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NEWS FLASHES:

Colombia, in South America, is trying out a new crop-cotton. The planters are using all the resources of modern science to produce a 20,000-ton crop - but the work of the back-room boys demands the skill of the daredevil to carry it out. The pilots are briefed to get as close to the crops as possible, because the insecticide works better that way - so they cling to the contours closer than a beauty's queen's swimsuit!

That's what the old hands call "flying by the seat of your pants" - or should it be 66 it! Anyhow, you can't get much closer than this.

Or perhaps you can, by a few inches. At Cypress Gardens, Florida, Ken Tibado tries out a new kind of water-skis only 15 inches only. He says they're much handier for turning around when you get bored.

Now you know why our cameraman chose a high viewpoint.

These size 15 watershoes are just the job for a quiet stroll in the woods.

Careful now - those swimsuits aren't meant for getting wet!

Down the Avenue of Heroes, Venezuela's President Jimenez (nearest the camera) leads President Stroessner of Paraguay. This splendid new feature of the capital, Caracas, has been opened by the guest of honour from the sister republic to mark Venezuela's 146th birthday. The biggest civil and military parade Caracas has ever seen honours the two presidents. There's nothing special about the 146 - but thanks to her great oil boom, Venezuela's richer than she's ever been - so why not spend a mere three million dollars on beautifying the city?

President Jimenez presents swords to graduating cadets of the military academy, as part of the celebration of Venezuela's long life of independence.