

BAN ON SIESTA SEEN CHANGING LIFE IN MEXICO

Restaurant Owners Happy
But Taxicab Drivers Be-
moan Government Decree

By Edward L. Thomas
United Press Correspondent

Mexico City—(U.P.)—Taxicab drivers are weeping, restaurant owners are gleefully contemplating new business and Juan Public appears to have suffered a stiff blow to the digestive system as a result of a government decree which outlaws the time-honored custom of taking a two or three hour "siesta" at midday.

The "siesta"—a combination of resting and eating—will disappear from the Mexican way of life on June 1 for all of the 2,000,000 inhabitants of the Federal District.

The substitution of "horas corridas" (literally, continuous hours), with a half to an hour off for lunch, as of June 1, was decreed because the practice has proved beneficial to the populations in almost every city of the world.

Blow To Taxi Trade
But the "libre" (taxi) driver looks to it as a blow to his midday trade, when workers ordinarily would go home to lunch. The restaurant owners, already doing more midday business than they ever enjoyed before, will now have the job of feeding many more thousands of mouths.

Juan Public is faced with the task of trying to gulp down his usual five-to-seven-course mid-

day meal during an hour and still be able to survive the afternoon's indigestion pains. If he can do this, the decree points out that he will have more time after work to devote himself to cultural and athletic pursuits and to strengthening the family ties.

It begins to appear as though Juan Public will have no other course than to modify his eating habits to conform with the new law—that is, eat a bit more for breakfast, considerably less than he does for lunch and violate all the rules of eating at this high altitude (7,500 feet) by eating an American-sized supper.

The impossibility of attempting to pack a typical Mexican "lunch" into a lunchbox is familiar to anyone who has tried to down one of these long-winded affairs from rice to beans.

All-Day Shopping
The government decree declared it "of public interest" that dining halls and recreation premises be established on the premises of banks, business houses, factories, etc., affected by the decree. But it appeared doubtful that the employers could construct adequate lunch rooms for employees in crowded downtown Mexico City by June 1.

Thus, the abolishing of the siesta—a firmly entrenched custom in Mexico since the Aztecs held the whip hand—promises to revolutionize the Mexican way of life.

One effect of the decree that will undoubtedly be accepted with enthusiasm by the thousands of American tourists that flock into the capital every week is the fact that they will be able to shop all day long, just as though they were at home. Mexico City shops will no longer lower the steel curtains in front of the display windows between 1 p. m. and 3 p. m. every afternoon.

Travel agencies must delete many of their handbooks, rewriting the tempting references to the delightfulness of the siesta.

Warren Releases Convention Votes



Gov. Earl Warren of California (right), G. O. P. convention keynoter, who released his state's 50 votes pledged to himself, discusses GOP problems with Harrison Spangler, Republican National Committee chairman, in Chicago meeting.

Short Conventions Promised by Both Republicans, Demos

Washington, June 7—(U.P.)—Two of the shortest presidential nominating conventions in recent decades seemed assured today as Republican National Chairman Harrison E. Spangler announced that the GOP meeting would last only four days.

Spangler said present plans are to conclude the convention, which opens in Chicago June 26, on June 29.

The Democratic National committee had previously announced that the democratic convention, starting July 19 in Chicago, would finish its work in three days.

Spangler said that Gov. Earl Warren of California will make the keynote speech at 9 p. m. (CWT) on June 26.

On the following day, House Republican Leader Joseph W. Martin, Jr., of Massachusetts will address the convention as permanent chairman.

PONCHO FOR TROPICS

Camp San Luis Obispo, Cal. (U.P.)—A new light-weight multiple purpose poncho, made of water-proofed nylon fabric, has been developed by the Quartermaster Corps and will be issued soon to troops in tropical combat areas, says the Camp Luis Obispo newspaper. Weighing about 30 ounces, the nylon poncho can be used as a foxhole cover, ground cover protecting men or material from ground moisture or a moisture-proof bedroll.

BECOMES ICE "MAN"

Kansas City, Kan. (U.P.)—Mrs. Ida Lynch, 28, mother of a 22-month-old baby, became one of the nation's few women ice "men" recently when her husband joined the Navy and her father became ill and could not continue running his ice business. Mrs. Lynch had never driven a truck before, but she learned from two teen-age employees. She said she doesn't carry anything but 25-pound cakes of ice, however. The boys do the heavier work.

KICKS AT SERVICE

Minneapolis, Minn. (U.P.)—Juda Bass' horse was not one to take an apparent slight with meekness. When the 62-year-old peddler stopped his wagon to give the steed a drink, he took the bucket away before the horse finished. Angered, the horse gave Bass a kick which landed him in the hospital with a compound fracture of the right leg.

FRESH FRUIT CROP LARGER THIS YEAR

Chicago, June 7—(U.P.)—William Garfitt, executive vice-president of the United Fresh Fruit and Vegetable association, said today the current peach crop probably will show an increase of nearly 150 per cent over last year and the 1944 apple crop will be "half again as large as that of 1943."

Speaking before the 46th annual convention of the National Association of Retail Grocers, Garfitt said all fresh fruits and vegetables probably will be plentiful this year, and that prices probably will be lower, discouraging the black market.

Banana shipments have reached 35 per cent of their pre-war volume and probably will increase to 50 per cent of normal by the end of 1944, he said. Reports indicate an orange crop 17 per cent greater than last year and a 5 per cent increase in grapefruit yield, he declared.

Phoenix

Phoenix, June 7—Mrs. F. R. Fairweather and Mrs. J. A. Wilson will be hostesses for an evening meeting for Thursday club members at the Fairweather home on Dark Hollow road, Thursday evening at eight o'clock. Officers will be elected.

Arriving here for the funeral services of W. F. Schlund to be held Thursday at 2:30 p. m. at the Perl Funeral Home in Medford are: Mr. and Mrs. Harry Schlund, Los Angeles; Mr. and Mrs. Lyle Schlund, Portland; Mr. and Mrs. A. C. Urdel and family, Gladstone; and Mr. and Mrs. A. B. Tully, Renton, Wash. Mr. and Mrs. C. A. Trego will arrive from Omaha, Neb., tomorrow by train.

SERVICES ON TRAIN

New York, June 7—(U.P.)—Special invasion services for passengers aboard a train speeding through New Jersey and en route from Washington to New York were held yesterday by an Episcopal clergyman. Standing in the aisle of a coach he read from a Bible and led the passengers in hymns and prayers.

CALL ALL SEAMEN

Los Angeles, June 7—(U.P.)—National Maritime union members' shore leaves were cancelled today and merchant seamen were asked to report immediately for assignment to ships waiting in Los Angeles harbor. "The need for crews is terrific and the NMU is using hiring halls to send men to ships regardless of present or past union affiliations," NMU Port Agent Oliver Boutte said.

D-DAY PERMANENT

Glendive, Mont., June 7—(U.P.)—When her bombardier husband was shot down over Germany and taken prisoner in March, 1943, Mrs. George Lewis vowed she would not get a permanent appointment with her hairdresser for June 6. She got her permanent yesterday, 12 hours after the start of the invasion.

TELEVISION COMPANY

New York, June 7—(U.P.)—The formation of a subsidiary television company to be known as RKO Television corporation was announced today by N. Peter Rathvon, president of Radio-Keith-Orpheum corporation.

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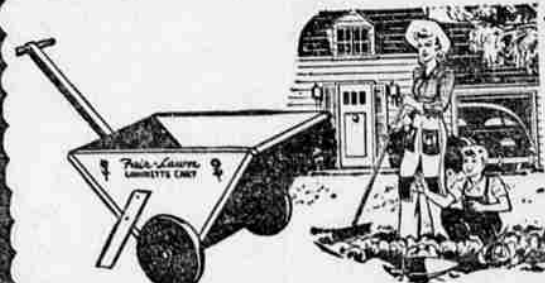
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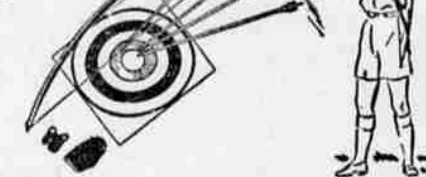


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