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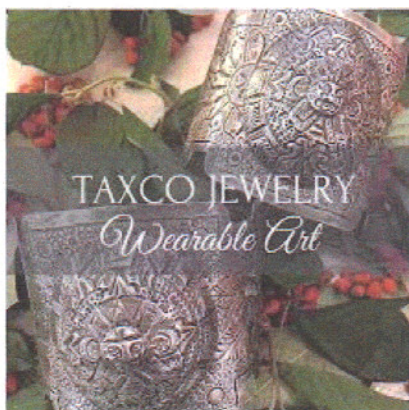
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Taxco Gift
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Ways and Means
Linda Lewis

The History of Silver Production in Taxco



The history of silver in Taxco is a fascinating combination of legend and fact. Located in the mountains between Acapulco and Mexico City in the state of Guerrero. Taxco is one of the oldest mining sites in the America's. It has retained its natural charm with its colonial ambiance, red-tiled roofs, narrow winding cobble-stoned streets and the towering impressive 258 year old Santa Prisca Cathedral. The natural wealth of silver in Taxco attracted the early Conquistadors.

Before the Spanish arrived the native Indians called it Tlacho meaning the place of the ballgame. According to local legend the Aztecs made the locals pay tribute to them with gold bars. Hernan Cortes arrived and the Spanish conquered the Aztecs in 1521. A year afterwards Cortes staked his mining claim in Taxco. By the end of the century, silver from Taxco had spread across Europe, and remote Taxco was renowned for its wealth of silver. It had become Spain's primary source in the New World of precious metals and had become a busy mining area. Mining gradually decreased as other richer and more accessible mining areas were discovered and developed, and eventually faded out for almost 200 years.

Don Jose de la Borda (a Spaniard of French descent) rediscovered silver in Taxco, when as legend has it, he was riding and wandering in the hills of Taxco and he spotted a rich silver vein. He struck a fortune in Taxco and in gratitude built among other things (schools, roads, houses) the beautiful and now famous Santa Prisca Cathedral, an ornate cathedral with lots of gold trim in the Spanish Baroque style. Borda was quoted as saying "God gives to Borda, so Borda gives back to God" (Don Jose's son served as a priest in this church for many years). The church can be seen from all over Taxco, it glitters in the sunlight and has become a focal point for the city. Don Jose is still considered the "father" of Taxco. He eventually left the area returning to Spain, when he became financially over-extended leaving his mines unworked. Thereafter more than a dozen other beautiful churches were built in the city by other successful miners.



History of Taxco Silver Cont.

(Continued From Page 1)

Between the 1600's and the 1800's Bolivia, Peru and Mexico grew to produce about 85% of the worlds silver production. During Mexico's 19th century war for Independence the Spanish barons destroyed their mines rather than lose them to the revolutionaries, and the art of silver work died out in Taxco for quite some time.

In the late 1920's the highway from Mexico City finally reached Taxco and in 1926, William Spratling, a U.S. citizen and associate architecture professor from Tulane University arrived in Taxco to study Mexico and its culture. In 1929 he moved to Taxco and was welcomed into the influential artistic circles of Mexico. In 1931 U.S. Ambassador Dwight Morrow commented to Mr. Spratling that Taxco had been the site of silver mines for centuries, but unfortunately had never been considered a location where jewelry and objects of silver were designed and made. This seemingly insignificant comment changed the course of Taxco's artistic and economic history.

Mr. Spratling discovered the potential talent in the locals and motivated the community artisans to create designs and rediscover the craft of silversmithing. With his own designs he created an apprentice system of training young silversmiths with artistic talent and gave them the opportunity to develop their skill. He brought in from Iguala a highly regarded goldsmith to teach the art of working precious metal. The great beauty and craftsmanship coming out of Taxco earned worldwide recognition and fame once again for Mexico. Over time many of these artisans opened workshops and stores of their own - all encouraged by Spratling's unwavering support. Now considered the great old master of Mexican Silver, Mr. Antonio Pineda along with former fellow apprentices the Castillos, Ledesma, and Chino Ruiz have produced and continue to craft some of the most highly regarded, collectable pieces of art, vases, serving sets and jewelry. Their work continues to inspire the next generation of silversmiths and artisans who now number in the hundreds.

William Spratling passed away in 1967 due to a car accident just outside his beloved Taxco. Throughout Mexico Spratling is widely regarded as "The Father of Mexican Silver." A silver bust of Spratling is kept in the city's silver museum, alongside images of Don Jose de la Borda. The Spratling Museum is located behind the Santa Prisca Cathedral and houses the Spratling Collection of silver and Pre-Columbian figures that he left to the city of Taxco. Each November, during the last week of the month, Taxco honors its source of wealth and fame with the famous Silver Festival (or Feria Nacional de La Plata), where craftsmen, artisans and silversmiths show their work. A national prize is awarded to the best silver artist of the Fair. Also held during the silver festival is a beauty pageant where local high school aged women compete for the title of Silver Queen (Reina de Plata). The Queen is crowned along with her court of runner-ups during the festivities.

Liaison



Randy Lewis

This past Sunday, May 22nd, several of the Friends of Taxco traveled down to Redondo Beach to support the 13th Annual Tri-Beach Cities Sister Cities Fundraiser. Les and Jo Lamoreaux, Bobbie Strelow, Bob Thompson and Randy and Linda Lewis all enjoyed the great Mexican food, live entertainment and of course Margaritas from the "Ortega 120" restaurant. The function was well attended with around 150 participants who bid on over 200 items in their Silent Auction in addition to a Live Auction that featured 20 or so items. The Live Auction included several trips to Loreto, Mexico; a meal at Fire Stations in Manhattan and Redondo Beach and a variety of other items. All in all it was a wonderful time to meet members of other sister city groups and just relax and enjoy the afternoon. The proceeds of the event benefit the people and cultural exchange programs for Redondo Beach (La Paz and Ensenada), Hermosa Beach (Loreto) and Manhattan Beach (Santa Rosalia).

Message From The President

"Camaraderie" - Webster's dictionary simply defines it as 'a feeling of friendship among people in a group'. In my short tenure as president, I have seen and experienced amazing camaraderie within FOT. Members step up to help host a meeting, set up and clean up for events, call another member and ask them if they need a ride, sending a note to someone to say thanks. These connections, though simple, form a major part of what makes FOT a great organization.



Jo Lamoreaux

Our camaraderie was exemplified as we came together for the Fiesta Fling. With over 80 people in attendance including new members, longtime members and guests experiencing FOT for the first time we had a great evening of fun and 'fund-raising'. We talked, laughed, learned (you now know the history of the shrimp cocktail!), ate, sang, danced, enjoyed each other's company and met new people in a great spirit of friendship.

I am a firm believer you can measure how an event is going by the noise level. From the time it started- the bar was over-flowing and the volume sometimes made it a bit hard to be heard, to the spirited conversations over dinner, to the laughter as we danced the night away, to the gentle kidding as the raffle baskets were won - the noise level showed a group having a great time throughout the evening!

A huge thanks to the Canoga Park Elks for donating the use of the room, to the Van Nuys Reseda Antlers for serving and to all who made the Fiesta Fling happen!

Your next opportunity to experience our camaraderie will be June 18th at the Lewis Hideaway and Saloon. It is an outlaw night, complete with great grub, and live western music. See the flyer and make your reservations with 'Madam' Fayleen.

See you soon,
Jo (aka Sally Scull in June)

Picnic in Warner Center Park

Glen Leonard's Temptations Revue

***Bring Your
Lawn Chair***

July 17th - 4:30 PM

***\$15.00
Per Person***

Appetizers - Dinner - Dessert



Glenn Leonard's Temptations Revue is a high-energy performance with vivid choreography, where he performs all the hits like only he, and his all-star cast, can! Mr. Leonard was the lead tenor of the Temptations from 1975-83, recorded on 10 albums with the group, appeared on numerous TV specials worldwide, and toured the globe many times over.

RSVP: Fayleen Harmon - (818) 882-8838

Ways and Means

Folks are still talking about what a fantastic time they had at our Fiesta Fling. It was a beautiful evening and we need to give the crew a big hand for all their efforts. There were many helping hands who worked to make it a success from the makers and donators of the gift baskets, the decorating/set-up crew, the kitchen crew, Van Nuys Antler Servers and those who stayed to the late hours to make sure everything was cleaned up. Our guests enjoyed a delicious dinner and danced to the music of the "Generation Gap" 'til late in the evening. The evening ended with announcing the Chinese and Live Auction winners. Many thanks also go to Canoga Park Elks Lodge for allowing us to use their beautiful hall and to all who came out and supported the fundraiser.



Linda Lewis

You will need to dust off your cowboy hat and boots, then saddle up for a culinary journey to the Wild West for our June Ways and Means Event. We have a boot-stompin' fun filled evening planned for you at the Lewis Saloon and Hideaway on Saturday, June 18th beginning at 6:00 P.M. Live Western Music will keep you entertained while grubbin' on some smakin' good ole vittles. Check out ye ole flyer for additional information and give Madam Fayleen a holler to make your reservation. Western garb or not, you and your guests are invited to come out and join us. Maybe you will have a chance to meet one of the infamous FOT Outlaw Gang.

Make sure you mark July 17th on your calendar for the Music in the Park Event, at Warner Center. This year we will be entertained by the "Glen Leonard's Temptations Revue". Glenn Leonard is best remembered for serving as the first tenor/secondary lead singer of the Motown quintet world famous "The Temptations" from 1975 to 1983. We will be able enjoy a period special dinner and bring back memories of the group singing on American Bandstand, The Midnight Special and other popular national programs. Our morning scouts will again select the perfect shaded area for us all to enjoy. Invite a friend, bring your outdoor chairs and appetite and get ready for a spectacular exciting evening.

Calendar of Events 2016

June 18 \$15.00	Calling All Outlaws - 6:00 PM National Steak Celebration - Lewis Home
June 25	Board Meeting - 10:00 AM - Potluck Brunch Stauss Home
July 17 \$15.00	Picnic in the Park - Temptations Revue - 4:30 PM Warner Park - 5800 Topanga Canyon Blvd.
July 23	Board Meeting - 10:00 AM - No Brunch Esquibel Home
August 14 \$12.00	General Meeting - 1:00 PM Canoga Park Women's Club - 7401 Jordan Ave., Canoga Park
August 27	Board Meeting - 10:00 AM - No Brunch Strelow Home
September 17 \$15.00	Ways N Means Event - 6:00 PM Lamoreaux Home



FRIENDS OF TAXCO

contact information
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WANTED

FOR GRUBBIN' & GUZZLIN'

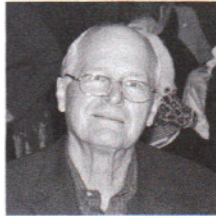
THE FOT GANG

Be on the lookout for these known outlaws - they look docile but are extremely dangerous...

They have hoodwinked and hornswaggled everone what's come in contact with em.



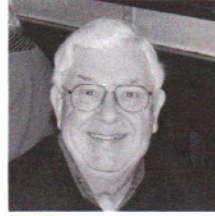
Fannie Porter



Wild Bill



Sally Skull



Big Time Charlie



Belle Starr



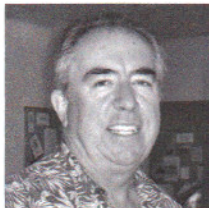
Cyrus Skinner



Billy the Kid



Pearl Hart



Jesse James



Cattle Kate



Joaquin Murrieta



Poker Alice

June 18th - 6:00 pm

Lewis Saloon & Hideaway

REWARD

A Full and Happy Tummy



\$15.000

per person



For RSVP Immediately Contact

"Madam" Fayleen - (818) 882-8838

LIVE MUSIC BY: GREG KHOUGAZ & ALAN SLOANE OF THE DESERT WIND BAND

Web-Site: <http://www.friendsoftaxco.org>