

Migrant Workers Should Stay in Mexico, Is Feeling

Mexico City (U.P.)—Mexican officials say a recent two-year extension of the Migrant Worker Pact with the United States is "highly beneficial." But they would like to see more Mexicans staying on this side of the border.

Most Mexicans feel it would be more patriotic for migrant workers to devote their labors to Mexico than to seek employment outside.

While no one has been able to stop the exodus, the government has inaugurated irrigation and public works programs, and many organizations have offered their own pet plans to keep the "braceros" home.

Last year 428,416 migrant workers contracted to work on American farms and in food-processing plants in Texas, California, Arkansas, New Mexico, and Arizona. Uncounted others swam the muddy Rio Grande or bought forged papers to enter the United States.

Barbado Quintela, heading a group of Mexican professional leaders, said they will offer the government a program to provide employment for more "braceros" through greater use of hand labor on Mexico's huge public works program.

He said greater income for the now unemployed would raise living standards, distribute more wealth to the working class, and encourage more workers to serve Mexico.

Irrigation Plans
Others say the program would actually reduce jobs and benefit the people from public works since projects would have to be curtailed.

President Adolfo Ruiz Cortines hopes Mexico's dramatic "March To The Sea" port and road rehabilitation program will employ many who would otherwise seek seasonal jobs on American farms.

But agronomists say the only way to solve the farmer's problem is "to tackle it head-on."

They are encouraged by "the government's energetic efforts to alleviate the drought situation we face in the north."

Agriculture Secretary Gilberto Flores Munoz said recently that 500,000 acres of land will be irrigated in northern cotton-producing areas during the coming planting season. He said the additional irrigated land will present "a considerable increase" in this year's cotton crop.

Companies affiliated with the National Cotton Growers' association have agreed to spend \$1,920,000 to drill 100 wells. The government is already drilling 279 wells at a cost of \$6,000,000.

Another program calls for the diversion of the San Lorenzo and other rivers flowing into the Pacific basin of the Nazas river.

Engineers expect to drill huge tunnels, some more than 100 miles long, to irrigate now unused land on the eastern side of the Sierra Madre.

"However, irrigation is but one step along the road toward putting Mexico's farmers on their feet," say farm confederation officials.

U. S. Wage Attracts
The association recently received a report from economist

Salvador Camelo Solar stating that "many farmers cannot make enough from their small land grant farms to earn a decent living." He said more than 51 per cent of the nation's sugar crop comes from farms smaller than six acres.

Texas growers point out that Mexican pickers were being paid 50 cents a hundred at a time when U. S. pickers earned \$2.50 even though Mexican growers were getting about two-thirds of the price paid to American farmers.

One Rio Grande Valley farmer says low prices paid for picking in Mexico "are a direct incentive for pickers to risk their very lives in the dangerous river crossing to pick at higher prices."

Farmers complain, "everyone tells us to be patriotic and stay in Mexico; but no one tells us how to live on an empty stomach."

Though Mexicans and Americans blasted the migrants pact when it was first signed in 1951, observers on both sides of the border admit today that most of the pay, racial discrimination, housing, and insurance problems have been ironed out. The pact has been renewed in recent years with only slight changes.

"Mexico needs her farmers and every ounce of food they can grow," says the farm confederation, "therefore they must be helped, must be educated to be better farmers, not given 'made' work to do. There is more than enough work for all Mexicans."

Living Room Rockets Due Next Christmas

New York (U.P.)—The kids are going to be blasting off rockets in the living room come next Christmas morning, if some evidence at the spring Toy Fair here can be credited. And it can.

A new pride of the A. C. Gilbert line of electric trains is something called a rocket launcher car. The chassis is of the regulation flatcar type, but mounted on it is a gadget with an arrow-like head and a finned tail.

This rocket rides the rails in horizontal repose on the car, but the proper touch by electric remote control will raise it into perpendicular firing position and send it whooshing upward into the household stratosphere. It can be fired whether the train is standing or in motion.

The rocket is guaranteed to turn before hitting the ceiling and drop back harmlessly to the floor.

If you want to switch from the rocket age to one of the hazards of early-day railroading, there is an electrically controlled cow that can be made to amble onto the track in front of an onrushing train which grinds to a halt just short of catastrophe.

Crime detection equipment is a new addition to the line of chemistry sets. Probably just coincidence that the firm's new vice president, Harvey Rath, is a former special agent of the FBI.

Measure Defining Border of Oregon Sent to Governor

Salem (U.P.)—Gov. Robert D. Holmes today had before him Senate bill 1 which sets the boundary between Oregon and Washington.

The House yesterday passed the bill unanimously after finding its engineering descriptions of the boundary were correct. State Highway Engineer W. C. Williams had thought the descriptions were inaccurate, but later decided they were correct.

The vote came in the second afternoon house meeting of the 72-day-old session.

A joint commission from Oregon and Washington set the boundary by running straight lines through 191 geographic points.

Rep. George Annala, Hood River Democrat and a sponsor of the compact, said that little land will change hands if the agreement is okayed by the U. S. Congress. He said Washington already had passed boundary legislation identical with the Oregon bill.

Channel Creates Problems
Annala explained that the boundary between the two states in the past has been considered the center of the main channel of the Columbia river. But the changing channel created problems of jurisdiction in industrial accidents on dams and bridges between the two states. Administration of other laws was also made difficult by doubt over the boundary.

Engineers have said that by using the descriptions of latitude and longitude in the compact, it will be possible to determine the boundary at any point with no more than an inch and a half of error.

Sand island near Vancouver, Wash., will come under Oregon's jurisdiction rather than Washington's if the compact is ratified by Congress.

New Home Owner Settles With City

Detroit, Mich. (U.P.)—Albert Hatala bought a lot in Royal Oak that exactly suited his needs as the site for a home in a rural setting.

But when he petitioned Royal Oak for water and sewer permits, he was told he couldn't have them unless he paid an assessment for paving the street in front of his lot.

Hatala fumed. He said he bought the lot mainly because it was on an unpaved street. He wasn't going to pay for something he didn't want.

The compromise — Hatala's street will get a coating of gravel.

Pendleton Round-Up Due On National Television

Pendleton (U.P.)—Plans for national television coverage of the Pendleton Round-Up this year were announced yesterday and a CBS camera production crew visited the city to make initial surveys of the location and confer with local officials.

Officials announced that the Round-Up will be carried on a national hook-up for one hour during each of the four days it is slated to run. Time for the broadcasts has been scheduled for 5-6 p.m. (PST).

Evicted Tenant's Bomb Try Foiled

Rome (U.P.)—An angry tenant under an eviction notice tried to blow up a Rome apartment house by turning his apartment into a gas-filled bomb, police disclosed today. He used a cuckoo clock to try to set it off.

The 60 other tenants were rescued when police arrived sooner than expected with the order to evict him. They entered the apartment just before the cuckoo clock bomb was to have gone off. They saved the day by switching off the electric current.

Detectives identified the tenant as Attorino Natali, 67, a former artillery officer and an electronics expert. He escaped and police ordered a citywide search for him.

Natali had sealed all doors and windows with plastic tape, spread gasoline-soaked rags on the floors and then opened a number of bottles containing gas. Three electric wires running from the gas-filled room to a metal plate provided the fuse.

Smelt Lovers Enjoy Field Day on Sandy

Troutdale (U.P.)—Smelt lovers who like to get their fish first hand had a field day on the banks of the Sandy river yesterday as the silvery fish took to the stream in substantial numbers.

Dippers reported encountering little difficulty in taking a 25-pound limit take.

State Game Commission officers said that several thousand of the 50-cent licenses for smelt fishermen had been sold.

Highways in Oregon Said Clear of Snow

Salem (U.P.)—Roads remained clear of snow throughout Oregon and motorists didn't have to worry about chains on any of them, the State Highway Department said today.

The Olds Ferry-Ontario secondary route remained closed at Malheur river bridge with traffic being detoured via temporary connection to U.S. 30.

Red Cross Official Tells of Work at Vale

Vale (U.P.)—Marna Murphy, representative from the San Francisco office of the Red Cross and in charge of flood relief work here, said yesterday that more than \$18,000 has been spent thus far by the Red Cross to aid local flood victims. She said that this amount will go to slightly more than \$30,000 by the time work is finished.

Search for Prospector Ends in Nursing Home

Salem (U.P.)—The search for a 76-year-old North Santiam prospector ended yesterday when he was located in a nursing home at Gresham.

Police had been seeking Gus Waldisberg for a week after he was reported missing from his remote cabin by a friend.

A Portland address found in the elderly man's cabin led police to the nursing home where Waldisberg was found to be staying.

In Dinosaur Park near Rapid City, S.D., stands a monstrous, man-made brontosaurus that shows visitors what this giant reptile of some 135,000,000 years ago was like.

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JUDICIAL ADJUSTMENT—New U. S. Supreme Court Justice Charles Evans Whittaker of Kansas City, Mo., has his robe adjusted by his daughter-in-law, Mrs. Keith Whittaker, as he prepared to pose for news photographers after taking oath at the U. S. Supreme Court in Washington.

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