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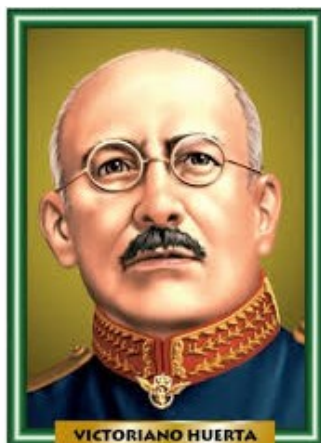
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Victoriano Huerta

Victoriano Huerta

Victoriano Huerta (1850-1916) was a Mexican general who served as president from February 1913 to July of 1914. An important figure in the Mexican Revolution, he fought against Emiliano Zapata, Pancho Villa, Félix Díaz and other rebels before and during his time in office. A brutal, ruthless fighter, the alcoholic Huerta was widely feared and despised by his foes and supporters alike. Eventually driven from Mexico by a loose coalition of revolutionaries, he spent a year and a half in exile before dying of cirrhosis in a Texas prison.

Born into a poor family in the State of Jalisco, Huerta joined the military while still in his teens. He distinguished himself and was sent to the military academy at Chapultepec. Proving to be an efficient leader of men and a ruthless fighter, he was a favorite of dictator Porfirio Díaz and rose quickly to the rank of general. Díaz tasked him with the suppression of Indian uprisings, including a bloody campaign against the Maya in the Yucatan in which Huerta leveled villages and destroyed crops. He also fought the Yaquis in the north. Huerta was a heavy drinker who preferred brandy: according to Villa, Huerta would start drinking when he woke up and go all day.

General Huerta was one of Díaz' most trusted military leaders when hostilities broke out after a preposterous 1910 election. The opposition candidate, Francisco I. Madero, had been arrested and later escaped and fleeing into exile, proclaiming revolution from safety in the United States.

Rebel leaders such as Pascual Orozco, Emiliano Zapata, and Pancho Villa heeded Madero's call, capturing towns, destroying trains and attacking federal forces whenever and wherever they found them. Huerta was sent to reinforce the city of Cuernavaca, under attack by Zapata, but the old regime was under assault from all sides, and Díaz accepted Madero's offer to step down and go into exile in May of 1911. Huerta escorted the old dictator to Veracruz, where a steamer was waiting to take President Díaz into exile.

Although Huerta was bitterly disappointed by the fall of Díaz, he signed up to serve under Madero. For a while in 1911-1912 things were relatively quiet as those around him took the measure of the new president. Things soon deteriorated, however, as Zapata and Orozco figured out that Madero was unlikely to keep certain promises he had made. Huerta was first sent south to deal with Zapata and then north to fight Orozco. Forced to work together against Orozco, Huerta and Pancho Villa found that they despised one another. To Villa, Huerta was a drunk and martinet with delusions of grandeur, and to Huerta, Villa was an illiterate, violent peasant who had no business leading an army.

History of Mexican Revolution Cont.

Continued from Page 1



Victoriano Huerta

In late 1912 another player entered the scene: Félix Díaz, the nephew of the deposed dictator, who declared himself in Veracruz. He was quickly defeated and captured, but in secret, he entered into a conspiracy with Huerta and American ambassador Henry Lane Wilson to get rid of Madero. In February 1913 fighting broke out in Mexico City and Félix Díaz was released from prison. This kicked off the Decena Trágica, or “tragic fortnight,” which saw horrible fighting in the streets of Mexico City as forces loyal to Díaz fought the federals. Madero holed up inside the national palace and foolishly accepted Huerta's “protection” even when presented with evidence that Huerta would betray him.

Huerta, who had been in league with Díaz all along, arrested Madero on February 17. He made Madero sign a resignation which designated Huerta as his successor to the Presidency, and then Madero and Vice-President Pino Suarez were killed on February 21, supposedly while “attempting to escape.” No one believed it: Huerta had obviously given the order and hadn't even gone to much trouble with his excuse. Once in power, Huerta disowned his fellow conspirators and attempted to make himself dictator in the mold of his old mentor, Porfirio Díaz.

Although Pascual Orozco quickly signed on, adding his forces to the federalists, all of the other revolutionary leaders were united in their hatred of Huerta.

Two more revolutionaries appeared: Venustiano Carranza, governor of the State of Coahuila, and Alvaro Obregón, an engineer who would become one of the revolution's best field generals. Carranza, Obregón, Villa and Zapata could not agree on much, but they all despised Huerta. All of them opened fronts on the federalists: Zapata in Morelos, Carranza in Coahuila, Obregón in Sonora and Villa in Chihuahua. Although they did not work together in the sense of coordinated attacks, they were still loosely united in their heartfelt desire that anyone but Huerta should rule Mexico. Even the United States got in on the action: sensing that Huerta was unstable, President Woodrow Wilson sent forces to occupy the important port of Veracruz.

In June 1914, Pancho Villa moved his massive force of 20,000 soldiers to attack the strategic city of Zacatecas. The Federals dug in on two hills overlooking the city. In a day of intense fighting, Villa captured both hills and the federal forces were forced to flee. What they didn't know was that Villa had stationed part of his army along the escape route. The fleeing federals were massacred. When the smoke had cleared, Pancho Villa had scored the most impressive military victory of his career and 6,000 federal soldiers were dead.

Huerta knew his days were numbered after the crushing defeat at Zacatecas. When word of the battle spread, federal troops defected in droves to the rebels. On July 15, Huerta resigned and left for exile, leaving Francisco Carbajal in charge until Carranza and Villa could decide how to proceed with the government of Mexico. Huerta moved around while in exile, living in Spain, England, and the United States. He never gave up hope for a return to rule in Mexico, and when Carranza, Villa, Obregón and Zapata turned their attention to one another, he thought he saw his chance. Reunited with Orozco in New Mexico in mid-1915, he began to plan his triumphant return to power. They were caught by US federal agents, however, and never even crossed the border.

Orozco escaped only to be hunted down and shot by Texas rangers. Huerta was imprisoned for inciting rebellion. He died in prison in January 1916, of cirrhosis, although there were rumors that the Americans had poisoned him.

There is little to be said that is positive about Huerta. Even before the revolution, he was a widely despised figure for his ruthless repression of native populations all over Mexico. He consistently took the wrong side, defending the corrupt Porfirio Díaz regime before conspiring to bring down Madero, one of the few true visionaries of the revolution. He was an able commander, as his military victories prove, but his men did not like him and his enemies absolutely despised him.

He did manage one thing that no one else ever did: he made Zapata, Villa, Obregón and Carranza work together. These rebel commanders only ever agreed on one thing: Huerta should not be president. Once he was gone, they began fighting one another, leading to the worst years of the brutal revolution.

History of Mexican Revolution Cont.

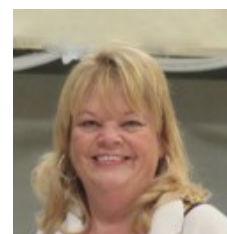
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Even today, Huerta is hated by Mexicans. The bloodshed of the revolution has been largely forgotten and the different commanders have taken on legendary status, though much of it undeserved: Zapata is the ideological purist, Villa is the Robin Hood bandit, Carranza a quixotic chance for peace. Huerta, however, is still considered (accurately) to be a violent, drunk sociopath who needlessly lengthened the period of the revolution for his own ambition and was responsible for the death of thousands. Huerta was the next to last of the revolutionary presidents and nearly created a total military society in Mexico. Venustiano Carranza would take over as the new president and he would become the George Washington of Mexico.

Presidents Article

Love that air conditioning!

The end of the summer heat is upon us. Fall is around the corner with many exciting things happening with FOT.



Jo Lamoreaux

Last month we held our August General Meeting which focused on culture & education. On the short agenda for the meeting was a financial update from our Treasurer (we are in great shape!), an update from the Publicity Chair (we are getting more publicity than ever!), the Taxco delegation (10 FOT members departing October 27) website update (latest news and updates are there) and an overview of activities for the fall season. Randy Lewis, Liaison for our club to the US Mexico Sister City Board, invited any who could attend to the fundraiser in Hermosa Beach (heard it was a fun filled event and very successful!). We had a wonderful presentation of Obdulio Galeana's painting with a narrative by his wife Mary. Obdulio's style of painting "Fauve" means he paints pictures from memory. Many artists take a photograph and create a painting or sit and view what they are painting, Obdulio paints from his memory and it frequently appears as if he is floating above the scene. Excellent presentation- thanks to Mary & Obdulio for loaning us paintings from their private collection, to Barb White and Bobbie Strelow- for putting the event together- wonderful afternoon.

On board for September- see the flyer for the backyard luau at the home of Bobbie Strelow- it will be a food journey through the Hawaiian Islands- along with some entertainment! Based on the weather- shorts and Hawaiian shirts or muumuus are in order! It will be a fun event, please join us.

October- we have a great event in the making- where else for \$45 can you have 8 hours of entertainment, including round trip transportation, all entrance fees including the Turf Club? I'm a fan of betting on gray horses. Other pick their horse by name, some based on how they hold their head. Some just come to watch a beautiful animal run at full speed and enjoy a fun afternoon with great friends and food. Check out the flyer for the October 14th trip to Santa Anita! Make your reservations early- we need to book our transportation!

Lastly – we are looking for help hosting our TGIF with FOT event on Friday, November 10th. We are celebrating Friday with drinks, appetizers and dessert. November is a packed month with the beginning of the holidays right around the corner. We'd like to have it at a home that accommodate about 30 people, some standing, some sitting. There is a committee to help with the food and we have a fabulous traveling bar! We just need a place to land! Please call Bobbie Strelow if you can help! 818 388 7801.

See you at the luau on the 16th!

July Chuck Wagon Dinner

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

FRIDAY - NOVEMBER 10, 2017

TGIF W/ FOT



&



LIVE
ENTERTAINMENT

STAY TUNED FOR MORE INFORMATION



US/Mexico Sister Cities Annual Fund Raiser

On August 13th the US Mexico Sister City Association held their annual Scholarship Fundraiser at the Kiwanis hall in Hermosa Beach. It was an absolutely beautiful day to hold the event which included a GREAT tri-tip dinner with beans, green salad, potato salad and plenty of dessert. Oh yes, and lots of libations..... The food was wonderfully prepared by Ralph and Annie Mundia and Ralph cooked the meat to perfection on a rented BBQ in the parking lot. Bingo was played as an additional fund raiser and the auction items sold well with the featured 2 night stay in the "Bobby's by the Sea" in Rosarito Beach, which included a Lobster dinner for 4. Everyone had a great time and lots of money was brought in for the Scholarship Fund (over \$2,000). If you missed going to the event try to make it next year. You will have a terrific time and meet lots of people from other Sister City groups.



Taxco Gift - Board Votes To Donate 2 Microscopes



Zeigen Model Virtue-N Microscope

The Board of Directors during their meeting at the home of Ceci Gomez on August 26th voted to approve the 2017 gift as recommended by our Sister City Taxco. This year we are donating two microscopes, valued at \$3,500, to CBTis 82 school. The school has been in operation since October 8, 1975, and it's very noble mission is to: "To train people with technological knowledge in the industrial, commercial and service areas, through the preparation of technical professionals and high school graduates in order to contribute to the sustainable development of the country."

The school has educational programs in Accounting, Administration of Human Resources, Hospital Service, Programing, Office, Food and Beverage Preparation, and Clinical Laboratory.

We are all very proud to continue our assistance with educational equipment and programs in Taxco which has been ongoing since 1963 when our Sister City Program was instituted.



Join Us At Santa Anita



***ADMISSION TO THE PARK & TURF CLUB
ROUND TRIP TRANSPORTATION***

Only \$45 Per Person

Saturday October 14th OR Sunday October 15th

Final date will be announced week of Labor Day

We are rounding the final turn with more information to come!

So mark your calendars and get ready to saddle up!

September Ways and Means



SEPTEMBER 16 - hau 'oli hola - 6:30 PM

JOURNEY THROUGH THE ISLANDS

APPETIZERS

MAUI MEATBALLS
KAUAI CHICKEN

DINNER

KALUA PULLED PORK
OAHU SWEET POTATOES
HAWAIIAN FRUIT
PLATTER

DESSERT

LANAI PINEAPPLE
UPSIDE
DOWN CAKE

\$18 Per Person

BOBBIE'S "i ka hale" 20939 Lanark Street, Canoga Park

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

Reservations Please Lynne Davies 818-341-3032

Calendar of Events 2017

- | | |
|---------------|---|
| September 16 | Luau Party - 6:30 PM |
| \$18.00 | Strelow "I Ka Hale" - 20939 Lanark St. |
| September 23 | Board Meeting - 10:00 AM - Potluck Brunch |
| | Ana Bonilla Home |
| October 14/15 | Santa Anita Trip |
| \$45.00 | Details to Follow |
| October 21 | Board Meeting - 10:00 AM - No Brunch |
| | Bobbie Strelow Home |
| November 10 | TGIF |
| | Location TBD - Save the Date |
| November 19 | General Meeting & Installation of Officers - 1:00 PM |
| | Canoga Park Women's Club - 7401 Jordan Ave. |
| December 3 | Holiday Card Signing - 2:00 PM |
| \$5.00 | Bobbie Strelow Home - 20939 Lanark St. |



FRIENDS OF TAXCO

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