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Tlaxcala Coat of Arms

Tlaxcala, Mexico's smallest state, was once home to the ancient Olmeca–Xicalanca civilization. Tlaxcala is home to three famous bullrings. The most popular is the Jorge “El Ranchero” Aguilar plaza, built in the 18th century in the heart of Tlaxcala City. Today it's known for its farms and textiles. Tlaxcala has a long and rich history of cultural diversity. Modern industries are bringing new prosperity to the state, but they are also threatening the region's unique customs and traditions. The first Saturday after August 15, they celebrate La Huamantlada, the running of the bulls similar to the tradition in Pamplona, Spain

Early History

Archaeological evidence reveals the presence of human life in Tlaxcala as early as 10,000 B.C., when nomadic hunters and gatherers roamed the region. The first people to settle the land, however, were the Quinametn, who were later displaced by the Olmec-Xicalanca, a tribe related to the Mayans. The Olmec-Xicalanca built the city of Cacaxtla around 700 A.D. Dominating the city's center was a high natural platform that offered a solid defensive position with commanding views of the surrounding area; the platform rose to a height of 24 meters (80 feet) and was 183 meters (600 feet) long. The city's main religious and civic buildings were located on this platform.

Cacaxtla's civilization declined at the beginning of the 10th century, opening the way for the Teo-Chichimecas to take control of the region. The Teo-Chichimecas, in turn, were defeated by the Tlaxcaltecas in the middle of the 14th century. Beginning with the construction of Tepecticpac in 1348, the Tlaxcaltecas founded a small but powerful empire in the region that now bears their name. Skilled fighters, the Tlaxcaltecas followed the god of war and hunting, Camaxtli. Their military prowess enabled them to collect taxes from those they conquered; it also enabled them to resist the Aztecs—one of the few tribes to do so.

Middle History

In 1519 the Spanish conquistador Hernán Cortés fought and subdued the Tlaxcaltecas. Aware of their rivalry with the Aztecs, Cortés then persuaded them to join an alliance against the Aztec empire, centered at Tenochtitlán to the west. In exchange for their support, he promised not to levy taxes on them or confiscate their land. In 1521 the alliance succeeded, firmly establishing Spanish control of central Mexico. Afterward, the Tlaxcaltecas continued to aid the Spaniards, fighting against other indigenous tribes and settling the newly conquered territories. During most of the 16th century, the Spanish respected the agreement made between Cortés and the Tlaxcaltecas. As the century drew to a close, however, new Spanish authorities began to collect taxes and occupy their land.

The History of Tlaxcala Cont.

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Sporadic insurrections occurred during the 17th and 18th centuries, but the Spaniards finally prevailed.

When Mexico began its war for independence from Spain in 1810, Tlaxcala was home to an active pro-independence group, but forces loyal to the Spanish crown controlled the region throughout the conflict. After the Treaty of Córdoba secured Mexico's independence in 1821, Tlaxcala was incorporated into the new nation.

Recent History

During the tumultuous early years of Mexican independence, Tlaxcala's official status changed several times. Because of its small size and limited economic production, critics argued that the region should not be a separate state. In 1823 the neighboring state of Puebla attempted unsuccessfully to annex Tlaxcala. From 1836 until 1847 Tlaxcala belonged to the Department of Mexico. In May 1847 the region became an independent territory again, until it finally achieved statehood in 1857.

Mexico's 19th century was characterized by political and social instability, and Tlaxcala's proximity to the nation's capital caused it to feel the effects directly. Conflicts between federalists and centralists, and later between conservatives and liberals, hindered the state's economic development and subjected it to various military confrontations. The presidency of Benito Juárez that began in 1867 initiated a period of stability that helped Tlaxcala emerge as a commercial center specializing in textiles.

Soon after, Porfirio Díaz, who ruled Mexico from 1877 to 1880 and from 1884 to 1911, ordered the construction of a railroad from Mexico City to Veracruz. The rail line stretched across Tlaxcala, bringing economic benefits to the cities on the route. Many haciendas and ranches saw profits soar as the railway reduced their costs for transporting corn, beans and cattle.

Despite the improvements Díaz made in the country's infrastructure, opposition escalated as his increasingly autocratic presidency extended over three decades. The Mexican Revolution of 1910 quickly brought an end to the Díaz era, but peasant uprisings and battles among various factions lasted until 1917. Unlike many other states, however, Tlaxcala was largely unaffected by the military conflict and made a relatively smooth transition to peace. During the rest of the 20th century, this small but densely populated state continued to develop its commerce in textiles and other goods.

Tlaxcala Today

Tlaxcala's main crops are corn, alfalfa, squash, lettuce, barley, wheat, potatoes, lima beans and maguey cactus. Corn, the most important nutritional element of the region's cooking, is raised in every municipality. Barley is also widely cultivated and then sold to large breweries in Veracruz and the Federal District. Maguey, used to make fermented beverages, is grown primarily in the municipalities of Calpulalpan, Tlaxco and Alzayanca.

About 28 percent of the state's economy derives from the manufacture of textiles, chemicals, pharmaceuticals, machinery, automotive parts, handicrafts and other goods. The textile industry is concentrated around Santa Ana Chiautempan, producing threads, fabrics and finished clothing. Additional textile facilities are located in Xicotencatl, Xiloxoxotla, Ixtacuixtla and Calpulalpan.



Facts & Figures

Capital: Tlaxcala

Major Cities (population): Tlaxcala (83,748), Huamantla (77,076), Apizaco (73,097), Vicente Guerrero (64,107), Chiautempan (63,300)

Size/Area: 1,568 square miles

Population: 1,068,207 (2005 Census)

Year of statehood: 1857

Photo on the left is of the Jorge "El Ranchero" Aguilar stadium in Tlaxcala, a famous Bull fighting ring in the city.

President's Article

We have two amazing August events!
Please plan on attending – we would love to see you.

First is our August General Meeting where we will catch you up on what the Board has been working on and how we are doing with our budget. Also please come to see two scrapbooks of our visit to Taxco last October and our visitation this May in Canoga with our Taxco guests.



Barbara White

AND Ana Bonilla will be presenting a program on Tiffany Lamps. I can't wait to experience it... This is at our General Meeting on Sunday August 5 at 1 pm at the Canoga Park Women's Club.

Then on Sunday August 19 at 2 pm, come for a presentation about one of our founders, Francis Lederer. Francis and Marion Lederer were inspired by President Eisenhower's message of creating People to People programs, linking us with people of other countries to encourage understanding of their culture and establishing friendship with other nations. Eisenhower thought that this was the surest way to prevent another world war. And so Francis and Marion travelled Mexico looking for the best pairing for Canoga Park. At that time Rocketdyne made Canoga Park very important in the space race. And so pairing us with Taxco, a colonial town in the hills was a beautiful combination. Come and see an interview with Francis and then stay for a matinee of one of his movies, "Romance in Manhattan" with co-star, Ginger Rodgers.

Stay cool! Join us for the air conditioned comfort of the Women's Club for these two events. And then continue to have a beautiful summer filled with fun and relaxation!

September Ways and Means Event

Steaks On The Chisholm Trail



September 15th

6:00 PM Social - 7:00 Dinner



LEWIS' RANCH

21305 Chase St.

RSVP to: Bobbie Strelow
(818) 388-7801
bobbiejoann2@gmail.com



Francis Lederer Interview Premier



August 19th

2:00 PM

Canoga Park Women's Club
7401 Jordan Ave.



Come view the 1992
interview of FOT founder
Francis Lederer.

This is the 1st time it has
been shown in public, so
you will not want to miss it.

\$5.00 per person
Includes Popcorn



Following the interview we
will be showing the film
"Romance In Manhattan"
Staring Francis Lederer and
Ginger Rogers.

Introduction by: Ed Stauss

RSVP Bobbie Strelow (818) 388-7801 bobbiejoann2@gmail.com

Calendar of Events 2018

August 19 **Francis Lederer Interview Premier & Film - 2:00 PM**
\$5.00 Canoga Park Women's Club - 7401 Jordan Ave.

August 25 **Board Meeting - 10:00 AM - No Brunch**
Rush & Barb White Home - 22619 Marlin Place.

September 15 **Steaks on the Chisholm Trail - 6:00 PM**
\$20.00 Randy & Linda Lewis Home - 21305 Chase St.

September 22 **Board Meeting - 10:00 AM - Brunch**
Lamoreaux Home - 20554 Chase St.

October 13 **Fiesta Fling - 6:00 PM Social - 7:00 PM Dinner**
Canoga Park Women's Club - 7401 Jordan Ave.

October 27 **Board Meeting - 10:00 AM - No Brunch**
TBD

November 4 **General Meeting - 1:00 PM Luncheon**
\$12.00 Canoga Park Women's Club - 7401 Jordan Ave.



FRIENDS OF TAXCO

contact information

Randy Lewis - Editor

P.O. Box 9070

Canoga Park, CA 91309

(818) 998-0983

randy7547@gmail.com