

MOUNTAIN SHRINE IN MEXICO



One of the many shrines along the mountainous road which are supposed to protect the traveler through the pass between Mexico City and Puebla. Volcan Ixtaccihuatl, 17,338 feet in height, third highest mountain in Mexico, in the background.

ROME OF AMERICA

Old Spanish Town in Mexico Visited by Salem Traveler

By ADDYSE LANE

Through rugged, twisting mountain roads, 84 miles from Mexico City, lies the typical old Spanish town of Puebla. The old baroque city is frequently referred to as the "Rome of America." At Puebla's forts of Loreto and Guadalupe the invading French forces were defeated in the battle of the 5th of May, which all of Mexico celebrated yesterday. Fireworks, bonfires and parades all day long in the city . . . sky-rockets and floral swags decorating the statuary along Juarez avenue and dancing in the streets.

Puebla was founded in the early 16th century and is one of the few Mexican towns not originally built by the Aztecs and ultimately elaborated on by the Spanish conquistadores. There is a saying about Puebla, that it was "made by the Angels and inhabited by Nobles."

There is a distant serenity surrounding the old town. Twilight is the most beautiful part of the day to approach any city, or to leave it. It adds romance and the ethereal beauty of a thing partly seen. It tips the mountains with rose and lavender mists. And it was from this perspective that I saw the dream of a lifetime, the vision of Popocatepetl posed majestically above the city of Puebla.

Any person who has read and dreamed of enchanting spots and then had the surprisingly good fortune to see them personally can imagine my breathless wonder, standing on the old worn battlements at the Fort of Loreto and seeing as a living thing, the sleeping greatness of ancient Popocatepetl.

Aztec legend believed Popocatepetl, which means "Smoking Mountain," to have been a god. And from its 18,000 feet into the sky, Popo looks down on his wife, the slightly lower volcano, Ixtaccihuatl. She is covered with snow now in May. The Indians call her "The White Woman." Night began to cover them both, and a cold wind whipped the black clouds to and fro between them and the enchanted spectator. They became huge smoky blue guardians of the city, magnificent and powerful.

The Cathedral in Puebla is regarded as "the most beautiful in the Americas." Its architecture is Spanish Renaissance and was begun in 1575, long before the Cathedral of the Zoelco in Mexico City. In the Church of La Compania, a few blocks down the street from the Cathedral, lie the remains of the legendary Princess Mirra, known throughout Mexico as "La China Poblana." It was she, who in the early 17th century, was brought as hostage from her native China to Acaapulco, on the western shore of Mexico. She was sold to a responsible captain there, who fell in love with her and took her to Puebla.

Shortly after arriving at his home, he gave her her freedom. He sent for her Chinese clothes, which she missed in the new, strange land. He gave her jewels and bought costly materials for a new wardrobe for the little princess. She designed her new dresses utilizing what she had loved in China and something of what she saw the Indians wearing in the villages.

She became known for her unusual dress, and soon people began copying her. She wore a red flannel skirt, trimmed with designs of sequins, with about ten inches of green satin near the waistband. With this she wore an embroidered white blouse and a rebozo folded over the shoulders and crossed in front. And the

trailer built into the rear area of a station wagon; a modernized inter-office communication system operated by one telephone and eliminating the PBX board; and the precision made watches and clocks, for which the Rhine land is famous.

German and Mexican flags flew atop the university buildings, and millions of people thronged into the area to view new production methods and to investigate precision-type instruments. It is not difficult to realize why the Mexican people are intensely interested in modern mechanical methods, because skilled craftsmanship is rare in Mexico. Labor is cheap, but the skilled worker is hardly available.

I visited a new house under construction in the Toluca district, a new modern area opened for housing recently. The ceiling was to be a replica of the lava stones found on the ground near the volcanic areas. Four workmen were in the room. Two were sitting down near the window; the other two were dobbing plaster on the ceiling. It was dripping to the floor and hardening. Eventually, the other two pushed the red stones into the spots of plaster and pushed them around until they were more or less evenly distributed.

The result was a crudely made thing which looked more like children had been playing with mud pies and had thrown them at the ceiling. These men were not carpenters or builders and did not pretend to be. The owners had decided upon a form of hard-done "artistic" ceiling, and they had apparently found two or four men in the streets, had offered them five pesos each to finish the ceiling, had told them what they wanted and had let it go at that. They would have had to pay more for a man who knew what he was doing.

And yet, a mason or a carpenter in Mexico, semi-skilled, receives less than 15 pesos a day. A peso is 8 cents. Having the necessary training, the Mexican workman can be made as efficient and capable as the similar workman of any other country. But for most of the population, training programs are unobtainable. Even public schooling is not for the poor. It requires a financial sum beyond the means of the lower economic class to enter a child in school.

Under the new system, inaugurated over the Easter holidays, specifically the devaluation of the peso, the government hopes in time to industrialize the country. On a long range plan, because it will allow manufacturers to export items 44% lower than at the present time, it is hoped that the increased return will make possible sufficient money for extensive training programs.

And industrial training programs are what Mexico needs at the present time; she needs them badly . . . along with better schooling for the masses. Our public schooling is of course what makes America great; no country, regardless of its resources, can prosper with an ignorant populace.

Time, the old elusive commodity, will prove the internal value thing had to be done; and the government took a step. Whether it was the correct one, tomorrow will decide. For the American tourist, it is fine. But we are only the summer visitants in a country where its people must remain for life and find their living in a changing and precarious economy.

Communist countries exported 195 million dollars worth of coal to the free world in 1952.

Health Advisory Committee Of Medical Society Expands

At a board meeting of the Marion County Health Department Thursday it was reported that the Marion-Polk County Medical Society has expanded its

public health advisory committee. Members of the committee are available for consultation services with health department employees relating to special medical problems.

Death Claims John D. Galey

SWEET HOME (P)—John D. Galey, 48, who only the day before had been appointed temporary circuit judge for Lane County, died at his office from a heart attack Thursday.

Chairman of the West Coast Lumber Commission of the National War Labor Board in World War II, Galey recently had been serving as temporary circuit judge in Lane County. He was to have moved to Lane bench June 1.

Galey, whose wife was in law practice with him here, also was Lebanon city attorney.

He came here from Portland in 1947, and often served as an arbitrator in labor disputes.

A graduate of the University of Oregon law school in 1931, he practiced law in Portland until World War II. Before joining the War Labor Board's lumber commission, he was Portland rent attorney for the Office of Price Administration.

Surviving are the widow; his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Henry Carter Galey of Ashland; a daughter, Ann, a student at Reed College in Portland; and a son, John Michael, in the Marines at San Diego.

Dr. Willard J. Stone, public health officer, reported on departmental activities and communicable diseases. Measles and mumps led the disease list.

After presentation of the proposed budget for the department by Dr. Stone there was a discussion. To meet merit system standards for the personnel and to carry on the present program, it was said, several financial problems will have to be solved.

Mrs. Bernice Yeary reported the results of the 1954 auditor program. There were 4,484 grade school students tested, with 240 children being referred to their private physician. Reports such as this one are used as a guide for the health department to plan their yearly activities.

Dr. Dale Parker reported that next week an anti-fluoridation bill will be reintroduced to the committee on interstate and foreign commerce. He read a telegram from the American Dental Association requesting all local organizations who have endorsed this public health movement to write members of this committee pledging their support for fluoridation.

VAN FLEET CONFERS IN JAPAN

TOKYO (P)—Gen. James A. Van Fleet, former U.S. 8th Army commander now on a fact-finding tour, conferred Friday with Japan's Prime Minister Shigeru Yoshida.

GOOD NEWS



Minot F. Jekke, who was sentenced March 27 last year to three to six years in prison, receives news at home of his attorney in Miami Beach, Fla., of a reversal of that conviction. A New York appellate court set aside the conviction and ordered a new trial. (UP Photo)

Hereford Breeders Sale Here October 9

Glen Martin of McCoy, north west of here, announced that the second annual Willamette Valley Hereford Breeders sale would be held at the state fairgrounds on October 9. The sale will be limited this year to 60 head and no more than

Four Chosen In Drawing

One Salem man and two men from Albany have been selected in the regional drawing prior to the \$100,000 Auto-Lite Family Charity drawing to be held in New York City June 1.

The regional drawing was conducted under the supervision of the Oregon State Motor Association, and among 50 in Oregon were included Wade H. Dickinson, 1638 South Commercial, Salem; and from Albany W. C. Donohue, 230 East Second avenue; T. W. Lambrecht, 1219 Elm; and Mrs. W. R. Savage, 1007 East Third.

Their names are being forwarded to the national headquarters in New York City along with those selected in the rest of the United States. A national committee will choose 25 who will be given the right to designate recognized charities to receive a total of \$100,000. Names of the winners will be announced on Auto Lite's CBS "Suspense" television program.

All regional drawings have been supervised by organizations affiliated with the American Automobile Association, which will oversee the national drawings.

The dealer establishments of 10 leading car manufacturers—

five dealers will be accepted from any one breeder. The deadline for entries is July 10.

St. Williams of Hermiston has been named sale manager.

FOAM RUBBER	
Pillows	2.75 up
Mattresses	\$27.50 up
Remnants	50c up
Shredded	59c lb.
SLEEP-AIRE	
2002 Fairgrounds Rd.	

Chrysler, Studebaker, Kaiser, Plymouth, Hudson, Dodge, Willys, Nash, DeSoto and Packard—served as registration centers during the program, which concluded May 3.

Yes—But what does it Mean?

What's behind the newest bill in Congress? And who? What are the motives of labor's latest political maneuvers? What are the subtle changes in Party policy? What's the significance of the most recent diplomatic move?

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Ideas for your summer comfort

Why not make this the year you really do something with your porch and terrace. You can add so much to the pleasure and comfort of summertime living by creating a place where the family can relax, take it easy and cool off. The June issue of Better Homes & Gardens includes 6 pages of ideas on how to get porch, lawn, and terrace ready for summer. All in color. Get it today . . . wherever magazines are sold.

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