



Sugar and Spice

by bill smiley

I'm trying to figure out some way to go and see my son in Paraguay this summer. Maybe my faithful readers can help.

There's nothing whatever to stop me from just buying a plane ticket and going. Nothing whatever except that I can't afford it. There's a pile of miles between here and there. And the way my wife's been throwing money around lately—new carpeting, new wallpaper, new sewing machine—we'll be lucky if we get through the summer with enough left over to pay admission to the Fall Fair. So, I'll just have to use my native ingenuity, which is also present in very tiny amounts.

Why bother, you say. Why not let the kid come home for a visit? Well, his monthly income is probably around forty bucks, so he has the same problem I have.

He's been there over a year now, and for some reason, he doesn't get our letters, though we receive his. And he is my only son. And he must be lonely. He managed a long-distance call to his mother in Feb-

ruary, on her birthday, from Argentina. But he just has no contact with home, and we can't phone him. Just as well. If we could, the old lady would probably be calling him every Sunday night, at about \$30 a rattle.

Besides, I love to travel, and I've never been to South America. His mother flatly won't go. She's afraid of being trampled by an elephant or squeezed by a boa constrictor or pinched on the bum by a South American sheik or something.

Slowly, a plan is emerging. There are a few blank spots, but my itinerary is taking shape.

I think I could rake up the price of a bus ticket to New York. From there it's a short hop to Bermuda. On that beautiful island lives a Faithful Reader, a subscriber to the Kincardine News, who has sent back word with a mutual acquaintance that she'd be delighted to show me the island. She'd probably put us up and feed us for a day or two.

Next stop, Jamaica. My nephew has a house and servant here. I have fed that boy (of 26) his bottle and changed his diaper in years gone by. He owes me.

Then a zig across the Caribbean to Mexico City, where a friend of a friend lives. A bed and board and a couple of days among the Aztec ruins would be a nice change.

After that, we hop to Guyana, first stop in South America. (It used to be Dutch Guiana). My brother worked there for a couple of years and has influential friends in the capital, Paramaribo. I should be able to doss down with one of them for a couple of nights while I get acclimatized.

It's the next stop that worries me. Once I get to Rio de Janeiro, I'm home free. I have an old girl friend there, Sylvia. She was a knockout when I knew her in college, and we used to neck under the trees in Queen's Park until I was so weak I couldn't have gone one round with Carmen Miranda.

She might not recognize the wreck confronting her, but all I'd have to do is say: "It's Beel. Yo chamo," and she'd recognize immediately that Canadian pronunciation of "eu t'amo" (I love you) which she taught me from the Portuguese:

One big problem. Between Paramaribo, on the north coast of S.A., and Rio, down around the middle of the continent, lie about 1,500 miles of jungle, mountains, jaguars (not the car) and cannibals. Enough stuff to give any man the twitch.

So here's your chance to help, gentle reader. If you happen to have an uncle or brother working in the tin mines of La Paz, high in the Andes, we could zig over there and let him put us up for the night.

This would mean a jungle jump of only about 500 miles, a mere bagatelle, though the Andes are a bit dicey. From La Paz, in Bolivia, to Asuncion, Paraguay, is a mere half day's hop.

Then it's just a day's ride by bus up into the Chuco (or Green Hell, as it is known) and it's a casual, "Hi, Hugh. Thought I'd drop down and say hello." I can just see his face. And hear his first remark, "Where's Mom?"

As you can see, the trip would be a piece of cake, once we sorted out a few rough spots, like that jungle bit. On the way home, we could go around by Sao Paulo, where I know a couple of nurses. Or did 30 years ago. No problem.

All it needs is a little co-operation from my readers. If you know anyone who could put us up for the night in Peru or Chile or Buenos Aires, feel free to drop a line. We'll shake up with anyone, even missionaries.

Oh. There's one other thing. You may have noticed that I've been using "we" all along, and that my wife isn't going. There's no paradox involved.

I'm quite certain that some Faithful Reader has a light aircraft, a pilot's license, and the summer off. Preferably male, though if the Women's Lib raises a stink, I'll take anybody.

I'll be perfectly willing to split the cost of the gas. No guarantees, of course, except a lot of southern hospitality, and home by Christmas, d.v.

Pet of the week



LADY IS a part German Shepherd and part Husky dog who lives on Rockwood's Fifth Line. Because of the warm weather and her skin Lady's owners, the Des Roches family, got her coat trimmed. Lady looks a little like a lion, with her mane and pom-pom tail, but she's a five year old dog, so do not call the police for help.

Urgent need for blood

Medical operations in Toronto have been almost totally stopped, according to Hank Kroes, from the Acton Red Cross.

The spokesman was notified yesterday (Tuesday) by Red Cross of Canada that there was an urgent need for blood for major operations in the city.

The next blood clinic in Acton is Monday. Mr. Kroes is looking for as many as 500 pints of blood, which will be immediately rushed to Toronto for urgent use. Mr. Kroes is appealing to everyone to help the situation as best they can. 500 donors are needed if the Acton Red Cross is to reach its goal. The clinic will be held at the Legion.

The clinic is planned for the Legion hall from 1.30 to 4 in the afternoon and 6 to 8.30 in the evening. The local committee will arrange transportation; the number to call is 853-0630.

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