

Farmer is king in Ecuador

In Ecuador, there is a bustle in the air in hotel lobbies and on the street created by smartly dressed young men from all over the world, chasing a good business market. Among the first hints of information directed toward you is that security is fine here.

This country of seven million people has an elevation of 9,000 feet. From October through May is the wet season and as a seasoned traveler you don't let that bother you because during the dry season it is very hot. It is another country where there are four seasons every day.

Coming into Quito from the airport you see an immense wood sculpture of a farmer working in the fields. "He" is king in Ecuador. Another detail was immediately observed going into town — transport is excellent.

Two lanes go in each direction, on excellent roads. Then parallel with these is another set of double lanes for

local traffic. Between the fast and slow lanes there is a 10-foot parklet with trees and flowers motif to add elegance. Take note Detroit and suburbs.

THESE ARE tin roofs on factories and the homes have beautiful tile roofs. The architecture has a Spanish influence. Eucalyptus trees are everywhere, having been introduced from Australia. In the country the scenery is beautiful and mountainous, with many "sleeping" volcanoes and graceful acacia trees with their umbrella forms. The Indians have their gardens on steep mountains and as in Peru they can't use modern machinery.

If you go to Ecuador do plan to team up with somebody and take one day to drive south and another day north with an English speaking driver in a cab. In the south, we saw an Indian tribe where they wear dark blue ponchos.

The women were doing their washing



down to earth
**Alice Wessels
Burlingame**

at the local stream, pounding the soiled clothes, on rocks. They looked very clean. Cactus is used for soap.

Corn, corn, corn is grown everywhere and it takes eight months before harvest. We saw lantanas (our annuals) used as shrubs.

"Yours Truly" can only be a tourist so long. Then I made a visit to the American Embassy (a good place to read newspapers).

Ecuador has a new president after a long time with a military government. There is new legislation — a woman can retire with a pension after 25 years of employment and there's 40 hour work week for all. There is mandatory education and the university in Quito has an enrollment of 50,000 students.

ECUADOR IS hesitant about involvements with other countries. In 1940 Peru came in and took a third of the country, the oil rich area. Ecuador is the leader in the world in the export of bananas and sixth in the export of cocoa and coffee. They also export abaca (hemp) which is unraveled from a tree which looks like a banana tree. They import wheat, fats and oils, plus tobacco leaves.

Every Monday in the labor market at least 300 people mill around as employers come to look over potential employees.

It is really a thrill to see this emerging democracy. There will be plenty of mistakes.

You take away many memories. There are very few traffic lights but it seems like millions of mini cars are jockeying for position to get around in Quito with a population of 500,000. Local readers will appreciate knowing the Mormon Church is well thought of and established in Ecuador.

The current concern of the American Embassy is the drug traffic from Ecuador to Miami. Education on the effects of drugs is one of the control approaches used.

If you elect to go to South American where the elevation is high, remember to lie down immediately for at least two or three hours upon arrival to condition your body. And remember it takes three times longer to digest a meal at these elevations. Walk, stay up and move around after a big meal.

Detroit Concert Band to play first program in S'field auditorium

Dr. Leonard Smith and the Detroit Concert Band, with Mike Whorf as narrator, will provide the premiere program 8 p.m. March 28 in Southfield's new Civic Auditorium.

Cornetist James B. Underwood and soprano Imogene Bird will be featured soloists in a versatile program with works by Richard Wagner, Johann Strauss, Richard Rogers, Rafael Mendler, Edwin Franko Goldman, Leo Delibes, Emmanuel Chabrier and John Philip Sousa.

Reserved seating only tickets are available in person or by mail (check

or money-order enclosed with self-addressed, stamped envelope, please) at \$6, \$7.50 and \$8.50 from the Cultural Division, City of Southfield, c/o Parks & Recreation, 26000 Evergreen, Southfield 48076. For information, call 354-4717 or 354-9603 weekdays between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m.

Completely barrier free, Southfield's new Civic Auditorium seats 2,058 and is on Civic Center Drive 26000 Evergreen Road Civic Center complex. There is well-lighted free parking at the ground level, in addition to underground parking available at \$1.

Methodist church hosts Ecumenical Renewal Day

Ecumenical Renewal Day, for men, women and teens will run from 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. in Orchard United Methodist Church. The church is at 30450 Farmington Rd., between 13 and 14 Mile roads.

Theme for the day is "Following Jesus."

Highlights of the program will be talks by Margaret Hess, a noted Bible teacher, author and world traveler. Her weekly Bible study classes in Ward United Presbyterian Church in Livonia and First Presbyterian Church in Bir-

mingham have weekly attendances of about 700 persons.

The scheduled variety of activities for Christian Fellowship will include the opportunity to participate in group singing and small study groups. Music, especially prepared for the day, will be provided by the youth of Covenant Baptist Church of West Bloomfield.

A free will offering will be taken to defray lunch and other costs. Advance registration will be appreciated by calling Doris Edwards, at 553-9030 or Ruth Brown, 851-4464.

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