

1F
2907

W. MARKHAM'S ACCOUNT
OF APRISING

On the afternoon of Feb. 21, 1925 everything seemed quiet and peaceful in this old world. Any way I was on my way to the Gatun Spillway to fish for tarpon, when a man approached me at the Colon R.R. Station and said "Bill you are interested in the San Blas Indians are you not?" I replied that I was, "Well" he said "the whole darn coast is up in arms an open rebellion against the Panama government and Mr Marsh is there alone with them."

This was about all the information he gave me. I afterwards learned his name was Mr Johnson who had accompanied Mr Marsh to the San Blas. Rumors flew thick and fast for a few days. On the 26 of Feb. about eleven A.M. I was informed that I was wanted officially to go to the San Blas on board the U.S.S. Cruised Cleveland, at that time making her way through the Canal for Cristobal. That afternoon about four o'clock an Indian Chief came to me on the Street and told me all about the troubles. He was greatly worried about it.

I told him not to worry as it was the best thing for the Indian in the long run. I also informed him that the big ship out in the harbor was going up there that night and I was going with it. He seemed greatly relieved.

I went to the Washington Hotel and had a long talk with United States Minister South. About 8p.m. I went on board the Cleveland. She was anchored out in the channel. I got acquainted with the Captain. W.B. Wells, just a big broad shouldered American, a little fussy about his two dogs one an Airdale the other a brindle bull. He seemed to be the type of Admiral Rodman the kind that the Americans like to have represent them in foreign countries. I afterwards learned that he was well liked and respected by his crew.

In a short time U.S. Minister John G. South, Justice Carlos L. Lopez Col. Arango and Mr H.A. Ford the British Consul at Colon came on board, and at nine p.m. we pulled anchor and headed out between the breakwater straight for San Blas point. In the meantime the La Isla left Colon at 5:30 p.m. with 200 Panama National Police aboard, and the Navy tug left Cocoa Solo at three p.m. with Col. Lamb head of the National police, and Mr Lewis the moving picture man.

I had the best intentions of being seasick but the boat was big and heavy did not roll to any great extent although the sea was quite rough.

I was given one of the officers rooms and dined with them part of the time and the balance with Dr South and the Captain. The ship of course was spotless and the linen clean, the food was good and I found the officers a good bunch of scouts. They had movies on board which were attended by the officers and crew. We arrived off the San Blas Point soon after daybreak. On our left was the La Isla rolling and plunging in the heavy seas. She was bucking the wind and waves head on. We worked our way around the point, the treacherous channel with the aid of the leadline. We got clear of the point and let go anchor.

Getting into one of the ships boats with the Panamanians and Dr. South we started back for the Point. The La Isla was just rounding the point and was in the trough of the sea. We tried to put the Panamans on board but the seas was so rough the job was given up and we went on in. It was a laughable sight to see. I do not know what information the Police had but they had a machine gun mounted on the bow, the gunmen all set for business. The soldiers stood around the deck with their guns, some of them pointed at the other ones backs.

Not an Indian in seven miles. I expected the ship would roll over but she finally went on in and anchored near the island of El Porvenir, the home of Mr Mejica the Governor of San Blas. We went up to the little dock and went ashore, not a soul on the island, the Panamanians had left in a hurry, leaving everything behind. We found the frame buildings intact. A few of the thatched huts had been burned, also a few on an adjacent island. I understood the frame building had been spared by the advise and wish of Mr Marsh.

The officers and troops were landed about the same time. Mr Perino Mr Beardley and another official of the Mandingo banana Co. came on shore from the boat called San Blas. They all wore revolvers, all set to fight Indians.

Mr Beardley informed us that Mr Marsh was at Cardí with about 4000 Indians well armed. The Panamanians did not like the bad news. Mr Perino gave Dr. Lopez several papers that he claimed Mr Marsh wrote. We looked over the island and found but little damage done to the frame buildings, we then all boarded the Cleveland. Again Sr South had an interview with the men from the banana Co. In the meantime we hauled anchor and ^{went} on our way to Cardí. Dr South remarked to me that it looked bad for Marsh. I replied "better wait until you hear Mr Marsh's story and it may look different."

We dropped anchor about one quarter of a mile from the larger of the Cardí islands, where the new flag of Tule was flying from their Council building. I was requested to take a boat with its crew and go ashore alone and find Mr Marsh. We made straight for the building with the flag flying on its roof. We could not get close in with our boat so I beckoned for an Indian to come and get me in a cayuca which he did. I did not know whether I was welcome in this little rebellion or not but felt safe enough.

A great many Indian women were standing around anxious to see what was going to happen. I approached the door of the council building and there stood four Indians doing sentinal duty. I entered and stopped to take in the sight,

Around the outside of the room was a double row of Indian soldiers, all had guns of different types nearly all had machetes, In the center were seated the chiefs and Mr Marsh and back of them were several hundred Indians. I walked up to Mr Marsh and shook his hand. He looked hale and hearty considering all the rumors we had heard about him. Then I got my eyes on my old friend Olonebeguinua head chief of the lower San Blas.

There was several of the other chiefs that recognized me and came forward and shook my hand. I turned to Mr Marsh and told him that Minister South was on board the Cruiser and would like to have an interview with him.

He readily consented and we passed out of the council chamber. I asked Mr Marsh why all the big disturbance and why he was mixed up in it, and he replied "Bill, you know what their grievances are and any red blooded American would do the same as I have done. I did not start this rebellion but I did their writing for them and I will take my chances with the Indians and give up my life if necessary for their cause." "Well" I replied "You have a big heart but I don't think you will have to do the fighting alone. We have several million Americans that will help you when they know the truth of this disturbance." We went on board the Cruiser, all were attending, I took him down and introduced him to all the officers. After dinner Dr. South held a private interview with him, and after the interview was over Dr. South looked somewhat different. There ~~is~~ always two sides to a story. *over*

Dr. South expressed a desire to go ashore and have a talk with the Indians and I was requested to arrange a meeting between them. Taking a boat with several officers and a few civilians we went ashore. I got in touch with the head chief again and told him to get all his Sub-Chiefs together and be ready to meet the Big Chief from the States. He immediately gave out the order for his canoe men to go to the different islands and bring the Sub chiefs. He certainly was pleased to see me and wanted to know all about the big cayuca, how long it was going to stay. I could not tell him. He told me all about the brutal treatment of the Panamanians. We talked for a long time, in the meantime the other chiefs began to arrive. All were glad to see me. At last the Minister arrived. I went to the shore and escorted him to the council chamber, introduced him to the chiefs,

+ Now in Linga Point Museum

and explained to them what his mission was. We all sat down, one chief told of the way the San Blas Indian had kept his blood pure, how the policemen had taken the Indian girls, raped and insulted them and if the father or mother protested they were thrown in jail and fined from five to twenty five dollars gold. Another chief told how one Indian was hung by his hands for seven days without food or water. Another chief told how the Panamanian police cut down their coconuts, and that they had gone to Panama to see the President. He had promised them relief, but it did not come, only more policemen. Another chief told how they pulled the nose and ear rings out of the girls nose and ears and kept them and did not give back anything in return only abuse and insult. At last the head chief got up and in a clear even voice told us that they did not object to education but not in the way that the Panamanians wanted them to have it, which meant a policeman with a 44 on his hip and the authority of the government behind them.

Also their land was being taken away from them, the turtles were being taken from them and there was no hopes for them in the future but starvation and ruin.

The Minister seemed greatly interested in them and promised to do all in his power to right their wrongs through the Panamanian Gov't, but not direct. I asked the head chief if he would not attack the Panamanians he said they would not if the police would leave them alone. The meeting broke up and we had some pictures taken. Two years ago I sat in this same building one night listening to a discussion between two Indians over a boundary line. Little did I dream that in so short a time I would be back in the same council chamber with a representative of the State Dep't, with a battleship in sight and a hundred million Americans behind it. All the time I was thinking of the time that I had gone to President Porras and laid all the Indian grievances before him, how I had put it in writing in a friendly and honorable way and the letter I have now how he promised to treat them right, but never gave it a thought after that. We all went back to the ship. Dr South had a conference with the Panamanians and after the conference broke up I noticed the expression on Dr. Lopez face, the interview evidently was not to his liking. Everything was quiet that night, next morning with the permission of Dr/South I had a talk with Col. Arango. I asked if there was anyway to bring about a settlement to avoid bloodshed, he said no, The Indians had killed sixteen Panamanian policemen and that the next morning they would have at Povenir over 400 men and that in twenty four hours they would have the Indians down on their knees begging. "Well, Dick" I replied "I don't doubt you in the least but I have known you for fifteen years and let me tell you as a friend, in compelling the Indians to get down on their knees don't harm the innocent women and children if you do you will be lucky to have a flag at Panama, let alone along the San Blas coast. I left them then and went up on deck, the Captain gave me a boat and I went ashore called for the head chief and explained to him that the police intended to attack them in the morning, and that they had better take to the hills. He said no they would stay and fight it out on the island. I explained to him that the thatch houses could be very easy set on fire and there would be no way to prevent it and another thing there was no water, the only place was the jungle and rivers.

He thought a moment then turned and gave the order to move into the hills along the river, that the police were coming. All knew what that meant to the Indian. At the time the chief was giving the order to move my eyes happened to rest on a little boy about eight years of age. He was listening to the chief his mouth began to pucker, his eyes to blink, the order was slowly sinking into his brain. All at once he began looking around and finally he saw what he

4

was looking for, a little spotted pup. He grabbed it and ran for the cayuca jumped into the stern next the little paddle. He had all that was dear to him; not a thought of his father, mother or little sister, no corn or rice to live on during the rebellion, no machete to defend himself and pup against the wild animals of the jungles not a stitch of clothing to protect his little body from the cold. He had heard the order from the big chief and he had obeyed. He was ready to take whatever the future had in store for him.

The Indians had their homes filled with corn, rice and vegetables their seasons supply. They began to load it in cayucas and move it up the river out of reach of the Panamanians. They did not seem excited to any great extent not as much as a person would naturally expect under the circumstances.

I walked back into the council chamber, a girl or young woman came to me and started to point at me with her finger. She talked fast and furious with fire in her eyes. She knew I could not understand her but still she talked, I asked the interpreter what was the matter with her? "She says she don't want to go to the jungle on account of the mosquitoes they would kill the children. She wanted to stay and fight wanted to know why Americans could not stop the Spanish?" I told him that we were waiting for word from Washington. I knew it would come ~~to stop us~~ but I did not expect that we would get it inside of three or four days. In the meantime the Panamanians could do a whole lot of damage with machine guns and fire. She was the chief's daughter, eighteen years old. She had on solid gold ear and nose rings but had on her house dress. Her name was ~~xxxxxx~~. Looking around the Island I ran across a Spanish woman she was crying, she would not speak English. Getting the Indian that spoke both English and Spanish I began to make inquiries about her. The Indian said she was the wife of one of the policemen that had been killed. She was afraid some one would harm her. I told her she was the safest woman in Panama, to just be quiet until I went back to the ship and I would see that she was taken care of. Later we took her furniture and personal effects including \$400 gold she had in her trunk and took her to El Povenir. She was happy and laughing all the way over but just as soon as I helped her out of the boat on the little dock she promptly fell on the shoulder of the nearest Panamanian policeman and began to yell and cry. On the same trip we also had Col. Arango and Dr. Lopez. Negotiations had broken off as far as they were concerned, but the wireless man was busy. Upon our arrival at Povenir we found the Policeman without water and with but very little food. We got back to the Cleveland and reported to Dr. South. After lunch I was called into the Captains quarters and shown a wireless from Alfaro asking if there was a possibility of arranging a meeting between the Indians and a representative of the Panama Government. Dr. South said "I don't think there is a chance as the Indians are scattered and we cannot get them together again". I replied that if the Captain would give me a boat I would have all the Indians he would care to meet. The Captain said "sure I will give you the boat and 300 men if you want them. Dr. South wirelessed to Alfaro to send the man and we would be ready for him. This was Sat. Feb 28 -25. The Captain ordered a boat crew to get ready and we went ashore. I went to each island of the whole group and asked the sub chief to get the Indians together. After they got seated in their council chamber I told the chief what I wanted and I asked him to not go back on me, but to be ready when the big boat came for them. Every Indian on all the Islands promised me that they would be ready. I asked the head chief to send his canoe man to the windward and get the chiefs from River Suga, Diablo Margana, River Ceder and the island of Tigre. It did not seem over two minutes before they were on their way, 29 miles against the wind to be back in the morning ready for the

Conference. In the meantime the British Consul had requested a boat to go to Nargana and get Miss Coope and all other British subjects and bring them to the Cleveland. While talking to the chief a hand was laid on my shoulder and looking around behold it was my old friend Richard from Nargana, smiling as usual.

He had got word that I was there with the big cayuca and he started immediately to come where I was. I asked him about his wife, he said she was dead. She died from the fever but he told me he was going to catch the next one. She had two children and plenty of coconuts. Looks or figure did not enter into the question. It was coconuts. I sent him back home telling him to be quiet and everything would be all right. He certainly was happy. I also sent my best wishes to Jake and Mary, his brother and sister-in-law.

On one of the islands while talking to the chief, a little girl came up to me and said something. I did not understand. The chief said she wants to know why she cannot wear her rings and beads. She was small only about twelve years old, but dressed to kill. I took her by the hand and said "little girl you certainly can, we are going to ask that you have the same right as any American girl." She disappeared in the crowd and brought back a pigeon and gave to me. I did not know what to do, did not want to refuse for fear of insulting her. I finally made up my mind to take it and keep it on board over night then let it go and it would come back to her. They also gave me eggs. I never did find out what this gift really meant. I took the pigeon on board, gave it to a sailor and told him to let it go in the morning and it would fly back to its home, but the next morning when I went looking for it I found a crowd of probably twenty sailors standing around in a bunch, they had clipped its wings also made a box for it and it was to be their pet instead of the little girl's. The head chief told me that they were going to have a meeting that night at 12 o'clock and wanted me to come. But on account of not being able to get close in with the ship's boat I decided I would not care for the trip in a cayuca. We went on board and the Captain showed me a wireless message from Col. Lamb who was on the Navy Tug U.S.S. Sciota that left Colon the same day we did. She made straight for Puerto Obaldia and came back the coast stopping at Allegandi. The message read as follows: "Whole San Blas in an uprising caused by abuses of Panamanian police, Marsh not responsible for uprising." Signed Lamb.

Mr South showed me one from Alfaro saying that the chief Justice of Panama would arrive the next morning. That night the Sciota arrived with Miss Coope and the traders from the Colon Import and Export Co.

Next morning bright and early we were up. After breakfast I went ashore and looked things over. The Indians were all ready and waiting for me. They told me about the big meeting the night before and declared that they would all comply with any request that I would make. I told them to be quiet and just wait until the man from Panama arrived and I would come and get them. Going on board I found the Captain had sent his cutter to El Povenir to get the Chief Justice. About noon he arrived on board and was met by the Captain then Dr. South who introduced him to me. Mr South says "now Mr Del La Ossa what do you want?" He replied that he wanted to go on shore and talk with the Indians. Well did I know he had no more intention of going ashore than I did of jumping overboard. Dr South says all right you can go anywhere you like, we will take you but you are welcome to sit here on the deck and Mr Markham will get the Indians to come on board. He did not need any urging, he sat down and Dr. South says "get the Indians". The Captain was right at hand with the order that Mr Markham should go alone. I suggested to Dr South that I had better ask the Indians to take down the rebel flag as it would be rather embarrassing for Mr DeLa Ossa. Dr South replied "not a bad idea if you can get it."

Upon arriving on shore I went to the council Chamber got the interpreter and explained the best I could the agreement between the nations and likened it to their agreement between the islands and tribes, telling them that it was for their good and they could tell the other tribes that it was given to an American. I promised that I would never let the Panamanians have it.

The chief talked it over and the head chief says "you know best, you can have it" and it was hauled down and given to me and it will be placed in the Tioga Point Museum at Athens Pa. my home town in the name of my daughter Inza (Bobbie). It is a flag with red top and bottom and orange center with with a swastika cross in blue. The colors do not mean any thing, only their favorite colors but the cross means good Luck.

Next I told the chief that I wanted three girls around fourteen years old, also his daughter Se a be be. He looked at me and thought a bit then says "yes" turned and called for the girls of that age. I picked three out of perhaps fifty. The chiefs daughter came up to me and said something the interpreter says "she is ready" then I explained why I wanted them.

I wanted to take them face to face with the Chief Justice of Panama and point out to him the type of girls his negro police were raping and insulting. The chief's daughter I thought that if she could tell them just hundredth part as much as she told me it would be a plenty to win their cause.

I was just a little worried about the girls going as they are always shy, but we all got in the ships boat the different chiefs and also the the ones from up the coast that had arrived and were ready.

When we arrived at the ship I went on board first with the chiefs daughter waiting at the top of the gangway until the rest of the women came up then said to the interpreter "tell the girls that this is the big chief of the big cayuca," pointing to the Captain who stood there at attention, his hat was off and he acted pleased to see them. The same reception, the same courtsey that the First lady of the land would have received, then the chiefs were introduced and I began to think the Captain had always known them by his actions. He escorted us to the stern of the ship where chairs had been placed for us, after introducing them to the Panamanians I told the interpreter to stand up, and nodded to Dr South that we were ready.

Dr. South then said "Mr DeLaOssa you can conduct your investigation" Mr DeLaOssa asked "do you know Mr Marsh?" the indians replied that they all knew him. Then they all were asked "did you have anything to do with writing the declaration of independence". all replied "no" "do you know anything about it?" all replied "no". Mr DeLaOssa says to Mr South "I thought so, the indians do not know a thing about it, Mr Marsh started the whole trouble." Mr South replied "Mr DeLaOssa I don't think the indians understand your questions." "Well I cannot find out a thing nobody speaks Spanish, what am I to do". I spoke up and said "I will get you some indians that speak Spanish." Going ashore I got three that could speak English and Spanish they were taken aboard and he asked the questions all over again in Spanish.

Mr DeLaOssa turning to Mr South says "see, just the same, nobody knows a thing about it, that shows Mr Marsh started it". Mr South got some what excited and with considerable force says "I still insist that they don't understand your questions. He turned to me and things looked blue for Mr Marsh then I talked with the indians and found out that the article in question was written on the island of Alligandi, fifty miles to the windward. Then I explained to Mr DeLaOssa that they naturally would not know.

"Well they are all banded together and they must know, they have the same flag how can you account for that?" "Very well Mr DeLaOssa their grievances are identical, all against the same party they naturally would band together, but perhaps Mr Marsh could throw some light on this subject, he wrote it."

~~Mr DeLaOssa says "well Mr Marsh I dont know where he is, how can I get~~

Mr De LaOssa says "well Mr Marsh, I don't know where he is how can I get to him." "Just a minute Mr DeLaOssa," I went below got Mr Marsh, brought him up and introduced him to Mr DeLaOssa rather a raw introduction, considering the Panamanians wanted to hang him, but in front of us was Old Glory flying in the breeze and at our backs were several 5in. rifles pointed at us, so he was quite safe. Mr DeLaOssa says "Mr Marsh who wrote this article?" Mr Marsh was very calm and answered "to what article do you refer?" Mr DeLaOssa answered "the declaration of independence". Mr Marsh says "Idid". Mr DeLaOssa says "you are responsible for this uprising were any of these indians present at Alligandi when you wrote this article?" Mr Marsh looked the indians over and replied "No they had their delegate who is not present." Mr DeLaOssa then asked "how did you get their names". "They were given me by their delegate" "don't you think you are guilty of inciting the people to rebellion?" Mr Marsh replied "no, the indians all met either in person or by delegate at Alligandi and asked him to write it, He had used his own way of expressing their wishes, this trouble started ten years ago when the Panamanians sent their negro police up here to civilize them."

Mr DeLaOssa says "I cannot find out a thing this happened down the coast fifty miles how can I get there. Mr South says "right with this boat we will take you anywhere you want to go everything is at your disposal." Turning to the Captain he said "can we get in there" the navigating officer replied that we could, Mr South says to Mr DeLaOssa I want you to be satisfied with your investigation. We will do all we can to help you get at the bottom of this trouble. Mr DeLaOssa says it is fifty miles down there and I got to be in Colon in the morning, I won't have time but it is all right my mind was made up before I came up here. Mr South says "so was mine Mr DeLaOssa."

Then the Indian troubles were discussed the chief told him all about the things Governor Mojica had done to them. Mr DeLaOssa says "well Mr Mojica has been taken care of and he won't trouble you any more. The chief sat down then I went and got his daughter Seabebe by the arm and placed her before him, I asked him "Mr DeLaOssa what objection do you have to this ladies dress. Taking off her head dress "what is wrong with the nose and ear-rings has not she the same right to to wear ornaments as your wife or mine?"

He says sure." Look at her dress it is modest neat and respectable also adapted to their way of living and if they think it is pretty you and I ought to be satisfied. He got a little bit excited and says we have no objection to their dress. "Yes but you did". Turning to the interpreter I told him to tell her to tell her troubles to this man and she did better than I thought she would. To think she is the first woman of their tribe that has been allowed to plead their cause and if womens rights are ever obtained in San Blas it will be Se abbe that has set the ball rolling she did not use the fire in her voice that she used with me but she told how the negro police had torn the rings from the nose and ears and had never given them a cent in return. How they had stopped them wearing their pretty little Noola or dress and compelled them to wear a dress that was long and in the way, would always get wet when getting in the cayuca how it took so much time to put on and take off, told how the negro police caught the little girls and took them away. Then I called Mr DeLaOssa's attention to the three little girls sitting in the chairs. He raised his hands and says "I know all about it but I am a Judge not a Governor or President. I came up here to investigate Mr Marsh. Next question was the goods that had been taken from El Povenir the night the Indians raided it. I had told the chief that it would be better to give it back, and he said they would if I

said so, take everything back including the guns, but I told him to keep the guns for awhile. I told Mr DeLaOssa that the indians would return the stores in good condition except the rifles and ammunition. He says "well why not the guns they were stolen." I told him the indians did not refuse to give them up but that the panamanians had no use for them and it was myself not the indians that would hold them. Mr DeLaOssa did us good-by and left for El Povenir. Dr South proposed showing the Indians the bigcayuca and the Captain was there with bells on. They were shown over the big boat, the Captain had the crew work the big guns went down in the kitchen bakery and laundry but they balked when it came to going into the engine room. When we came up on deck again Dr. South bought them all cagarettes and chewing gum. It was their first visit on a bkg boat and the stories they will have to tell when sitting on a log making their little dresses.

We took them back to their homes and I went after some of the furniture that the Indians had. Next morning we took six boats and went after the balance of it. The indians had taken everything that was movable, a big victrola beds bedding typewriters clothing all the rifles the police had and a hundred different things that the panamanians had in a store they were running including three cases of whisky.

This shows the honesty of the indians, no matter what anyone says to the contrary. this is proof beyond a doubt. For instance here was candy in glass jars not a piece disturbed no guard over it. The order was given by the chief to leave it alone. Take any child or children any where in the states or elsewhere and let them play around an open candy jar ten days and the candy would disappear. Another test, here was the three cases of whisky place them any where in the states in any building church or school or home, would it last ten days? no. Here was the clothing, albums, pictures and other personal effects that belonged to Gov. Mojica not a thing damaged or destroyed. Then the cases of tobacco the top board had been torn off but no tobacco taken out, and the indians had been without tobacco for ten days well it would not happen to me even if the big chief did give the order. After the goods were all loaded in the boats I told the chief I expected to go to Colon but the big boat would stay. He bid me good-by and I went to the windward island to see an indian family that I had stayed with during my previous visit. He was building a new house when I arrived. He had seen me at the meetings in the council chamber but did not get a chance to talk to me. His family gathered around smiling, the little girl that he wanted me to take a year ago had grown to be quite a young lady they had lavished gold ear and nose rings on her and her dress was of the brightest colors. Her mother still had the glass jar that I gave her and the little girl had the looking glass. After a short visit we started for the boat to go on board when we ran across a man making pottery, the first I had seen among the indians. Upon inquiring about it I was informed that he was from the mountains and not a native of the island. They were pots for fibre;

Upon arriving on board I reported that all the material was now loaded and on its way to El Povenir all in good shape and that I had told the officer in charge to get a receipt for it. I was told that the sea planes would be there about 1 P.M. and that I could go home in one of them if I cared to that there would be no more meetings in San Blas but there might be one on Panama. I consented to go and after lunch we were sitting on deck watching for them they have in sight right on time. Dr. South and his Secretary Berger got in one and the Captain of the plane was instructed to go to Panama.

The other one to Colon with Mr Markham and Clayton. We got in the plane they placed me in the cockpit or right in front, gave me some cotton to put in my ears, instructed me to take off my hat and sunglasses and to take out all loose things in my pockets, this was to be my first ride in a plane. It was one of the big bombing planes and carried six men. The big propellers began to turn then whirl then roar and we were off. The sea was tough, we hit the top of the waves for some time then into open space and so on up into the air, we made for El Povenir to look the place over once more. We circled that once then for home 1000 feet up in the air. We kept right over the shore line and the breakers were pounding below us sending up their white foam but no noise, just a white ribbon below us. The other plane was at our right they seemed to be setting out there in the air. I could feel the plane bump like an automobile hitting a small object in the street. I suppose it was the air pockets then the plane would drop a few feet but right back to the same elevation. The day was clear and I got a good view of the coast. The man in the rear was wirelessing to the other plane also receiving messages. When we got over the submarine base at Cocosols he started down and here was where I got the thrill of my life. Starting from an elevation of 1000 feet on an angle of about 45degrees I wondered if his gear would hold, if he would make the dip all right. I thought of a hundred things that could go wrong all in the space of a few seconds, but just before he hit the water he made the necessary dip and we glided into the water, was helped ashore and brought to my home in Colon in one of the big navy busses.

One hour five minutes about eighty miles straight line, no sickness or dizziness but some time before the roar of the propellers left my ears.

This ends my second trip to the San Blas Indians. Two days later Dr. South went back they got the Panamanians and the same Indians together and signed the following agreement. Dr. South being a witness in other words the State dep't is a party to the treaty.

Handwritten signature and notes, possibly including the name "Dr. South" and "Panamanians".