

Tips & Notes

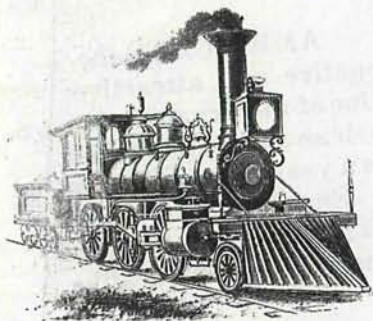
ON TRACK

THE FAMOUS steam locomotives that ran between Guayaquil and Quito, Ecuador, are again running, for the first time since 1983.

Train enthusiasts feared these trains might be retired when severe damage caused by El Niño floods knocked them out of service.

But happily the trains, built in North America -- some over fifty years ago -- are back on track.

A 'Steam in the Andes' expedition is now available to train buffs. This 14



day/13 night tour, billed as a complete land and air package, goes for US\$1678 per person. This includes round trip air fare from Miami, all lodging, transportation and airport fees. Special roundtrip fares from San Francisco, Los Angeles and New York are also available.

All tour members have an opportunity to ride in the cab of the steam locomotive, and in some cases, sit in the fireman or engineer's seat and even get to blow the whistle. For a bird's eye view of the country, the locomotive pulls two boxcars with vista domes. Passengers can ride on car roofs.

For reservations, contact: Trains Unlimited Tours, 1430 Myers Street, Suite H, Oroville, CA 95969. Tel: (916)534-8555; or Ladeco, US toll free, 1-(800)432-0123, Canada toll free 1-(800)423-7492; Miami (305)371-2799.

BAT MEN

IF YOU'RE looking for quick-and-dirty travel arrangements for the "cost-conscious traveler," *Budget Adventure Travel* may be the answer. BAT specializes in serving the broke and near broke traveler, offering valuable travel packages and information.

A service of American Youth Hostels, BAT provides adventure travel and

hostel packages for individuals and groups; inexpensive air fares on scheduled and charter flights; rail passes and other services.

BAT also offers inexpensive hotel and campground bookings and special shipping information for travelers with backpacks, bicycles and skis.

For information call 1-(800) 637-9663 or (202) 783-3210.

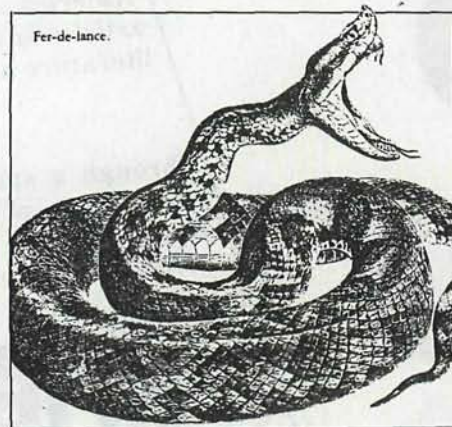
WITH A GRAIN OF SALT

THE FOLLOWING information was sent in by William F. Walker of Canada:

Electrozap that bite: In *Explorer #18*, the unverified treatment for snakebites of 2cc 10% Epsom salts injected around the bite was described.

A recently developed verified unconventional treatment for snake, ant, scorpion and bee bites or stings is described in the medical journal *The Lancet* (July 26, 1986, p.229). It involves applying a high voltage, low current electric shock to the wound area within one or two hours of being bitten.

Using an outboard motor or modified stun gun as the current source, this



technique has been used successfully many times on bites in Ecuador and Peru. A 25kV, less than 1mA direct current is applied for one to two seconds, repeated five times with five to ten second intervals between.

HAPPY BERTHDAY

SEE THE WORLD on US\$100 a day!

It may not seem the most economical way to travel, but the luxury facilities on freighters these days more than make up for the price.

According to the *TravLtips Cruise*

and *Freighter Association*, freighters are offering spacious and private accommodations equal to or exceeding those offered on cruise ships. Most ships are limited to twelve passengers, so the general feeling is often like being a guest on a yacht.



And there's no shortage of entertainment either, as long as people are willing to entertain themselves. Most ships come equipped with VCR, library, swimming pool and sun deck. The only thing missing are the dances and floor shows that make cruise ships more expensive.

The food is good, down to earth fare -- the same stuff the crew eats. And most crews will not settle for mediocre cuisine, so the quality is almost guaranteed. Plus, guests are usually served in the officer's dining room.

TravLtips publishes a magazine every two months with a listing of regular freighter routes; including trips up the lower Amazon, whale watching off Baja, California, and even a few history-oriented trips.

TravLtips' members provide reports to the magazine on trips they've taken, often including photos, ship's menus and shopping and sightseeing highlights.

To join, send \$15 to *TravLtips Cruise and Freighter Association*, Box 188, Dept. A4, Flushing, New York 11358; Tel: (800) 872-8584, in New York (718) 939-2400.

WORST CASE SCENARIO

A LITTLE UNEASY about your trip abroad? The South American Explorers Club seldom agrees with the United States State Department's appraisal of political situation in South American countries, but if you really want a reason to cancel your trip, call (202)647-5225, where 30 men and women staffing the *Citizens' Emergency Center* at the US State Department. Hours are from 6:15 a.m. until 8:00 p.m. MDT, Monday through Friday.

Living Memorial and Tribute to Honor

Francisco Mendes Filho

"Chico Mendes"

The Brazilian rubber tapper leader, assassinated on December 22, 1988. He gave his life to unite indigenous peoples, the landless poor and conservationists against the destruction of the Amazon rainforest.

The largest gathering of Indian and non-Indian leaders ever organized will meet from February 21-26, 1989, in Altamira in the State of Para, Brazil. Altamira was chosen for the "encounter" because it is the proposed center of the enormous Xingu Hydroelectric Project that will cost US\$10.6 billion, inundate more than 15 million acres of forest and force 35,000 Indians representing 11 different nations off their traditional lands.

The conference aims to awaken world attention to the urgent need to preserve the Amazon and its people and plan a unified strategy to combat deforestation and megaprojects that adversely affect tropical ecosystems.

The meeting will be held as a memorial to Chico Mendes, the first ecological martyr of Brazil. His death is helping to mobilize national and international efforts to stop senseless destruction of the jungle.

Over 1,000 Indian leaders from all over Brazil and the Americas are expected to participate in the program. A special memorial service will be held and Nobel Prize laureate Jose Lutzenberger will address the delegates.

The union of Indian and non-Indian leaders working together for the preservation of Amazonia was the dream of Chico Mendes. It is hoped that this meeting will create a living memorial to Chico and be a first step towards realizing his dream.

The *Citizens' Emergency Center* is widely used by corporate travel planners who arrange business trips, as well as travel agents and even US citizens worried about friends or family abroad. In addition to information on revolutions, war and guerilla activities, the Center dispenses news on hotel room shortages, water problems and electrical outages.

The traveler's safety is the *Center's* prime consideration. Topping the *Center's* list of 49 countries that carry an advisory caution or warning of some kind, are Iran, Lebanon and Iraq, to which the State Department says decisively, "Don't Go." Other categories include: "Avoid travel to this country, or forego non-essential travel until further notice." Peru is the only South American country to carry a cautionary warning.

The *Center* prefers to mail information to callers, but for emergencies, it will provide the most essential information over the phone. Written reports are detailed and include a general overview of the political situation and routes or places to avoid, as well as problems entering or leaving the

country.

Sometimes an advisory is many months old. "But," says a State Department spokesman, "when conditions change, it will be updated."



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