

NEWSY NOTES

By J. A. Clark, D.Sc.
CARACAS

We arrived in Caracas, Venezuela, after an eleven-mile drive from La Guaira Airport, over one of the finest turnpike 6-lane roads that we have seen. The former road was about 23 miles, and it had 29 hairpin turns getting over the two ranges of mountains. The city of Caracas has a population of about 800,000. It presents a marvelous sight at night when the Caracas Valley is lighted by the full length of twelve miles; in some cases it is lighted right to the top of adjacent hills. It averages about three miles wide and has many beautiful, large buildings.

Besides the 6-lane autopista superhighway mentioned, which was completed this year, at least two of the main avenues are being widened and improved. This has thrown traffic into other streets, so that we moved bumper to bumper through city streets, with cars three abreast that were going our way for miles through the city.

One passenger in our taxi stopped at the Patomac Hotel, which is quite new. He was the only one that could speak Spanish, so after many turns and quite a little hill climbing, we arrived at the Avila Hotel, but no one had asked to be taken there. We went back into the street and after a few miles we could see straight ahead of the 4-lane boulevard, up on the side of a steep hill in great white letters: "Tamanaco" Hotel.

This hotel has a very unique and modern design. With its back toward a beautiful tree-covered mountain, this semi-L-shaped hotel with seven receding balconies on each end, in addition to great balconies along the front, facing on a swimming pool and lawns planted with trees and shrubs, appealed to us as the most magnificent hotel we have seen anywhere. It is air-conditioned, quite cool after the heat which we had experienced on the coast. The thermometer was at 72 degrees F. and we had to put on a coat to write letters. We arrived Sunday evening, and were unable to get our friends on the telephone until Monday morning, when we moved to a room which had been secured for us by Mr. Clair Johnson, Secretary of the Caracas, Y.M.C.A. We went back later in the week to get our Venezuela Visa, that the clerk of the "Tamanaco" had put in our letter box.

Monday we called on a number of men in government employ, and later found that Dr. Gustav Rohstedt, an outstanding authority

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PATTERN 302

Enough clear pine for a pair of these stands with this plywood for drawers and backing will cost about eight dollars at the nearest yard. For the skilled craftsman with power tools, a glued-up stock in any of the hardwoods in cabinet-makers grade is recommended as more suitable material for this design. The lines are modern yet harmonize with a wide variety of furnishings. A painted, stained or natural wood finish may be used. The proportions are just right for lamp, radio, books and magazines. The utility drawer is eight inches deep and is of the simple block-front construction. This pattern is included in the Bedroom Furniture Packet at \$1.50. Or 302 may be ordered separately at only 35c.

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TIMELY NOTES ON TOPICS CONNECTED WITH Silver Fox And Mink Farming

The annual meeting of the Canadian Mink Breeders' Association is being held here on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday of next week. Between 20 and 25 of the most prominent mink breeders of Canada are present to meet with our local mink men and discuss the various problems connected with the industry. Representing Newfoundland is Premier Smallwood, who is very keenly interested in mink breeding and believes that it has a good future.

We have had talks with several prominent mink breeders here and they are of the opinion that mink breeding on a large scale should be a very profitable undertaking. The reason they give is that horse meat can be bought as cheaply as in any part of the Dominion and fish offal can be obtained from Souris at about one cent per pound. With this low cost of feed and a properly arranged ranch there is no question but that a good profit can be made at prices obtainable for mink on present day markets, but one must be producing on a fairly large scale such as Allyn Ekstrom, owner of the Kay-Bee Fur Farm, which is located about 26 miles west of Denver, Colorado. He has a stream-lined system of feeding by which 1500 mink can be fed by one man in one and one-half hours. Here is the explanation

Each of the five double sheds, which are 160 feet long, is equipped with a steel track fastened to the ceiling. To the track is fitted two wheels, from which are suspended chains with hooks on the ends. The 500-lb. capacity buckets are loaded in the feed house, lifted into the truck by chain hoist and driven to the shed. Here they are swung out of the truck onto the conveyor track, one bucket to a shed. Pushing the bucket along as he feeds, a man can watch the mink at the same time. He can stop whenever necessary, and is "feeding mink instead of pens." A wood platform, hooked to the chains, makes a convenient way to carry bedding and nest boxes. It is also used in moving kits when being separated.

The Kay-Bee ranch carries 325 breeding females. About half the herd is of brown type; Ruby-Eye Pastel, Stewart Pastel, Brown-Eye Pastel. The other half consists of blue type: St. vart Platinum and Sapphire. Kit production this year was over 1,200. It is thorough keeping with the tradition of this ranch that it still has foxes—38 females and 10 males—Standard Silvers, Pearls, Pearlattinas and Glacier Blues. The Kay-Bee was founded in Wyoming in 1926 by Clarence F. Ekstrom, a great fox man. The ranch was moved to the Conifer region of Colorado in 1937. Clarence Ekstrom was U. S. sales representative for famed McNeill foxes, and one of the most prominent fox farmers in America. "It's only natural for me to raise foxes," said Allyn. "I was raised with them. The foxes are fed a daily ration of equal parts of fish, tripe and cereal. The gray crags of Doubleheader Mountain look down on acres of fox pens, most of them in good repair, awaiting the day. But the five double sheds show plainly that young Ekstrom didn't sit out the fox disaster. He is one of the West's most progressive mink ranchers.

In the National Fur News is an article by J. Kokolaky, Fur Farm Supervisor, Department of Agriculture, Edmonton, Alberta, on the origin of Palomino mink which is very interesting. The very first mink of this color phase originated in the spring of 1945 on a ranch owned by Frank Johnson at Mundare, Alberta, some 35 miles east of the city of Edmonton. Since Mr. Johnson never did have any mutations in his herd of 900 Standard mink, he was somewhat surprised when he noticed a colored kit in one of his Standard to Standard litters. His curiosity was aroused and the development of this particular male kit was watched with more than casual interest.

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Ancient Indian Fort Recaptured By Portuguese

BOMBAY, India — (Reuters) — A Portuguese warship's recapture of a crumbling fort from Goan nationalists after a lengthy barrage was reported in a flurry of excited Indian newspaper stories yesterday. A report by the Press Trust of India, the Indian national news agency, said it was presumed the Portuguese cruiser fired blanks in the bombardment before landing troops to recapture Tiracol fort on the outskirts of the Portuguese colony of Goa.

The barrage was reported to have lasted more than an hour, and was said to have been followed by heavy machine gun fire covering the landing of Portuguese troops. No casualties or damage were reported. Nationalist groups crossing over from India took over the ancient fort from its small Portuguese garrison last Sunday as other demonstrators crossed the border into Goa calling for union of the tiny coastal colony with India. In Lisbon, the Portuguese overseas ministry announced that Portuguese police had recaptured Tiracol, lowered an Indian flag hoisted over it by the invaders and arrested 15 demonstrators found inside the fortress.

A struggle for control of "liberated" Portuguese territory, meanwhile, was developing between two nationalist groups which took over the enclave of Nagar Aveli inland from Damao. Reporters returning from the area said fighting has broken out between the Communist-led Goan People's party and the Free Goan Congress, which previously had joined forces to wrest the isolated area from Portuguese control. The Goan People's party has been pushed back to the south of the enclave, which is entirely surrounded by Indian territory, after 15 of its members were "arrested" by the Free Goan Congress in an unsuccessful attempt to capture the village of Khandwel from its former allies.

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