



# El Amigo

## FRIENDS OF TAXCO

Volume 55, Issue 10

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October 2018

### The History of Hidalgo

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Flag of Hidalgo

Named for the revolutionary leader Miguel Hidalgo, the state is fiercely independent: The Mexican Revolution lasted longer in this state than in any other. Today, Hidalgo relies on extensive silver, gold and mineral deposits to fuel its economy. La Huasteca, a fertile lowland region covering the northern part of the state, produces some of Hidalgo's chief crops, including sugarcane, corn, oats, barley, wheat, beans, chilies, coffee and fruits.

#### Early History

Throughout the pre-Columbian era, the Hidalgo region was predominantly under the influence of the city of Teotihuacán (in the modern state of Mexico) and, to a lesser degree, the Tajín culture (centered near Veracruz). After the collapse of Teotihuacán in the 8th and 9th centuries, the city of Tula (or Tollán) in Hidalgo emerged as the capital of the Toltec Empire.

During the height of Tula's power, between 900 and 1100, the city encompassed some 13 square kilometers (five square miles) with around 60,000 inhabitants. By mid-12th century, Tula collapsed due to internal strife, and the survivors spread out to settle lands as far away as Yucatán. In 1156, the Otomí and Chichimeca Indians occupied Tula, calling it Namenhí (place of many people). They, in turn, fell to the Mexica and were incorporated into the Aztec Empire by Moctezuma Ilhuicamina in the 15th century.

#### Middle History

In his quest to conquer the Aztec empire, the Spanish conquistador Hernán Cortés entered Hidalgo in 1520. The following year he besieged and destroyed the nearby Aztec capital of Tenochtitlán, establishing Spanish authority in the region. By mid-century, Spanish settlers introduced to the area cattle, new crops and the Catholic faith preached by Franciscan missionaries.

Beginning in 1552, rich silver deposits were discovered in the vicinity of Pachuca and Real del Monte, spurring a new wave of Spanish settlement. A few years later Bartolomé de Medina perfected the amalgamation method of extracting silver using mercury and copper plates, which rapidly became the dominant technique in the Americas. As mining activity escalated, the settlers increasingly relied on encomiendas, royal grants authorizing individual Spaniards to require labor from a specified number of native inhabitants placed under their authority. In 1717 the Spanish crown abolished the encomienda system, confirming the decision with additional decrees in 1720 and 1721. In practice, however, many Spaniards ignored the decrees and continued to force the indigenous population to work the mines.

The many rich mines around Pachuca made it the center of activity during Hidalgo's colonial period, and much later it would become the state's capital.

## **The History of Hidalgo Cont.**

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Its name is thought to have come from the Náhuatl word Patlachiuhacan, meaning place of silver and gold.

### **Recent History**

In the early 19th century Father Miguel Hidalgo y Costilla, a priest in the town of Dolores, Guanajuato, began to advocate Mexican independence from Spain, rallying the state's patriots and parish priests in support of the cause. In 1810, he raised an army of more than six thousand men and led them to several victories. Although Father Hidalgo was later captured and executed by royal troops, his movement continued, leading to Mexico's independence in 1821. The state of Hidalgo was later named in his honor.

In 1861 President Benito Juárez suspended payments on Mexico's foreign debts; the French responded by invading the country the following year, occupying it from 1863 to 1867. After the French were finally expelled and the Mexican Republic restored, Hidalgo became a separate state in 1869, taking its name from the hero of Mexican independence, Miguel Hidalgo y Costilla.

Although political conflict did not disappear, the presidency of Porfirio Díaz (1877-1880 and 1884-1911) brought a period of relative stability, with government policies focused on modernizing the nation's railways, roads and communications. However, opposition mounted to Díaz's autocratic methods, and in 1910 the Mexican Revolution broke out under the leadership of Francisco I. Madero. The following year, Madero's followers occupied Pachuca, Hidalgo's capital, and engaged Díaz's troops in battles throughout the state. After Díaz abdicated and left the country in May 1911, Madero was elected President.

In 1917 a new federal constitution put political and economic restrictions on the Roman Catholic Church in response to claims that the church had abused its power. Conflict between the government and the church seethed during the 1920s and eventually erupted into a struggle known as the Cristero War. The fighting claimed 90,000 lives before it was finally resolved by negotiations that relaxed some restrictions on the church. The most important provision allowed the clergy to regain control of their land and buildings, although the facilities technically remained federal property.

### **Hidalgo Today**

Industrial development has flourished in Hidalgo over the last few decades; textiles and cement products are currently the state's primary exports. The state's mines yield valuable metal ores such as manganese, zinc, iron, copper, gold and silver. Other useful minerals include gypsum, refractory clays and lime. Additional sources of revenue are derived from auto parts, metalworking and oil production, and the state is fast becoming one of Mexico's leaders in the assembly of subway and railroad cars, heavy machinery, automobiles and trucks.

Another major crop is the maguey cactus, an agave plant also known as the American aloe—even though it is not related to true aloes. In arid and rocky areas where crops cannot be irrigated, maguey cultivation provides reliable income. A liquid called agua miel (honey water) is collected from the plant's center and fermented to make the popular drink pulque.



### **Facts & Figures**

**Capital:** Pachuca

**Major Cities (population):** Pachuca de Soto (275,578)

Tulancingo de Bravo (129,935) - Huejutla de Reyes (115,786)

Tula de Allende (93,296) - Ixmiquilpan (73,903)

**Size/Area:** 8,036 square miles

**Population:** 2,345,514 (2005 Census)

**Year of statehood:** 1869

The Pachuca's Monumental Clock (photo at left) is a clock tower 40 m high, located in Plaza Independencia of the Historic centre of the city of Pachuca. It was built between 1904 and 1910 to commemorate the Centennial of the Independence of Mexico. Its machinery is identical to that of Big Ben in London. The Monumental Clock is the best known symbol and representative of the city

## President's Article

### PRESIDENT'S ARTICLE OCTOBER NEWS

A big **thank you** to the Lewis' for those amazing steaks on the Chisholm Trail!! What a great evening!

Our next event is the event of the year! It is a reincarnation of our Fiesta Fling. This is a signature event that we would like to be the highlight of our Friends of Taxco year! Please join us for our **Fall Festival on Saturday, October 13**. Dinner and dancing with the great Rick Jarrett. Raffle Baskets galore! See the details in Bruce's article and on the flyer. We are pulling out all of the stops for this event. So please don't miss it. RSVP with your choice of Salmon or Beef. Invite your friends!



Barbara White

Our Board is working tirelessly to make this year a great year of fundraising and just plain FUN for you. Plan on joining us for each event this Fall as we finish our year out with a bang.

Our November 4 General Meeting will be our Installation of new officers. Our Nominating Committee will be making calls soon, so please be available to take an office to keep our Friends of Taxco organization running smoothly through 2019. We need YOU to chip in with your time and energy.

I wish you and your family a wonderful fall season. Keep Friends of Taxco in your hearts!

Love,  
Barb White

# Card Signing Party



## December 2

### From 2 to 4 PM

Bobbie Strelow's Home - 20939 Lanark St., Canoga Park

RSVP to Bobbie Strelow  
By November 29<sup>th</sup>  
(818) 388-7801 or  
bobbiejoann2@gmail.com



Appetizers prepared by  
Your Officers  
Wine - Beer - Punch  
Only \$5.00 per signature



# It's An Australian Boomerang Party

*Saturday Evening*

*November 10<sup>th</sup> - 6:00 PM*



Mark Your Calendars

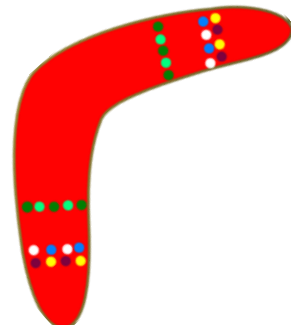
You Won't Want To Miss It!

Shrimp on the Barbie, Salad, choice of Lamb or Chicken, Roasted Root Vegetables, and Pavlova for Dessert.

We'll start at the Lamoreaux house for Appetizers, "boomerang" to the Strelow home for salads and as with all boomerangs return to our starting point for *Dinner, Dessert and Music!*



*Only  
\$18.00  
Per person*





YOU ARE CORDIALLY INVITED TO  
JOIN THE FOT



Oct. 13, 2018

Dinner / Dance

Music provided by Rick Jarrett

Buffet Dinner \$30  
Choice of Carved Roast Beef or Salmon



Social hour 6:00 Dinner 7:00  
ENJOY RAFFLES/DINNER/DANCING

Canoga Park Women's Club  
7401 Jordan Ave.



Please provide your dinner preference when  
placing your reservation to Bobbie.

818-388-7801 or [bobbiejoann2@gmail.com](mailto:bobbiejoann2@gmail.com)

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## **Friends of Taxco & the Fall Harvest Festival**



A harvest festival is a celebration of the fall months and the harvest that often accompanies these months. These festivals almost always are accompanied by celebrations that include dancing, singing, crafts and a variety of games and recreational activities. Harvest festival activities are usually family-oriented and are considered a special time for communities to come together in celebration.



Bruce Troe

This year we are bringing gifts for our Friends in Taxco which enable a better education and, in some cases, a more advanced education for students that we support in Taxco. Besides Books and Supplies, or building materials that can make the school safer, we have provided electronic microscopes for high school students that enable them to be better prepared to be doctors, nurses and participate in advanced medical studies.

This year our Friends of Taxco family are celebrating at the Canoga Park Women's Club on October 13. Festivities include singing and dancing led by the one and only Rick Jarrett; a dinner catered by Marco. The tables are decorated by Laurie and Barbra; Jo and Bobbie have been heading up the raffle baskets; a special card raffle; a 50/50; special beverages in Dave's hands and All of this for \$30.

Come and Join all of the Friends of Taxco supporters as we continue to celebrate in the Fall Harvest and provide more educational opportunities for students in Taxco.

Please RSVP to Bobbie! Hasta la vista!

Bruce Troe, Vice President

**RSVP Bobbie Strelow (818) 388-7801 [bobbiejoann2@gmail.com](mailto:bobbiejoann2@gmail.com)**

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### **Calendar of Events 2018**

**October 13**      **Fall Festival - 6:00 PM Social - 7:00 PM Dinner**  
\$30.00              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.

**November 10**    **Australia "Walk-About" Dinner - 6:00 PM**  
Lamoreaux & Strelow Homes

**November 17**    **Board Meeting - 10:00 AM - No Brunch**  
TBD

**December 2**      **Holiday Card Signing - 2:00 to 4:00 PM**  
\$5.00              Bobbie Strelow Home - 20939 Lanark St.

**December 8**      **Joint Board Meeting (2018 & 2019 Board Members) - 10:00 AM Brunch**  
Lewis Home - 21305 Chase St.



#### **FRIENDS OF TAXCO**

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