

IN MANANA LAND

Colorful, Friendly Acapulco Described by Salem Traveler

By ADDYSE LANE

ACAPULCO BAY, GUERRERO, Mexico—The morning after we anchored in Acapulco Bay, I got up early and hurried through breakfast. We gave three long blasts on our fog horn, and a small dinghy speeded out from shore to carry our crew to the mainland. The sun was bright, and Acapulco rose in its vivid contrasts of rich and poor before our eyes.

High on one slope, surrounded by blue swimming pools and smooth white rock patios, lush bougainvillea-covered hammocks lounge the tourists from America and the chic, cultured and beautiful Mexican women on vacation or married to the aristocracy of the land.

Ten feet below, in thatched-covered huts, are the pobres, pounding tortillas or carrying hot, dirty loads of sticks or tiny crying babies, often both. The city of sand contrasts. I left the others and walked through the Market. I was the only American there that morning was a good prospect. The vendors besieged me with "Senorita, one peso para esta!" "Beautiful baskets here!" "Senorita! Buy this... buy that."

It is a typical old Mexican village market with men selling rebozos; old women and their stands of pins and ribbons, coconut, colored beads, earrings; and the constant trail of little children with their boxes of chicklets. Anything and everything. The air was tight and hot and I walked all over Acapulco. Had lunch at the Club de Pesca, facing the diamond waters of the Bay.

In Mexico it is the custom to enjoy luncheon around 2:30 or 3. The shops close at 4 and open their heavy doors somewhere between 4:30 and 5 or 6, depending upon the responsibility of the owner. If you're there and he's not, then you can just come back "manana" if you like. Appointments mean very little here. Made one with a photographer for 4 in the afternoon. Waited a couple of hours; then he showed up around 11 that night. No explanation. This is Mexico.

It was slowly turning to dusk when I returned to the boat. Went for a swim at the stern. The water was cool and refreshing. Night comes, and Acapulco beats to enchantment. Soft, balmy breezes and stars... every star that God ever made is in this sky, it seems. The boat sways at anchor, with a gentle rolling every now and then. And the water is black and shiny.

All around the Bay, in a curving span of tiny lights are the homes and hotels perched on the craggy rocks of the Bay, and the lights from the avenue circling on three sides. The music drifts across from the shore, and little cries of dogs... the voices across the water... from all kinds of people that we will never know. The night is filled with every noise, every smell and every shadow poured into the Bay, spotted with land stars and sky stars and blended in the shimmering, velvety blackness.

I took the bus the next morning to the Cathedral, a massive Byzantine structure of grey stone and blue tile, bulbous domes and gold-encrusted statuary inside and out. It was hot, and there must have been 45 or 50 of us squeezed into the old blue bus, galloping through the streets. I had forgotten the word for "Out!" I heard someone yell "Baca! Baca!" So I gasped the same thing. We stopped with a mighty lurch. I pushed my way past the armloads of baskets and children and coconuts the women were carrying to market and leaped over the boxes of fruits and vegetables piled by the door. All of this for 20 centavos, which is about 3 cents in exchange currency.

A luxury ride in Mexico is in one of the many "libres" or cabs, that come at once to an American in the streets. To stop one, all a person must do is raise an eyebrow. They don't expect an American to walk here or ride the bus. And for speed, a libre cannot be beat. Traffic rules mean

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LIKES MEXICO



Miss Adyde Lane of Salem, whose letter from Acapulco Bay in this edition of the Capital Journal expresses her appreciation of the Mexican scene as she has seen it.

Birthday Can't Come on Thanksgiving Every Year

By J. HUGH PRUETT

Astronomer, Extension Division Oregon Higher Education System

Recently I was taking dinner with young friends who had had only a few weeks earlier a new arrival in their family. Little Bobby had come to them on Thanksgiving day, November 26, 1953. The parents were sure that his birthday would not come on Thanksgiving day every year. Calculating ahead, we were able to determine that he will celebrate his birthday and Thanksgiving together when he is six and 11 years old, but not in the years between.

According to the world calendar, which many are trying to have adopted in all civilized countries, a certain day of any month would every year fall on the same day of the week. But this system is not in effect.

If we eliminate leap years, our present year has 365 days. With 364 days to a year, we would have an even 52 weeks annually. But the 365 days divided by seven leaves a remainder of one day. This means that since January 1, 1953 (an ordinary year), came on Thursday, December 30, 1953, the end of 52 weeks, was Wednesday. Then December 31, 1953, was Thursday and New Year's day, 1954, fell on Friday.

If all our years were ordinary years of 365 days then on any date of one year, the day of the week would be advanced just one day over the year before. Thus, January 1, 1953, is Thursday; 1954, Friday; 1955, Saturday, etc.

But there are those vexing leap years when "unattached" men have to go into hiding for fear of being roped into "the holy bonds." These have two extra days over 52 weeks, (thus prolonging the agony of the timid males.) June 15, 1955, will

BPA Rates May Go to \$22.50 kw

WASHINGTON—Undersecretary of Interior Ralph Tudor has predicted a \$5 per kilowatt-year increase in power rates of the Bonneville Power Administration. Tudor told a House interior appropriations subcommittee the department is reviewing rate schedules, as required once every five years, and has about decided on an increase from the present \$17.50 per kilowatt-year to \$22.50. "Frankly, I do not believe it (Bonneville) is going to show a greater rate increase than was predicted in the past administration," Tudor testified. "I think that \$22.50 will take care of the situation there."

Tudor's testimony was made public Sunday.

9 Woodburn Scouts At Honors Ceremony

WOODBURN—Nine members of the Woodburn Boy Scout troop received advancements at the Silver Falls court of honor at Hazel Green recently. Richard Payne and John Pickering were advanced to second class scouts, Ted Coman, Art Cheney, Larry Hurst, Bob MacMillan, Keith and Philip Nibler and Harold Smith earned first class rank.

Donald Dougherty of the Aurora troop was advanced to first class scout and received a merit badge in first aid. Four members of the Monitor troop earned merit badges, Floyd Linn in carpentry, first aid and cooking; Tommy Tweed, citizenship in community; Harold E. and Clark L. Hanson, citizenship in community and forestry.

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Sunnyside

SUNNYSIDE—Mr. and Mrs. John Neuschwander were hosts Tuesday evening at their home to the Friendly Hour Club for their annual "Family Night." After a no-host dinner the group was entertained with a white elephant sale. Present were Mrs. Chittendon, Mr. and Mrs. Carlson, Mr. and Mrs. Johnson and son, all honor guests; Mr. and Mrs. Fred Mortor, Mr. and Mrs. Nelson and children, Mr. and Mrs. Stillworth, Mr. and Mrs. Ray Heckart, Larry Heckart; Mrs. Irving Bane, Mr. and Mrs. Raymond Dutoit and children; Mr. and Mrs. Elton Coon, Mr. and Mrs. Charles Taylor, Mr. and Mrs. Lolla, Mrs. Langford, Mr. and Mrs. Paul Swope, Mr. and Mrs.

ARMY MAN KILLED IN RIOT

JAKARTA, Indonesia (AP)—The government held a number of persons for questioning Monday following a mammoth religious-political riot in which an army captain was killed, many persons injured, and two army barracks burned down. The violence broke out as 250,000 Moslems gathered to protest "insults" to the Islamic religion in recent political speeches.

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