



FRIENDS OF TAXCO

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As you will recall we left off last month with the assassination of President Carranza and the election of Obregón who began to implement the ideals set forth in the 1917 constitution. A system was set up to distribute land to the landless and to restore communal holdings (ejidos) to villages. The government supported the Regional Confederation of Mexican Labor (Confederación Regional de Obreros Mexicanos; CROM). José Vasconcelos, who was named minister of education, was to implement the program of rural education while supporting cultural and artistic endeavors throughout Mexico.

At the end of his term, Obregón stepped aside for Calles. Calles's presidency followed the same general lines as that of Obregón. Land distribution was stepped up, an irrigation program was begun, and in 1925 renewed pressure was put on the petroleum companies to exchange leases for the titles they had obtained from Díaz.

Problems with the church developed when Calles instituted vigorously anticlerical measures; in retaliation the church suspended all religious ceremonies and approved and possibly sponsored a rebellion in western Mexico known as the Cristeros. Mediation of the church-state controversy was unofficially accomplished by Dwight W. Morrow, the U.S. ambassador to Mexico, whose sympathetic and skillful diplomacy also eased tensions between the two countries.

In 1928 the presidential term was extended from four to six years, and the doctrine of "no reelection" was modified to mean "no successive reelection." Obregón was elected to a second "Non-Successive" term in 1928, but as president-elect, he was assassinated by José de León Toral, a religious fanatic.

With Calles legally barred from succeeding himself, a peculiarly Mexican political party was formed: the National Revolutionary Party, who would eventually become the Institutional Revolutionary Party. Its monopoly on power would occasion major controversy in the years ahead. Formed under Calles's inspiration, it was initially a coalition of regional and local military bosses, labor and peasant leaders. To safeguard the gains of the revolution, Calles excluded the Roman Catholic Church and other possible reactionary groups. With Calles at its head, the official party governed in the name of the revolution. A congress, drawn from party ranks, named successive, short-term presidents to fill out the term to which Obregón had been elected. In the period from 1928 - 1934 the worldwide depression and increasing personal vested interests caused many of the older, now conservative revolutionaries, including Calles, to go slowly implementing the reform mandates of the constitution.

History of Mexican Revolution Cont.

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The ruling clique continued to be militantly anticlerical, and it withdrew support from CROM, which disintegrated. It also slowed the pace of land distribution and curtailed educational programs. On the positive side, the Calles years saw the beginnings of an irrigation and road-building program.

Within the revolutionary family, General Lázaro Cárdenas was a respected if not outstanding revolutionary. Having quietly and faithfully worked his way up the ladder of politico-military power during the Obregón and Calles years, he seemed a safe candidate in the 1934 elections. He was also acceptable to a powerful group within the party, which drafted a six-year plan incorporating extended revolutionary reforms.

With his election to the presidency for a six-year term beginning in 1934, Cárdenas moved to the left in opposition to Calles's wishes. When the inevitable test of power came, Cárdenas won, pushed Calles into temporary exile, and renamed and reorganized the party. He gave four important groups special representation: peasants; labor; the military and the "popular sector," which included bureaucrats and teachers. The four sectors agreed to support the slate of candidates the party designated. The local, state, and national representatives made party policy and ratified the president's choice of candidates.

With massive popular support and with the power elites under control, Cárdenas tirelessly pushed toward revolutionary goals. He and his advisers accelerated the land-reform programs and by the end of his term, about 40 percent of the rural working force was under the ejido program. Cárdenas also nationalized railways and placed them under the management of labor.

Perhaps Cárdenas's single most spectacular action was the nationalization of oil. Following a labor dispute in which unions demanded not only wage increases but also participation in what management considered its exclusive role. A series of court cases and special boards found in favor of the workers. When the companies refused to accept the decisions, Cárdenas on March 18, 1938, decreed expropriation of their holdings, thus nationalizing the petroleum industry. Petróleos Mexicanos (Pemex), then a small agency, was designated to administer the industry for the country.

Mexicans consider March 18, 1938, as the anniversary of Mexican economic independence. Cárdenas had not only restored an important resource to national patrimony but also showed that national honor and dignity could not be flouted by foreign entrepreneurs. Pemex developed the capacity to fuel the industrial revolution that marked Mexico's next move to a higher level. No one realized at the time how important petroleum would become on the world political and economic scene in the decades ahead.

General Manuel Ávila Camacho, whom Cárdenas supported, and General Juan Andreu Almazán fought a close and bitter contest for the presidency in 1940. Almazán lost and sought U.S. support for a revolution. To emphasize the U.S. position toward Ávila Camacho and Mexico, Roosevelt sent Vice President Henry A. Wallace to attend the inauguration. When Cárdenas left the presidency in November 1940, a major chapter of the Mexican Revolution and the Nation's growth had closed.

Ávila Camacho's domestic policy was conciliatory. While retaining earlier positions, he pacified Roman Catholics by announcing, "I am a believer." These words had political importance that transcended their immediate religious significance. They meant that the social programs of the Mexican Revolution would slow down after 1940. The overriding issues of the day were diplomatic and economic; the Cárdenas resurgence had increased Mexico's self-respect but left it in an economically depressed state. That takes us up to 1940 and soon World War II would test the strength and resiliency of the newly formed Mexican Government and Constitution.

Message From The President

Happy New Year to everyone! And with the New Year we have new Friends of Taxco officers and chairmen. As your new president, I am honored to continue the tradition of all of the fine presidents before me and continue our work for fundraising, membership increase and preparing a lovely visitation for our Taxco delegation in May.

We begin our year with a wonderful Surf and Turf “Out of This World” fundraiser on Saturday, January 20 at the Lewis home. Where can you get a gourmet steak and lobster dinner for \$25? Why with Friends of Taxco at the Lewis home, that’s where! Please call or email your reservation into Bobbie Strelow. See the flyer for more details. I hope you will join me at this great event!



Barbara White

Rush and I had the pleasure of travelling to Taxco with our FOT delegation and we enjoyed the loving, beautiful visit that was full of culture, food and fun! What a delight it is to experience this part of our wonderful organization! Living in a family home in Taxco is immersing yourself in their culture, their life and their family. What a wonderful view of how others in our world live everyday life. All of our new members who joined us on the visitation to Taxco in October/November know what I am talking about. They all came back with a new family in their hearts.

I send my love to all of you for health, happiness and prosperity in this coming 2018 New Year!

Barb White

Taxco Gift



Our Friends of Taxco Audit and Budget Committee will soon be meeting to determine an approximate amount for the 2018 Taxco Gift Donation. Once the Budget is approved we will forward the information to the Comite de Ciudades Hermanas de Taxco and request a proposed school and educational project for our 2018 Taxco Gift Contribution.

The Friends of Taxco does not take any of the donations we receive and utilize them for the operation of our organization, which means 100% of the monies we receive go toward our Taxco educational projects.

If you would like to make a Tax Deductible donation to our projects (we are an IRS recognized 501 (c) (3) organization) please make your check payable to Friends of Taxco. In the “Note” section of your check please denote “Donation - Taxco Gift” and mail it to: Linda Lewis, PO Box 9070, Canoga Park, CA 91309-0070.

February General Meeting

Sunday - February 18th - 1:00 PM - Canoga Park Women's Club

Come to an authentic “Tacos al Pastor” meal from Taxco. Bruce Troe is preparing the recipe from “El Primo Restaurant” never given out before. We will have the traditional beans, rice and all the fixings. You don’t want to miss this and the stories that go with it! \$12.00 person.

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



January Ways and Means Event



FOT Surf & Turf

Dinner - Fun and Games

January 20th - 6:00 PM

Randy & Linda Lewis Home
21305 Chase St., Canoga Park



Only **\$25.00**
per person!
Now that is out
of this world!

Yes It Is!
I'll meet you
on planet earth.



To Purchase Tickets Contact Bobbie Strelow
bobbiejoann2@gmail.com or (818) 388-7801



Calendar of Events 2018

- January 20 **“Out of This World” Surf and Turf Dinner - 6:00 PM**
\$25.00 Randy & Linda Lewis Home - 21305 Chase St.
- January 27 **Board Meeting - 10:00 AM - No Brunch**
Barbara White Home
- February 18 **General Meeting - 1:00 PM - “Tacos al Pastor” Luncheon**
\$12.00 Canoga Park Women’s Club - 7401 Jordan Ave.
- February 25 **Board Meeting - 10:00 AM - No Brunch**
Location TBD
- March 17 **Ways and Means Event**
Location TBD
- March 24 **Board Meeting - Brunch**
Lewis Home - 21305 Chase St.



FRIENDS OF TAXCO
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