This Is Mexico—II

Rise of Middle Class Mexico's Outstanding Development in 30 Years

By HARRY FERGUSON

Mexico City — (UPI) — It is our pleasure today to have a chat with Senorita Isabel Valdez Ramirez, an attractive stenographer — translator for the Continental Ensco Co., distributors of oil field equipment.

Senorita Ramirez doubtless never thinks about it, but she is the end product of a series of revolutions in Mexico. Wars have been fought, presidents assassinated and the soil of Mexico soaked with blood to make it possible for her to have the job she holds, buy the things she buys and do the things she does.

The outstanding development in Mexico in the last 30 years has been the rise of a middle class. Senorita Ramirez is a member of it. So are millions of other salaried employees, small businessmen and union workers. Until the rise of the middle class Mexicans were either enormously wealthy — and there were precious few of them — or lived in grinding poverty. Modern Mexico can give us its birth date the day it became possible for girls like Senorita Ramirez to go out and get a job.

Income Improving

The per capita income of the Mexican middle class still far below that of America. But still it is getting better all the time and as it improves so do living conditions. Senorita Ramirez earns $240 a month. Here is her budget:

Cloths, cosmetics and beauty parlors, $120; lunches, $28; transportation, $1.60; filter cigarettes, $1.92; ballet lessons, $7.20; Italian lessons, $8; income tax per month , $1.28; rent, none because she lives with her parents; savings for vacation, Christmas etc., $72.

In the romantic atmosphere of Mexico it seemed ungallant to ask Seniorita Ramirez her age or why she spent half her income on clothes and beauty treatments. Suffice it to say that she is in her early twenties and matrimony is not excluded from her plans.

The Spaniards conquered Mexico in the 16th century and began to mingle and intermarry with the dark-skinned Indians. As a result there are three racial types in the nation today — Spaniards, persons of mixed blood and Indians. It is impossible to arrive at precise figures but the ratio in the present population is about this: Spaniards, 15 per cent; mixed blood, 56 per cent; Indians 29 per cent. No Mexican is handicapped because of his racial origin. One of the national heros is Benito Jaurez, a full blooded Indian who in 1855 led a reform movement that eventually was to change Mexico from a feudalistic state into a modern nation.

Slow Transformation

It was a slow painful and bloody transformation. In the process large estates were seized and turned over to the peasants, American oil property was expropriated, unions were organized and — only since 1953 — women were allowed to vote. The result was a more equitable distribution of the national income and more jobs available.

And more leisure time. The average Mexican embraced this joyously. There is no country in the world where so many different sports are played and watched. The Mexicans have bull fighting, jai alai, boxing, wrestling, tennis (very good, too), baseball, golf, horse racing, swimming, fishing, judo and two kinds of football — American and soccer. If all of these things should pall, a Mexican can invest 24 cents in a ticket on the proletariat national lottery and dream of winning $24,000.

The government operates several types of lotteries, and in two blocks you are likely to encounter six persons peddling tickets. The government's share goes to welfare projects. Proceeds of the national lottery have built a 32-acre medical center and provided $4 million a year for breakfasts for school children.

Many TV Sets

One estimate, possibly too high, is that there are 500,000 television sets in Mexico City alone. Antenna sprout from almost every shack in the poorer sections of the capital. In any event the Mexicans are great fans for television and the radio. There is great interest in American TV. Perry Mason wins all his cases as easily in Spanish as he does in English. Paladin's six-gun speaks the same language in Mexico as it does in the United States, but the words that come out of his mouth are Spanish. American TV is so popular that 500 Mexican actors have year - round work dubbing Spanish on the films.

Rich or poor, the average Mexican is a neat fellow. You almost never see a man who needs a hair cut. The shining of shoes is a major industry and there are an average of three bootblacks to the block in the large cities. It is mandatory to have your shoes shined once a day, but some Mexicans exercise the option of having it done once in the morning and once in the afternoon. When business is dull, the bootblacks shine each other's shoes. The going price is one peso — eight cents. Neatness extends to your automobile and no Mexican allows much dust to settle on his car. Boys with buckets and sponges go up and down the line of parked automobiles doing a brisk business at 24 cents a car.

Less Tense Than Yanks

It probably is a dangerous generalization, but the average Mexican seemed to this correspondent to be happy and much less tense than Americans. Sergio Moreno Zavala, 48, owns a small carpenter shop and employs three helpers. He pays $28 a month rent for a two-bedroom apartment. His three sons are out on their own now and his 14-year-old daughter is living at home until she is old enough to go to secretarial school. The Zavalas go to the movies once or twice a week, listen to Mexican "ranch music" Western ballads over the radio, have beef steak twice a week and the head of the family likes to buy a general admission seat to baseball and soccer games.

After he has paid his helpers and purchased lumber, Zavala has an average monthy profit of $120. He is not concerned because it is not larger and does not plan to expand his business. He is old enough to remember that it would have been impossible for his father to do what he is doing. — be your own boss and run your own business.

Next: The Mexican Government and how it operates.

Limited Copies Made of Painting by Ashland Artist

Ashland — Art works of David Hagerbaumer, 200 Crowson rd., are gaining new recognition following release of a limited number of copies of one of his paintings "October Evening–Pintails."

Only 350 reproductions have been made by the British firm of Frost and Reed and all are to be autographed by the artist, making them collectors' items.

The prints will be distributed through Sportsman's Gallery of Arts and Books, New York. Several will be on display at Frames Etc., 1951 Highway 66, Ashland, where Hagerbaumer held a one man show last year.

The painting was donated to Ducks Unlimited auction at the Waldorf Astoria hotel in 1962 and was sold for $1,075, the highest ever paid for a picture at an annual auction of the organization.

The artist's ability to portray game birds and waterfowl in minutest detail has resulted in many commissions and awards. Among some of his wild life exhibits was the bird refuge grouping made for Harney county and displayed at the Oregon Centennial. He is equally proficient in the various media of watercolors, pen and ink, pencil and oils, and has recently developed ceramic game birds, which led to a commission for a 24-bird panel.

Opened Museum

Last year Hagerbaumer collaborated with L. I. Haptonstall, taxidermist, to open a museum of natural sciences in Lithia park. Their life-like exhibits of animals and birds native to southern Oregon among natural settings have attracted widespread interest.

The artist has a lifetime acquaintance with nature and a boyhood on the Mississippi river. After serving as staff artist with the Fleet Marine Force, U.S. Marine Corps, he became preparator for the Nevada State museum, and later was assistant curator and staff artist at the Santa Barbara, Calif., Museum of Natural History. He has held shows in many parts of the county and is a member of numerous professional associations, among them the Southern Oregon Society of Artists.

Symposium Slated At Oregon State

Corvallis–More than 25 experts in forestry, logging, soils, geology, civil and hydraulic engineering will be speakers at a Forest Watershed Management symposium Mach 25 to 28 at Oregon State university.

The symposium is being sponsored by the Society of American Foresters and Oregon State university. The four-day meeting is expected to attract foresters and other land managers from throughout the Pacific Northwest.

Speakers will represent industrial forestry firms as well as public agencies vitally concerned with watershed management on forest lands.

The program has been designed to cover fundamentals of soils, water movement, geologic and vegetative influences on water movement and yield, floods, erosion, mass soil movement, land form and soil delineation as aids to watershed management, and specific techniques in land use that can result in good watershed management.

STAR GAZER

By CLAY R. POLLAN

Your Daily Activity Guide According to the Stars.

To develop message for Wednesday, read words corresponding to numbers of your Zodiac birth sign.

ARIES MAR. 22 – APR. 20: 4-21-30-44-47-62-74
TAURUS APR. 21 – MAY 21: 7-8-38-39-64-68-81-86
GEMINI MAY 22 – JUNE 22: 42-43-55-59-61-70-83-90
CANCER JUNE 23 – JULY 23: 18-26-34-41-57-65-79-87
LEO JULY 24 – AUG. 23: 20-32-40-51-67-73-85-88
VIRGO AUG. 24 – SEPT. 22: 3-10-12-24-31-60-75
LIBRA SEPT. 23 – OCT. 23: 23-37-46-58-69-72-80-89
SCORPIO OCT. 24 – NOV. 22: 11-27-29-53-63-71-76
SAGITTARIUS NOV. 23 – DEC. 22: 2-5-22-35-50-52-66
CAPRICORN DEC. 23 – JAN. 20: 1-6-13-15-33-36-54
AQUARIUS JAN. 21 – FEB. 19: 14-16-19-28-45-48-56
PISCES FEB. 20 – MAR. 21: 9-17-25-49-77-78-82-84

1 All	31 Or	61 Weddings
2 If	32 An	62 Are
3 Profitable	33 In	63 People
4 Any	34 Aspects	64 Heart
5 You	35 Assistance	65 Regarding
6 Heads	36 Your	66 Friend
7 Change	37 Your	67 Innocent
8 Of	38 Home	68 Exhilarates
9 Don't	39 Or	69 You'll
10 Period	40 For	70 And
11 You	41 Today	71 Successfully
12 For	42 Exciting	72 Get
13 Are	43 News	73 But
14 Coast	44 Taken	74 Hazardous
15 Nodding	45 Receive	75 Contacts
16 Along	46 Hidden	76 Today
17 Over-	47 Today	77 Food
18 Some	48 An	78 Drink
19 Till	49 In	79 Financial
20 Lend	50 See	80 A
21 Personal	51 To	81 Your
22 Need	52 Close	82 Late
23 Develop	53 With	83 Socials
24 Trips	54 Favor	84 Hours
25 Indulge	55 Of	85 Interesting
26 Fine	56 Answer	86 Spirits
27 Can	57 Especially	87 Affairs
28 You	58 Talents	88 Gossip
29 Deal	59 Engagements	89 Surprise
30 Risks	60 New	90 Indicated

Good · Adverse · Neutral 1/16

Small Worlds Around Us

By Lynn W. Watkins

('Register & Tribune Syndicate, 1963)

Vampire Insects (Bedbugs): Advocates of Togetherness

Togetherness is a virtue practiced by the vampire insects.

Nothing pleases them more than a close and intimate association with human beings. They are not particular as to what country they live in, being worldwide in distribution.

To attain this coveted togetherness they move into any human habitation and, because they are nocturnal by nature, take up their permanent residence in the bedroom. By letting our voice fall to well below an audible whisper, we call them what they really are–bedbugs.

To have them as guests in a home is considered a social disgrace. There are a couple of thousand species of these loathsome insects on earth, and at least 150 kinds inhabit America.

Gave Caveman Fits

The vampire insect gave the caveman a bad time. The insects moved into the cave at the same time the early human tried to get in from the weather. Like the true vampire it is, the bedbug drinks blood, but if other conditions are favorable as to temperature and a certain degree of shelter, it can live as long as a year without eating at all.

If no human being occupies the bedroom, the vampire will crawl on and bite rats, mice, rodents of various kinds, birds or any other warm-blooded creature so unlucky as to be included on the vampire insect's preferred "togetherness" list.

Although the bedbug is wingless, only about a sixteenth of an inch in overall length and reluctant to crawl any distance, it sure gets around. It has been carried from one place to another, across state lines and over oceans and continents. It recognized no barriers; it knew no horizons. Neither does it possess any inhibitions.

Alter History

The vampire bugs have actually changed the course of human history. No records are available as to how many momentous decisions were rightly or wrongly made because a sleeper, who should have a cool head when the morning came, had been kept awake all night fighting a group of vampire bugs.

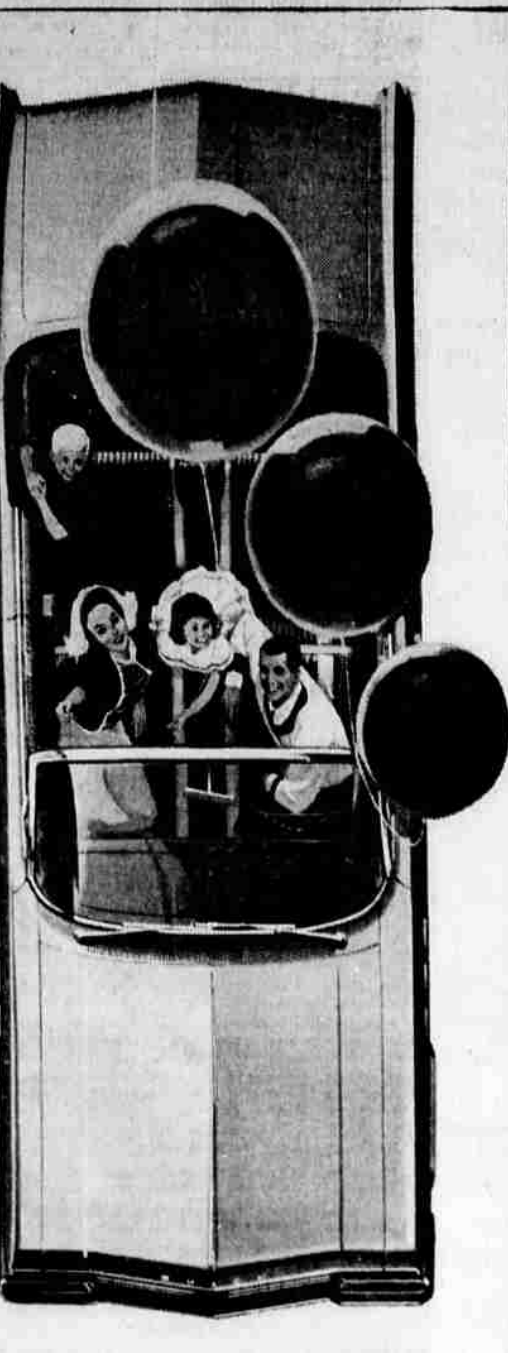
No respecter of age, sex, station or rank, the bedbug took its victims as they came, and the old rooming houses, where the weary traveler sought restful sleep, were more often than not infested with bedbugs. The vampire bugs, out of sight in the day or hidden under the mattress or behind the wallpaper while the lights were lit, weren't in evidence until the tired human sought his rest and sleep.

When quiet settled over the world and it was dark in the bedroom, the monsters from the dark places crawled forth, guided by the warmth and the scent of the paying guest. The room that had appeared so vacant while the lights were on was plentifully occupied by hosts of non-paying guests – bugs shaped like apple seeds.

Conveniently Shaped

The vampire bug is conveniently shaped for the role he is designed to play . . a flat, ovate body redish brown in color. His bite is all out of proportion to his size. He's little but his bite is big. Because of his small size and shape, he can hide in the smallest crevice – in furniture, floors or woodwork.

He and his repulsive wife hate sunlight or lamplight. And rightly so: they have every reason to be ashamed of themselves.



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