

Relations Between United States, Mexico Governments 'Excellent'

By HARRY FERGUSON
Mexico City—UPI—The United States and Mexico are like neighbors who have been arguing across the fence for years and suddenly decide to become friends. But the history of U. S.-Mexican relations is filled with wars, massacres, denunciations, property seizures and the epithets "gringo" and "greaser."

It is still possible to organize an anti-American demonstration in Mexico and find people willing to carry placards denouncing the Yanqui. "But you know," said an American who has lived in Mexico for more than 20 years, "I don't think the Mexicans ever really got mad at Americans any more. I have seen anti-American demonstrators march down a street lined on both sides by American tourists. Nobody bothered the tourists and nobody lost his temper. Sometimes I suspect Mexicans join demonstrations just because they like a parade."

The U. S.-Mexican border is 1,600 miles long and thousands of American tourists flood into Mexico every year. There are innumerable points of possible friction. But popularity is a relative thing. Not too long ago a U. S. organization making a scientific poll of Mexican opinion asked this question: "On the whole should Mexico side with the United States or Russia?" The result: United States, 51 per cent; Russia, one per cent; neither, 43 per cent; don't know, 5 per cent.

President Kennedy made a trip to Mexico early last summer. Government officials worried about how to make

sure there was a big turnout along the streets. Their fears were groundless. He got a huge, spontaneous welcome although the Mexicans sometimes get to musing on whether at least half the people showed up to see Mrs. Kennedy's wardrobe and listen to her Spanish speeches.

The relations between the two governments are excellent. From 1945 to 1961 Mexico received about \$750 million in credits from the United States. These included export-import bank credits and some from the world bank to which the United States is the main supplier of resources. During Kennedy's visit a credit of \$20 million was extended for agricultural developments. The American embassy here considers Mexico an excellent credit risk with a record of prompt payment.

'Remember the Alamo'
It is a far cry from this healthy, happy relationship back to the days of Gen. Antonio Lopez de Santa Anna, one of the most colorful characters ever produced in Mexico or anywhere else. He was a soldier who could write communique with such consummate skill that his defeats always turned out to be victories. He lost a leg in action and for years the Mexicans reverently preserved his leg in an urn. He was the boss man of Mexico for almost two decades.

On Feb. 23, 1836, Santa Anna marched a Mexican army up to a mission in San Antonio known as the Alamo. Texas, then a part of Mexico, was making noises like it wanted independence and Santa Anna had come to give

the Texans a lesson in discipline. He overwhelmed and massacred the small garrison and among those who perished was Davy Crockett. A month later he surrounded 371 Texans at Goliad and massacred them after they surrendered.

On April 21 Santa Anna and his army encamped at San Jacinto and the general retired from the noonday heat for a siesta. He was rudely awakened by a shout of "Remember the Alamo" from 800 Texans throats and shortly afterward Santa Anna surrendered to Sam Houston. Texas won its independence, but the U. S. and Mexico soon were at each other's throats again.

Border Trouble Erupts
In 1846 a dispute broke out over the border between Texas and Mexico and President Polk ordered Gen. Zachary Taylor to seize the disputed land. Taylor's army menaced Mexico from the Rio Grande and Gen. Winfield Scott headed another American army that seized Vera Cruz and eventually Mexico City. Among the U. S. officers who sharpened the tools of their trade in this war in preparation for bigger things to come were Capt. Robert E. Lee and Lieut. U. S. Grant.

The net result of the fighting was one of the most lopsided real estate deals since the Indians sold Manhattan Island for \$23. In return for \$15 million, Mexico ceded to the United States what is now California, Arizona, New Mexico, Nevada, Utah and part of Colorado.

The next brush between the two nations occurred in 1914 when some American sailors

were arrested in Tampico. American Marines landed at Vera Cruz to stabilize the situation and 19 of them were killed by snipers. Mexican politics were in chaos and President Woodrow Wilson denounced the nation for "government by assassina-

tion." Among those who paid small heed to such words was a revolt in northern Mexico and one day decided to replenish his supplies in a raid across the border to Columbus, N.M., where he killed 17 Americans.

Villa's Waterloo
Wilson ordered 12,000 American troops to run Villa down and placed them under the command of an officer named John J. Pershing. Villa proved to be an elusive fellow and Pershing never got him, but he did get enough publicity to become the logical man to command the American Expeditionary Force when America entered World War I. Villa got a dose of his own medicine. An expert in ambush, he himself was fatally ambushed

by some Mexicans in 1923. The diplomats finally settled the dispute and things went along comparatively calmly between the two nations until 1938.

Foreign capital had invested heavily in Mexico, especially in oil. At the urging of the oil workers' union, President Lazaro Cardenas seized the foreign holdings on March 18, 1938, including property of Standard of Indiana, Royal Shell and Sinclair. Hitler had just invaded Austria and the American

government was preoccupied with matters unconnected with oil rights. In addition, Franklin D. Roosevelt was at a stage in his presidency where the woes of big businessmen sometimes failed to move him to tears. Eventually an indemnity schedule was worked out and the oil companies were compensated by the Mexican government. The nationalized Mexican oil industry now is known as Pemex.

Next: Tourism as a business.

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MEDFORD MAIL TRIBUNE
MEDFORD, OREGON, THURSDAY, JANUARY 17, 1963

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A Dangerous Combination

Pensacola Girl Finds Breaking Cigarette Habit Difficult Problem

By DICK WEST
Washington—UPI—Anyone who quits smoking must go through a readjustment period that is likely to present certain difficulties. With me, these took the form of dart throwing and an abortive attempt to grow a beard. But by a large I have had it easy compared to the experience of a young lady in Pensacola, Fla., with whom I have been in correspondence.

I would mention her name except that she is in the broad casting business and therefore is presumably adverse to publicity. So I'll just call her Miss Wireless.

Miss Wireless writes that until a few months ago she not only was a confirmed cigarette smoker but also had a habit of chewing her fingernails.

This is a dangerous combination, owing to the fact that a smoker who sticks a finger in his or her mouth is apt to put a match to it by mistake.

Recognizing that she was a potential fire hazard, Miss Wireless resolved to kick the nicotine habit, which led to rather unexpected results.

"When I quit smoking," Miss Wireless reports, "I became befuddled, confused, dim-witted. At first, it was difficult to remember what I had stopped. So, by accident, I stopped biting my nails at the same time."

One might think that congratulations were in order for ridding herself of two bad habits, but Miss Wireless views it as a mixed blessing. "I now have long unshapely claws that constantly require attention. I rip my hose, I hit the wrong letters on the typewriter and I go around taping on tables all day."

"I never had any trouble picking up pins when I had no nails. Now I'm having to be rehabilitated and learn how to use the instruments. I wake up scratched and

bleeding every morning, and I've developed the dreadful habit of blowing on my nails and shining them on my collar."

Miss Wireless certainly has a problem there and, as a fellow ex-smoker, I would like to help if I can. My suggestion is that since she doesn't use cigarettes any more she should bite the filters off and impale them on the ends of her nails.

This would make her the only girl in Pensacola with filtered fingertips.



HONORED—Dr. B. Brandt Bartels, (right) of Medford was presented with a plaque at the recent meeting of the Oregon state board of health in Salem in appreciation for his services as a member of the board from 1959 to 1961. Making the presentation is Dr. Forrest E. Rieke, president of the board.

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