



El Amigo



FRIENDS OF TAXCO



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March 2017

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Pancho Villa

The Mexican Revolution, which began in 1910, ended the dictatorship of Porfirio Diaz and established the what was to become the “United Mexican States,” a Constitutional Republic. A number of groups, led by revolutionaries including Pancho Villa, Francisco Madero, Pascual Orozco and Emiliano Zapata participated in the long and costly conflict which continued into the 1930s.

Francisco “Pancho” Villa was born as Doroteo Arango to rural peasant parents in San Juan del Rio, Mexico, on June 5, 1878. He later took several aliases, the most popular and well-known was “Pancho Villa.” Raised in poverty

in Durango, he turned to cattle rustling and robbery as a young man. The turning point in his life, was the day his sister was attacked and raped by a Mexican Aristocrat. He killed his sister’s attacker and became a fugitive on the run. Villa wanted revenge against the whole world and soon turned from being simply a bandit leader into a full-fledged revolutionary, with the aim of overthrowing Mexican dictator Porfirio Diaz. To that end Villa became an ally of another revolutionary, the cultured and educated Francisco I. Madero. They were very different but both believed the common people should not live to serve the rich. Villa soon became a diehard supporter of the small Madero, who he affectionately called “the little man.” Madero appointed Villa a colonel in the revolutionary army. On May 11, 1911, Villa led a daring raid against the federal stronghold of Juarez, soundly defeating the government forces and securing Madero’s position as the new president. After Diaz was driven from power in 1911 and Madero installed as president, Villa went home. His stay there was not to be very long, however. Two years later Madero was overthrown and executed by renegade General Victoriano Huerta. Enraged, Villa reformed his army, now called the Army of the North and became an important member of a coalition of anti-Huerta forces. The forces included such legendary Mexican figures as Emiliano Zapata and Venustiano Carranza.

Villa’s mounted troops, called “Villistas”, were highly mobile and seasoned by years of fighting against the Diaz regime. They inflicted a decisive defeat on Huerta’s army in northern Mexico at the Battle of Zacatecas on June 23, 1913, then began a campaign to drive Huerta’s forces south to their stronghold of Mexico City. By December, in conjunction with the armies of Carranza and Zapata, Villa captured

History of Mexican Revolution Cont.

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Mexico City, forcing Huerta to flee and placing control of the government in the hands of the three rebel leaders. The following spring Villa was forced out of the trio of leaders when he lost a power struggle with Carranza. In the ensuing conflict his troops were badly defeated by Carranza's army and Villa was forced to withdraw to his headquarters in Durango. There he resumed his life as a bandit, raiding isolated American border towns and mining camps as well as Mexican villages.

On March 9, 1916, troops under Villa's command raided the town of Columbus, New Mexico. They looted and burned down much of it causing the deaths of more than a dozen residents. About 30 of their own men were killed by American soldiers and civilians defending the town. Supposedly Villa was angered by the U.S. authorities allowing elements of Carranza's army to cross through American territory as a shortcut in an attempt to get ahead of Villa and ambush him. The raid was in retaliation for that. The U.S. government sent an expeditionary force into Mexico under General John J. Pershing to capture Villa. However, Villa's maneuverability and superior knowledge of the terrain enabled him to elude the pursuing American troops and Pershing's forces withdrew from the area the following year. At the same time the army of Carranza was trying to capture Villa and he was able to avoid both the U.S and Mexican armies at the same time.

In 1920 the Carranza government struck a deal with Villa in which he agreed to halt his raiding in exchange for settling down on a ranch in Canutillo and being appointed a general in the Mexican army. On June 20, 1923, Villa was ambushed and murdered in Parral, Mexico, by followers of Alvaro Obregon. He was a former army general, who feared that Villa would oppose their leader's candidacy for president in the upcoming elections. Immediately following his death the name of Pancho Villa was eliminated from all history and children's books and all monuments in Mexico. It wasn't until 1975 that both the Mexican and American governments agreed to exhume his body and when they did, they discovered that someone had stolen his head. After a large parade was held in his honor in Mexico, Pancho Villa's body was sent to the cemetery where many Mexican revolutionary heroes were buried and he was finally given the proper burial he deserved.

Why Did I Join - by Bill Harmon



A few weeks ago at my first board meeting, I was asked, "Why did I join Friends of Taxco?" My first response was "AAH!!!" and then a flood of thoughts like; make a difference, pay it forward, do a good turn daily, give of myself, help my fellow man, hands across the border and so on and so on, danced around in my head. I then unconsciously blurted out "Barbara White and my wife Fayleen tricked me". Knowing my interest in consuming beer, they soon had me volunteering for the Commissary position. Well, there I was at my first board meeting.

After the initial shock of being in my newfound position, I have taken part at several club-sponsored events. I have to say it has been a real joy to be a member of such a well-run club. I would like to thank you all for helping me hit the ground running as part of such a wonderful cause.

Message From The Vice President

FIESTA FLING

Our **Fiesta Fling** this year is also going to be our **Welcome Party** for the Taxco delegation.

Saturday, May 27, 6 p.m. at the Elk's Lodge for dinner and dancing.

The Fiesta Fling is our major fundraiser for the year and we would like to make the evening very special, as always.



Barbara White

WE NEED YOUR HELP!!

The committee will be assembling gift baskets to be raffled off. We need the following:

- Baskets
- Gift cards
- New items like plates, glasses or whatever we can pair with other things to make an enticing basket for you to spend your raffle tickets on a chance to win it.

If you have any of these items or a better idea for a basket and items for that basket, please call Barb White.



Visitation Planning Committee

**The Taxco Delegation will be here in Canoga
Friday, May 26 through Sunday, June 4.**

- Our **Welcome Party/Fiesta Fling** will be on Saturday, May 27 at 6 pm for check in at the bar, 7:00 pm for dinner and dancing at the Elk's Club
- Sunday May 28 we will have **Family Dinners** set up so that you may host 1-2 Taxco visitors and their hosts at your home for dinner.
- Monday, May 29 we will have front row seats to the **Canoga Park Memorial Day Parade** and then go to the Elk's Club for hamburgers and hot dogs, \$10 each.
- Tuesday, May 30 we leave for an overnight in **Newport Beach** to see the beautiful harbor and Balboa Island.
- Friday, June 2 we will visit our **Kindergarten class at Anatola Elementary.**
- Our **Farewell Dinner** will be on either Friday, June 2 or Saturday, June 3, location and price to be determined.

We are still busy planning all of the activities. **Plan on joining us for the Fun!** We are expecting about 8 visitors. If you would like to host a Family Dinner, please let the committee know.

If you would like to house 1-2 visitors, please let us know that too.

The Visitation Planning Committee:

Barb White, Ruth Bromund, Ceci Gomez-Soles, Linda Lewis and Jo Lamoreaux

OUR TRIP TO TAXCO 2017

We are going to Taxco **Friday, October 27 and returning Sunday, November 5.**

ARE YOU COMING WITH US?

I am so excited about this time of year because we will be in Taxco for the Day of the Dead festivities. I personally have never seen this celebration in Mexico and am very excited thinking about experiencing it for myself! Please consider taking your membership to the next level and joining us! I promise you will not regret it!

St. Patrick's Day Progressive Dinner



Join us for the Progressive Dinner



Saint Patrick's Day

March 18th

Starts at: 6:00 PM

House Progression

StreLOW - Lamoreaux - White - German

\$15.00 per person
add \$3.00 if no reservation



Kindly RSVP To: Lynne Davies - (818) 998-2860
lynne.davies@att.net

Calendar of Events 2016

- | | |
|----------|---|
| March 18 | St Patrick's Progressive Dinner - 5:30 PM
Start at Bobbie StreLOW's Home |
| March 22 | Board Meeting - 7:00 PM
Lewis Home |
| April 22 | Board Meeting - 10:00 AM
Location TBD |
| April 29 | Jazz Dinner Show - 6:30 PM
\$15.00
Social Hall - 8901 Eton Ave. |
| May 13 | Board Meeting - 10:00 AM
Location TBD |
| May 27 | Fiesta Fling & Welcome Party - 6:00 PM
Canoga Park Elks Lodge - 20925 Osborne St. |



FRIENDS OF TAXCO

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