found that
the biggest house which was an
pole had been cut down - why did
they not burn it down? We
did.

Trip down Catataambo.

On and near the island Norberto
are settlers who claim to have seen
villages of Indians. The Indians paid
a call several months ago. Owner of
the hacienda on the island is Nino Santos.
Deals in cattle with the company.

One Navarro - middle-aged
and - (kandawue) knows the
bush trails and probably could
lead us to Motilone houses or
villages.

Notes on the Motilones.

"Del Antiquo Cúcuta.

(Datos y apuntes para
su historia.)

Luis Feltes Cordero

Cúcuta 1918

In chapter one he outlines the
original region of the Motilones as
Rio Tarra, Sardivata, Julia
Catacumbos, Pamplonita, Táchira.

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Pu, B. - 16 17 18 19 20 21 22
P.B. " " " " " "

Points for a report.

1. Bush is such that it would be absurd to penetrate without knowing where to go and the best way to go there. An airplane therefore is necessary to look over the ground first and locate the villages or clearings. This plane could make a practice of dropping presents at every clearing.
2. Indian guides would have to be obtained - to serve also as interpreters.
3. The men would have to be picked carefully for courage, strength, and knowledge of the jungle.
4. The various caños should be followed to their sources.

