

SLEEPY MEXICAN TOWN AWAKENED BY TOUR TRADE

Acapulco, Historical Port and Colorful Center, Is Groomed As Gateway for Mexico City Travelers

WASHINGTON, D. C. (Sp.)—Gateway for countless galleons from the Orient 300 years ago, but almost ignored in modern times, Mexico's Rip van Winkle port, Acapulco, now is waking to renewed activity. The latest liners plying between New York and California plan to call there this year to drop tourists for Mexico City.

"Conveniently located below the elbow bend of Mexico's Pacific coast in the state of Guerrero, sleepy Acapulco has one of the finest natural harbors in the world," says a bulletin from headquarters of the National Geographic society. "Yet it has dropped away a couple of centuries as a quiet little tropical town shimmering in the sun. In the heart of great mountains that drop almost sheer into Acapulco bay.

Colorful Town
"The town is a crescent of pastel-colored, adobe cubicles, topped by tiny patches of red tile roofs, and occasional green coccinilla palms. A few buildings, taller or broader, stand out from the mass of one-storied dwellings—church, town hall and jail, covered market building, and a sprinkling of consulates and hotels. Little cotton mills, and soap and oil factories, operated intermittently, show that Acapulco once had industrial ambitions. The narrow winding streets are rarely crowded. Heat makes the air sticky, like hot fly paper, but visitors endure the climate to enjoy the town's tropical beauty.

"Behind it rise the steep, cactus-covered Sierra Madre, which have throttled Acapulco's progress like choking fingers. There is no railroad to the interior, and less perfect harbors, such as Maratlan and Mazatlan, have boomed because each has this advantage. So Acapulco has dreamed. When the railroad reaches here . . . and meanwhile leaped into a long siesta.

"Cortes used its magnificent harbor in 1531, sending two brigantines on a voyage of exploration into the Gulf of California. But they reported no harbor equal to Acapulco's oval bay, nearly two miles wide. A hilly half-mile-wide peninsula between bay and ocean forms a natural breakwater, offering about four square miles of placid, almost land-locked shelter within earshot of Pacific breakers pounding against the rocky headlands outside.

"By 1550, trade at the port supported a little village, which the Spanish fortified with the grim gray fort of San Diego, still glowering above one tip of the town.

Was World Center
"The Aztec name for the settlement—Acapulco, 'place where the reeds abound'—was borne on trade winds around the world. Galleons from Far East brought fragrant cargoes of gums and spice, of dark cotton prints and rice from India, rich brocaded silks from Japan, exquisite porcelains from China. Occasional slaves, discharged cargoes of negroes to work nearby sugar plantations, and legend claims that one brought a kidnapped princess, whose popularity is commemorated in the national Mexican girls' fiesta dress, the China Poblana costume of green-bordered red skirt, loose white embroidered blouse, and gay shawl.

"Export of silver bullion and specie from Acapulco originated the strange custom, still existing, of calling pesos, often made in China and stamped 'Republica de Mexico,' Mexican dollars.

"From Acapulco, goods from the Orient journeyed inland over the tortuous, rocky Camino Real, a brigand-infested mountain trail to Mexico, D. F., and thence to Veracruz for re-shipment to Spain. Transport was by strings of burros, or by slow ox carts with thick solid wooden discs for wheels. Buccaneers heard of Acapulco's wealth, and inevitably the town was sacked by pirates and its ships captured when leaving the harbor.

"There are only two seasons in Acapulco, both hot—steaming rainy summer and long parched winter. In 'air condition' the town, an artificial cut was made through hills of the peninsula shielding it from the sea and this 'Abra de San Nicolas' admits cooling westerly sea breezes. Many homes are built facing west.

"A few years ago a modern highway was completed from Acapulco to Mexico, D. F., nearly 400 miles away and a mile and a half above sea level. Vacationists can sail to Acapulco, motor via picturesque Teco and Cuernavaca to Mexico, D. F., and return to the United States by rail. Automobiles and buses now spin along the new route, which crosses and recrosses the old 'Camino Real,' formerly so difficult as to be a 'good road for birds.'

"Acapulco has recently become a fashionable resort for Mexicans, who motor down for a tropical holiday. Sportsmen fish for the fierce giant ray, or hunt in nearby lagoons and mangroves for wild ducks. Moonlight bathing is becoming a regular attraction.

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BUSY YEAR FACES CINEMA INDUSTRY IN GREAT BRITAIN

SIGN NEWCOMERS FOR MONDAY MAT BILL AT ARMORY

LONDON—(UP) The British movie industry, originally a romance, will emerge into reality in 1936, according to plans.

Judging from the ambitious programs of productions scheduled to be realized in 1936, this year ought to rank as the Year I of British Movie-dom.

Seldom was the saying "truth is stranger than fiction" better applied than in describing the romantic and mushroom development of the moving picture industry in this country, according to those who have followed it closely.

Little by little, scornful attempts at ridicule, organizations like Gaumont British and Korda's London Film Productions, have become household words wherever movies are shown. Perhaps more than any other British organization, Alexander Korda's may be given the title of "leader."

Korda is considered by many to have "put England on the movie map" by his now famous production of Henry VIII. He followed up his feat with a number of other productions like Scarlet Pimpernel.

Continuing his pioneering, Korda will lead the way to color productions. His organization is to produce at least one great all-color picture during the 1936 season. The process used will be Technicolor.

Other important London film productions are to be "Elizabeth of England," "Revolt in the Desert" (The story of Lawrence of Arabia), H. G. Wells' "Things to Come" (written especially for the movies), and "The Man Who Could Work Miracles" by the same author.

Charles Laughton, whose name is now synonymous with Henry VIII, will play "Cyrano de Bergerac."

Laughton is only one of a formidable array of talent signed up for 1936 by London Films. Others include Conrad Veidt, Clive Brook, Robert Donat, Roland Young, Paul Robeson, Merle Oberon, Joan Gardner, Marlene Dietrich, Leslie Howard (The Scarlet Pimpernel himself), and George Robey.

A German firm claims to have developed a special gas, easily handled, which will exterminate rodents, insects and weevils.

Brazilian government experts are reported to have found oil in unknown quantities in the subsoil of the east-central state of Bahia and in the far western territory of Acre.

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Two newcomers to Medford wrestling, both boasting with impressive records hung up in coast and eastern rings, will grace next Monday's three-star card at the Armory. It was announced today.

Promoter Mack Lillard said today: "While I think that I have the best group of wrestlers on the coast here right now, I'm not taking any chances of letting them get stale with Medford audiences, and these two new men are real finds. They are both fast, scientific workers, and have been sensational wherever they have appeared."

The two newcomers are Stanley Rogers of Austin, Texas, a rangy, sinewy grappler just returning from the eastern seaboard who comes here by way of Los Angeles, and Mike Paddock of Honolulu, a rough but clean man who wrestled for several years with the U. S. navy team aboard the U. S. S. Tennessee.

In regard to the rest of the card Monday, Lillard has announced that Ted Christy, the outlaw from California who has bullied his way to two straight wins here, will probably appear on the main event, either against Dude Chick, the powerful ex-cowpoke, or George "Wildcat" Wilson, ex-footballer. Frankie Peck, who drew with Chick here last week, will also probably be on the card, Lillard said.

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