

This is a translation of a newspaper article that appeared in the "Novedades" newspaper of Managua, Nicaragua at the end of the drive to Managua from Laredo, Texas.

1946

William F. Baggerman

Mr. Baggerman, posing for Novedades, yesterday morning at the foot of the monument to Ex-President Franklin D. Roosevelt.

With the Yankee way of making himself at home wherever he is, W. F. Baggerman, veteran of the Pacific, chatted with us yesterday after Henket of the U. P. in Nicaragua introduced him.

Baggerman is a native of University City of St. Louis, Missouri, 33 years old, five feet, dark hair and eyes, 193 lbs., manly, wears glasses.

He was studying at the University of Edinburg when the United States went to war with Japan. Together with other North Americans in Europe he came back to his country to join the Armed Forces; passing the requirements, he formed part of the Twentieth Air Division which was so outstanding in the South Seas.

He received his "Baptism to Fire" in Bataan. Baggerman, a modest man, declined to tell us of that hell. His answer being in a gesture and a smile leaving more expression than words.

He served in the Pacific all of 1944. His answers to our questions were brief, because of his complete lack of knowing Spanish, however with proper human pride he told us he took part in the March 19th and November 27th bombings over Tokyo.

He returned to the U. S. From the Pacific the 15th of December of last year, and after being discharged from the Army he conceived the idea of visiting some of the countries of our hemisphere.

The Fourth of March of this year he left Laredo, Texas in one of the jeeps that was turned over to commerce, and as trailer as comfortable as any modern home as we saw in it a stove, a wardrobe, fluorescent lights, a radio, a couch and the walls adorned with pictures and Mexican things. On his passing thru Mexico he visited Popocatepetl, traveling from Vera Cruz to Tapachula with his jeep, etc. on a car-platform of the railroad. From Mexico he went to Guatemala and El Salvador from where after crossing Honduras by the Pan-American highway, he arrived in Nicaragua. He has photos of all the more picturesque places that he has been.

After visiting the border of Costa Rica he will return to the U. S. and wait until next year to become acquainted with the other countries of the continent.

North American tourist magazines offered to buy his impressions to publish them in order to inform tourists desiring to travel over the Pan-American highway, - desires that have not been satisfactory because no other person has been interested enough to investigate the facilities and varied panorama that beautify this important continental artery.

Two weeks is the time that the traveler spent in each of the countries he visited. After observing the customs and possibilities of our Spanish continent Baggerman will return to his country where we are sure that his writings will be of great valor for us.