Nicaragua, Honduras Border Dispute Dates Back To Spanish Reign

Washington — The current boundary dispute between Honduras and Nicaragua is a struggle between two countries that have much in common geographically, economicall, and historically.

Both extend across the widest part of the Central American isthmus, facing the Caribbean and Pacific. They are agricultural countries, thinly oppulated, with some mineral production.

In both cases, hot, wet lowlands border the seas, and the interior is a high backbone of mountains.

Dispute an Old One

The border area in question—called Mosquitia — lies like a rough wedge between the two countries. Mosquitia is wide on the Caribbean side, narrowing as it extends inland some 175 miles.

The boundary argument goes back to the early history of the nations, when both were part of Spain's colonial empire. After the breakup of the empire and later dissolution of the Federation of Central America, the ownership of Mosquitia continued to be a problem. The boundary was demarcated in 1720, but the argument went on. In the early 1900s, the King of Spain, by then a neutral party, was asked to referee. His decision, made in 1906, put the boundary on the Coco river.

Nicaraguans refused to accept this, and declared the King had no authority to act in the matter. Hondurans declared the matter settled, Mosquitia theirs.

Simmering for centuries, the argument has boiled into fighting several times, from 1863 to the present. Rumors of possible oil deposits in the undeveloped and primitive Mosquitia have added a new element to the prize.

The peoples of both countries are largely a mixture of the original Indian population and their Spanish conquerors, with a group of pure-bloods on each side. There is a smal proportion of Negroes—former slaves, and imported labor.

A triangular country of 57,143 square miles, Nicaragua is about the size of Illinois. Most of its 1,302,000 people live on the lowlands of the Pacific side. The capital, Managua, is situated beside the large lake of the same name. Southeast lies the even bigger Lago de Nicaragua. This was the key to plans for an Atlantic-Pacific waterway considered for a time by the United States as an alternative to the Panama Canal.

Short Canal Needed

Under these plans, shipping would have gone up the San Juan river to the lake. From there only a short canal would have been needed to reach the Pacific.

Honduras, to the north, takes its name from the Spanish word for depths, a reference to the deep water Columbus found off its shores. About 1,711,000 persons live in its 43,277 square miles of land—an area the size of Tennessee.

Bananas, grown in a belt of plantations extending inland 50 to 75 miles from the Caribbean shore, are the leading export of Honduras; in Nicaragua, coffee heads the list. The mountains of each country yield gold and silver. The major trade of both is with the United States.

Twisted Steel, Flaming Gasoline Snuff Lives of Four Young Girls

Editor's note: The holiday slaughter on the highways begins again today with the Memorial Day week end. The following dramatization of a single accident is intended to make more real the peril that faces every one of us who gets in a car today.

By JAMES GEGGIS
United Press Correspondent

Maynard, Mass.—(UP)—This is the story of the last day in the lives of four young women. Tuesday, May 21.

It began as a very ordinary day. Dorothy Boothroyd, 27, and her sister, Naomi, 22, drove together to the telephone company building where they worked as switchboard operators.

Attended Quiet Dinner

In the doorway that morning they met their friend, Barbara Doran, 24, a company secretary, and made plans for the evening.

They were going to a phone company dinner for its employees. A fourth girl, Kathryn Brobitsky, 24, had called Dorothy the night before and, since she formerly worked as an operator too, they invited her along.

Miss Brobritsky picked up the others at 6:30 p.m. in her light blue, 1952 Plymouth sedan. All four had dressed up for the dinner. Rain had fallen during the day but by evening the skies were clear.

There were about 60 phone company people at the Twin Tree Restaurant and almost everyone knew the others. But it was a pretty dull evening. Food and then a talk from a company executive on courtesy to customers. No drinks, no dancing, no entertainment.

When it finally broke up, the girls were in the mood to have some fun and Dorothy suggested bowling in Harvard, 12 miles away.

"It's still early and it's a wonderful night for a drive," she said.

It was. The stars had come out and the air was mild. The girls tried to persuade Kay Sullivan and Ruth McNiff to go bowling, too. But Miss Sullivan said she was "getting too old" and Ruth said she wanted to read and go to sleep.

So Miss Bobritsky dropped off the other two operators at their homes. Then she headed for Harvard on Route 2, a four-lane highway. It was 10:20 p.m.

At the cloverleaf intersection into Harvard, Kathry apparently became confused for one brief moment. She slowed down the car in the right hand lane.

Gas Tank Ignited

There was a thunderous, then grinding crash as a huge trailer tank truck hit the sedan from the rear. It crushed into the passenger car whose gasoline tank ignited.

The sisters, Dorothy and Naomi, were pinned in the back seat. They were burned black. It was after midnight before rescue workers cut through the welded steel of the truck and the car to remove their bodies.

Truck driver Sheldon P. Steady, 25, himself unhurt, pulled Kathryn from behind the wheel. She was dead.

It was not really the last day for Barbara but it might as well have been. She clung to life for 48 more hours.

All four girls drove cars. None of them ever had an accident before.

Their story is not too unusual. Something very close to it is going to happen to some 500 of us this Memorial Day week end.

Talent High Wins Shorthand Awards

Talent — Talent High school shorthand students last week were presented a third place trophy won in competition with schools throughout the nation in the annual National Commercial contest.

Tecumseh, (Neb.,) High school placed first. Talent's individual medalists in first year shorthand were Maudalene Searcy, seventh and Gloria Quackenbush, tenth; second year winners, Thelma Cole, third, and Peggy Walls, sixth.

Miss Walls also placed third in the unlimited section of typing.

Thirty-eight certificates of proficiency in both typing and shorthand went to other Talent contestants.

In ten years of entering national competition, Talent High has placed among the top five school in shorthand for six years.

Belfast Girls No Longer Exposed To Ads for Wine

Belfast, Northern Ireland — (UP) — An Australian trade group switched its promotion drive among Belfast factory girls from wine to fruit juices today because of protests from union leaders.

Sadie Paterson, a union organizer, said "many woman employees complained bitterly about introducing young girls to drink."

Only 22 States Have Speed Limits OK'd By Safety Council

Chicago—(UP)—Only 22 states impose speed limits approved by the National Safety Council, a United Press survey shows.

The council supports the uniform vehicle code, which calls for daytime highway speed limits of 60 miles an hour, and 55 at night, according to Harry Porter Jr., acting manager of the Traffic and Transportation Department.

The 22 states which follow this formula include five with slightly higher speeds allowed on turn-pikes. Only 17 abide by the letter of the code.

Eight Set Higher Limits

Eight states set limits higher than the recommended mile a minute by day, with maximum speeds ranging up to 70 miles an hour.

Nine other states allow nighttime motorists to drive faster than the 55 miles an hour specified in the code.

Four states impose no speed limits and plan no such restriction. They are Massachusetts, Arizona, Nevada and Oregon.

Legislation was pending in five others to draw a check rein on motorists, but all were higher than the council recommends.

In only a few states has there been an effort to revise limits upward. New Mexico this year upped its limits to 70 by day and 60 at night, from the previous limits of 60 to 55. Oklahoma lawmakers tried to raise their state's limit from 65 to 70, but opponents argued that the highway death toll already was excessive, and succeeded in killing the bill.

Lower Limits Opposed

Five states impose speed limits lower than the council recommended. They are New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Maryland and Vermont.

A number of bills to set a flat 65 m.p.h. limit in California have been introduced, but observers said it was unlikely any would be passed.

Gov. Goodwin J. Knight, the Highway Patrol and the governor's office safety conference are backing a 65 limit, but some law-makers believe such a limit is too slow for multi-lane freeways.

Here's how western states line up on speed limits:

States imposing the recommended 60 and 55: Idaho and Utah.

Higher night-time limits: Washington.

States in which legislation is pending: California.

India Not Offered Arms by Communists

New Delhi, India — (UP) — India has not been offered arms by any Communist country although Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru has decided to increase the nation's supplies of military equipment, official sources said today.

The official sources denied press reports the Soviet Union had offered arms to India and said Nehru turned down an offer by Soviet Premier Nikolai Bulganin to supply Soviet arms during his visit here two years ago.

The sources said India needed arms to match the continued build up of Pakistan's armed forces with American weapons and to balance "unsatisfactory" British deliveries of arms to India. In the past Britain has been this country's major source of supply of arms.

Dalles Dam Worker Plunges To Death

The Dalles — (UP) — Bert Lundquist, 45, a worker on The Dalles dam project, plunged 65 feet to his death yesterday afternoon while working on a turbine unit.

Lundquist, of The Dalles, was cleaning headbolts when he slipped and fell into the shaft.

This was the 14th fatality since construction on the dam started in February 1952.

Lundquist was a millwright for Cascade Constructors.

Israel Notes Fewer Poliomyelitis Cases

Jerusalem, Israel — (UP) — The Health Ministry reported today that only five children contracted polio during May this year and that 26 were struck during May of last year. The ministry attributed the decline both to administration of Israeli — manufactured Salk vaccine and to cool weather but said two of the five children afflicted had received double shots of the vaccine.

Hungarian Attache Ordered To Leave

Washington — (AP) — The United States today announced the expulsion of Karoly Meszaros, Hungarian military and air attache stationed in Washington. He was given until June 30 to leave the country.

It was believed that Meszaros was being expelled in reprisal for the expulsion from Hungary a month ago of U. S. Capt. Thomas R. Gleason, assistant military attache at the U. S. Legation in Budapest.

Gleason was ordered out of Hungary on charges of taking unauthorized pictures.

Asked if the action was in reprisal for Gleason's expulsion, a state department spokesman said:

"I think I'll leave that to you."

The spokesman said there was no connection between the expulsion of Meszaros and Hungary's demand of a week ago that the staff of the American legation in Budapest be cut by one-third.

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