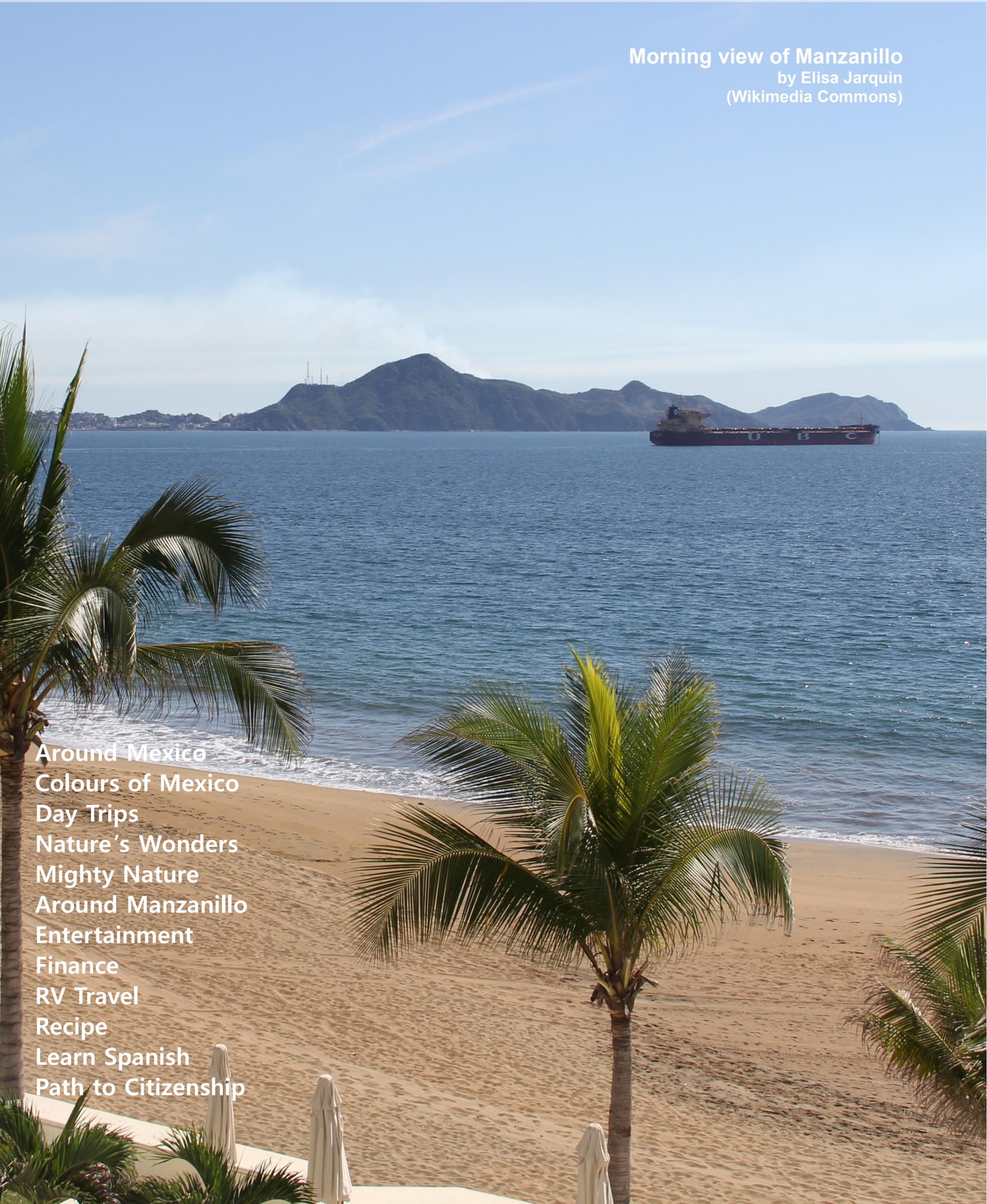




Morning view of Manzanillo
by Elisa Jarquin
(Wikimedia Commons)



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Colours of Mexico
Day Trips
Nature's Wonders
Mighty Nature
Around Manzanillo
Entertainment
Finance
RV Travel
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Learn Spanish
Path to Citizenship

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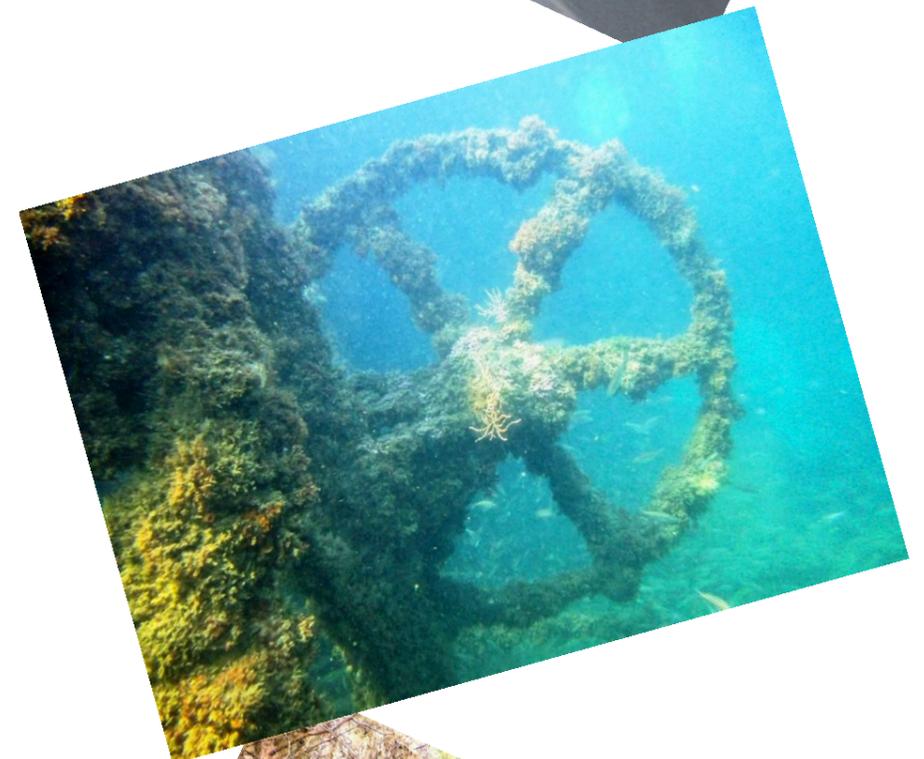
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E-MAGAZINE

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To send submissions for possible inclusion in the magazine, please send to the editor by 15th of each month. We are always looking for writers or ideas on what you would like us to see as topics for the magazine.

Article submissions:

- Preferred subjects are Manzanillo and Mexico
- All articles should be 1000 words or less or may be serialized or 500-750 words if accompanied by photos
- Pictures are welcome
- Comments, letters to the editor, articles, photos and advertisements are always welcome

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Where would I rather be?

by Ken Waldie

Canada is cold. Hell is Endothermic.

I woke this morning to grey twilight. Last night, it had snowed 2 inches, but now it was raining the cold piercing rain that only those who live on the northern coastal region would know. Bundled in my coat and scarf, I cleared my truck of heavy slush and headed, or slid, to work along a road I could swear was sprayed with Pam. It rained all day and, by 4:30, the sky was dark grey, almost black again. I drove home in the dark.



Three seasons of the year I live in a beautiful land, near Vancouver Canada, but from November to March, I live in an icy Hell! I bet you thought Hell was warm but it is not-it's cold, I promise. And if you have expectations for your after-life, put them aside because Hell is definitely endothermic and you'll wish for a scarf.

Perhaps I've developed an attitude after decades of experience, up here in the far north, but I have found the elixir of life re-born. It sits smack dab in the middle of Manzanillo. It's our home away from that other place where we have to live and work for now.

I can still close my eyes and remember the feeling that hit me the moment I stepped off our flight at ZLO a year ago, an embrace of a beautiful, sunny, warm humid hug. Although I snagged more than a few looks, trudging across the tarmac in

a winter coat, I didn't care because it felt so good to be in the sun again.

Did you know that sunsets and sunrises are the most photographed subject? It's true. The warm colours of sunsets appeal to our senses, and cause physical responses due to the electrical frequency from the light hitting us. Warm, "happy" colours make us feel good. I'm counting the days until I can come back to enjoy Manzanillo's sunsets again.

I've noticed that life is less hectic and small things are more pleasurable in the Mexican sun. Eating outside is a special treat, as is the experience of simply wearing only a t-shirt and shorts. Simple pleasures like going for a walk and sitting out at night with friends have a new significance for me when the winters here close in. I often think of walks through the markets, the colours and sounds of buyers and traders and, everywhere I go, there is some kind of music in the air... how wonderful!



As you have your morning coffee, or afternoon cerveza, as you feel the warm sun, or just sit outside enjoying your surroundings, take a moment to remember that you really are in paradise—where I'd like to be right now. Cheers!



you can reach Ken Waldie at ken@manzanillosun.com

Inaugural Charity Fundraiser is a Great Success!

by Suzanne A. Marshall

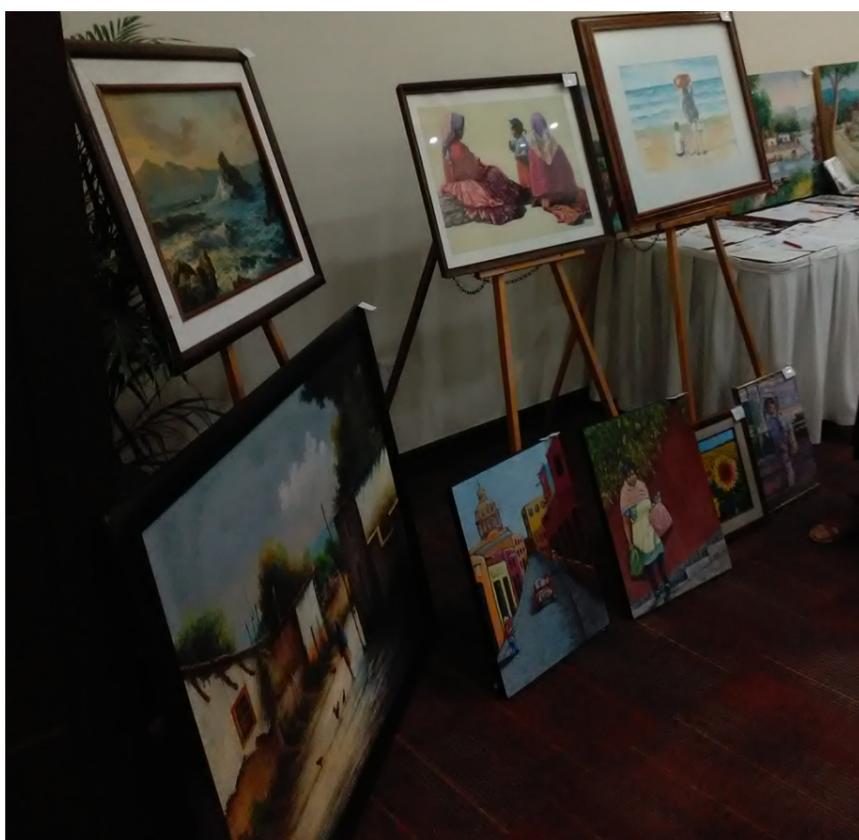
On January 18, 2018, the local community, foreigners, expats and Mexican amigos came together and sold out the ballroom at the beautiful Tesoro resort hotel. The Joyful Hearts Founders Gala was a partnership of many volunteers who were given one month to plan and organize the event. Next year's event will be even better with this experience now in hand.



The beautiful Tesoro Resort Hotel

Aside from ticket sales, the event raised funds with the means of a silent auction, live auction and ticket sales for door prizes. There was an unbelievable collection of artwork, ceramics, textiles and hand-crafted jewelry for silent bidding. The live auction included a fabulous four-day condo stay in beautiful New York, in the heart of the city, near Central Park, Museums, Broadway, etc. Golf packages were also on the agenda as well as various donations from our local restaurants.

Artwork up for bids at the silent auction



While Gustavo and his trio provided beautiful dinner music, the guests milled about the silent auction tables bidding on the ample array of lovely donations. During this time, guests were invited to commence enjoying a fabulous dinner buffet that presented a selection of mouth-watering salads, meats, fish, pasta and desserts. The food was truly delicious and the hotel did a superb job of hosting the event. There was no shortage of helpful staff in the ballroom and all needs were quickly and courteously met.



The crowd begins to fill the ballroom tables

This inaugural event was borne of the need to support a shelter for abused women and girls. They are in need of a safe rehabilitative environment where counselling and education will

The ballroom was filled to capacity for the Joyful Hearts Gala



...Joyful Hearts Gala

help them evolve their lives into strong confident young people, able to function in the community and to live out their lives as normal, happy human beings. An admirable goal.



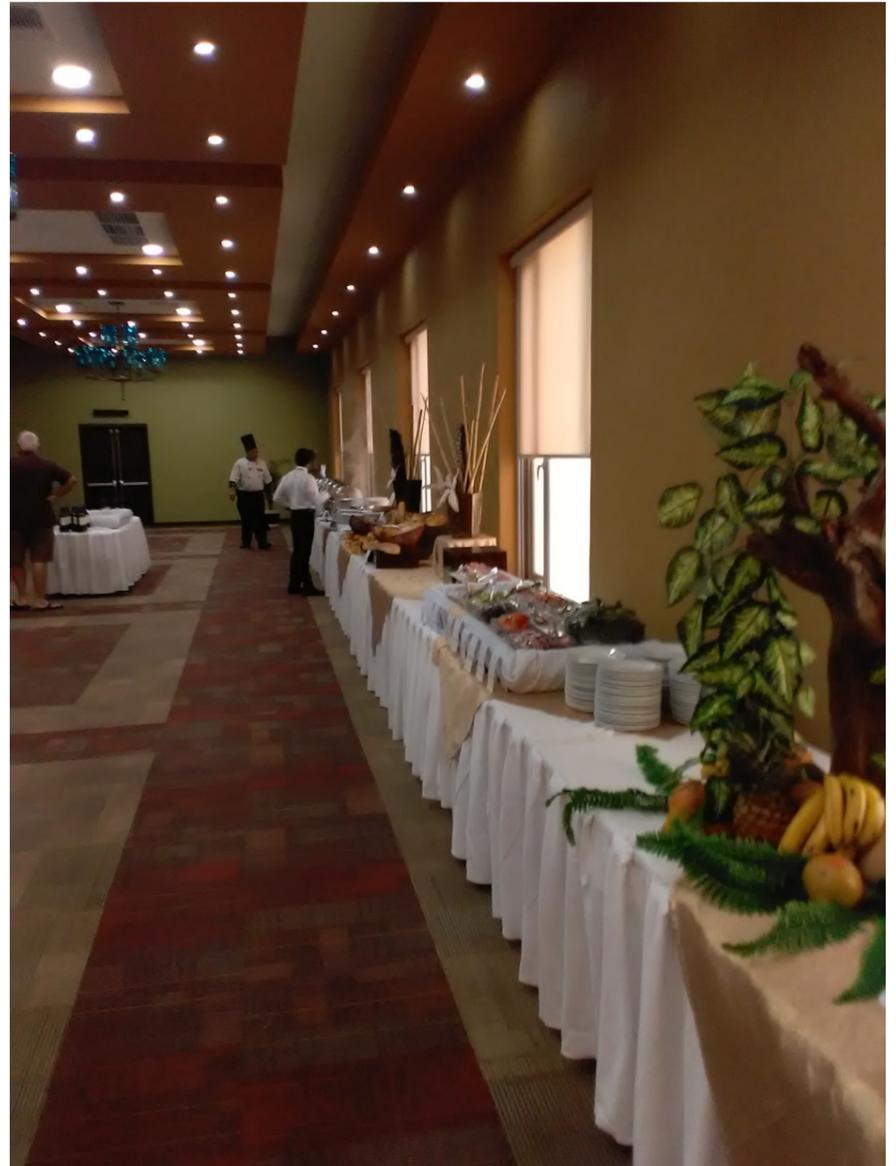
Many people milled through the plentiful items up for bids at the silent auction.

The audience was completely engaged by the story of one brave young woman, who stood in front of the crowd and told her heart-wrenching story with the help of an interpreter. I will never forget how brave she had to be in order to do this with the dignity and control needed to tell her incredibly sad and painful story. She is doing this to help others who have, and are, suffering the same dreadful experiences. She received a thundering standing ovation from an audience overwhelmed by emotions.

Following the closing of the buffet dinner and live auction, the crowd was treated to a wonderful performance by Frances Koll who took us back through some of her earlier days as a young budding actress and singer and sang some beautiful renditions of a few great old tunes. It was a great performance and a generous gift to the foundation.

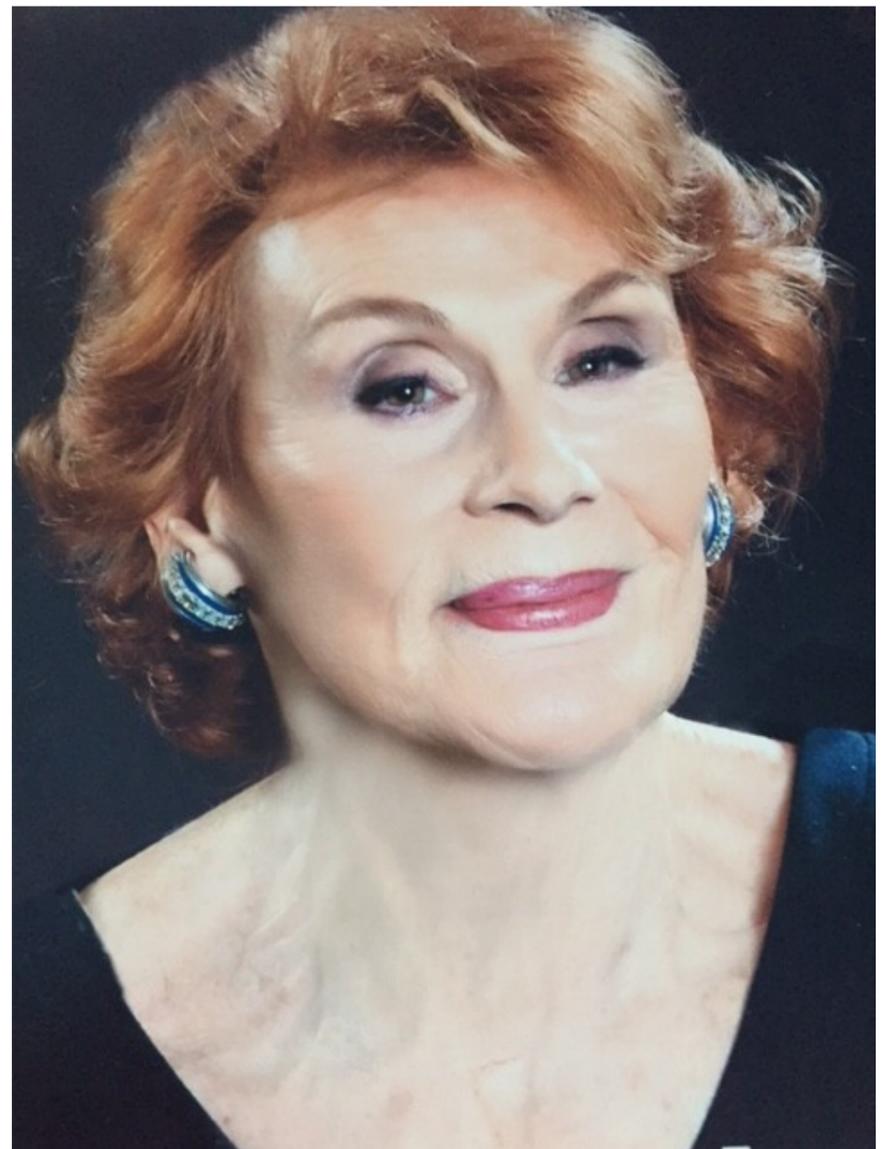
Congratulations to the many volunteers who worked against a daunting schedule to fulfill the mission of this event!

you can reach Suzanne A. Marshall at suzanne@manzanillosun.com



The buffet setup provided delicious food for over 200 guests

Frances Koll performs at the inaugural fundraiser



El Salto

You're going where?

by Kirby Vickery

As Manzanillo is located in the tropics, it's supposed to be hot. But the dry season turns everything to a dull greenish-brown color and fresh water becomes a little harder to find. It does reduce the humidity a little, however. Expat or tourist alike, you can get tired of all the Mexican folklore and pageantry, the ambiance of the local culture, the warm and wonderful Pacific Ocean with its reefs, old sunken ships, and the world's best Sailfish fishing. You could feel a hankering for mountains and gurgling ice-cold streams with alpine lakes and the smell of old-fashioned, wood, campfire smoke. Possibly, the taste a roasted marshmallow or two could waft through your memory.



There is a place about an hour's drive from Manzanillo where you can get those urges sated. It's not quite what you would find in the Rocky Mountains above Denver or in Yellow Stone National Park. But, the state of Colima has some rather pretty falls and they are complete with a gurgling spring and all types of camping facilities all for fifteen pesos a head.

All you have to do is find a driver that likes mountainous, winding roads through thick jungle underbrush with an occasional Mexican style village here and there all isolated by the ubiquitous 'topes.' Have your driver find highway 98 and head off toward the town of Minatitlan. It's not dangerous but I wouldn't try texting while driving it either. Then all you have to do is follow the signs to EL SALTO (translation: THE JUMP).

The approach road leads down past a small shelter on the left with one of the world's oldest men taking your entry fee and handing you one ticket per person. There are large, unmarked areas for parking and the first thing you see is the picnic and cabana areas. I've been told that, on holidays, this place is jam-packed with Spanish-speaking, party time people in large family groups. We arrived on a Wednesday afternoon and saw two boys swimming in one of the pools they have and later on I saw another individual picking up a small pile of trash. We had the entire place to ourselves.



From where we got out of the car, we could hear the falls. After a short walk down a wide path and over a metal walking bridge, the sound got louder and louder. A quick half-turn to the right brought us into the falls canyon itself and we stood there looking at these stair-cased waterfalls. I wanted to jump in and play cliff diver as I used to do in my New Hampshire granite quarries. They've built a stairway to the bottom of the falls where one can go wading or swimming in one of the naturally formed pools at the bottom of the falls. They've also built swimming pools and water slides adjacent to the picnic areas. There are several paths available to take people to some hidden caverns, natural pools and some other water falls further up the stream.

We also could see where they were building a tavern. But, not having any idea of the speed of construction, if you didn't bring your lunch with you, I would recommend turning right when you leave and plan on having your dinner in Minatitlan.

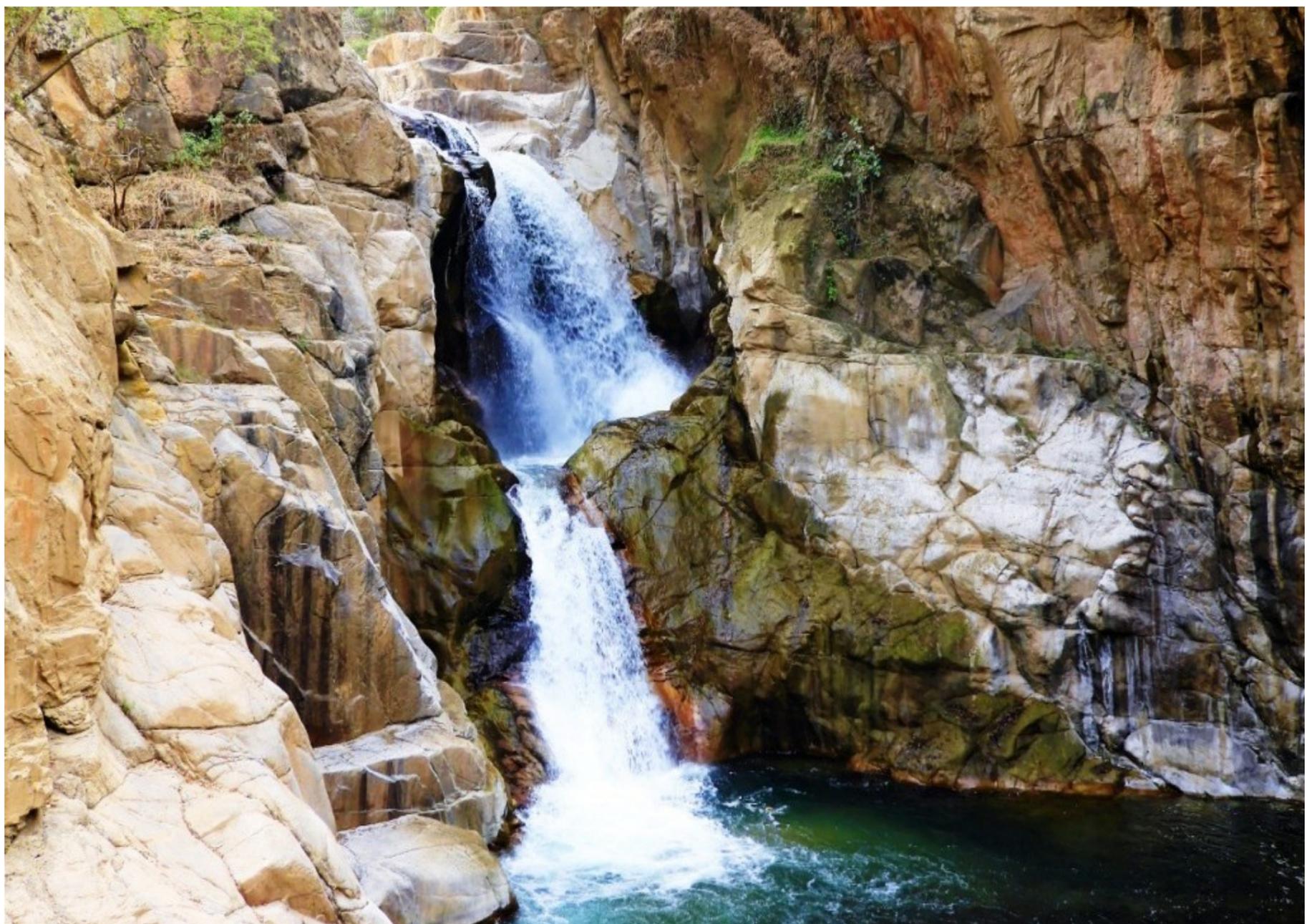
...El Salto

That is, unless you're there during a holiday and then there are a bunch of street vendors serving everything on the Mexican fast-food menu. It's just down the road a little. We did and I found that it is a fair-size burg with all sorts of restaurants which can fill any appetite. We did find parking at a premium in the town though.

Ewa, our driver, chose to come back the long way through Colima. I think the road is better than the one up from Manzanillo because there is a large open pit mine nearby, complete with a mining town. There is substantial truck traffic and there is a lot of road improvement as a result. From the road coming down, you can't tell if the mine is building another mountain from the residue or tearing it down. This iron mine, named the Peña Colorada Iron Mine, is reported as supplying about fourteen percent of Mexico's national output. It is huge! I wish we could have pulled over and stopped because, as high as we were, the mine towered well above us. I also noticed that there were several entrances to it as we rolled into Minatitlan.



As I said, we came back through Colima, which is longer, but most of the road was a lot better, so the travel time was about the same I think. I fell asleep in the back seat while I let the ladies get us home. It was a thoroughly enjoyable outing which I would like to go on again. Only next time I'm going to bring a bathing suit and test the temperature of the water.



you can reach Kirby Vickers at kirby.vickers@manzanillosun.com



by Tommy Clarkson

Bird's Nest Snake Plant *Sansevieria trifasciata* 'Hahnii'

Family: *Asparagaceae*

(Once again, I show my age. But, how many others remember Ernie K-Doe's 1961 hit song "Mother in Law?" For those who are unaware of, or don't recall, the lyrics, it was a somewhat humorous commentary and characterization of such an individual. Having been thusly explained, I share that I can't come upon any of my Sansevieria plants without that durned song popping into my mind! Why? Because my 'Grammy' called the big ones by their common name, Mother in Law's Tongue.)

Actually, there are between fifty to seventy species of this succulent, evergreen herb in the genus *Sansevieria*. The genus derived its name from the Prince of Sansevero who was born in Naples in 1710. All species within the genus originated in Africa, Arabia, Madagascar or India. How some got from one, far-off, remote place to another, however, is a complete mystery to me! One specimen that I dug up in Thailand recently is an absolute double of another I found in the semi-wilds of southern Colima here in Mexico, several years ago. And, according to Kirsten Albrecht Llamas, they came from southeastern Africa which is pretty much right between the two countries!

(This may be a good time for an object lesson of sorts. Those who've toured Ola Brisa Gardens or who regularly read my weekly column, "Planting Roots in Mexico", are well familiar with my oft-repeated reminder to take data gleaned from the

internet with a grain – if not substantive block – of salt! Appropriate thereto, after having pored over numerous of my botanical tomes, I thought I'd "peruse the ether" to see if I could pick up any missed tidbits. I soon read that this species was "discovered in 1939 by William W. Smith, Jr. in the Crescent Nursery Company, New Orleans, Louisiana." Yet nowhere was there an explanation, embellishment or affirmation with facts, nor was any such vague assertion to be found in any of my more authoritative botanical books...a modification of the old adage, "Let the reader beware!")



This is "a stiff, vase-like, herbaceous perennial that attains a height of about six inches"

Not seeing it necessary to rewrite the applicable botanical description, I share with you the following which comes from The University of Florida's Cooperative Extension Services Fact Sheet FPS-534. "(This species of) *Bird's Nest* is a stiff, vase-like, herbaceous perennial that attains a height of about six (15.24 cm) inches. Its simple, elliptic leaves are arranged in a rosette. These attractive leaves are dark green with light green, irregular

...Bird's Nest Snake Plant

bands that run across the leaf's width. The flowers of this plant are green and white and occur periodically throughout the year. Small berries follow the flowers, but these fruits are unnoticeable." Expanding a little on the description of the leaves, they are generally stiff, thick, spear-like, have a glossy texture with those irregular bands being mottled splotches of white.



The leaves are generally stiff, somewhat short, thick, spear-like, have a glossy texture with those irregular bands being mottled splotches of white.

Sansevieria trifasciata 'Hahnii Marginated' is a variant that shows itself with thin, yellow leaf margins, similar in appearance to the large, original species with which I was familiar at my grandparent's home so many years ago.

The Bird's Nest Snake Plant tolerates low light levels and is rather capable of taking care of itself – reasonably – in that it stores water in parts above the soil, hence not necessitating a large root system. It can grow in most well-drained soils, will endure periods of drought, tolerates moderate amounts of salt spray, and usually is not affected by pests. (*How many other plants of which do we wish we could say the same?*)

According to *Plant Care Today* (who should know) "*Sansevieria tops the list as being the most tolerant of all decorative plants to survive the most unsuitable growing conditions, abuse and neglect a plant could receive. Basically, you have to work really hard to kill (it).*"



Its spear-like, glossy textured leaves, with irregular bands, are mottled with splotches of white.

In addition to being well-suited for rock gardens, Bird's Nest can be a ground cover, particularly so, in dry, desert-like gardens. They're also attractive when used in containers, either inside or out of doors. That said, ours line the path beneath a Carnuba Wax Palm, two Miraguama Palms and a cluster of Madagascar Dragon Plants, across from a succulent bed on the Grand Terrace.

If, for some reason or another, you have difficulty in finding a specimen, the easiest way to get one is to divide the pups from a mother plant – *or come on by and I'll give you one!*

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Well, in the words of that smooth crooner of the late 70's - Meatloaf - "Two out of three ain't bad." (And, actually, the last one can easily be realized by a personal trip to Ola Brisa Gardens!)

But of the former two, if unable to be here in person, what better way to vicariously bask in our balmy environs - no matter where one might be this winter - than through graphic word pictures and great photography?

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Enjoy. (And we look forward to your physical visit here at Ola Brisa Gardens!)

Tommy & Patty Clarkson



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February 22nd**



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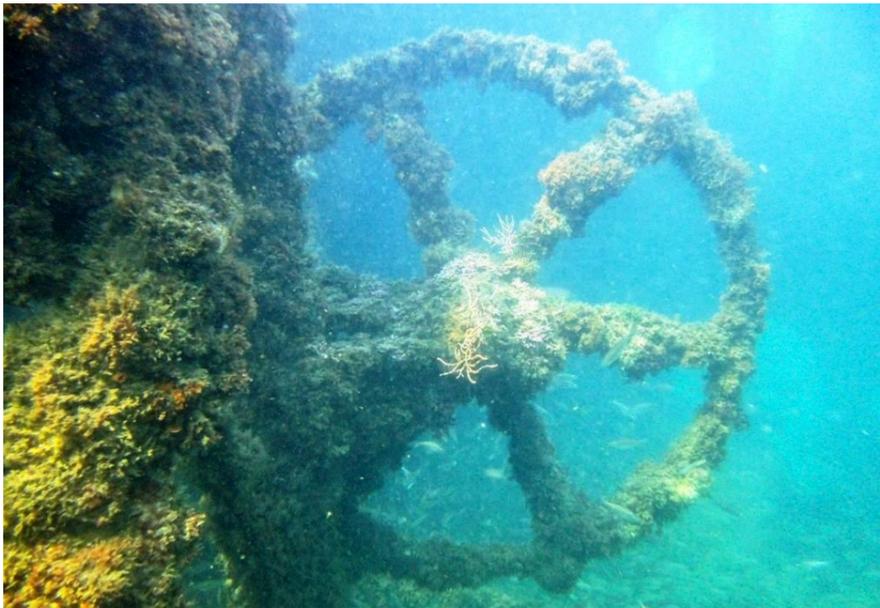


All proceeds benefit Friends of Mexican Animal Welfare (fomaw.org)

The San Luciano Shipwreck

by Terry Sovil

The San Luciano has always puzzled me. I did some basic research but didn't find a lot of information on the "San Luciano". It was there, I didn't find it, partly because she started out as the "Argyll". I also accepted what I was told, that she went down in the 1959 hurricane.



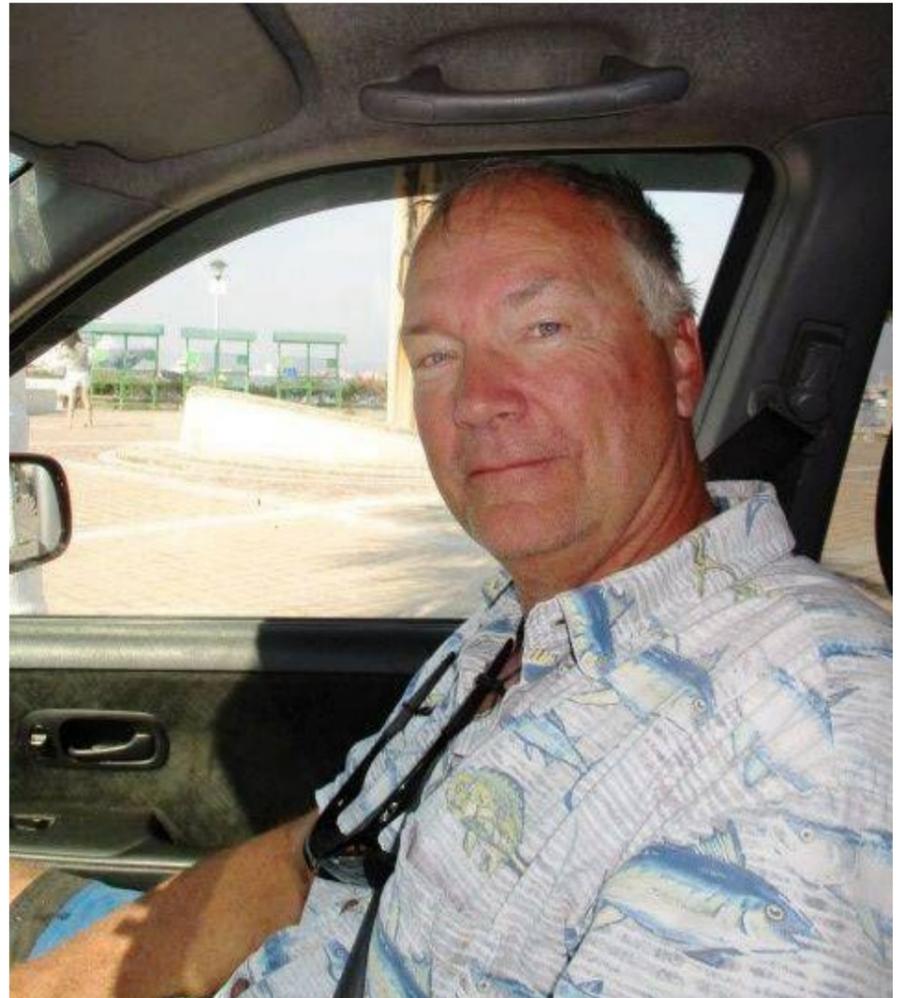
Broiler control

Recently a local group, Vive Manzanillo, released some fascinating new details. About the same time I got an email from a diver who was interested in diving The San Luciano wreck. Nothing else. That got my attention. Turned out it was Peter G. Jensen, a 40 year ship wreck diver and researcher from the Los Angeles area of California. He started with a free dive on a Baja wreck in 1969, the same year I started diving. Peter visited on Saturday, January 6, 2018 and we were able to talk at length and make a 97 minute dive on the San Luciano. Peter can be reached at 310-544-1840 or waterlinepro@cox.net.

Decking



He loves wreck questions. Between the Vive Manzanillo research and Peter Jensen's past research on the wreck, I got a lot of new information. Peter's passions are the wrecks of the Baja and he is writing a book on them. Photo credits to Graham Mackintosh who took a great interest in Baja ships, and Nathan Peach who shot the underwater photos.

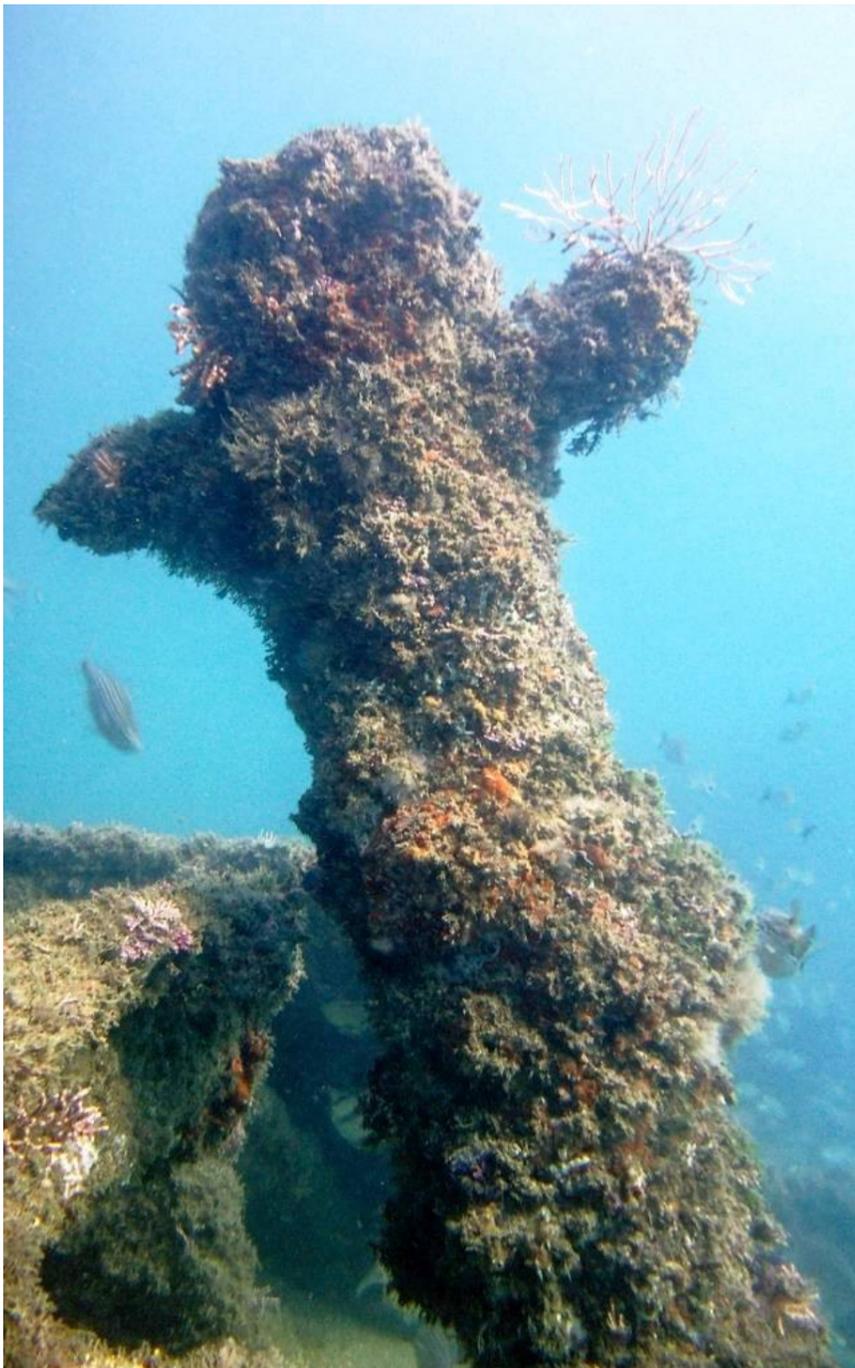


Peter Jensen

The Argyll / San Luciano History:

- Built in 1892 by the William Gray and Co. in West Hartlepool (Sunderland), England
- Rig: Auxiliary Sailing Ship
- 2953 gross tons when loaded, 1880 net (tanker)
- 320.3 x 40.7 x 24.5 feet / 97.536 x 12.4 x 7.5 Meters
- Iron hull
- Motor: 1 triple expansion engine, 3 cylinders, 1 propeller, 1,300 horse power; built by Central Marine Works, UK
- Service: Tanker/freighter
- Home port when lost: Santa Rosalia, Mex.
- Loss: 6 Aug. 1965 -- Hit submerged rocks 38 nautical miles off Manzanillo; 19/Aug/1965 stranded in this port to avoid a total loss but was a construction loss. Lloyds of London stated she was sunk in Manzanillo "to be salvaged." All of her upper structure, fittings and gear were salvaged. Some as late as 1988.

...The San Luciano Shipwreck



Sampson post

Her Names and Home Port Countries:

- ARGYLL – 1901 – United Kingdom
- ARGYLL – 1903 -- USA
- ARGYLL – 1906 – USA
- ARGYLL – 1940 – France
- San Luciano – 1950 – France
- San Luciano – 1955 – Mexico
- San Luciano – 1957 – Mexico
- San Luciano – 1965 – Mexico
- Wrecked on 6/Aug/1965

She was built as a dry cargo steamer fired with coal and then converted to an oil tanker, with a central pilot's house and a single smokestack. She was purchased in 1900 by the Progreso Steamship Company and soon transferred to the Michigan

Steamship Company where she was converted to a tank steamer. She had a capacity of 30,000 barrels of oil. Both of her masts were cut down to act as boom kingposts. Home port was San Francisco. The conversion work was completed in 1903. She was chartered to the Union Oil Company who purchased her in 1905.

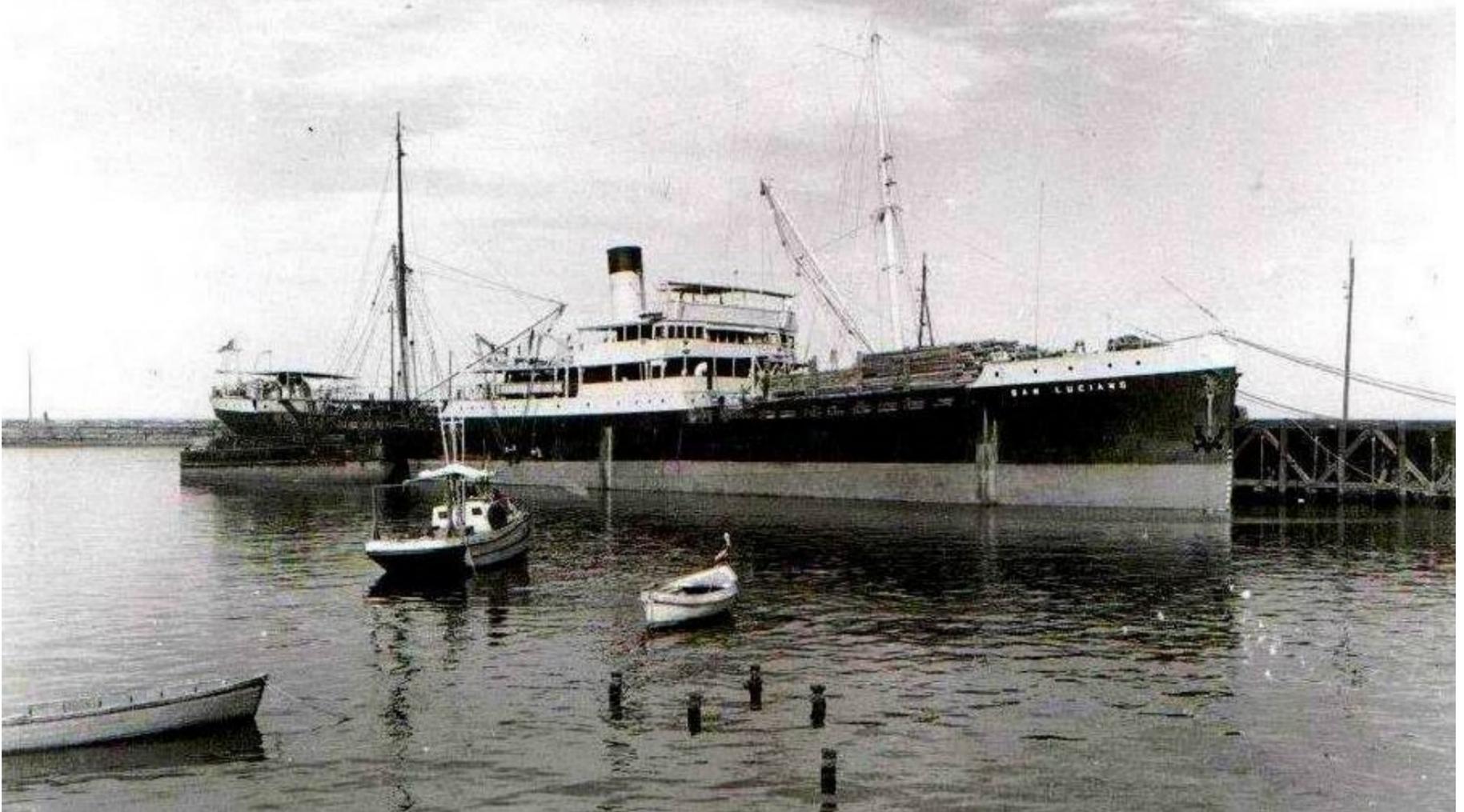


Sampson posts

In 1920, she was transferred to the Compagnie du Boleo of Paris, France. In 1940, she was registered in Panama but her home port was Santa Rosalia, where her crew lived, and renamed from 'Argyll' to "San Luciano". In 1955, she was acquired by Compañía Minera de Santa Rosalia, of Mexico City, and converted to a dry-cargo carrier. At this time, it was found that her tank bulkheads had rusted out. In 1957, she was transferred to Naviera de Baja California, S.A. with the same Mexico City address. Her two forward tanks were modified for either liquids or dry cargo. She transported manganese ore and some copper ore to smelters in Tacoma, Washington and then returned with bricks, oil and lumber.

On August 6, 1965, she struck a submerged rock at Punta Hermanos, Tenacatita, about 38 miles / 61km from Manzanillo. The collision damaged her front and tore into her forward cargo holds. Flooding went back to the engine room's bulkhead and held. The Captain, Romero Ortiz, flooded the rear ballast tanks to balance the vessel and continued to sail to Manzanillo. Anchored out on the Juluapan peninsula near Playa La Boquita in Santiago Bay, a diver descended on the wreck and determined

...The San Luciano Shipwreck



the damage was too great for repair. She was sold to a scrap salvage operation in Guadalajara. To her credit, she was the oldest deep-water commercial steamship still active on the Pacific Coast, with a 73 year history that spanned two World Wars.

She remains a sunken treasure in Manzanillo. A 10-15 minute swim from shore, scuba divers and snorkelers can enjoy the thrill of a ship wreck in shallow water. An average depth of about 14 feet / 5 meters. The ship often sports sea horses, turtles, eels, octopus, pufferfish, sometimes a spotted eagle ray and magnificent schools of fish.



You can circumnavigate the wreck and there are some areas where you can penetrate. Visibility on the wreck is often not very good but there are times when it is good and you can see a lot of the ship and start to put things together rather than seeing 5 feet / 1.5 meters at a time. She does have a history!

more pictures follow...

you can reach Terry Sovil at terry@manzanillosun.com

...The San Luciano Shipwreck



Inside hull



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RAFFLES for Booze Baskets and 50/50 from 10 am until 4 pm

\$100 Peso Admission (non-players)



*All proceeds go to Friends of Mexican Animal Welfare to support Alianza Animal, our low-cost spay neuter clinic, and our street animal outreach program Animal Angels



by Tommy Clarkson

Castor Bean, *Ricinus communis*

Family: *Euphorbiaceae*

Also known as: Castor oil plant or Palma Christi

Fraught with a few fearsome facts, the Castor Bean is perceived by no few as the botanical world's equivalent of the proverbial wolf in sheep's clothing! As a result, some shudder at the mere suggestion of its use in one's garden.

So, is there a substantive base for this worry or is its reputation simply hype and "bad press"?

Let's start with some scientific data. The seeds from the beautifully leafed Castor Bean plant contain ricin which is said to be one of the most poisonous, naturally occurring substances known to mankind and as little as one milligram of ricin can kill an adult!

Bright sunlight brings out the Castor Bean's dinner-plate sized leaves beautiful purplish hues.



"Whoa there Tommy! This sounds like an undisputedly bad" sort of plant. Why would anyone, anywhere – ever - want one around?"

Let's start our answer by noting that the Castor Bean plant is not a recent one to man's awareness. Apparently early Egyptians used oil pressed from its seeds for use in their lamps. Its oil has industrial and medicinal purposes with much of it going into lubricants for machinery and auto engines as well as being used in "plastics, paints, inks, soaps, linoleum, dyes, leather preservatives, waxes, polishes, cosmetics, candles, and crayons".

More recently (with one of his plants reaching 22 feet), it's written that Thomas Jefferson planted the Castor Bean plant in areas hoping – as per folklore - to deter moles. It didn't work!

As to its botanical name? *Ricinus* is the Latin name for tick – that which the seeds greatly resemble; whereas, *communis* simply mean "common" or "general".

"No Tommy, not so fast, let's get back to that poison thing"?

Well, it's very real. The ricin from this plant can be employed to kill one or incorporated as a biological weapon of mass destruction.

And that's a fact. In the former usage, a few of us "long in the tooth" may remember the assassination of Georgi Markov, a Bulgarian dissident who worked for the BBC in London, in 1978. He was murdered -very James Bond-like - as a result of having a one mm, ricin-laced pellet stabbed into his leg with a modified umbrella. Purportedly, this dastardly evil deed was done by the Bulgarian Secret Service.

On the WMD side, ricin may have been used in the Iran-Iraq war during the 1980s and it has been found in Al Qaeda caves in Afghanistan. More recently, in 2003, several individuals were arrested in London who were producing ricin with, clearly, ill intent.

With this all in mind, would it be fair to equate these beans to some sort of botanical Borigas – durned near evil incarnate? With that in mind, might one worriedly wonder from what sort

...Castor Bean



But what of this - obviously related - guy, found nearby, but whose leaves are slightly differently shaped with stems of bright red?

of family tree these plants have come?

In all actuality, it's a rather interesting one! The Castor Bean, itself, is the only member of the genus *Ricinus* – which is to say that it really has no immediate, close kin. However, being of the Euphorbiaceae botanical family, it has an intriguing array of shirttail kin such as the Cassava, Chinese Tallow Tree, Croton, Crown of Thorns, Poinsettia, Rubber Tree and Tung oil tree. (Wouldn't you like to see that annual family reunion picture?)

The Castor Bean has huge, colorful, dinner-plate leaves sized that, with the sun reflecting off them, are quite attractive. These – one of its most impressive aspects - are 5 – 11 inches, lobed, purplish-green in color and star-shaped leaves and can reach three feet (.91 meters) in length. The Castor Bean it is a dramatic tropical, easily reaching ten feet (3.04 meters) in height in a single season.

The *Ricinus communis's* origin is Africa but it has since been introduced around the world, escaping from cultivation to proliferate in the wild up to the point of being considered an invasive plant in Australia, many Pacific Islands, and in 27 US states. It is grown in temperate zones as an annual. In the tropics, it can either grow as a shrub or a tree. In this latter form - along waterways and in well-drained, nutrient rich soils - it can reach 40 feet (12.19 meters) in height.

If situated in full sun, and provided with ample fertilizer and water, Castor Bean plants can grow at an amazingly fast rate. So, as regards the utilitarianism of Castor Bean's ornamental plant use - use common sense. The best precautionary advice I can give is to remove flower clusters as they appear, preceding seed production, hence, minimizing accidental poisoning.



Young leaves and stems sport the dramatic purple color.

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Day Watching

by Kirby Vickery

My intent was to go out and find some touristy thing to look at and then write about while I'm down in Manzanillo this trip. Only problem is finding a time and place to do just that. What with coming down here with the flu and colds which are raging in the States, we really haven't had a time to go out to do this. So, I stopped by one of the shopping malls here to just sit and ogle at the people, a pastime I enjoyed during my lunch at the university and when I was stationed overseas. There I was looking for the 'Ugly American.' At the school, it was to find those students I figured would try to give me a hard time. Here, in Manzanillo, I found myself looking for tourists and non-Mexican people. I found it surprisingly easy even without resorting to the stereotypes one hears so much about.

First of all, what made it so easy was most of the Americans and Canadians are at least a whole generation older than the average Mexican in the hallowed halls of the mall. Over 50% of the residence population is under 40 years old.

A lot of Mexican people wear sunglasses. Mostly men and young women. But when you see an older couple with both wearing sunglasses chances are they are not indigenous but northern imports. Most of the older Mexican people will give a nod, a slight hand gesture, or a daytime good will statement in passing. The imports act as though they're really tied up in their own affairs or just didn't think to look down to say a 'Good day' in any language. Both, if tired, will accept a seat for resting which is nice.

There are a lot of Mexican men that wear baseball hats. These hats all promote either a professional football or baseball team, many from the US. Either these are very young men or almost men and they like their hats worn in any such way that defies the intent of the bill to shade the eyes. These hat wearers all seem to grow that wonderfully full mustache as they grow older. This makes my job of nationality definition quite easy as the tourists from the north all wear the bill close over the eyes and their mustaches are all white, short, neatly trimmed and combed.

Now, of late, they all sport Canadian professional sports logos as none of the Americans want to be identified as such because they don't want anything to happen to them which would connect them with President Trump. Some of the older Canadians have taken to wearing the Tilley (or Tilley wanna-be) hats with a Canadian flag displayed. They do this to keep from being confused or accused of being an American. I have a friend that lives down the road from me. He's an American – voted for Trump – is a conservative. But, he doesn't like the hassle so, in public, he purports to be a Canadian. It appears to me that most of the Mexican people along with all the expat Canadians get and like the "Fake News" more than the other kind because it's more fun.

I find it interesting that, when I set out front of the condo on a bench along the street with Daisy (my Cantankerous Cairn) in the evening, we will have most of the Mexican people ignore

us (because of Daisy) and most foreigners will come over to make friends, asking her name.

The non-indigenous women are even easier to separate out of the hordes of shoppers seen walking by. Mexico has the largest section of their population I have ever seen in one type of uniform or another. Even the kids making a few pesos in the local car wash have what could be called a uniform.

The only people that don't are some of the guys with red bandanas they waive around trying to get you to turn into their parking lot (I've been told that they are independent anyway and work for tips). The Anglo women are all dressed in sharply creased, front buttoned blouses, Bermuda shorts (normally tan – but sometimes white or other spring or summer colors, although not always), open toed, elevated heeled, light colored sandals. They all carry a white or lightly colored but fairly large purse and an insulated shopping bag or two.

Most of the people you see in the shopping centers in Manzanillo are families or older couples. The way the young children in Mexico are treated is a lot different from the way they are addressed in the states or Canada. This one couple I saw today came through the door from the outside all together but from there spread out into a very jagged line. Headed by the mom while carrying an infant, dad was next walking sideways while verbally coaxing his eldest (a chubby little child in latter toddler stages) through an intersection within the walkway in the mall.

You see, young son wanted to turn left into the small child's play area but couldn't talk his parents into making the change as they were already way beyond the intersection and were adamant about going to the grocery store. In the states, or Canada, Dad would have come back to either pick up the youngster and with some harsh words enforce the rule about following his lead. Now in Mexico. Dad did go back, but he went back with a smile on his face and made a game of picking the young baby up and carrying him back into the family unit and on into the store. All the while, that little kid was just giggling away.

I've also noticed family reactions to tired and bored children in restaurants. For the most part in the states, when a child starts acting "yancy" there is a strong rebuke issued to that child basically letting that child know what was what and that "behave or else" phrase would be used several times.

In Mexico, all the parent does is to reach over and pick the child up out of the seat and then that child is allowed to run free throughout the restaurant. That child is going to be tolerated by the entire staff and customers alike. My only comment is that it sure saves on the ears. Ewa tells me that in Mexico they have tighter family unity than the rest of North America. From what I've seen, I have to agree with her.

It's like fishing. I'll never grow tired of doing either especially in Manzanillo.

you can reach Kirby Vickery at kirby.vickery@manzanillosun.com

At the Movies

by Suzanne A. Marshall

The Shape of Water

Starring: Sally Hawkins, Doug Jones, Richard Jenkins, Michael Shannon, Octavia Spencer
Director: Guillermo del Toro

"Elisa is a mute, isolated woman who works as a cleaning lady in a hidden, high-security government laboratory in 1962 Baltimore. Her life changes forever when she discovers the lab's classified secret -- a mysterious, scaled creature from South America that lives in a water tank. As Elisa develops a unique bond with her new friend, she soon learns that its fate and very survival lie in the hands of a hostile government agent and a marine biologist."

I went to this movie with some apprehension. Having seen the promos, it gave me hope that it wasn't some creepy horror movie, plus, I really like Guillermo del Toro as a director. The movie is up for various awards and has since won the best picture category at the Golden Globes.

This is a restricted adult fairytale due to some sexual content. Other than that, it is a wonderful, touching production that brings together a few misfit characters and an unusual creature with a heart. It comes complete with good versus evil thematics that create an emotional bond with the audience. I truly bought into the story and its fateful conclusion complete with just a touch of mystery. Judging by the audience reactions, I wasn't the only one. Most people will really enjoy this film if they are willing to take a step outside reality.

IMDB rated this movie currently at: 8/10 based on 30,000 viewers



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Trend-Setting Boomers Are Still Doing What They Love

by Yann Kostic and Tom Zachystal

We cannot welcome 2018 without wondering what the boomer generation will be up to this year. In fact, many boomers are still doing what they love, and they are still doing it well! After years of working for others, they are making the decisions, and taking the risks, to start their own businesses in retirement.

Notes writer Wendy Mayhew in the Globe and Mail: "Many people can't wait to retire. They want to golf, travel, or just take it easy. Others can't wait to retire so they can start the business they have always dreamed about."

According to the 2017 Kauffman Index of Entrepreneurship, individuals between 55 and 64 accounted for 25.5% of all new entrepreneurs in 2016, while the number of 20- to 34-year-old entrepreneurs declined by 34.3% over a 20-year period to 24.4% in 2016.

Why? It may be that the boomer generation is healthier and more energetic than previous generations, it may be that boomers (who are notoriously bad savers) need to supplement their income in retirement, or it may simply be that older workers have a lot to offer.

In a recent CNBC article, Jody Holtzman, senior vice president of market innovation for AARP, suggests: "[As a boomer] you know what works and what doesn't, you have been in small and big companies ... You have a network, possibly savings, or other ways to gain access to capital. All of those things come together as key success factors for building and sustaining a business." Plus, boomers have always wanted to change the world. And now it is their chance.

In Jalisco/Colima, the triangle formed by Lake Chapala - Puerta Vallarta - Manzanillo has seen incredible growth in the past decade and its share of successful small businesses opened by foreigners. Make a different resolution for 2018 and start a small business.

It is always a good idea to talk to your advisor. He/she knows your particular circumstances and can give you a realistic feedback as to how great of an idea it is to invest in yourself.

Note: *This material has been prepared for informational purposes only, and is not intended to provide financial advice for your particular situation.*

Yann Kostic, MBA and Tom Zachystal, CFP, are Presidents of their respective Assets Management firms, both US-Registered Investment Advisors (RIA). Tom is the San Francisco Financial Planners' Association President. Tom and Yann cater to US expats in Mexico and worldwide. Comments, questions or to request his newsletter, "News you can use" contact him at yannk@atlantisgrp.com, in the US at (321) 574-1 529 or in Mexico, (376) 106-1613.



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Teotihuacan

by Dan and Lisa Goy, exclusive to Manzanillo Sun

March 14, 2016 (Day 68)

Teotihuacan, State of Mexico "Distrito Federal" – March 14 (Day 68)

Day 5 in San Juan Teotihuacan, booked into at the Teotihuacan the RV Park, and we thought it was time for a visit to the nearby archeological site, Teotihuacan, which pre-dates the Aztecs in Mexico City by a thousand years. We first visited these Pyramids in 1985 when staying with the Resendiz family in Coyoacán, one of the 16 boroughs in Mexico City. We returned in 2002, stayed at the Teotihuacan RV Park in December, where we froze, for our 2nd tour of Teotihuacan. It was impressive when we first saw Teotihuacan, and is still impressive seeing it for the 3rd time. Since our last visit in 2002, more excavation has been done on the site, with more of Teotihuacan revealed to the public.



The gang spent 4 hours, which was also impressive given the heat, almost 30°C in the shade. Bruce, of course, stayed later than anyone else, scouring each inch of the site, for at least another 4 hours. Fortunately, you are still able to climb both the Pyramid of the Sun and Moon, which is prohibited at many other Meso-American pyramids. We have since learned that the Rolling Stones visited Teotihuacan the day after our visit; good thing Bruce did not know as he would have slept on site overnight and been arrested. Given that the Pyramid of the Sun is the 3rd largest such structure in the world, and the Avenue of the Dead is 4 km in length, there is plenty to see. On our return, we readied ourselves and RVs to depart the next day. We also had an impromptu gathering in the afternoon sun before heading off to some grocery shopping at the local Chedraui.

Ancient Teotihuacan

Teotihuacan is an ancient Mesoamerican city, located in a sub-valley of the Valley of Mexico, which is situated in the State of Mexico, 40 kilometres (25 mi) northeast of modern-day Mexico City, known today as the site of many of the most architecturally significant Mesoamerican pyramids built in the pre-Columbian Americas.



The gang at Teotihuacan

At its zenith, perhaps in the first half of the 1st millennium AD, Teotihuacan was the largest city in the pre-Columbian Americas, with a population estimated at 125,000 or more, making it at least the sixth largest city in the world during at this time.

Apart from the pyramids, Teotihuacan is also anthropologically significant for its complex, multi-family residential compounds, the Avenue of the Dead and the small portion of its vibrant murals that have been exceptionally well-preserved. Additionally, Teotihuacan exported fine obsidian tools that garnered high prestige and widespread usage throughout Mesoamerica. The city is believed to have been established around 100 BC, with major monuments continuously under construction until about 250 AD. The city may have lasted until some time between the 7th and 8th centuries AD, but its major monuments were sacked and systematically burned around 550 AD.

Teotihuacan was even home to multi-floor apartment compounds built to accommodate this large population. The term Teotihuacan (or Teotihuacano) is also used for the whole civi-

...Teotihuacan



Kelly checking out Casa Teotihuacan

zation and cultural complex associated with the site. Although it is a subject of debate whether Teotihuacan was the centre of a state empire, its influence throughout Mesoamerica is well documented; evidence of Teotihuacan presence can be seen at numerous sites in Veracruz and the Maya region. The later Aztecs saw these magnificent ruins and claimed a common ancestry with the Teotihuacanos, modifying and adopting aspects of their culture. The ethnicity of the inhabitants of Teotihuacan is also a subject of much debate. Possible candidates are the Nahuatl, Otomi or Totonac ethnic groups. Scholars have also suggested that Teotihuacan was a multi-ethnic state. The site covers a total surface area of 83 square kilometres (32 sq mi) and was designated a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 1987. It is the most visited archaeological site in Mexico.

Site layout

The city's broad central avenue, called "Avenue of the Dead" (a translation from its Nahuatl name Miccoatli), is flanked by impressive ceremonial architecture, including the immense Pyra-

Moon and The Ciudadela with Temple of the Feathered Serpent Quetzalcoatl are placed at the both ends of Avenue while Palace-museum Quetzalpapálot, fourth basic structure of site, situated between two main pyramids. Along the Avenue are many smaller talud-tablero platforms also. The Aztecs believed they were tombs, inspiring the name of the avenue. Scholars have now established that these were ceremonial platforms that were topped with temples.



The Avenue of the Dead is roughly forty meters wide and four kilometers long. Further down the Avenue of the Dead, after a small river, is the area known as the Citadel, containing the ruined Temple of the Feathered Serpent Quetzalcoatl. This area was a large plaza, surrounded by temples that formed the religious and political center of the city. The name "Citadel" was given to it by the Spanish, who believed it was a fort. Most of the common people lived in large apartment buildings spread across the city. Many of the buildings contained workshops where artisans produced pottery and other goods.

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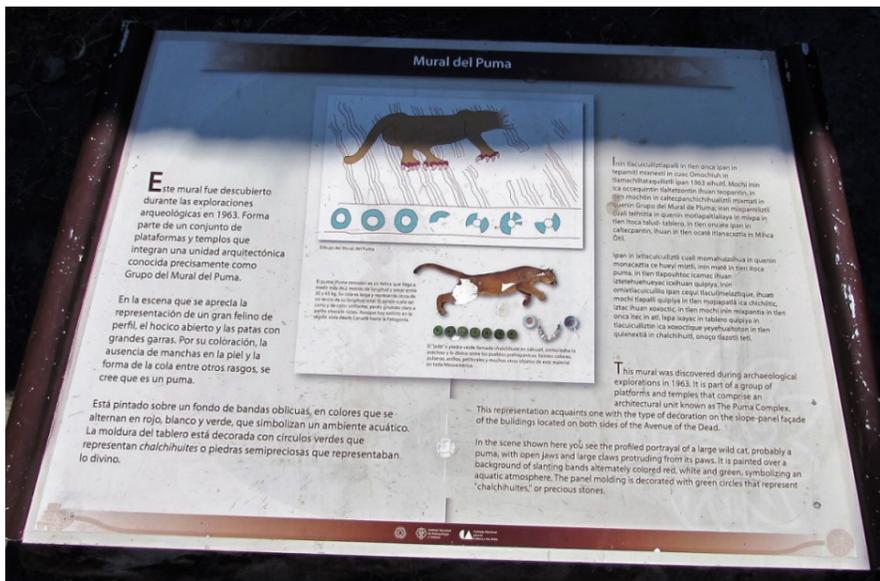
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...Teotihuacan



Teotihuacan complex due to a closer mountain ridge. Pecked-cross circles throughout the city, and in the surrounding regions, indicate how the people managed to maintain the urban grid over long distances. It also enabled them to orient the Pyramids to the distant mountain that was out of sight.



Pyramid of the sun as seen from the museum

The Ciudadela was completed during the Miccaotli phase, and the Pyramid of the Sun underwent a complex series of additions and renovations. The Great Compound was constructed across the Avenue of the Dead, west of Ciudadela. This was probably the city's marketplace. The existence of a large market in an urban center of this size is strong evidence of state organization. Teotihuacan was, at that point, simply too large and too complex to have been politically viable as a chiefdom. The Ciudadela is a great enclosed compound, capable of holding 100,000 people. About 700,000 cubic meters (yards) of material was used to construct its buildings. Its central feature is the Temple of Quetzalcoatl, which was flanked by upper class apartments. The entire compound was designed to overwhelm visitors.

Name Teotihuacan

The name Teotihuacan was given by the Nahuatl-speaking Aztecs, centuries after the fall of the city around 550 AD. The term has been glossed as "birthplace of the gods", or "place where gods were born", reflecting Nahua creation myths that were said to occur in Teotihuacan. Nahuatl scholar, Thelma D. Sullivan, interprets the name as "place of those who have the road of the gods." This is because the Aztecs believed that the gods created the universe at that site. The name is pronounced [te.o : ti : 'waka : n] in Nahuatl, with the accent on the syllable wa.

The geographical layout of Teotihuacan is a good example of the Mesoamerican tradition of planning cities, settlements, and buildings as a representation of the view of the Universe. Its urban grid is aligned to precisely 15.5° east of North. One theory says this is due to the fact that the sun rose at that same angle during the same summer day each year. Settlers used the alignment to calibrate their sense of time or as a marker for planting crops or performing certain rituals. Another theory is that there are numerous ancient sites in Mesoamerica that seem to be oriented with the tallest mountain in their given area. This appears to be the case at Teotihuacan, although the mountain to which it is oriented is not visible from within the

...Teotihuacan



Pyramid of the Sun - the world's 3rd largest

By normal Nahuatl orthographic conventions, a written accent would not appear in that position. Both this pronunciation and Spanish pronunciation: [te.otiwa'kan] are used, and both spellings appear in this article.

The original name of the city is unknown, but it appears in hieroglyphic texts from the Maya region as puh, or "Place of Reeds". This suggests that, in the Maya civilization of the Classic period, Teotihuacan was understood as a Place of Reeds similar to other Postclassic Central Mexican settlements that took the name of Tollan, such as Tula-Hidalgo and Cholula. This naming convention led to much confusion in the early 20th century, as scholars debated whether Teotihuacan or Tula-Hidalgo was the Tollan described by 16th-century chronicles. It now seems clear that Tollan may be understood as a generic Nahuatl term applied to any large settlement. In the Mesoamerican concept of urbanism, Tollan and other language equivalents serve as a metaphor, linking the bundles of reeds and rushes that formed part of the lacustrine environment of the Valley of Mexico and the large gathering of people in a city.

Teotihuacan History

The early history of Teotihuacan is actually quite mysterious, and the origin of its founders is uncertain. Around 300 BC, people of the central and southeastern area of Mesoamerica began to gather into larger settlements. Teotihuacan was the largest urban center of Mesoamerica before the Aztecs, almost 1000 years prior to their era. The city was already in ruins by the

time of the Aztecs. For many years, archaeologists believed it was built by the Toltec. This belief was based on colonial period texts, such as the Florentine Codex, which attributed the site to the Toltecs. However, the Nahuatl word "Toltec" generally means "craftsman of the highest level" and may not always refer to the Toltec civilization centered at Tula, Hidalgo. Since Toltec civilization flourished centuries after Teotihuacan, the people could not have been the city's founders.

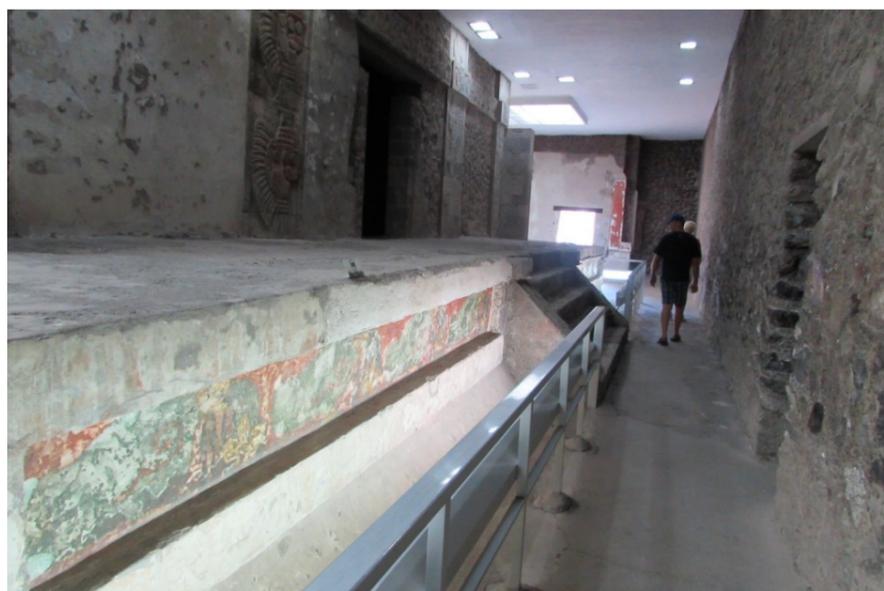


Grant and Anita at Teotihuacan

In the Late Formative era, a number of urban centers arose in central Mexico. The most prominent of these appears to have been Cuicuilco, on the southern shore of Lake Texcoco. Scholars have speculated that the eruption of the Xitle volcano may have prompted a mass emigration out of the central valley and into the Teotihuacan valley. These settlers may have founded or accelerated the growth of Teotihuacan.

...Teotihuacan

Other scholars have put forth the Totonac people as the founders of Teotihuacan. There is evidence that at least some of the people living in Teotihuacan emigrated from those areas influenced by the Teotihuacano civilization, including the Zapotec, Mixtec and Maya peoples. The builders of Teotihuacan took advantage of the geography in the Basin of Mexico. From the swampy ground, they constructed raised beds called chinampas, creating high agricultural productivity despite old methods of cultivation. This allowed for the formation of channels, and subsequently canoe traffic, to transport food from farms around the city. The earliest buildings at Teotihuacan date to about 200 BC. The largest pyramid, the Pyramid of the Sun, was completed by AD 100.



Mike and Kelly at the newer Teotihuacan exhibit

Year 378: "Conquest" of Tikal

In January 378, while Spearthrower Owl supposedly ruled in Teotihuacan, the warlord Siyah K'ak' "conquered" Tikal, removing and replacing the Maya king, with support from El Peru and Naachtun, as recorded by Stela 31 at Tikal and other monuments in the Maya region. In 378, a group of Teotihuacanos organized a coup d'état in Tikal, Guatemala. This was not the Teotihuacan state; it was a group of the Feathered-Serpent people, thrown out from the city. The Feathered-Serpent Pyramid was burnt, all the sculptures were torn from the temple, and another platform was built to efface the façade.

Year 426: "Conquest" of Copán and Quiriguá

In 426, the Copán ruling dynasty was created with K'inich Yax K'uk' Mo' as their first king. The Dynasty goes on to have sixteen rulers. Copán is located in modern day Honduras, as described by Copán Altar Q. Soon thereafter, Yax K'uk' Mo' installs Tok Casper as king of Quiriguá, about 50 km north of



Pyramid of the Moon and platforms

Copán. The city reached its peak in 450 CE, when it was the center of a powerful culture whose influence extended through much of the Mesoamerican region. At its peak, the city covered over 30 km² (over 11 1/2 square miles), and perhaps housed a population of 150,000 people, with one estimate reaching as high as 250,000. Various districts in the city housed people from across the Teotihuacano region of influence, which spread south as far as Guatemala. **Notably absent from the city are fortifications and military structures.**



Restored portion of Teotihuacan temple façade of Feathered Serpent

The nature of political and cultural interactions between Teotihuacan and the centers of the Maya region (as well as elsewhere in Mesoamerica) has been a long-standing and significant area for debate. Substantial exchange and interaction occurred over the centuries from the Terminal Preclassic to the Mid-Classic period. "Teotihuacan-inspired ideologies" and motifs persisted at Maya centers into the Late Classic, long after Teotihuacan itself had declined. However, scholars debate the extent and degree of Teotihuacano influence. Some believe that it had direct and militaristic dominance; others that adoption of "foreign" traits was part of a selective, conscious, and bi

...Teotihuacan



Pyramid of the Moon

-directional cultural diffusion. New discoveries have suggested that Teotihuacan was not much different in its interactions with other centers from the later empires, such as the Toltec and Aztec. It is believed that Teotihuacan had a major influence on the Preclassic and Classic Maya, most likely by conquering several Maya centers and regions, including Tikal and the region of Peten, and influencing Maya culture.

Restored portions of Teotihuacan architecture show the typical Mesoamerican use of red paint complemented on gold and jade decoration upon marble and granite.

Steep climb for Kelly (pink) and Rafael (white)



Architectural styles prominent at Teotihuacan are found widely dispersed at a number of distant Mesoamerican sites, which some researchers have interpreted as evidence for Teotihuacan's far-reaching interactions and political or militaristic dominance. The city was a center of industry, home to many potters, jewelers, and craftsmen. Teotihuacan is known for producing a great number of obsidian artifacts. No ancient Teotihuacano non-ideographic texts are known to exist (or known to have existed). Inscriptions from Maya cities show that Teotihuacan nobility traveled to, and perhaps conquered, local rulers as far away as Honduras. Maya inscriptions note an individual nicknamed by scholars as "Spearthrower Owl", apparently ruler of Teotihuacan, who reigned for over 60 years and installed his relatives as rulers of Tikal and Uaxactun in Guatemala.

Scholars have based interpretations about the culture at Teotihuacan on archaeology, the murals that adorn the site (and others, like the Wagner Murals, found in private collections), and hieroglyphic inscriptions made by the Maya describing their encounters with Teotihuacano conquerors. The creation of murals, perhaps tens of thousands of murals, reached its height

...Teotihuacan



Teotihuacan artisan workshop

between 450 and 650. **The artistry of the painters was unrivaled in Mesoamerica and has been compared with that of painters in Renaissance Florence, Italy.**

Collapse

Scholars had thought that invaders attacked the city in the 7th or 8th century, sacking and burning it. More recent evidence, however, seems to indicate that the burning was limited to the structures and dwellings associated primarily with the ruling class. Some believe this suggests that the burning was from an internal uprising. They say the invasion theory is flawed because early archaeological work on the city was focused exclusively on the palaces and temples, places used by the upper classes. Because all of these sites showed burning, archaeologists concluded that the whole city was burned. Instead, it is now known that the destruction was centered on major civic structures along the Avenue of the Dead. Some statues seem to have been destroyed methodically, with their fragments dispersed.

Evidence for population decline beginning around the 6th century lends some support to the internal unrest hypothesis. The decline of Teotihuacan has been correlated to lengthy droughts related to the climate changes of 535-536. This theory of ecological decline is supported by archaeological remains that show a rise in the percentage of juvenile skeletons with evidence of malnutrition during the 6th century. **Which is why there is different evidence that helps indicate that famine is most likely one of the more possible reasons for the decline of Teotihuacan.** The majority of their food came from agriculture, they grew things such as maize, bean, amaranth, green tomatoes, and pumpkin. But their harvest was not nearly sufficient enough to feed a population as big as it is believed lived in Teotihuacan. This finding does not conflict with either of the

above theories, since both increased warfare and internal unrest can also be effects of a general period of drought and famine. Other nearby centers such as Cholula, Xochicalco, and Cacaxtla competed to fill the power void left by Teotihuacan's decline. They may have aligned themselves against Teotihuacan to reduce its influence and power. The art and architecture at these sites emulate Teotihuacan forms, but also demonstrate an eclectic mix of motifs and iconography from other parts of Mesoamerica, particularly the Maya region.



Avenue of the Dead

The sudden destruction of Teotihuacan is not uncommon for Mesoamerican city-states of the Classic and Epi-Classic period. Many Maya states suffered similar fates in the coming centuries, a series of events often referred to as the Classic Maya collapse. Nearby in the Morelos valley, Xochicalco was sacked and burned in 900 and Tula met a similar fate around 1150. There is also a theory that the collapse of Teotihuacan was caused by its agriculture being devastated by the 535 AD eruption of the Ilopango volcano in El Salvador.

Culture

Archaeological evidence suggests that Teotihuacan was a multi-ethnic city, with distinct quarters occupied by Otomi, Zapotec, Mixtec, Maya, and Nahuatl peoples. The Totonacs have always maintained that they were the ones who built it. The Aztecs repeated that story, but it has not been corroborated by archaeological findings. In 2001, Terrence Kaufman presented linguistic evidence suggesting that an important ethnic group in Teotihuacan was of Totonacan or Mixe-Zoquean linguistic affiliation. He uses this to explain general influences from Totonacan and Mixe-Zoquean languages in many other Mesoamerican languages, whose people did not have any known history of contact with either of the above-mentioned groups. Other scholars maintain that the largest population group must have been of

...Teotihuacan

Otomi ethnicity, because the Otomi language is known to have been spoken in the area around Teotihuacan both before and after the Classic period and not during the middle period.



Temple of Quetzalcoatl

Religion

The consensus among scholars is that the primary deity of Teotihuacan was the Great Goddess of Teotihuacan. The dominant civic architecture is the pyramid. Politics were based on the state religion; religious leaders were the political leaders. **Teotihuacanos practiced human sacrifice:** human bodies and animal sacrifices have been found during excavations of the pyramids at Teotihuacan. Scholars believe that the people offered human sacrifices as part of a dedication when buildings were expanded or constructed. The victims were probably enemy warriors captured in battle and brought to the city for ritual sacrifice to ensure the city could prosper. Some men were decapitated, some had their hearts removed, others were killed by being hit several times over the head, and some were buried alive. Animals that were considered sacred and represented mythical powers and military were also buried alive, imprisoned in cages: cougars, a wolf, eagles, a falcon, an owl, and even venomous snakes. Numerous stone masks have been found at Teotihuacan, and have been generally believed to have been used during a funerary context, although some scholars call this into question, noting that masks "do not seem to have come from burials".

Residency

Teotihuacan was a mix of residential and work areas. Upper-class homes were usually compounds that housed many such families, and one compound was found that was capable of

housing between sixty and eighty families. Such superior residences were typically made of plaster, each wall in every section elaborately decorated with murals. These compounds or apartment complexes were typically found within the city center. The vast lakes of the Basin of Mexico provided the opportunity for people living around them to construct productive raised beds, or chinampas, from swampy muck, construction that also produced channels between the beds. Different sections of the city housed particular ethnic groups and immigrants. Typically, multiple languages were spoken in these sections of the city.

Archaeological site

Knowledge of the huge ruins of Teotihuacan was never completely lost. After the fall of the city, various squatters lived on the site. During Aztec times, the city was a place of pilgrimage and identified with the myth of Tollan, the place where the sun was created. Today, Teotihuacan is one of the most noted archaeological attractions in Mexico.

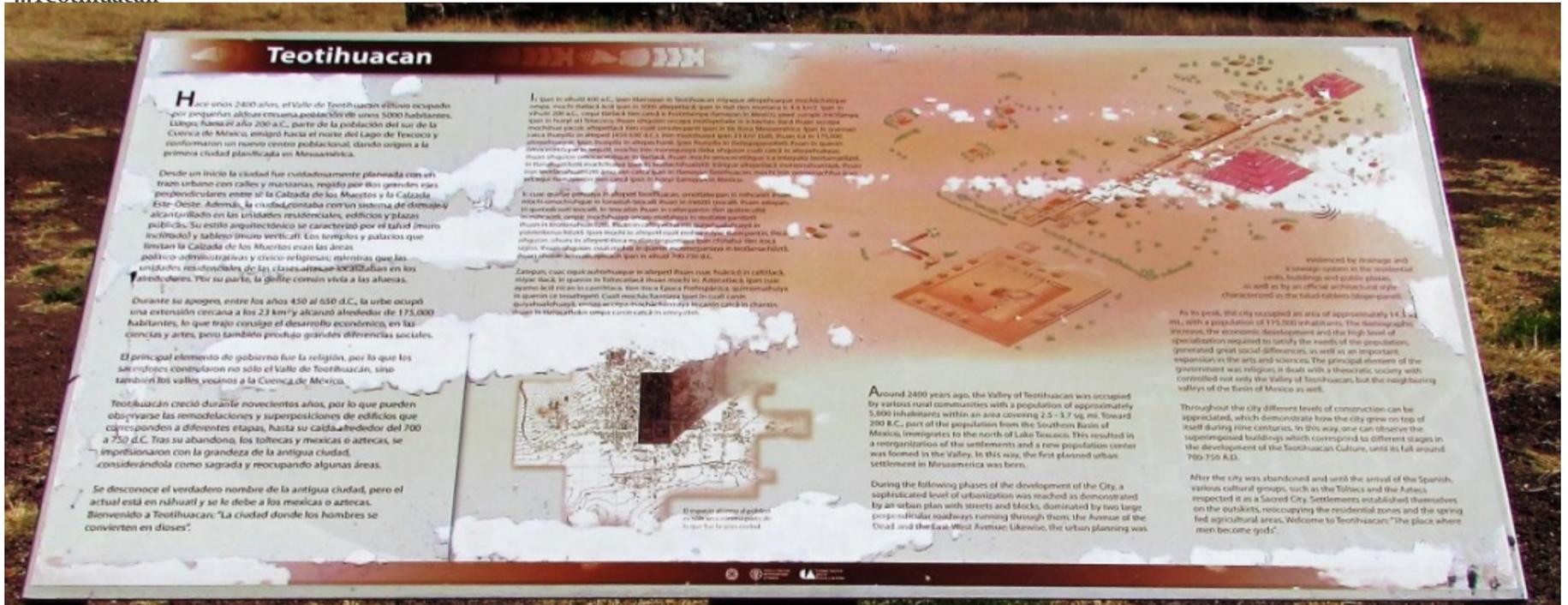


Pyramid of the Sun

Excavations and investigations

In the late 17th century, Carlos de Sigüenza y Góngora (1645–1700) made some excavations around the Pyramid of the Sun. Minor archaeological excavations were conducted in the 19th century. **In 1905, Mexican archaeologist and government official, in the regime of Porfirio Díaz, Leopoldo Batres led a major project of excavation and restoration.** The Pyramid of the Sun was restored to celebrate the centennial of the Mexican War of Independence in 1910. The site of Teotihuacan was the first to be expropriated for the national patrimony under the Law of Monuments (1897), giving jurisdiction under legislation for the Mexican state to take control. Some 250 plots were farmed on the site. Peasants who had been farming portions

...Teotihuacan



were ordered to leave and the Mexican government eventually paid some compensation to those individuals. A feeder train line was built to the site in 1908, which allowed the efficient hauling of material from the excavations and later to bring tourists to the site. In 1910, the International Congress of Americanists met in Mexico, coinciding with the centennial celebrations, and the distinguished delegates, such as its president Eduard Seler and vice president Franz Boas were taken to the newly finished excavations. Further excavations at the Ciudadela were carried out in the 1920s, supervised by Manuel Gamio. Other sections of the site were excavated in the 1940s and 1950s. The first site-wide project of restoration and excavation was carried out by INAH from 1960 to 1965, supervised by Jorge Acosta. This undertaking had the goals of clearing the Avenue of the Dead, consolidating the structures facing it, and excavating the Palace of Quetzalpapalotl.

During the installation of a "sound and light" show in 1971, workers discovered the entrance to a tunnel and cave system underneath the Pyramid of the Sun. Although scholars long thought this to be a natural cave, more recent examinations have established the tunnel was entirely manmade. The interior of the Pyramid of the Sun has never been fully excavated. In 1980-82, another major program of excavation and restoration was carried out at the Pyramid of the Feathered Serpent and the Avenue of the Dead complex. Most recently, a series of excavations at the Pyramid of the Moon have greatly expanded evidence of cultural practices.

Recent discoveries

In late 2003, a tunnel beneath the Temple of the Feathered Serpent was accidentally discovered by Sergio Gómez Chávez

and Julie Gazzola, archaeologists of the National Institute of Anthropology and History (INAH). After days of heavy rain-storm, Gómez Chávez noticed that a nearly three-foot-wide sinkhole occurred near the foot of the temple pyramid. First trying to examine the hole with a flashlight from above, Gómez could see only darkness so, tied with a line of heavy rope around his waist, he was lowered by several colleagues and, descending into the murk, he realized it was a perfectly cylindrical shaft. At the bottom, he came to rest in apparently ancient construction – a man-made tunnel, blocked in both directions by immense stones. Gómez was aware that archaeologists had previously discovered a narrow tunnel underneath the Pyramid of the Sun, and supposed he was now observing a kind of similar mirror tunnel, leading to a subterranean chamber beneath the Temple of the Feathered Serpent. He erected a tent over the sinkhole to preserve it from the hundreds of thousands of tourists that visit Teotihuacan. Researchers reported that the tunnel was believed to have been sealed in 200 CE.

Preliminary planning of the exploration and fundraising took more than six years.

Before the start of excavations, beginning in the early months of 2004, Dr. Victor Manuel Velasco Herrera, from the UNAM Institute of Geophysics, determined, with the help of ground-penetrating radar (GPR) and a team of some 20 archaeologists and workers, the approximate length of the tunnel and the presence of internal chambers. They scanned the earth under the Ciudadela, returning every afternoon to upload the results to Gómez's computers. By 2005, the digital map was complete. The archaeologists explored the tunnel with a remote-

...Teotihuacan



Happy hour

controlled robot called Tlaloc II-TC, equipped with an infrared camera and a laser scanner that generates 3D visualization to perform three-dimensional register of the spaces beneath the temple. A small opening in the tunnel wall was made and the scanner captured the first images, 37 meters into the passage.

In 2009, the government granted Gómez permission to dig. By the end of 2009, archaeologists of the INAH located the entrance to the tunnel that leads to galleries under the pyramid, where the remains of rulers of the ancient city might have been deposited. In August 2010, Gómez Chávez, now director of Tlalocan Project: Underground Road, announced that INAH's investigation of the tunnel - closed nearly 1,800 years ago by Teotihuacan dwellers - will proceed. The INAH team, which consisted of about 30 people supported by national and international advisors at the highest scientific levels, tried to enter the tunnel in September-October 2010. This excavation, the deepest made at the Pre-Hispanic site, was part of the commemorations of the 100th anniversary of archaeological excavations at Teotihuacan and its opening to the public.

It was mentioned that the underground passage runs under Feathered Serpent Temple, and the entrance is located a few meters away from the temple at the expected place, deliberately sealed with large boulders nearly 2,000 years ago. The hole that had appeared during the 2003 storms was not the actual entrance; a vertical shaft of almost 5 meters wide is the access to the tunnel. At 14 meters deep, the entrance leads to

a nearly 100-meter long corridor that ends in a series of underground galleries in the rock. After archaeologists broke ground at the entrance to the tunnel, a staircase and ladders that would allow easy access to the subterranean site were installed. Works advanced slowly and with painstaking care; excavating was done manually, with spades.

Nearly 1,000 tons of soil and debris were removed from the tunnel. There were large spiral seashells, cat bones, pottery, fragments of human skin. The rich array of objects unearthed included wooden masks covered with inlaid rock jade and quartz, elaborate necklaces, rings, greenstone crocodile teeth and human figurines, crystals shaped into eyes, beetle wings arranged in a box, sculptures of jaguars, and hundreds of metallized spheres. The mysterious globes lay in both the north and south chambers. Ranging from 40 to 130 millimetres, the balls have a core of clay and are covered with a yellow jarosite formed by the oxidation of pyrite. According to George Cowgill of Arizona State University, the spheres are a fascinating find: "Pyrite was certainly used by the Teotihuacanos and other ancient Mesoamerican societies. Originally, the spheres would have shown brilliantly. They are indeed unique, but I have no idea what they mean." All these artifacts were deposited deliberately and pointedly, as if in offering to appease the gods.

One of the most remarkable findings in the tunnel chambers was a miniature mountainous landscape, 17 metres underground, with tiny pools of liquid mercury representing lakes.

...Teotihuacan



Rugged RV at the park

The walls and ceiling of the tunnel were found to have been carefully impregnated with mineral powder composed of magnetite, pyrite (fool's gold), and hematite to provide a glittering brightness to the complex, and to create the effect of standing under the stars as a peculiar re-creation of the underworld. At the end of the passage, Gómez Chávez's team uncovered four greenstone statues, wearing garments and beads; their open eyes would have shone with precious minerals. Two of the figurines were still in their original positions, leaning back and appearing to contemplate up at the axis where the three planes of the universe meet - likely the founding shamans of Teotihuacan, guiding pilgrims to the sanctuary, and carrying bundles of sacred objects used to perform rituals, including pendants and pyrite mirrors, which were perceived as portals to other realms.

After each new segment was cleared, the 3D scanner documented the progress. By 2015, nearly 75,000 fragments of artifacts have been discovered, studied, cataloged, analyzed and, when possible, restored. **The significance of these new discoveries is publicly explored in a major exhibition at the De Young Museum in San Francisco, which opened in late September 2017.**

Submitted by Dan and Lisa Goy
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Experiences from our 90-day Mexico RV Tour: January 7-April 5, 2016
www.BajaAmigos.net

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Tamales!

INGREDIENTS

Tamale filling

- 1 1/4 pounds pork loin
- 1 large onion, halved
- 1 clove garlic
- 4 dried California chile pods
- 2 cups water
- 1 1/2 teaspoons salt

Tamale Dough

- 2 cups masa harina (flour)
- 1 (10.5 ounce) can beef broth
- 1 teaspoon baking powder
- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- 2/3 cup lard
- 1 (8 ounce) package dried corn husks
- 1 cup sour cream

Did you know?

Every year on February 2, Mexico celebrates el Día de la Candelaria (Candlemas Day) with tamales on the table. Tradition dictates that if your Three Kings Day slice of the rosca de reyes contains the figure of the Niño Dios (Christ Child), you are in charge of throwing the tamales party on Candelaria. Late in January, there are festivals and fairs in Mexico devoted to the multiple kinds of regional tamales available all over the country. From southernmost Oaxaca with its flat tamales wrapped in hoja de plátano (banana leaves) to Sinaloa's tamales barbones stuffed with shrimp, Candelaria means tamales!

Source: <http://mexicocooks.typepad.com>

DIRECTIONS

Place pork into a Dutch oven with onion and garlic, and add water to cover. Bring to a boil, then reduce heat to low and simmer until the meat is cooked through, about 2 hours.

Use rubber gloves to remove stems and seeds from the chile pods. Place chiles in a saucepan with 2 cups of water. Simmer, uncovered, for 20 minutes, then remove from heat to cool.

Transfer the chiles and water to a blender and blend until smooth. Strain the mixture, stir in salt, and set aside. Shred the cooked meat and mix in one cup of the chile sauce.

Soak the corn husks in a bowl of warm water. In a large bowl, beat the lard with a tablespoon of the broth until fluffy. Combine the masa harina, baking powder and salt; stir into the lard mixture, adding more broth as necessary to form a spongy dough.

Spread the dough out over the corn husks to 1/4 to 1/2 inch thickness. Place one tablespoon of the meat filling into the center. Fold the sides of the husks in toward the center and place in a steamer. Steam for 1 hour.

Remove tamales from husks and drizzle remaining chile sauce over. Top with sour cream. For a creamy sauce, mix sour cream into the chile sauce.

Recipe and image: allrecipes.com



Crossword

solution posted in next month's edition

1		2			3	4		5
				6				
7				8				
	9					10		
11								12
13		14				15		
16					17			

Across

- 1 (he, she) says (you/usted) say
- 3 race, ethnicity
- 7 two
- 8 line
- 9 school
- 13 (he, she) comes (you/usted) come
- 15 there:
- 16 rivers
- 17 side

Down

- 1 finger
- 2 cases
- 4 still, yet
- 5 wings
- 6 someone, somebody
- 10 flame
- 11 used to encourage or challenge, go!;
let me see (1,3)
- 12 hearing, ear

Last month's crossword solution:

1	m	e	s		3	h	a	4	s	t	5	a
	u		o		a		e		ñ			
6	c	o	m	p	r	e	n	d	o			
	h		b		é		s					
7	o	t	r	o		8	c	a	e	9	r	
			e		10	d		c			i	
11	s	e	r	v	i	c	i	o	s			
	e		o		c		ó		a			
12	d	e	s	d	e		13	n	o	s		

lexisrex.com

The Virgin of Guadalupe

from the Path to Citizenship series

Our Lady of Guadalupe (Spanish: Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe), also known as the Virgin of Guadalupe (Spanish: Virgen de Guadalupe), is a Roman Catholic title of the Blessed Virgin Mary associated with a venerated image enshrined within the Minor Basilica of Our Lady of Guadalupe in Mexico City. The basilica is the most visited Catholic pilgrimage site in the world, and the world's third most-visited sacred site. Pope Leo XIII granted the venerated image a Canonical Coronation on 12 October 1895.

Following the Conquest in 1519-21, the Spanish destroyed a temple of the mother goddess Tonantzin at Tepeyac outside Mexico City, and built a chapel dedicated to the Virgin on the site. Tonantzin (the beloved mother of the gods) was celebrated on the winter solstice, which was on December 12 according to the Julian calendar used by the Spaniards until 1582, so the date of December 12 was assigned as the celebration day for Tonantzin Guadalupe. Newly converted natives continued to come from afar to worship there, often addressing the Virgin Mary as Tonantzin.

What is purported by some to be the earliest mention of the miraculous apparition of the Virgin is a page of parchment (the Codex Escalada) which was discovered in 1995 and, according to investigative analysis, dates from the sixteenth century. This document bears two pictorial representations of Juan Diego and the apparition, several inscriptions in Nahuatl referring to Juan Diego by his Aztec name, and the date of his death: 1548, as well as the year that the Virgin Mary appeared: 1531.

It also contains the glyph of Antonio Valeriano; and finally, the signature of Fray Bernardino de Sahagun that was authenticated by experts from the Banco de Mexico and Charles E. Dibble.



A more complete early description of the apparition occurs in a 16-page manuscript called the Nican mopohua, which was acquired by the New York Public Library in 1880, and has been reliably dated in 1556. This document, written in Nahuatl, but in Latin script, tells the story of the apparitions and the supernatural origin of the image. It was probably composed by a native Aztec man, called Antonio Valeriano, who had been educated by Franciscans. The text of this document was later incorporated into a printed pamphlet which was widely circulated in 1649.

Source: photo and article, Wikipedia

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