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Manzanillo

SUN

Manzanillo's Lifestyle E-Magazine

In this Issue

General Interest

Camping in Mexico

Only in Mexico

Seeking Income?

So you bought a tablet? What next?

Movie Review - The Butler

Tommy Clarkson

Yann Kostic

Senor Tech

Suzanne Marshall

Nature

Planting Roots – Mexican Palmetto

I planted roots - Picotee Sky Flower

Tommy Clarkson

Tommy Clarkson

Living in Manzanillo

So what do you do all day?

Learn Spanish – Worth the effort

Mujeres Amigas Newsletter

Calendar of Events

Freda Rumford

Suzanne Marshall

Elaine Parker

Glenna Palidwor

Living in Mexico

Rules and regulations of Nationalizing foreign cars

We did it ourselves

Gerry Szakacs

Larry & Lynn McNish

History

Book Review – The Mayan Secrets by Clive Cussler

Kirby Vickery

Food

The Potato

Terry Sovil

China Gecko
Yoli Ibarra



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ideas on what you would like us to
write about in the magazine. Preferred
subjects are concerning Manzanillo or
Mexico.

All articles should be 1000 words or
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words if accompanied by photos (.jpg)

Pictures appropriate for the article are
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Seeking Income? Think Outside the Box

by Yann Kostic

Current interest rates are at rock-bottom levels, and they're likely to stay there for a while, according to recent comments from U.S. Federal Reserve Board Chairman, Ben Bernanke. It's good news in some ways, not so good in others, because where, in such an environment, can you turn for income?

Most investors divide their portfolios into two buckets. One is principal, which comprises the assets in the portfolio, and the other income, which is made up of the interest and dividends the assets provide.

According to conventional wisdom, you can certainly live off your income in retirement, but whatever you do, don't tap into your principal. If you do, you'll have a smaller nest egg, which will in turn yield less income.

While it's wise to have a base of assets that never falls below a certain level, it may pay to think of income differently. It's possible, for example, to generate your own income - by selling some of your assets. We're not talking about reducing your original principal, but about harvesting gains from your portfolio.

For example, you have a \$500,000 portfolio that generates 6 percent (\$30,000) annually in interest and dividends, and you're taking that amount as income.

Now, let's say your portfolio has a good couple of years, and rises to \$600,000. One option is to continue to take the 6 percent in interest and dividends (now \$36,000) as income. Another option would be to sell a portion of your portfolio - no more than \$100,000 - so your principal will still be \$500,000.

If you choose this approach, you'll be selling your winners or other stocks you think are appropriately valued. But be aware: Doing so can generate capital gains.

It's wise to consult with an advisor to ensure that the resulting gains are long-term (which are taxed at the capital-gains rate), not short-term (which are taxed at your regular income-tax rate).

Yann Kostic is a Money Manager and Financial Advisor (RIA) with Atlantis Wealth Management specializing in retirees (or soon to be), self-reliant women and Expats in Mexico. Yann works with TD Ameritrade Institutional (the custodian of client's assets). He splits his time between Central Florida and the Central Pacific Coast of Mexico. Comments, questions or to request his Newsletter "News You Can Use" Contact him at Yannk@AtlantisWealth.com, in Mexico: (314) 333-1295 or in the US: (321) 574-1529.

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Mexican Palmetto, *Sabal mexicana*

Family: Arecaceae
Also known as: Texas Palmetto, Texas Sabal Palm, Rio Grande Palmetto, Victoria Palmetto, and Palma de Micharos

(The genus *Sabal* consists of fifteen (or so) different species. As a result of hybridization and similarity in appearance, as noted in the following, there is often confusion between them.)

The area of origin for the large, and very hardy, Mexican Palmetto stretches from the lower Rio Grande Valley of Texas south through the Atlantic and Pacific coasts of Mexico to Honduras, El Salvador and Guatemala. Once, in the Lone Star State, these beauties were much more wide-spread before extensive land clearing in the lower Rio Grande Valley all but decimated their numbers. Today, in the wild, they are relatively rare. In fact, their last native groves in Texas are in the Audubon Sabal Palm Grove Sanctuary in Cameron County.

Heading south, however, there are more. In that this genus is also the more common find, in and around the Caribbean region. Accordingly, one might assume the Mexican Palmetto to be rather easily identified. Not so. Few of my many tropical botanical books even have it listed. Possibly, that may come from the fact that it is closely related to the Maya Palm (*Sabal guatemalensis*). In fact, the two species – as well as *Sabal texana* and *Sabal exul* - may be synonymous. Yet others might confuse it with the similarly appearing, and much more common, Cabbage Palm (*Sabal palmetto*) - the Florida State palm - which is a taller palm but with a smaller trunk.

No small palm, the Mexican Palm can grow to a height of 50 feet (15.24 meters) with a stout, robust trunk almost three feet (one meter) in diameter. The spread of a mature Mexican Palmetto may range from eight feet (2.4



The featured (and loving it there) palm in the very center of the Heliconia Terrace - barely eight years old, is this fat trunked Mexican Palmetto.

meters) to 25 feet (7.6 meters). Its large, fan shaped (costapalmate) fronds reach a width of around three feet. The leaf is stout equaling or exceeding the leaf in length. Male and female flowers, produced on the same plant, are comprised of small, creamy white blooms on long inflorescences that branch to be as long as the frond stalks. From them come dark purple, round-oval fruits that hang in showy clusters and turn black when ripe. . . . and really litter the ground below!

Unless cut off when the fronds have browned, the trunk will remain covered with old leaf stem (boots) that have split at their base. If fully removed, the trunk is gray in color. These boots form a characteristic and attractive crosshatch pattern on the trunk. (From our boot stubs grow orchids and air root bromeliads.) Its petioles (stems) are smooth and, thankfully, are completely thornless, growing up to 15 feet (4.6 m) in length.

The Mexican Palmetto robustly sports a crown of 10 to 25 fan-shaped leaves that may range in shades of green. The reason for this is the relativity of the amount of shade in which it grows and the amount of direct sunlight it receives. Hence, it may vary from a deep emerald green for those in shade to part shade, to a lighter green for those in more direct sun. Each of the large leaves have 80-115 leaflets with threads along the margins of the leaflets. These leaves appear to have a folded, three-dimensional look which stems from the fact that they have a prominent and strongly downward arching costa (leaf midrib).

Color of leaves notwithstanding, this palm thrives in partial shade/partial sun and full sun alike. Once established, it is drought resistant but will grow faster and have better overall looks if regularly watered. A plus over some other varieties of palms is that it tolerates wet locations and occasional flooding.

The fronds from this big old guy can be utilized for thatching, making chair seats, fans, and hat making. (These palms are plantation cultivated to be used as thatch in the Mexican Yucatan Peninsula.) Its rot resistant trunks are effectively employed as fence posts and even for wharf and pier pilings. Its fruit, called *Micharo*, is edible.

Up north, this palmetto is more commonly called the Texas Palm as it is one of only two palms that are native to Texas - the other is the much smaller Dwarf Palmetto (*Sabal minor*).

This is not a palm for a small yard. It makes a rather assertive palm statement - "I'm big and wish to be noticed" - if my understanding of "Palm" is correct! But it is nice looking and has the additional bonus of being disease and pest free. . . . something I certainly aspire to maintain!



Sturdy stems, large fronds reaching out and up from a robust trunk are key features of this large palm from Mexico.



And when it decides to display its inflorescence, it does so with gusto!



Picotee Sky Flower

Duranta erecta 'Sapphire Showers'

Family: Verbenaceae

Also known as: Pigeonberry, Golden Dew-drop, and Skyflower

This - originally - West Indian, evergreen, drooping branch, vine is definitely, an attention getter! Its flora are large, beautiful racemes (clusters) of butterfly-attracting, trumpet-shaped, white-tipped, and intensely, bluish-violet-lavender-purple. (One wonders if I can find any more hyphenated words to describe it?)

These bunches of flowers are ¾ inch (two cm) with each blossom having flared petal tips with a white picotee edge. ("Picotee" is a flower whose edge is a different color than that of its base coloration. The word originates from that in French, "picoté", which means "marked with points".) Going further in the etymology of its name, the genus *Duranta* is named after the 15th-century Italian botanist Castore Durantis and, of course, *erecta* is Latin for "upright."

Fast-growing (No, I get no bonus for the number of hyphens I use!), it likes full sun and deep watering, planted in well-draining soil. But we note at the outset that both the ornamental, orangish-yellow fruit (from which it derives its other name of Golden Dew-Drop) - called a "globose drupe" by the botanical community - as well as the foliage, include the chemical compound saponin. (Though another usually reliable source says it is hydrocyanic acid which in small doses be used as a treatment for intestinal worms). But, be apprised, that both are potentially poisonous. So proceed with it accordingly should you have children around or pets that gnaw on that which they should not.



Its flowers are large, beautiful clusters of butterfly-attracting, trumpet shaped, white-tipped, and intensely bluish, violet, lavender or purple.

Growing to 25 feet (just over seven and a half meters), and, sometimes, nearly as wide, it's more tree than bush and, in these climes, should flower nearly year around. Butterflies, hummingbirds and bees love the blooms which have a slight "candy-like" fragrance while birds, in general, like its fruit which, obviously, follow the flowers.

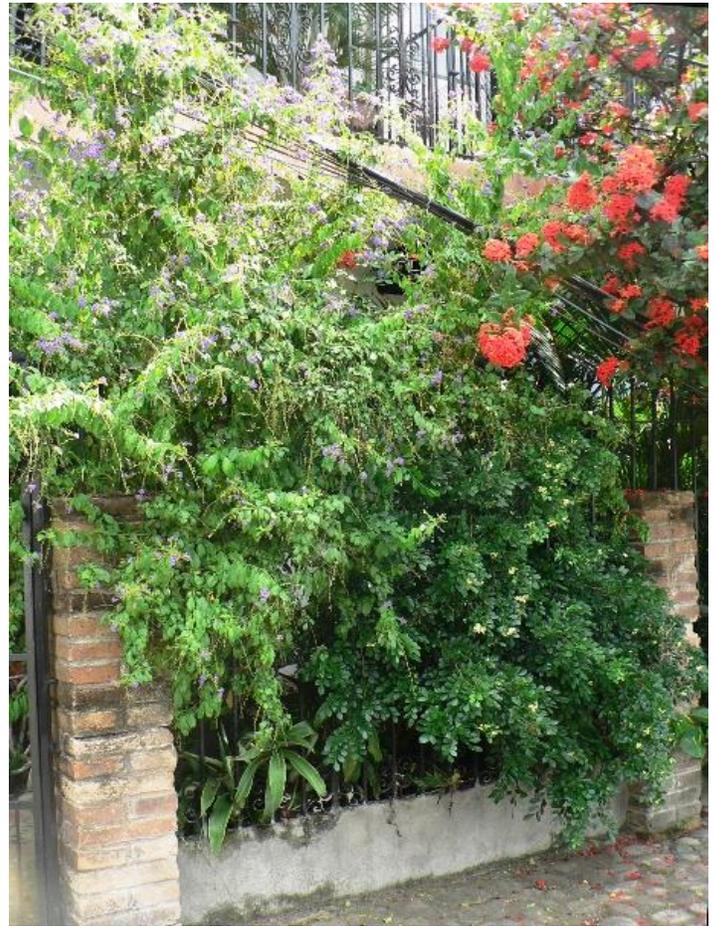
This plant makes a great "blocker" or screen if you wish others to not see in or desire to not see the neighbor's junk yard! Beyond that, one of my references said that this is "A good choice for espaliers". OK, I agree. . . . once I looked it up to make sure I knew its meaning! Indeed, this bushy vine would prefer a trellis or frame of some sort to being left free standing. And yes, frequent pruning is not a bad idea but some of the Verbenaceae family have sharp-edged spines, so watch out!

With its potential growth habits – beyond basic upright - of arching, cascading, sprawling and weeping, it's a pretty flexible plant. Accordingly, it can be used in a variety of modalities: as previously described, as an accent plant, containerized, a focal point specimen, incorporated as a hedge, employed in a landscape bed, worked into an outdoor living area backdrop, as a shrub border, in topiary as a tree form shrub and I've heard – though not seen – as bonsai. It's the plant that does it all!

When planting and maintaining, keep in mind that it can be spread by suckers if the branches reach down to the ground. Otherwise, it can be propagated by seeds or cuttings.

Super-abbreviated, this is how to plant this beauty: Place your new Picotee Sky Flower plant, purchased from your favorite *vivero* (hopefully they will have – or can get – it), in rich, well-draining soil compacting it enough to ensure no air pockets remain below; apply two to four inches of mulch but keep four inches from the trunk to prevent the potential of mold or rot; allow top two or three inches of soil to dry before watering; then water in the cool of the morning taking care to not splash the leaves or allow the soil to become drenched; every three months give it some extra nutrients with 10-10-10 fertilizer at a rate of one tablespoon for every square foot of soil beneath your plant's canopy, rake it into top three inches of soil and water well to activate the fertilizer; and then prune as desired to maintain desired shape.

It is my understanding that there are forms with variegated and golden leaves that are grown primarily for their foliage – but I have not yet come across them. But this variety is certainly a delight!



Enjoying full sun and deep watering, planted in well-draining soil this beauty is not a difficult one to grow.



The Picotee Skyflower is a wonderfully bright and happy addition of any tropical garden.

So what do you do all day?

by
Freda Rumford

Just what can be said about Manzanillo, Colima that cannot be found in the Guide Books and on-line under many different headings?

Yes, it is in a beautiful, serene city of Mexico on the part of the Pacific coast known as Le Costa Alegre (The Happy Coast). Yes it is easy to drive or fly there and in the winter the weather is absolutely superb. The summer too for the most part but then the humidity can be a bit much for some people.

The ocean is almost always calm in the mornings, ideal for swimming as it is warm water and there are no sharks. In the afternoon it can be a little windy and the waves can be more than the average person wants to handle. The beaches are mostly devoid of crowds and it is nothing to sit on the beach for several hours and only speak to one or two passers by. Yes people do speak and say "Good morning" or "Good afternoon" and sometimes stop for a little longer chat. The beach pedlars pass by, the same ones are seen every day and quickly become friends. The nice part about them is that are not pushy or overly aggressive and will take a "Not today thank you." without argument. Of course they always suggest that perhaps tomorrow you would like to see what they have. They are courteous and are pleased when they receive the same courtesy in return.

Do be aware that there are no lifeguards on the beaches except on certain occasions. It is best never to swim alone and never allow your children to go there without someone responsible. Disaster can happen in a flash and water can be treacherous and unforgiving. There are Tourist Police who drive by from time to time, but not in a regular pattern and if on a lonely beach, that is what you are, alone!

Most of the beaches have houses or condominiums near by but residents are not always welcoming if too much raucous noise is made or people expect to ask to use their bathrooms. This is the same in every tourist area and few people would consider asking someone at home to use their facilities. Believe me, it has been done. Some of the beach entrances have public facilities but they are few and far between. If you are suffering from too many margaritas, it is best to stay home.



Photo by Dave Boroughs

The people of Manzanillo are perhaps the nicest, kindest and welcoming people we have found anywhere, except perhaps on Fiji. They are really pretty honest despite all that has been said about dishonesty in Mexico. We have had people give us back money whilst telling us we have given too much, as well as hearing of taxi drivers going out of their way to deliver an item to a rider that was left in their cab. Naturally there are always exceptions so don't be too lax in your guard of possessions.

The above statement also applies to the foreign community who live in Manzanillo. It seems that when they get off the plane or arrive at the top of the hill overlooking Manzanillo's port, a sense of calm overtakes them and they take their nice and relaxed pill. There are several organisations that have made it their business to be available to help travellers on a sojourn into Mexico.

There are dining out nights with Manzamigos called Thirsty Thursday. Mujeres Amigas have a luncheon every first Wednesday of the month as well as other organisations to help orphans or to train young people in trades sufficiently to be able to make a better living. They are always looking for volunteers and a list of

these organisations can be found on the Manzanillo Sun website as well as other websites concerning the whole area.

Despite the fact that Manzanillo is not in a Tourist area, there is much to do. There is diving and snorkelling with dive shops with trained dive masters who will pick you up and take you back to your hotel, as well as great restaurants serving great margaritas and tasty meals right on the beach. Generally there is a charge for using the umbrellas. And there are plenty of people who will only too pleased to tell you of the attractions and shops and bazaars around town. Realise, that if you ask a Mexican person where to find something, they may not know but will tell you something anyway, just so that you will be happy.

If you are a shopper, be warned that generally shops may not open until 10 a.m., there is a lunch hour that stretches into two hours from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. (or thereabouts) every day. But the shops do re-open from 4 p.m. till possible 7 or 8 p.m. If you find that your shopping has to be halted for a while, that is just perfect. During this time, you could find a nice restaurant to serve you a delicious meal while you wait for them to re-open.

This happens to be a problem sometimes in Colima as the downtown shopping almost completely closes down at 2 p.m. An ideal time to then go out to the mall, Zentralia, which doesn't open until 11 a.m. and closes at 7 p.m. For that trip it is as well to have a car as there were no buses when we were there and it was impossible to get a taxi.

One really good thing about shopping in the town of Colima is that taxis are generally available and very cheap. It can be disconcerting if the driver also picks up other passengers at the same time, especially from the mall but hey! He's only charging 15 pesos for a 10 minute drive, so two people help pay for the gas!

There are many places to go for a day's outing: Barra de Navidad and Melaque are only an hour drive; the quaint town of La Manzanilla with it's caiman crocodiles and world class beach restaurants; the small restaurant village of Colimilla just over the lagoon by water taxi from Barra de Navidad; and the black sand beach of Cuyutlan. Further afield: there is beautiful Comala and the Mariachi bands that frequent the town square and serenade the diner; Nogueres near Comala has a great museum and an old Franciscan church as well as a budding garden with native plants.

Inland from Manzanillo there is the mining town of Minatitlan that can be reached by winding roads around the mountains and past the pools and water park of El Salto.

Then there is always Puerto Vallarta, just a three and a half hour drive into a completely different world and high class shopping, a great place to go for a weekend. Guadalajara is also the same distance in a different direction with great shopping and the museums and churches and the wonderful shopping at Tlaquepaque and Tonalá where all of the Mexican treasures can be found for a fraction of the price in the Manzanillo tiangis.

I could go on and on. Perhaps I'll do this again! When you are retired, there just isn't enough time in the day!



Comala downtown



Colima jardines



A Challenge Well Worth the Effort – Exercise Your Brain

by Suzanne A. Marshall

When my husband and I took our first few vacations to resorts in Mexico, it was fun trying to wrap our tongues around some of the resort Spanish and 'crack' a few people up (including staff) with our miss-pronunciations. Nonetheless we pursued. And because we were so willing to give it a try, some of the Mexican locals, (known for discretion and polite control) liked us enough to translate some of the more questionable things we were saying in order to save us embarrassment and have a good laugh with us. For example, when my husband kept repeating his 'version' of good night, one of the shop keepers let him know that he was using a slang expression that was the equivalent of 'nice ass'! Or, when I tried to joke with staff about my being too old to do certain things, I was actually calling myself the mayor!!

That was many years ago and we fell in love with Mexico and now enjoy the winters in Manzanillo in a lovely little condo on the beach. As it happens, we chose a spot and a building owned exclusively by professional Mexicans from Guadalajara who vacation in Manzanillo on weekends and holiday seasons. When everyone is there for major holidays the pool is filled with giggling 'niño's' and parents and the atmosphere is filled with the sound of that beautiful Spanish language. I was smitten with the desire to converse with these wonderful neighbors in their own language in spite of the fact that most of them speak beautiful English. They have been so kind to us and I believe in part because we are making an effort to learn their language. They respect that and know it is not that easy for a couple of old codgers like us.

There are times even, when we must insist on their speaking Spanish to us, because so many of them want to practice their English. Overall, they are very patient with us and we've given them all permission to correct us or help us learn phrases. However, the condo staff do not speak English, and when the fun is over on the weekends and all have returned with families to work and school, our building is very quiet and we must converse with the staff somehow for various needs.

We have a lovely woman as the administrator. Taking care of and coordinating everything from the cleaning and gardening staff to overseeing renovations and matters for



the condo board of directors. On her own she had enrolled in English classes (for us!) but managed to convey to me that it was too difficult with the work and her four children at home. She offered to take me to a recommended local school named Universal Languages so that I could check out and potentially enroll for Spanish lessons.

For some reason I found myself really wanting to learn the language so I agreed to let her take me in her car and show me where to go and so on. And I enrolled for 110.00 Cdn per month and went to school every morning Monday to Friday from 9 a.m. to noon with access after lessons to a language lab with computers. My husband was working on the internet at the time and couldn't join me. To this day he is jealous because my Spanish is better. But I met other English speaking learners and by the end of the second month was dreaming in Spanish I was so deluged with a brain full of information.

Since those initial two months I have continued to study with online programs and force myself to speak a little when I can. The fact that we return to Canada in the spring for six months doesn't help my retention much but over the past couple of years I have found that it is 'sticking' better and a month before our migration back for the winter I start to review my notes and lessons.



I cannot say that I am fluent, but I am so much better at it than I was. And I find that just the exposure to the language on a regular basis has words popping up in my mind that I couldn't remember learning. If I have any luck at all perhaps a process like osmosis is taking place. That would be great! I have accepted that it is a long term process and it will be many years before I can debate politics and religion in Spanish.

Giving this a bit of perspective, it makes sense that permanent and semi-permanent immigrants to Manzanillo should be making efforts to learn Spanish for the same reasons that we would expect foreign immigrants to our home countries to learn our language. But I have noticed that many expatriates have found a comfort zone in seeking out English speaking friends and avoiding the challenge of taking up the local language. I personally know how comforting it is to latch on to fellow migrants and that's okay. But I think an effort should be made to blend in and truly become part of the Mexican community.

There are great benefits from such an effort, the least of which is exercising our aging brains. Check these facts out: *"Physiological studies have found that speaking two or more languages is a great asset to the cognitive process. The brains of bilingual people operate differently than single language speakers, and these differences offer several mental benefits."* Anne Merritt, EFL lecturer, UK, South Korea

YOU BECOME SMARTER

Speaking a foreign language improves the functionality of your brain by challenging it to recognize, negotiate meaning, and communicate in different language systems. This skill boosts your ability to negotiate meaning in other problem-solving tasks as well. You can become better with math, reading and vocabulary.

YOU STAVE OFF ALZHEIMERS AND DEMENTIA

Consistent results from several studies show the mean age for the first signs of dementia is 71.4. For adults who speak two or more languages, the mean age for those first signs is 75.5.

YOUR MEMORY IMPROVES

The brain functions better with exercise. Learning a language involves memorizing rules and vocabulary, which strengthens the mental "muscle". This exercise improves

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overall memory, making multiple language speakers better at remembering lists or sequences. They're better at retaining shopping lists, names and directions.

YOU BECOME MORE PERCEPTIVE

A study from Spain's University of Pompeu Fabra revealed that multilingual people are better at observing their surroundings. They are more adept at focusing on relevant information and editing out the irrelevant. They are also better at spotting misleading information.

YOUR DECISION-MAKING SKILLS IMPROVE

According to a study from the University of Chicago, bilinguals tend to make more rational decisions. Any language contains nuance and subtle implications in its vocabulary and these biases can subconsciously influence your judgment. Bilinguals are more confident with their choices after thinking it over in the second language and seeing whether their initial conclusions still stand up.

YOU IMPROVE YOUR ENGLISH

Learning a foreign language draws your focus to the mechanics of language: grammar, conjugations, and sentence structure. This makes you more aware of language, and the ways it can be structured and manipulated. These skills can make you a more effective communicator and a sharper editor and writer. Language speakers also develop a better ear for listening, since they're skilled at distinguishing meaning from discreet sounds.

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Only in Mexico . . .

by Tommy Clarkson

- ... is pre-planning, prioritizing or precisely scheduling seemingly anathema to the manner of conducting any manner of business.
- ... does the “punctuality gene” seem to be wholly missing from the vast preponderance of the populous.
- ... are those same folks as described above always driving at break neck speed, running stop lights and turning from the wrong lanes so they, apparently, can effectively arrive late with a flair.
- ... can “one hour” mean a great deal more and “two or three days” mean perhaps “sometime in a month or so”.
- ... could a promise of something you desire being available next week” quite possibly mean “if and when we get around to it” – if not “never”!
- ... might, conversely, the poorest of *peons* eagerly share his meager lunch with you if he perceives you have none.
- ... will a street fruit and vegetable vendor respond to your morning greeting in fractured Spanish, but with a big smile, by giving you extra – at no charge – products.
- ... can your doctor spend 45 minutes with you discussing your family, garden and travels before inquiring of your health.
- ... is there a sparkling clean, new garbage truck with virtually no muffler that emits a loud, rumbling roar which can be heard from miles away - that runs its route starting at 4:30 in the morning. . . and no one do anything about it!
- ... or, similarly, is there a small business, located in the midst of numerous homes, with a highly sensitive burglar alarm that is set off repeatedly – regardless of hour but each time for nearly ten minutes – and no one seem to notice.
- ... will it require upwards to a dozen separate trips to the bank, showing all manner of documentation, to simply open a checking account . . . and then still have the first checks bounce because they don't recognize the signature!

- ... are you almost guaranteed that an invitation to a Mexican couple for drinks and dinner at 7:00 PM will result in (A) Their arrival at 9:45 PM (B) Their showing up with four small children and their parents (C) No word heard from them and a blank look when you see them a week later and inquire about their absence.

Is it all worth it, because in spite of the sometimes frustrating cultural differences, these are some of the nicest people, allowing us to be their neighbors, in one of the best places to live, on the entire planet!



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GRATIS
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WE IMPORTED OUR VEHICLES INTO MEXICO OURSELVES

Larry & Lynn McNish

Approaching the border we took the truck route #189 as we always do. We had two vehicles and parked them in the secured area outside the immigration offices and approached the Copy Booth. It is located approximately 26 kilometers shy of the actual border. We had copies made of our driver's licenses, our Permanente Residente cards, our Canadian Passports and car registrations. We were then directed into the office to the left of the Copy Booth. There was only one officer in there. We went up to him and he asked us what we intended to do.

We said we were importing our two vehicles and showed him our paperwork. When he saw our Residente Permanente cards he said we cannot import the vehicles because we have a Permanente Residente card. When we told him we intended to import them and pay the duty on both of them, he said, "Oh let's call in the Aduana."

When she arrived she took over and called an agency she trusted and they sent over their ASSOCIATE. He had us follow him to their office in Centro Nogales. We met with his Jefe and staff and the paperwork started to flow. Larry left with the assistant to gather the money required for the duty, which included their fees. They went to four banks downtown because of the maximum that can be drawn from each bank (Besides, who travels with that much cash?).

It has to be in either US or Mexican currency. The amount varies due to the condition, year of vehicle, etc. My 1996 Lincoln Continental was \$990.00 USD which included the broker fees Larry's 2003 Ford Excursion (which is diesel and that increases the amount) was \$1500.00 USD including the broker fees.

When Larry and the assistant came back to the office all the necessary papers were completed and the money was paid with an official receipt issued. The assistant then drove with us back from the border into the secured yard at the immigration compound where we had to unload everything out of both



vehicles. I waited with our stuff while Larry and the assistant drove the two vehicles to the border again where the cars were examined, photographed, checked, and had a sticker put on the windshield. An additional payment of \$790 NMX per vehicle was made there. Then they all came back to the area where I was waiting and re-loaded all our stuff. All three of us drove back to the border yet again. The Aduana was pleased to see that all the papers were in order and pointed to where we had to drive our vehicles to get the special final stamp. This is a very important stamp because it tells the exact time and date the vehicles entered the country. Martin (the assistant) was picked up by his Jefe and we continued on our way to the nearest motel.

At our final destination (Manzanillo) we are go to the Registration Office at the police station in the Valle to apply for our Colima plates. This has to be done within 15 days of entering the country with the vehicles.

Now the vehicles are officially Mexican.

Lynn and Larry

Agency information for Nationalization and Importation can be obtained by e-mailing your request to the editor of the Manzanillo Sun. We will be happy to send you all the information we have.

Over the past few months there have been many questions raised concerning the now required importation and nationalization of foreign cars. Previously vehicles had been allowed in the country under a bond which recently has been changed to coincide with the new immigration laws.

Many people fear having to travel northwards to do the required paperwork and are unsure of what other means of nationalizing their cars are available. Here may well be an option but be warned it is very complicated although we have tried to simplify explanations where possible.

New Rules and Regulations concerning the Importation of Foreign Cars

(This information was received from Gerry Szakacs, President, Manzamigos A.C. and is paraphrased below)

I (Gerry) received an email that as of September 14th, all 3rd party or virtual registrations (as described below) were stopped. Lo and behold, as of Wednesday, September 25th, they've opened it back up.

The above was forwarded to me (Gerry) by a contact in San Miguel de Allende.

Chef Wolfe (at La Pergola) has a friend who has worked on a number of the nationalizing of vehicles here in Manzanillo. Their payment terms and some conditions may be different, so regardless of whom you use please use your own judgment in acceptance of the fees and have all the financial arrangements fully nailed down before you start any processing. (Contact names and addresses withheld by Manzanillo Sun for privacy reasons.)

Processing Summary:

1. The owner of the vehicle should email their "go between" (This is the individual who is arranging for the nationalization). That email should contain the vehicle's VIN number. The arranger gets the price to nationalize which takes anywhere from two days to ten weeks for NAFTA manufactured vehicles manufactured between 1978 and 2007. Starting in November 2013, vehicles manufactured in 2008 and 2009 can be nationalized. Right now, vehicles 2010 and newer can't be nationalized.

2. If the vehicle was manufactured before 1978 or is deemed a 'classic' then a different process is required.



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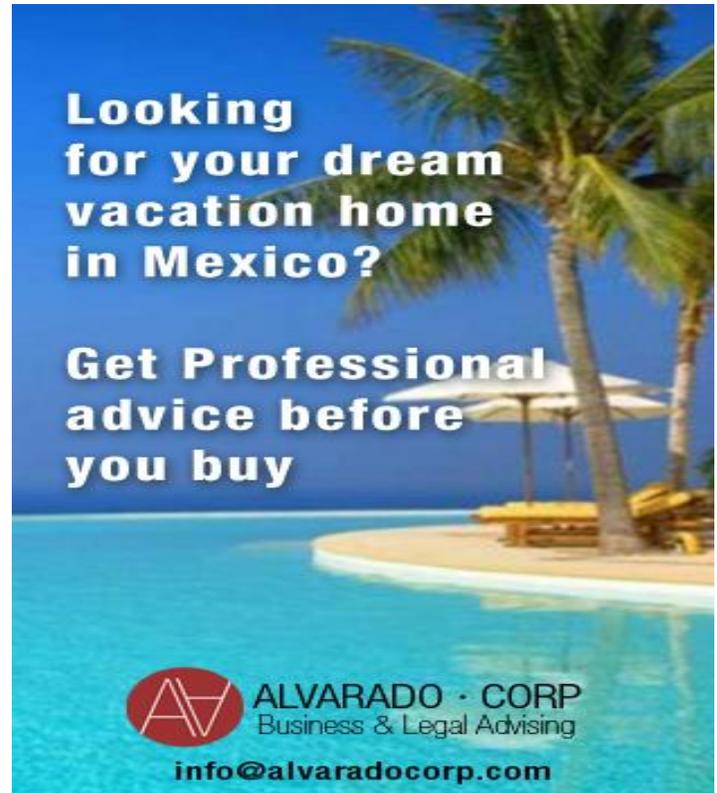
3. **NAFTA** made vehicles being nationalized will be processed in the owner's name.

4. **For non-NAFTA** made vehicles: Send of the original title to the 'go-between'. The car is then nationalized in the name of a **Mexican National**. Chihuahua plates will be issued. The next day the plates will be turned back in with the title then signed off to original owner. This is done under the supervision of a UCD employee. Not all non-NAFTA made cars can be nationalized. With the VIN the person doing the nationalizing can get the required information from the authorities.

If the vehicle owner then wishes to proceed and is not in Manzanillo they need to:



- a) Put 10,000 Peso deposit into an Mexican Bank account designated by the 'go-between'
 - b) Scan copy of vehicle's title front and back.
 - c) Scan a copy of owner's Mexican driver's license front and back.
 - d) Scan a copy of a utility bill recent showing Mexican address (It does not have to be in the owner's name).
 - e) Obtain a photo of the passenger side. Another of driver's door jamb clearly showing the VIN, and a final picture clearly showing the VIN located at the bottom of windshield on driver's side (up-close with the sun blocked). Scan the three photos and the rest of the documents into one email, forward all of it to the address given by the 'go-between'.
 - g) When the funds are received into the 'go-between's' bank account a receipt is issued and scanned then emailed to the car owner. The receipt will contain provisions for a full refund if the car is not nationalized.
- 5) This process can take up to ten weeks and is managed by a registered Aduana approved broker at the border. Once the documents are received and signed for by the 'Nationalizer' the final payment will be required (that which is arranged between the owner and the 'go-between'. Once payment is received the documents will be delivered or sent via overnight courier.
- 6) The owner then takes their Factura and Pedimento plus whatever else the office wants to their local license office (Renta) and applies for State Plates and a Mexican car registration. In some states this happens on the same day. In others, there can be additional costs and delays. For example, in Guanajuato State it takes nine weeks. In Guanajuato there is an additional cost of 1,000 Pesos which pays for a vehicle "wants and warrants" check and a brief safety inspection.



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We encourage you to sign up for the Registration of Canadians Abroad service if you are travelling or living in Mexico.

Registration enables us to reach you in case of an emergency abroad or inform you about a family emergency in Canada.

Sign up online at travel.gc.ca/register or register by mail, fax or in person.

For more information, contact the Consular Agency of Canada in Puerto Vallarta:

Inscription des Canadiens à l'étranger

Nous vous encourageons à utiliser le service d'Inscription des Canadiens à l'étranger si vous voyagez ou habitez au Mexique.

Nous pourrions ainsi communiquer avec vous dans le cas d'une urgence à l'étranger ou d'une urgence familiale au Canada.

Inscrivez-vous en ligne à l'adresse voyage.gc.ca/inscription ou par courriel, par télécopieur ou en personne.

Pour de plus amples renseignements, veuillez communiquer avec l'Agence consulaire du Canada à Puerto Vallarta :

Plaza Peninsula, Local Sub F
Boulevard Francisco Medina Ascencio 2485
Zona Hotelera Norte, 48300
Puerto Vallarta, Jalisco, México

☎ 52 (322) 293-0098 / 293-0099 | 📠 52 (322) 293-2894 | ✉ pvrta@international.gc.ca



AT THE MOVIES

Suzanne A. Marshall

Lee Daniels' **THE BUTLER**

“As Cecil Gaines serves eight presidents during his tenure as a butler at the White House, the civil rights movement, Vietnam, and other major events affect this man’s life, family and American society.”

I really loved this picture. I loved the way it looked as if it had been shot on good old 35mm film. It gave a subtle softness and reality to the story. The acting was stellar with Forest Whitaker giving a wonderful performance and Oprah Winfrey proving once again that she really is a good actress. There is a long list of cameo performances from the likes of Vanessa Redgrave, Robin Williams, Jane Fonda and on and on.

My research on this movie indicates some controversy surrounding the storyline, its’ reality and its’ accuracy. So some have taken offence to the political portrayal of a couple of the presidents and naturally since the civil rights movement plays out at the heart of the story, it’s obviously still a very sensitive issue, even now.

So it is important that the film is seen as a story, not a docudrama, but a wonderful story of a man who imparts dignity and strength of character in a world that so obviously puts parameters around what he is allowed to accomplish. He is proud, responsible and seems to want to stay away from the nearness of the politics that he observes so closely when serving in the White House. In the early days of his training as a waiter and servant, one of the main lessons emphasized was to achieve ‘invisibility’ while tending to duties.

The servants were present but in a sense no more there than the wallpaper or light fixtures. Not easily done. I don’t believe that any one interpretation of the story in this movie is going to please everyone and obviously must be subject to the preference of a director and his writers.

And of course my own preference for entertainment is a factor. While the film genres of the past few years have been action packed, sci-fi, animation, vampires and cult heroes, this film is of the good old fashioned ilk of times gone by.



And of course I am revealing my somewhat advanced age because this movie might be just a bit too quiet and pensive for the large youthful audiences of today. ‘just say-in’.

IMDB rates this movie at 6.5/10 based on 10,000 viewers. For me and my cronies I would easily give it an 8.5/10 and strongly recommend that other old cronies go and see it. Does this make me biased?

Have a favorite movie, or local show, review or tourist must-see? Send in your reviews, and tell Manzanillo and friends of its merit.

BOOK REVIEW

The Mayan Secrets by Clive Cussler

Reviewed by Kirby Vickery

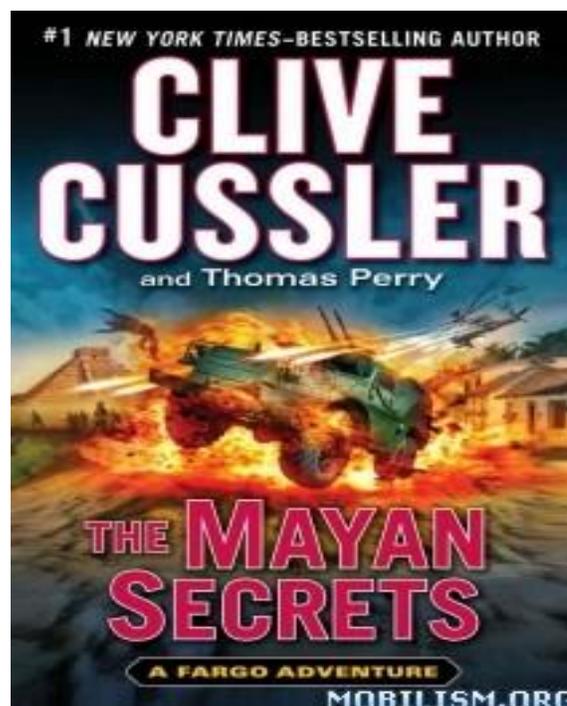
My friends know me to be an avid reader. Since my retirement I've spent a fortune in new books mostly in the "Mind Candy" arena. My vacation from reading great words of wisdom and great literary works has allowed me to venture into the world science fiction, historical fiction, and adventure. I'm really not sorry this has happened because I enjoy these types of literature a great deal.

My sojourns into Mexico last year introduced me to another interest which I should say is acquired through my association with the Rumford family. It just feels right to give up articles about Mexico for Ian and Freda. My only long term experience with the Mexican people was several years ago in Tijuana where I ran an electronics assembly plant. Now that I'm stuck in the great Northwest, I can't absorb and current culture to write about. Ian is correct in wanting everything in his magazine to have a Mexican flavor, hence the series about the Aztec Indian past.

I just finished an adventure book by Clive Cussler (Penguin Books Limited. Copyright © 2013 Sandecker, RLLLP) which evolved around the Maya and some Mayan treasure. Not having researched the differences between the Mayan and Aztec cultures and histories, I thought it a good idea to give a couple of paragraphs on that and then bounce a report on Cussler's efforts in exposing the Mayan culture both of history and current day existence.

Cussler's interest for his book was to identify an area and time to establish a foundation for his story. His story was about the search and the people surrounding the possession of a Mayan Codex although he calls it a Mayan book.

Dan Brown does a similar thing in his books but his methodology is a little different. Whereas Brown digs into the past to set the stage for his modern mystery; Cussler, it appears, grabs some famous names and places with a brief glance at history and transforms at will to get his story out.



The first miss-named individual the reader gets to is a Mayan Indian by the name of Kukulcan. Kukulcan, in the story, is a village elder who helps the local priest smuggle a very important Mayan book (codex) from their village north to another site so the conquistadores wouldn't destroy it with all the other books as they were pillaging. Well, one thing leads to another. In this instance, Cussler has the Priest and his personal history correct and I'll get back to that in a second. But, this Mesoamerican Mayan carries the name of their supreme god. In Mayan mythology Kukulcan created everything.

The priest in this book is Bartalome de Las Cases and Cussler gives a terse history of the real guy in the first chapter. This history is as accurate as it can be except he not known for saving a Mayan Codex. In reality he was the first European to be ordained in the New World and was the first Bishop of Chiapas when the story takes place. An interesting side note in history other than Bartalome de Las Cases being the First Bishop of Chiapas was that he came over from Spain with Nicolas de Ovando in 1502.

Nicolas' voyage took place in over thirty ships (this was the largest armada ever sent by the Spanish) on which one of them a young Bartalome de Las Cases rode looking for riches in the New World as a soldier and conquistador.

Ovando landed in Hispaniola which is currently Haiti and the Dominican Republic. He was sent there by the King of Spain to replace Governor Maldonado at the request of Christopher Columbus. The priest in actual history that saved the codex's was one Bernardo de Sahagn. He did his thing further North only to lose his translation to history until the 1800 when it was found in Florence, Italy and thus became the Florentine Codex. This is the document which has enabled archeologists from all over to translate the Mixtec, Mayan, Aztec, and other Mesoamerican languages.

In Cussler's book this one codex apparently is a map locating all the Mayan cities. He blends in a healthy amount of hide and go seek with several players including a very rich bad lady, some head strong natives, bad ass drug dealers, with an appearance of some Black Ops guys that the Protagonist used to work with.

Sam and Remi Fargo are a rich pair of treasure hunters who always get in over their heads on each expedition they go out on. The nice thing that helps make these books into a really easy read is the fact that the Fargo's are really rich and money is never an object. This means they can plan and delve into all of their situations without worrying about anything called finances. As a matter of fact all of Clive Cussler's series are that way.



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CALENDAR OF EVENTS MANZANILLO

NOVEMBER

November 18-21 - Monday to Thursday
PATA STERILIZATION CLINIC

Where: Club Leones, Manzanillo Centro
Contact: stan@patamanzanillo.com

DECEMBER

December 8 - Sunday PATA DOG JOG

Where: Santiago Peninsula

Time:

Contact: stan@patamanzanillo.com

JANUARY

January 31 - Friday CASA HOGAR LOS ANGELITOS
FUNDRAISER 2014

"Changing Lives, One Child at a

Where: Pavilion at the fairgrounds

Time: 5:30 pm - Silent Auction

7:00 pm - Dinner

Contact: Marge Tyler Maggiet19@earthlink.net
Janice Morgan janicemorgan@comcast.net
Jan Mabey janmabey@hotmail.com - Silent Auction
Sue Jackson firesidesue@aol.com - Live Auction
Jack Babcock jackbabcock@comcast.net - Sponsorships

FEBRUARY

February 14 - Friday, 29th ANNUAL SANTIAGO
FOUNDATION BENEFIT "ZLO's Got Talent"

Where: Tesoro Hotel

Time: 6:00 pm - silent auction

7:00 pm - dinner

Contact: Susan Hess 335-1885

Reserved seating available.

February 19 - Wednesday LIBORIO ESPINOZA
CHILDREN'S ORPHANAGE FUNDRAISER
An Evening at the Copacabana"

Contact: Kenda Farnsworth farnsworth55@mwn.com

Entertainment by David Webb.

Reservations taken now for full tables.

Book early for best seats.

Looking for items to be donated for auction.

MARCH

March 27-31 PATA STERILIZATION CLINIC

Contact: <mailto:info@patamanzanillo.org>

CALENDAR ADMINISTRATOR

calendarofevents.zlo@gmail.com

Please contact Glenna at the above email address for all questions concerning the Calendar of Events

If you have an event to place on the calendar, please get the information to Glenna by the 25th of each month.

NB: For inclusion in the Manzanillo Sun all articles and reports must be received by 20th of each month.



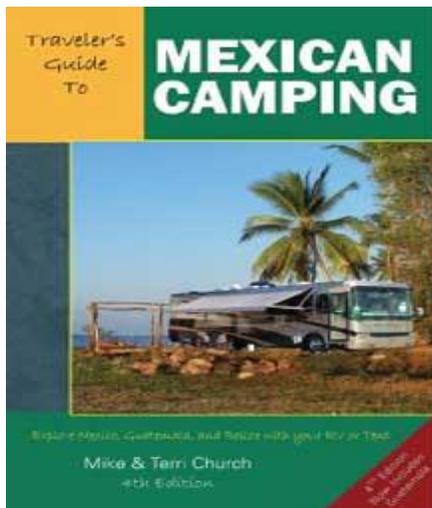
Many people have been asking about the availability of campsites and camping in Mexico. For this may we suggest that you go to the experts. Ed.

**Traveler's Guide to Mexican Camping:
Explore Mexico, Guatemala, and Belize With Your RV or
Tent**

Fourth Edition

by Mike and Terri Church
6" by 9" Paperback
576 pages, over 250 maps
ISBN 978-0982310106
\$ 21.95

**Traveler's Guide to Mexican Camping: Explore
Mexico, Guatemala, and Belize with Your RV or Tent
(Traveler's Guide series)**



One of the world's most interesting and least expensive travel destinations is just across the southern U.S. border. Mexico offers warm sunny weather all winter long, beautiful beaches, colonial cities, arts and crafts, and excellent food. Best of all, you can easily and economically visit Mexico in your own car or RV! Thousands of campers from the U.S. and Canada do it every year.

Camping is a great way to explore Mexico. Modern roads now make the entire country easily accessible. Campgrounds are located along the beaches, near cities and resorts, and within easy range of ancient archeological sites and eco-destinations. Here are some of the areas with campgrounds featured in this book:

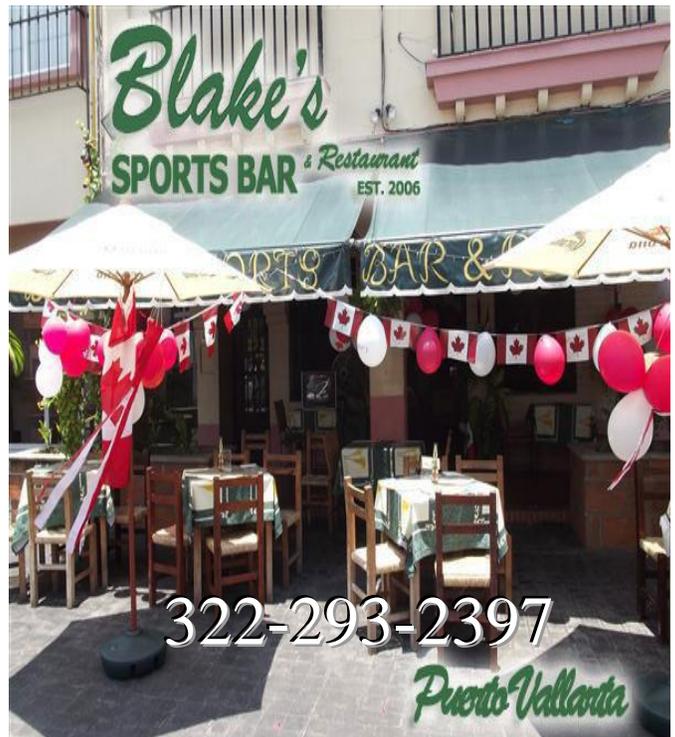
Yucatan Peninsula
Colonial Highlands
West Coast
Copper Canyon
Chiapas and Oaxaca

Baja Peninsula
Gulf of California
Eastern Gulf Coast
Guatemala and Belize
And Many More!

Traveler's Guide to Mexican Camping is designed to make your trip to Mexico simple. It has detailed descriptions of almost 250 campgrounds located all over the country. In addition to camping and campground information this indispensable guide also includes information about important cities, tourist destinations, border crossing, roads and driving, trip preparation, vehicle care, shopping, entertainment, and sports opportunities. It will help you plan your itinerary and enjoy yourself more while you are on the road.

New Features In Fourth Edition:

- Guatemala
- All campgrounds visited in 2008/2009 and their descriptions and maps updated
- New bypass routes to avoid Mexico City, Guadalajara, Tecoman, and La Paz!
- Important new camping information for the destinations of Celestino Gasca, Cuitzeo, Lago Media Luna, Mazamitla, Pachuca, Tapalpa, Agua Dulce, Escarcega, Belize City, Lake Atitlán, Antigua, Rio Dulce, Tikal, and many more.
- We've rearranged the book with destinations in most areas now arranged from north to south to make it much easier to find your next destination.





Mujeres Amigas Newsletter

Elaine Parker

To either give information or to be on the Mujeres Amigas mailing list email: mujeresamigaszlo@yahoo.com

Happy October Ladies,

Summer is officially over. October brings cooler weather for those in the United States and Canada and the leaves are changing color. In Manzanillo, October brings hope that the Hurricane season is over or almost over. The October luncheon will be held on Wednesday, October 2nd. Be at Oasis at 12:30 to socialize and pay for your luncheon and drinks. The speakers for October will be from Pure Vida. The Acupuncturist and Reiki Massage Therapist will be there to give us some tips. The lunch for Wednesday will be pizza and a salad **You can respond to this mailing that you are attending OR You can respond that you are attending by going to our web site** at <http://groups.yahoo.com/groups/mujeresamigas/> **Then click on the polls link to register. Please respond by Tuesday afternoon.** This doesn't mean that you can't make a last minute decision to attend. We just like to have a very close number to give Oasis.

SAD TO REPORT

Long time Puerto Las Hadas resident Harland Beach passed away recently in Moorhead, Minnesota from cancer. Our thoughts and prayers are with his family at this time.

FOR YOUR INFORMATION

Hurricane Manuel caused very little damage to Manzanillo. The airport was closed for a few days and there was some flooding in the Valle. Everyone was happy to be spared the damage that other areas had.

GREAT NEWS - Since about the 20th of September, residents of Manzanillo have been smoke free. Yes, the smokestacks have not been emitting smoke. All hope this continues.

In case you are interested, you can get Netflix in Manzanillo now. It is quite wonderful for 8 dollars a month as there are tons of movies and tv series to choose from without advertising. What you need is either a smart tv, a connection for your tv to either your computer or your Ipad or equivalent and 50.00 dollars for the connection to the Ipad, 770.00 pesos and Candy doesn't know about other tablets...an apple tv 99.00

dollars in Canada and US 1400 pesos here so, if you are interested it is much cheaper to buy the connections in your home city.

Robert Hill is again offering painting classes starting in November. Tuesday's from 9:30 a.m.-12:00 in front of Bahia Deli starting November 12th; Wednesday's from 3:30 p.m. - 6:00 p.m. at Pergola starting November 13; and Thursday's from 9:30 a.m. - 12:00 at El Faro starting November 14th. Contact Robert Hill ASAP for more information on supplies and to register. raymayfordhill@hotmail.com

Gaby Sevilla Blanco sent a message that Baheas Gemelas is offering a trip to Las Vegas on October 31st for a three night stay at the Hotel Mandalay Bay. The cost is \$855.00 USD for two people. For further information or to reserve your space, call 333-1060 and 314-872-6837 or 332-4577 and 332-3585.

Casa Hogar Liborio Espinoza's fundraiser chairpersons, John and Kendra Farnsworth are looking for volunteers to assist with the upcoming "An Evening at the Copacabana" on February 19, 2014. Needed are artists to donate their work; people to create gift baskets; and people to donate their time. Contact John and Kendra at farnswort55@msn.com

OCTOBER HAPPENINGS

Saturday, October 12th - Columbus Day Descubrimiento de America Commemorates the Discovery of the Americas in 1492 by the Italian navigator Christopher Columbus. This is a Civic Holiday

Saturday, October 12th - Columbus Day in the United States although it will be celebrated as a holiday on Monday, September 14th.



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So you bought a tablet, now what..?

by Senor Tech

The iPad has changed computing for the masses. These 1.5 lb. wonders do almost everything the average person needs to do on a computer. To accomplish these computing chores you will have to acquire some applications (apps). Both Apple and Google have stores that offer useful apps, many free.

I have a number of apps that I find indispensable.

The first one is Flipboard and this app is free. Flipboard is your personal magazine. When you first launch Flipboard simply pick a few topics to start reading everything from sports, to world news, fashion, travel and more. You can also add popular publications like "The New York Times", "Vanity Fair", "CNN", and even your local newspaper. This app is available for all tablets.

Banking apps are free and allow you to pay bills, transfer funds, and check your balances day or night. Some US banks even let their customers take a photo of a cheque and make a deposit online.

All the major networks offer viewing of their current lineup. If you happen to miss an episode of your favourite show, you can watch it on their app. If you have an iPad and Apple TV, you can view the content on your home television. If you subscribe to Netflix you can watch content on your tablet (great for kids and grandkids).

Both Apple and Google have productivity apps for word processing, spreadsheets, and presentations.

Tablets are a great way to show off the grandkids. Slideshows are easy to setup and if you need to edit the photos, there are numerous photo editing apps available. Many of these apps sell for less than \$10.00 and some are free. Many of these apps cost over \$50.00 on a PC.

An app that I find fascinating is Night Sky 2. Sorry Android users, this is only available for iOS (iPad). Point the iPad at the sky and the app shows planets, stars, satellites in the sky. Tap on any of the objects and the app gives a description of the star, planet, satellite or constellation. The price for this app, \$0.99.

If you are a Facebook or Twitter or Instagram, or Pinterest, or Ebay fan; then get their free apps and communicate. Email is so 1990's.



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Already settled in Mexico?

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If you are musically gifted, there are numerous guitar, piano, and instruments that you can play on your tablet. A \$50.00 app turns your tablet into a 48 track recording studio.

There are microphone apps that can record classroom lectures or let you interview your friends and family.

I have subscribed to audible.com for over 12 years and for \$13.95 a month I can download 2 books per month. My library is now over 400 books and I am able to download and listen to these unabridged books on my tablet.

Tablets can also store and playback your digital music. If you have a computer, you can convert (rip) your cds into mp3, or aac format and transfer to your tablet. By connecting the tablet to speakers you can create a party

mix that can last days before you hear a repeat. There are numerous Radio apps; listen to almost any radio station anywhere in the world.

Use the free Skype app to video chat with friends and family across town or anywhere in the world. If they are on Skype, the call is free.

I almost forgot; games. There are thousands of games from strategy to action games. The graphics are great and you can find yourself wasting a lot of time, but the again, what fun!

If you want specific app recommendations, send me an email.

If you have a topic you would like covered, or require further information on this topic, please contact me at techguy@senortech.ca.



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“Manzanillo’s
ultimate address”



Information & Sales
Show suite available by appointment



Lic. Jorge Cárdenas
Manzanillo Cell: (314) 305.0482
Arnold Thompson
Canada Cell: (403) 818.7811
Mark Wright
Manzanillo Cell (314) 305.6088

The Potato

by Terry Sovil



My good friend Carlos and I were in Centro Manzanillo visiting "city hall". It is late morning and lunch sounds good. We pop into a busy local restaurant. Part of the meal is potato salad. Potato? Is that Mexican?

Back in Minnesota, United States, we had a restaurant called "Taco Johns". They served potatoes with their meals, what they call "West-Mex" style food. I thought it was because it was Minnesota and the midwest thing to do. Something the locals could relate to eating in a "Mexican Restaurant". Where tacos don't look like the tacos here and ketchup can be too spicy for many. They called them Potato Olés® which would be pronounced "OH LAY". Well, Minnesota is also the land of the Scandinavians so I used to laugh and say "OH LEE" because we had a lot of Sven and Ole jokes about.

Putting on my serious face I asked Carlos "Is this a normal Mexican side dish? Potato salad?" He assured me it was. How could this be? The potato came to North America via the Europeans that brought it over. Right? Remember the Irish Potato Famine? My guess was that potatoes must have migrated down with donuts, smoothies, Dairy Queen and Snickers bars.

Then I got curious. How exactly did the potato come to be in Mexico? The answer was simple. The potato came from Peru and Chile. What? True. All my life I had thought the potato came from Europe with the settlers. And it did. The Europeans, Spanish, brought it back from the Americas and introduced it to the Europeans.

In ancient ruins in Peru and Chile, archaeologists have found potato artifacts and remains that date to 500 B.C.

The Incas ate them and cultivated them. They buried them with their dead. They hid them in concealed bins in case of a war or famine. They dried them and carried them on long journeys. They called them "papas", sound familiar? They even had a prayer for them:

"O Creator! Thou who givest life to all things and hast made men that they may live, and multiply. Multiply also the fruits of the earth, the potatoes and other food that thou hast made, that men may not suffer from hunger and misery."

So the Spanish found them when they first arrived in Peru in 1532. They wrote extensively about the potato and how it was used to support Inca existence. They brought them back to Spain.

The Spanish thought they were a kind of truffle and called them "tartuffo". They noticed that sailors that ate papas didn't get scurvy. The potato went to Italy and England about 1585, to Belgium and Germany by 1587, to Austria about 1588 and to France about 1600. And just like so many things in our cultures today it was often regarded as weird, poisonous and evil. It destroyed the soil it grew in; it caused leprosy, syphilis, early death, sterility and rampant sexuality. Probably all at the same time.

There is an Irish legend that ships of the Spanish Armada carried potatoes that washed ashore when some wrecked on the coast. It was the distinguished Sir Walter Raleigh that had brought the potato to his home near Cork, Ireland.

The legend is that he planted them, cultivated them and then presented some to Queen Elizabeth I. All of the proper folks were invited to a big meal featuring the potato in every course. Sadly, the cooks were totally unfamiliar with this new food and they served up a hearty dish of boiled stems and leaves, poisonous, tossing out the lumpy tuber. It made everyone deathly ill so potatoes were banned.

Eventually potatoes were brought to the United States in the 1600's but were not widely grown. Then Scotch-Irish immigrants started to grow them in 1719. It was in 1845-1849 that the "Great Famine" or "Great Starvation" in Ireland was caused by a disease in the potato crop. The average diet of a "global citizen" in the first decade of the 21st century is about 33kg (73 lb) of potato. It remains an essential crop in Europe where production is some of the highest in the world. Rapid expansion has also occurred in southern and eastern Asia. China is now the world's largest producers and nearly a third of the world's potatoes are grown in China and India.

So what about potato salad? Just like the potato the adaptations came about from geography and cultures. Printed evidence of American texts around 1875 contained a French, British and German recipe. The German version included bacon and was served warm!





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Wanta' Make an Impression?

by Tommy Clarkson

Living in these environs, a classy business card with a nice tropical motif just seems, somehow, perfectly appropriate.

And (OK, I admit this may be a bit petty and should be well beneath us, but . . .) such as the above sure are nice to have readily at hand when back "up north" briefly and coming upon that pompous know-it-all from high school, or snooty, "better than everyone else" cheerleader who roomed across the hall from you in college days or that arrogant former co-worker with whom you had to put up with for so many years!

What's that old saw about "revenge served fresh and sweet" and I add, "as succinctly noted by the 'Piece of Heaven' address on your card"!

But beyond that bit of fun childishness, do not all of us regularly have occasion to truly need to share our address, phone number and/or e-mail address?

Sure, these days one can layout, create and design one – with the right program – on our home computer. But most of us have better things to do with our time, right? There are priorities: Golf, margaritas to be quality checked, delicious locally prepared meals to be eaten and relaxing sunsets to watch. We only have so much time, after all!

Beyond those small *tarjeta de presentación*, several folks we know enjoy renting out their "little piece of paradise" when not here. For such as that a small, compact brochure with pictures perfectly fits the bill.

So what should you do might you seek either?

Based on our experience you simply can do no better than to visit – and utilize - the crisp, responsive, quality driven services of *Soluciones Grafica*. And, the icing on this printing cake is that owner Tommy Jorgensen and Kevin, his son – along with several of the staff – speak English!

Tommy was born in Mexico. His father was Danish and his mother Mexican. He grew up in Denmark but



Creator, owner and manager of *Soluciones graficas*, Tommy, (left) and son Kevin.

returned here in 1980. Always into art, early on, he entered into the graphics design profession starting his, now, successful business in 1995.

This operation, today, is not a backroom, primitive, patched together, 60 year old, off-set press activity. Their equipment, design programs and printing operation are all state-of-the-art and responsively driven. One has only to see the diverse array of examples at their front counter to realize the depth of their professionalism. (And it doesn't hurt that they are conveniently located just north of the large outdoor sport complex on the land side of De la Madrid!)

But they do more than simple printing! High resolution displays, tee-shirt screening, art transfers, awning and vehicle lettering and the full complement of promotional items are but a few of their array of services.

Soluciones Graficas, it may be a good place to visit!