



COLLECTOR'S PARADISE — Betty Guptill browses through a shop full of knickknacks in Mexico City. She's lived there since 1951, when her husband was sent to the capital city as head of the Associated Press Bureau. They have two sons. She finds life in Mexico exotic, with a back-home atmosphere woven in.

Household Daily Routine In Capital City Of Mexico Is Ruled By Bells-Whistles

Editor's Note: Betty Guptill's husband Charles has been chief of The Associated Press Bureau in Mexico City since December of 1951, after similar duty in Rome. The Guptills have two sons, the youngest attending The American High School at Mexico City and the oldest—co-author of this article—a sophomore at The Rice Institute in Houston, Texas.

By BETTY GUPTILL
As told to her son,
Charles A. Guptill

MEXICO CITY (C—Clang! Clang! Clang!)

A man walking down the street shakes his old-fashioned handbell. The maid drops her broom in the living room, grabs the garbage pail as she sails through the kitchen and bolts out the back door to keep her daily rendezvous with the refuse collector.

All over Mexico the same thing goes on, as the familiar bells call forth accumulated trash from palatial mansions, modernistic homes, towering apartment houses, shabby tenements and sod huts—all of which may be found in a single block in Mexico City.

This capital city of more than four million souls is a place of contrast, of beauty, and especially of sound.

Bells and whistles announce the arrival of a multitude of services: the four little bells of the ice cream cart, the flute-like whistle of the mailman, the steam whistle of the trolley vendor pushing his cart with charcoal fires under the vats, the balloon man's warble—all lend continuous music to even the quietest residential streets throughout the day.

At night the shrill whistle of the "veladores" takes over. The "veladores" is a night watchman who usually totes a 1903 bolt-action rifle and circles the block after dark blasting away on his whistle. There is an average of about one for every block and the whistle serves two purposes: to let his colleague on the next block know that he is okay and to warn away lurking burglars.

The typical American family resident in Mexico becomes used to these sounds and they come to form part of the music of its life.

What does the home of such a family look like? The apartment where the refuse collector's bell sent the maid scurrying is one of three in a modern building where each occupies an entire floor. One of the living room walls is pink, another russet. Mexicans adore color. The long side of the living room is glass from floor to ceiling. Beyond is a small patio with two flowering trees, an ivied wall where bougainvillea flames brightly through most months of the year.

The living room ceiling is unfinished concrete. It looks like a closely cropped shag rug upside down. Lighting fixtures are recessed.

The kitchen is tiled underfoot and half way up the walls. There are such modern appliances as a washing machine, electric refrigerator and gas stove supplied from liquid gas tanks. There are no gas mains in Mexico.

Maids come relatively cheap in Mexico, and — besides dropping brooms at the sound of bells — are adept at dropping all manner of breakables. A large percentage have a talent, also, of picking up things of some value and disappearing — forever.

The average monthly wage is around \$20 plus food and lodging, more if she knows how to cook. Mostly they are girls from the country, often illiterate. But with their dark Indian faces and long black hair braided and intertwined with bright ribbons, they are a colorful substitute for some of the household gadgets which replaced the emigrant "hired girl" in the United States.

Household gadgets, incidentally, like all other manufactured articles, come high in Mexico. If they happen to be produced here, as many are, they are priced generally higher than in the United States. Imported merchandise costs stateside prices, plus shipping charges, plus stiff customs duties running up to 50 per cent.

The deluxe model of a low-priced American car, assembled in Mexico, costs approximately the same as a standard Cadillac in the United States.

Food prices average lower, and the quality, too. But you can get



ALL BOY and one-half-year old is Robert Wayne Meek, son of Mr. and Mrs. Robert Meek, Brookings; and grandson of Mr. and Mrs. Earl McVey, Merrill; and Mr. and Mrs. Calvin Meek, also Brookings. —Photo by Miller-Williams



FIRST GRANDSON—Don Aaron Edmonds, son of Mr. and Mrs. Al S. Edmonds of Washington, D.C., is the first grandchild of Mr. and Mrs. L. E. Skillington, 2554 Orchard Avenue. "Don" celebrated his first birthday anniversary April 10.



Knitted suits and dresses can look dingy and uncared for because of dust that clings to them. Try vacuuming these garments in between visits to the cleaners to give them a fresher look.

A scarf or clever hat are welcome travelers during summer. They not only keep the hot rays from making a person ill but also protect the hair and scalp from severe drying.

Cologne is a cooling addition to a summer beauty routine. Add some to bath water for a luxurious feeling. And for cool relief during a day, dab on cologne at intervals. The jersey coat, in pink or red, is good now and this summer, too. It's a steady traveler, emerging fresh and unwrinkled.

A meal in a first-class restaurant for approximately half what it would cost in an equivalent place in the states.

The American resident's social life follows pretty much the U.S. pattern. The wives often devote regular time to social work at the American Society or the Anglo-American hospital. There are the usual bridge-canastas and cocktail parties at the homes of friends.

Mexicans are friendly, but not pushy. The foreigner has to cultivate them if he wishes to know them well. It is worth the effort. They are a highly cultivated people, full of life, highly conversational, sensitive and nationalistic. Once they know you well, they become devoted friends.

American children living here generally attend the private American School, which also admits a quota of Mexicans. They pick up Spanish fast, speak it colloquially and generally shame their slower-witted parents.

Want to live in an exotic foreign country, with back-home atmosphere woven in? Come to Mexico!

YREKA

IONA COUNCIL NO. 11
New officers to serve Iona Council No. 11, Degree of Pocahontas, were nominated at the recent meeting, conducted by Pocahontas Eleanor Kent.

Election and installation of the nominees will take place during the June meeting.

Those nominated were Mrs. Madeleine Wiman, Pocahontas; Mrs. Opal Hast, Wenonah; Mrs. Barbara Schaible, Powhatan; Mrs. Eleanor Kent, prophetess; Mrs. Mary Tusow, pianist; Vernice Beem, collector of wampum; Mrs. Irene Quenell, keeper of wampum; Mrs. Gerry Sewell, keeper of records; Mrs. Bonnie Stanshaw and Mrs. Minnie Bowers, trustees.

During the business session, Mrs. Wiman reported on the school of instruction held in May at McCloud. Mrs. Sylvia Thomason, who attended the event with Mrs. Wiman, was chosen as District Pocahontas. Also attending were Mrs. Mae Howard, Mrs. Goldie Moore and Mrs. Ursula Dooley.

At the conclusion of the evening, refreshments were served to the 24 members present by the refreshment committee, Mrs. Inez Calvert, chairman, and Mrs. Ursula Cooley, Mrs. Barbara Schaible and Mrs. Madeleine Wiman.

Those named on the refreshment committee for June are Mrs. Dora Burbank, chairman; Mrs. Eleanor Kent, Mrs. Hilda Reynolds and Mrs. Kay Schuler.

Heat also makes cosmetics limp. Put the refrigerator to work during summer months cooling beauty aids. Keep them stored neatly in a plastic tray and keep it clean by washing with a sudsy sponge occasionally.

Katherine Nelson New WA Of Dunsmuir Chapter RFG

DUNSMUIR — Katherine Nelson took office as worthy adviser of Dunsmuir chapter, Order of Rainbow, in colorful ceremonies at the evening of May 21.

83rd Birthday

BONANZA—Mrs. Birdie Burk of Bonanza celebrated her 83rd birthday on May 27. She was born at Poe Valley to Mr. and Mrs. John Horton in 1875. Poe Valley was named after her mother's family name.

Mrs. Burk has lived in Poe Valley, Langell Valley and Bonanza all her life.

Mrs. Ivan Bold made a birthday cake and coffee and a few friends surprised her on her birthday. Present were Mrs. Bold and Mary Anne, Mrs. Merrill Stewart, Mrs. Bill Becholdt and Mrs. Burk's granddaughter Mrs. Stanley Masten and two little daughters, Carolyn and Anne, of Poe Valley.

Officers that will serve with her for the ensuing term are Rayola Hanlen, worthy associate adviser; JoAnne Kolby, charity; Marjorie Green, hope; Margie Grenvick, faith; Janet Mecklin, love; Carolyn Clark, religion; Delores Emerson, nature; Judy Crowe, immortality; Darlene Wylie, fidelity; Sandra Smith, patriotism; Terri Fawcett, service; Donna Parsons, chaplain; Elaine Willman, outer observer; Dian LaBarre, inner observer; Patsy Herrin, recorder; Marcia Gordon, treasurer; Nancy Swift, musician and Linda Lockart, drill leader.

"Beauty" was the theme for the evening and C. W. Champlin, host, spoke of beauty in its various forms in his welcoming address.

"Beauty" was spelled out across the east drape and "A Thing of Beauty is a Joy Forever" was

emblazoned across the west balcony. Baskets of flowers and bouquets completed the room decor.

The officers-elect entered the room carrying be-ribboned ivory fans and formed a fan of many colors at the conclusion of their drill for the entrance of the new worthy adviser.

Sue Samuelson gave the American Flag tribute, and JoAnne Hanlen, the Rainbow flag tribute.

Venida Champlin, flower girl, presented a bouquet to the new

worthy adviser before she took her vows. The evening concluded with the serving of refreshments in the Maple Room.

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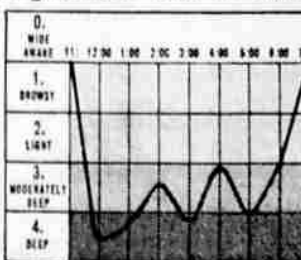
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