

*Apreuado Fernando:
Se me acabo la
paciencia con Jan*

TOMAS BLOHM

*Lindblad y con ello,
la fiesta para él.
Muchos Saludos de
tu amigo
Tomás Blohm*

, February 17th., 75

Mr. Jan Lindblad
Sibyllegatan 30
11443 Stockholm
Sweden
Europe.

Dear Jan:

Since October I have been trying to precise rumors about a planned invasion by "campesinos" into my ranch "Masaguara". Finally - a month ago - a 800 m. road was knocked along the Guárico River. The big trees along the edge of the river are gone. The road is between 50 - 70 meters wide. Last Sunday 9.2. a mob of about 70 people nearly lynched me behind the "La Garcita Lagoon" - the old meander which forms a lake in the gallery forest. Now they are asking for my land behind the bridge of the "Caño Caracol" were I have the 800 has. of untouched forest, plus the "Potrero de Masaguara" - the part West of the highway to the North of the ranch - which almost reaches the Northern end of the Guácimos Lagoon - where you did the filming of the tree-... ducks. It implies the end of that paradise.

Ivan Darío Maldonado's ranch will most likely be taken over for "módulos" - the pasture experiment started at Mantecal - which consists of making dams to retain the rain waters in order to turn the land into an area of 1 million hectares of pasture land. The natural beauty of those Llanos will be gone for ever.

I think you have forgotten that one of things you mentioned when you began your filming in Venezuela - was to provide audio-visual material to aid conservation purposes. You never gave us but the 1/2 of your fine film and said that Dr. Maldonado did not deserve it. The second 1/2 of the film must be ready. In Sweden our natural beauties will be seen. In Venezuela we wasted our time and efforts on you.

You lived here for free, you travelled for free, you had no expenses, you took 31 days of my time for free. You mentioned that in the first 2 weeks of your first trip to Venezuela you had been able to do more filming than in 7 years in Surinam, Rupununi and Trinidad.

We opened Venezuela's doors to you. You spent several days in the Hotel Tamanaco with your wife and son until you finally met me. On your second trip you did not like José Lira and I had to take you out again. You lacked nothing in Venezuela. You gained popularity and everybody admired your Cock-of-the-Rocks, your Caroni Swamps, Trinidad - Rain-Forest films, your sound imitations and sympathy. You left us holding an empty bag. What was going to be for the cause of Conservation turned out to be a matter of personal glory and the reservation of "author's rights". I deeply resent that, Jan, and consider the matter a closed chapter. No foreigner will ever film on my ranch again. We feel cheated!

Tomás Blohm