

Manzanillo

May 2010

SUN

Manzanillo's Lifestyle E-Magazine

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donation by Bahia Deli

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IN THE NEWS!!

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Why Cell Phone Registration ?

Article 64 of the Federal Telecommunications Law stipulates that all cell phones must be registered. (by 10th April 2010)

Many people are concerned about the new requirement to register cell phones in Mexico and feel that "Big Brother" of George Orwell's book "1984" is moving in to track their whereabouts. This is not geared only to foreigners living within Mexico as some are thinking. Here is a short synopsis of why this Law has been introduced.

Mexico has become a haven for kidnappers, drug runners and extortionists and by regulating cell phone users, the law enforcement agencies feel that these crimes may be easier to track & control. There have also been express kidnappings of taxi passengers in some cities, which force passengers to make cash withdrawals from ATM's. Not in Manzanillo.

Carlos Slim of TelMex, is trying to get the deadline extended but as the law was set in place a year ago that is highly unlikely. Critics have said the law will be useless because criminals can easily register phones with false identity. This criticism has been countered by the statement that authorities will be checking validity of all submitted data. So what about throw away phones? All persons buying these phones will also have to have and give identification. A nuisance for us but also for those engaged in criminal activities.

Articles to Print

Over a period of time, Manzanillo Sun will be including various articles of importance to people moving to or visiting Mexico and Manzanillo in particular.

Coming from Northern climates, conditions, perils, government rules, different logic and sometimes the incomprehensible. It is advised that you print these articles and put them in a folder with divisions covering the various topics. We have already covered or will be covering in future issues any or all of the following: passport & visa Information, immigration, importation of cars and personal goods, who may drive your car while it is here, insurance for vehicles and personal effects, pets accompanying you by car or plane, old age card, CURP cards, Mexican health care, buying real estate, fideo comiso, taxation for homes, applying for various utilities, hiring and firing Mexican personnel, forming a company or working in Mexico so far as foreigners are concerned, various natural disaster and phenomena - what happens and how to be prepared, which forms or identity items you are advised to copy and have available plus anything else that we are asked to investigate that would be of general interest. Please realise that we cannot deal with specific problems as we are not lawyers and cannot give categorical advice. Everything written in this magazine are subject to constant change and should only ever be used as a general guide except for when we quote various articles of Law, even then as they are translated into English to enable us to read them, there could be various errors. Please, never take anything in Mexico as gospel!!

BRIDGE IS ALIVE AND WELL IN MANZANILLO

BUT SLUMBERS FROM MAY TO OCTOBER - Donna McElroy

We have enjoyed having a large turnout of bridge players during Jan., Feb., and March when there were 7 and 8 tables. Now, all of a sudden, we find ourselves down to about 4 tables. Play will continue until May, probably only once a week, when I will return to Ajijic for the summer and the club will have a siesta until October.

We play at the beach club in Club Santiago and they can only accommodate us with 8 tables and chairs.

There was a party for Bridge club members and spouses on March 9th at the home of Barb and Dave Button, who have a large lovely home on the mountain of the Juliapan Penninsula, with about 50 people attending.

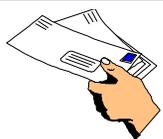
Anyone interested in playing next season can contact me upon my return to Manzanillo in October at 333 7850 or at mcmexico@gmail.com

Inquire about advertising in Manzanillo Sun, website or E-Magazine. Reasonable rates. ian@manzanillosun.com 314-106-2255

We hope that everyone uses the website as a lot of people have worked hard to put as much general information as possible to be made available for your use.

Everyone has their own piece of heaven





Letters to the editor

This space is reserved for you and your comments. Read any good books lately? Tell us about it! Been somewhere interesting? We need to know!

There have been very many congratulatory letters received by our editor and we thank you all most sincerely for taking the time to tell us that you enjoy our E-magazine. Only one negative comment has been sent to us and that from a person who couldn't figure out how to open the magazine but at least he wanted to get into it!

We welcome information and original articles that would be of interest to our readers but reserve the right to edit where necessary or not print items should we prefer to do so. Not everything is suitable. We will not print any article that has been submitted to another magazine recently. Should we feel that such an article fits within our guidelines it may be added to a future edition! **Freda**

Your son is doing a great job. Just a reminder that he was going to ad theatres and cinemas to the directory with phone numbers...can't find them.

Thanks to him e-mailing those phone numbers to me last month, I was able to see Avatar which was wonderful and I am grateful.

All the best on your wonderful venture...like mother like son. With Love, Annie

I love this magazine.... very well done.
Thanks Freda.

June

Freda,
What a fabulous magazine. The photos and writing are top notch. Please add my wife's email ***** to the distribution list if you haven't already.

Thanks,
Jay R

Thank you for all your nice comments. Freda

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Perennial Pirates

The Magnificent Frigatebird

by Howard Platt



The opportunity and willingness to take what one needs from others on the high seas, and the speed and agility to get away with it – these were, and are still, the marks of a pirate.

The old pirates along the coast of the Americas relied on the speed and maneuverability of their ships to succeed in their greedy ways. The magnificent frigate bird has a body perfectly designed for this task. A huge wing span – over six feet when full grown – and low body weight combine to give these birds unparalleled buoyancy in the air. Their form and tail add outstanding aerodynamic maneuverability.

You can see them high in the sky, soaring effortlessly for hours at a time. Unlike most other sea birds the male and female look different. Males are all black except for a bright red throat pouch which becomes enlarged at breeding time. Females are black, but have a white breast and lower neck sides, a brown band on the wings and a blue eye ring. Immature birds have a white head and under parts.

Frigatebirds never land in the water and are usually only seen in flight. They can swoop down to the surface to pick off jellyfish, fish, or other life on the surface of the ocean. Their skill at snatching food from the ocean with their long beak without even getting feathers wet can be witnessed when children leave a few small fish on the beach. Frigatebirds will dive down, one after another, and take the fish without losing speed or leaving marks in the sand!

Their aerobic abilities are also easy seen when children throw small fish into the air from the beach. The aerial ballet which ensues is often hard to follow, until the victor leaves with the prize. It is hard to understand how the air is not full of collisions.

But their reputation as the Man O'War comes from chasing and harassing other sea birds such as Terns, Gulls and Boobies, and forcing them to give up their catch. They even nest close to Boobies and Gannets to make the thieving easier. Perennial pirates, they are doing as well today as they did in times of old.



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Book Review

'Book Review' is a column in which we invite people to review a book they have enjoyed. Please send all submissions to freda@manzanillosun.com

Mastering the Art of French Cooking By Julia Child

reviewed by Freda Rumford

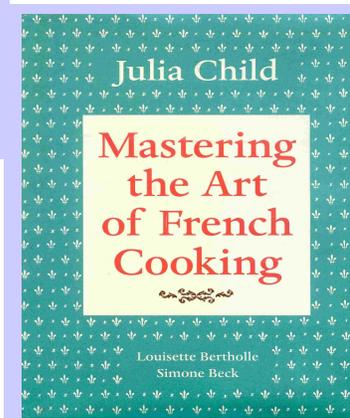
I must own 100 cook books in one form or another in each of which there are one or two well worn pages, as well as lists of family favourites on my computer. I also look continuously on the net for other specific recipes as I can never find the one I am looking for. So I suppose I could be termed a cook book junkie. I like to read them!

It has bothered me since arriving in Mexico, that most of the modern books take short cuts using prepared ingredients not available here, such as "take a pound of phyllo pastry" or "frozen pizza" or "bread dough", I need to make it from scratch! So when I decided that I could not live one more day without purchasing the 2 volumes of "Mastering the Art of French Cooking" by Julia Childs, even I somewhat doubted my sanity. I mean, I had hundreds of thousands of recipes, why did I need more? But – I lusted after the books for several months before deciding enough was enough, I had to have them - today.

Eventually they arrived, actually a little cheaper than when I had first checked them out and opened them eagerly. Often I find cook books a disappointment but in this case it was "aye caramba". I am so impressed that I may never use another book except my old and trusty Good Housekeeping book bought for me 54 years ago for my old British basics, or the "Sunset" book I have for cheese cakes, or the "Company's Coming" for Nanaimo Bars or the "Best of Bridge" series for Oh dear! I did say I was a junkie.

Never really a fan of Julia Childs on TV, because her voice drove me nuts and she always seemed terribly confused, I was astonished at how clear and concise the ingredients and instructions are. On the left hand side of the page are the ingredients in order of use, on the right the method of how each is to be used. Also there are suggestions for replacements should a particular ingredient not be available or disliked or even for turning it into a completely different dish. Now we are talking. Also, it is most unlikely that I will be another Julie and cook all of the recipes. But I wholeheartedly recommend this book. The methods used are explained well and it is very easy to see why the first book took seven years to prepare, it will probably take me seven years just to go through the books thoroughly. I am positive though, that they will be used often and that the results will be outstanding. I have always liked colored pictures, there are none here, but there are carefully drawn etchings which show every piece of equipment and its use for which particular task. I may have some more shopping to do!

This is a book that I would really like to discuss in a bookies night out! I find it intriguing.



Volume 1 in Hardcover, is available from Amazon.com for US\$ 26.40
 Volume 2 in Paperback, is available from Amazon.com for US\$ 20.56
 A 2 Volume Hardcover gift set for US\$ 56.67. The cost of shipping to Laredo (or elsewhere in US) is free then via MBE from Laredo to Manzanillo is US\$ 40.00

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"Manchas" or "Spots"

Diana Stevens

This is the fourth article about the animal groups in Manzanillo. Each has a different aim. Read about them all and see where you can help. As you know there is still much to be done.

"Manchas" or "Spots" in English, is the youngest of the Manzanillo animal groups. It is the brainchild of a very dedicated young Mexican couple, Martha and Mario. They have made it their life's work to change the lives of Mexican pets and transform the way the community treats animals. This is a tall order but they are practical, very hardworking, educated, articulate and determined. They will achieve great things - but they will need help.

Between 2006 and 2008 they rescued four suffering street dogs among the hundreds they encountered, found homes for two and kept two. They were appalled at the way people could ignore and maltreat our fellow creatures who respond to human beings so lovingly.

Last year, yet another lost and bewildered little stray landed on their doorstep, pestered by bigger dogs. They took her in and named her "Poupee". Meanwhile opposite their house "Manchas" was tied up in the full sun with no water and just a few dry tortillas as food. Neither his owner nor anyone else paid him any attention. Later he was poisoned and died an agonising death.

This horror made them question the values of a society that can take such cruelty

for granted. When "Poupee" gave birth to a son they named him "Manchas" in memory of the dog who had died on the street. Martha and Mario volunteered for some of the PATA clinics and discovered that there is vast scope for rescuing ownerless dogs, encouraging their adoption and in changing people's attitudes. They took action.

Mario gave up his job as a maths teacher in a private secondary school in order to start a small business selling yoghurt and juices which he plans to be self-running with just one employee, thus leaving him more time to look after the 32 dogs they house today. Martha changed jobs and is now a lecturer in Administration at the local university. She teaches from 2.00p.m. till 10.00 at night which leaves her mornings for household duties and dog care. On the day I met them they had tic-bathed 11 dogs that morning!

How do they do this? They have 11 dogs in their own home and they are "indoor" dogs. Next door is occupied by a mother dog with 12 growing pups! Five blocks away they have a third house with a 30m²



play patio, where there are 8 dogs residing. These 20 dogs are currently available for adoption. Between them, Mario and Martha clean up after all these animals, feed and water them twice a day while giving them attention. They pay for all food, medicines plus transportation to their vet in Colima, Raul Chavez, who donates his services. PATA does free sterilisation.

Their aims for THIS YEAR are fourfold. Firstly to found a proper animal refuge capable of taking as many homeless dogs as possible. Beside this, they want to work towards creating a much greater awareness in the mind of the public in the respect our pets deserve. They want to continue to find responsible owners for many animals - something at which they seem to have been surprisingly successful - mainly by word of mouth.



And lastly to encourage the enforcement of Colima State's Law for the Protection of Animals. Mario and Martha need land for a Refuge as well as the money to buy or rent it. This is where the ex-pat community could help with donations and fundraising, something Martha and Mario have no

experience of or time to do. We all feel the need for a proper dog sanctuary where ailing and stray dogs could be brought. If pets are lost, owners would know where to start looking and if abandoned, the community or police could take the dogs to the shelter. This would make application of the existing law more feasible. Are you able to work on the financial aspect of this project or would you be willing to donate? A capable person needs to be at the heart of organising the The Mexican community is vital to the other two aims. Do you know of any young Mexicans - perhaps teenagers - who would be willing and able to work a few hours a day as volunteers helping with the animals? Or would some of you be able to help, perhaps with exercising and walks, something the dogs don't get at the moment? With 20 pets up for adoption and the prospect of many more both communities need to pass the word. These are healthy, happy indoor dogs and young pups who would adapt to any kind owner and need individual attention not pack living.

Mario and Martha are go-getters who are making considerable financial and personal sacrifices in their own lives in order to achieve their goals. Goals which will help not just the dogs involved but the community as a whole in regard to health and cleanliness, as well as encourage a more positive and constructive attitude to animal life. Are you able to help this enterprising young couple towards achieving their aims? Please contact them at manchas_ac@hotmail.com.

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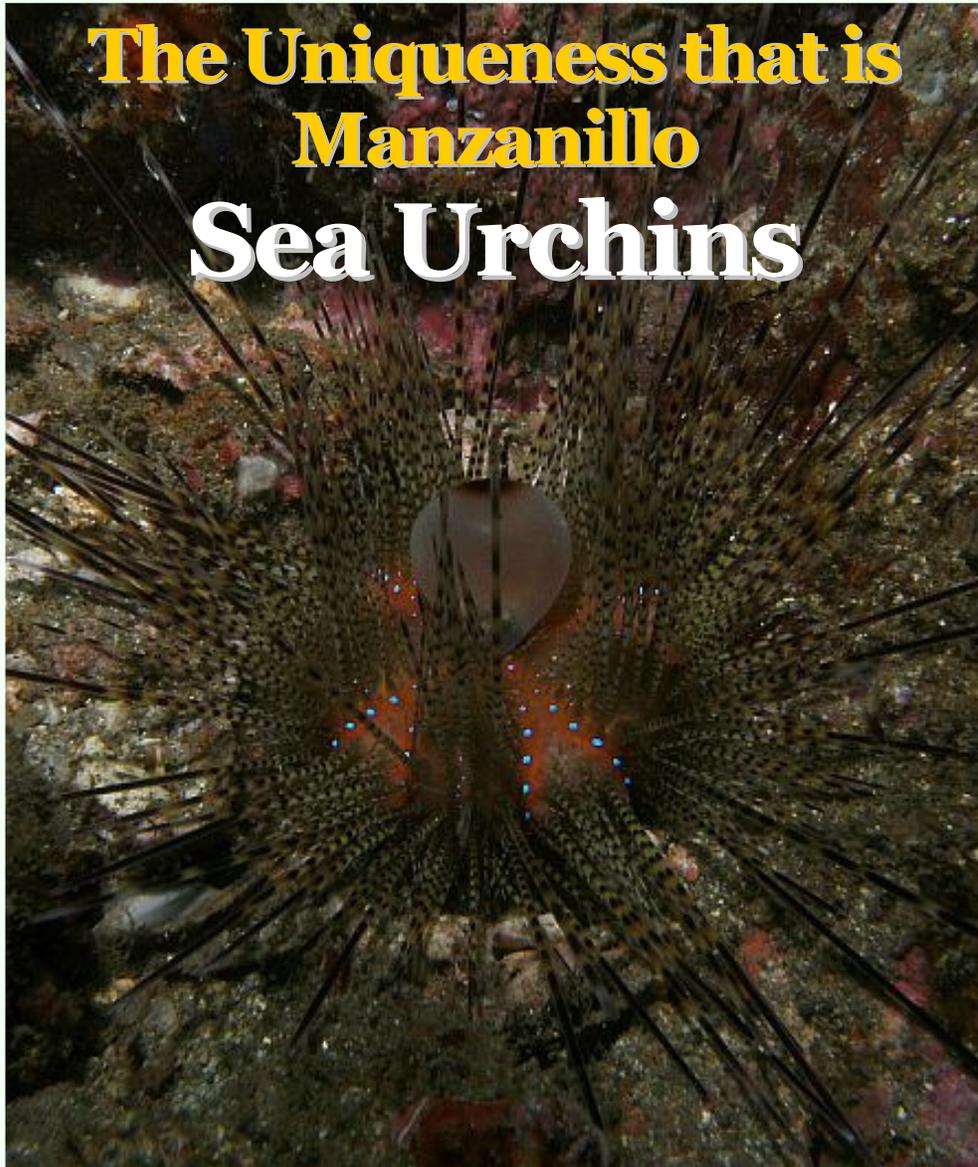
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The Uniqueness that is Manzanillo Sea Urchins

Terry Sovil

This is a photo I took of a sea urchin displaying it's anus. It's unusual to catch them doing this, it's usually at night and not very frequently at that. But here it is. The Urchin-Anus photo is the main one. The Urchin-Normal is what a sea urchin would normally look like. They have very sharp spines that are extremely brittle and will easily break off inside a wound. The spines are sharp enough to penetrate neoprene rubber etc. They are aware of your presence and will move the spines to point at an intruder and will actually follow a hand from side to side.

The bubble like thing on the top is part of their digestive tract. Their mouth is on the bottom and the anus is on the top. This is a common tropical urchin, genus Diadema. Here it is clearly displaying it's everted anal sac which is used for gas exchange. While totally rude for any human to wave their anal sac around in the water, it's common, and acceptable, for members of Diadema to evert their anal sacs.



PHOTO COMPETITION WINNER



The Winner of the front cover photo competition for this edition of **Manzanillo's Lifestyle E-Magazine** is **Nathan Peach**

Their Prize: 10 Piece Chicken Bucket with One Side Order
Courtesy of

Monkeys Chicken



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United States Consulate General Guadalajara

New Law Makes Absentee Voting Easier for Overseas Americans



On October 28, 2009, Congress enacted the Military and Overseas Voter Empowerment (MOVE) Act. This legislation amends existing law regarding overseas voting in federal elections, and should make voting easier for overseas Americans.

New Procedures for 2010 Elections

Beginning with the November 2010 general election, and for all subsequent general, special, and primary elections, states will be required to mail out ballots at least 45 days prior to an election for a federal office. This requirement may cause some states to select earlier primary dates in order to comply with the 45 day mailing deadline, or to request waivers due to special circumstances.

In addition to mailing ballots to overseas voters, the states will be required, at the voter's request, to provide registration forms, absentee ballot request forms, and blank ballots via fax or email. However, each state's laws determine whether ballot requests or voted ballots can be returned via fax or email. The new law prohibits states from rejecting marked ballots based on notarization, paper size, or paper weight requirements. The witnessing requirements of individual states remain in place.

Overseas Absentee Ballot Requests

Effective immediately, states will no longer be required by federal law to continue to mail election materials to overseas addresses (even when they are determined to be invalid) for two complete general election cycles on the basis of a single ballot request. It will now be up to each state to determine how long to continue to send out election materials before requiring overseas voters to submit new ballot requests. This change, sought by local election officials, should greatly decrease the volume of voting materials sent abroad to addresses where Americans no longer reside.

State Department Recommendations

In light of these changes, the Department of State recommends that all U.S. voters residing abroad request absentee ballots from their local election officials at the start of each calendar year, and whenever there is a change of address, change of e-mail address, or change of name, by completing and sending in a Federal Post Card Application (FPCA). To locate information on your specific state's requirements, and to obtain an on-line version of the FPCA, please visit www.fvap.gov. Voters may also pick up a hard copy of the FPCA from any U.S. embassy or consulate.

FPCAs may be mailed to your local voting officials in the United States via international mail or from any U.S. embassy or consulate. Many states allow U.S. citizens overseas to submit the FPCA by e-mail or fax.

The Department of State strongly encourages all U.S. overseas voters to provide email addresses or fax numbers on their FPCA's to enable local election officials to transmit election materials in the fastest manner available, which should then allow sufficient time for the return of voted ballots. For information regarding your specific state, please visit www.fvap.gov.

Emergency Ballots

The Federal Write-In Absentee Ballot (FWAB) serves as an emergency ballot for the November general elections for federal offices, although some states also permit its use for elections for state and local offices. Beginning in January 2011, the new law allows use of the FWAB for primary, special, and runoff elections for federal offices. Voters who request an absentee ballot in advance of their state's ballot request deadline, but who fail to receive an official ballot from local election officials in time to vote, should complete the Federal Write-In Absentee Ballot and send it back to local election officials in time for it to be counted. An on-line version of the FWAB, together with instructions for its use, is available at www.fvap.gov.

Questions?

The Voting Assistance Officer at the U.S. Consulate in Guadalajara is also always available to answer questions about absentee voting. To contact the Voting Assistance Officer, call 33-3268-2100 or send an e-mail to voteguadalajara@state.gov.

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Planting Roots In Mexico

Oyster Plant

(*Tradescantia pallida* 'Purpea', *Rhoea spathacea*, or *Rhoea discolor*)

Tommy Clarkson

Family: *Commelinaceae*

Also known as Moses-in-the-Boat, Moses-in-the-Cradle and Moses-in-the-Basket and Boatlily

(**Note:** The plant to be discussed below, should not be confused with *Acanthus molli*, or *Acanthus spinosus* - Bear's Breeches - or the *Scolymus hispanicus* - Spanish Oyster Plant - or with the four feet tall, grass-like *Tragopogon porrifolius* - Salsify - that is a member of the *Asteraceae* (sunflower) family and has an edible root with the flavor of oysters. Each of these are sometimes called Oyster Plant as well. And, yes, I agree, it's all, often, quite confusing and I regularly question if I've even the remotest of handles on it!)

Now let's be honest. Sometimes we find ourselves needing a solid, stable, "always there for us," plant. . . just as my wife is to me . . . dependable, patient and capable of taking all of my scatter-brained, multi-directioned and inane nonsense. Such is the Oyster Plant.



"The unadulterated simplicity of the purple and green leaves make the Oyster Plant a good complement to one's tropical landscaping."



Extremely hardy, the Oyster Plant is almost a 'plant and forget' sort of gardening addition

Comfortable in sun or shade, this fast grower sometimes seems to thrive on abuse! Each one has a dozen (more or less), erect, broad, sword-shaped leaves that are a dark green on the top and a striking, deep purple underneath. Its flowers aren't, in all actuality, all that attractive. But they

are, in fact, quite interesting being comprised of small, white three-petaled blooms, all crowded together in boat-shaped bracts, down among the leaves.

Drench them in water or forget to do so for protracted periods – this stalwart plant generally doesn't seem to mind. An intriguing, strong spirited character, regardless of our lack of attention, it just goes on about doing its job. A fast grower, it makes a great ground cover, potted plant for the terrace or tropical flower bed border/edging plant. The short version of it is that the Oyster Plant is very hardy and quite easy to grow!

It propagates, on its own, via its roots or wind blown seeds or, by us, through cuttings.

This attractive succulent can grow up to two feet high but there is also a dwarf variety – called by some - *Tradescantia spathacea* - that is utilized for landscaping tasks. Beyond these, there are also varieties that are solid green or variegated foliage of striped red and yellowish green.



Planting Roots In Mexico

Oyster Plant *cont.*

There are those who feel that the Oyster Plant is an invasive nuisance. Granted, they are tough, growing and propagating without attention or care in unattended or abandoned areas quite well. They prefer alkaline or slight to moderately salty, well draining soils.

Beyond that, another negative aspect, asserted by some, is the claim that it causes a rash/irritation on both humans and pets. I have not so noted in my dealings with them but it might be good in formation to bear in mind.

Here in Mexico, I have heard that this plant is used to cure wounds or infections and that the leaf "juice" can be used to disinfect.

The proverbial bottom line is that this is a hardy, good looking plant of wide application!



A close up of its tiny flowers shows how it comes by its alternative names of Moses-in-the-Boat, Moses-in-the-Cradle and Moses-in-the-Basket and Boatlily

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Compiled by Darcy Reed

MONTHLY THROUGHOUT THE YEAR

Mujeres Amigas Luncheons

When: First Wednesday of each month
 Where: El Caribe Restaurant, Las Brisas. 1.00 pm.
 Contact: Candy King 044-314-103-0406
candyk@coldwellbankerbienesraices.com

WEEKLY THROUGHOUT THE YEAR

Thirsty Thursdays – Manzamigos

Where: To be announced each week. 6.00 pm.
 Contact: Jack Akers manzamigos@gmail.com
 To join Manzamigos: Linda Breun lbgringa@gmail.com

MAY 2010

May 1. Primero de Mayo. 1st May similar to Labour Day
May 3. Holy Cross Day (Dia de la Santa Cruz). Crosses will be placed on unfinished buildings.
May 5. Cinco de Mayo. The Battle Of Puebla in 1862. parts of Mexico. There will be many activities around town at this time.
May 10. Monday - Mothers Day. Always on this date. Many government offices are closed on this day.

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Day Trippin' Playa de Oro

Jim Evans

The old Mexican sat in the dimly lit bar sucking down Pacificos with his equally elderly Gringo buddy. They spoke of many things, mostly of bygone adventures and beautiful women. Occasionally politics reared its ugly fangs, but both men held too much respect for the other to delve too deeply into the artificial machinations which allow rulers all over the world to separate the common man from that which is materially valuable in the name of jingoism. They agreed that basically all politicians were essentially corrupt.

This particular night the conversation turned to out of the way beaches. The Gringo was particularly curious about Playa De Oro, a golden sand beach that stretches west northwest along the Manzanillo area coast line south of the airport, where legend has it that gold from a long ago sunken ship occasionally washes ashore.

The old Mexican smiled as he told the following tale...

“ Not too very long ago, maybe a couple of years, a bunch of people drove down to the beach in the late morning. There were three vehicles containing several people. They set up tents, and unloaded coolers filled with Cerveza, chicken and other deliciously spiced local foods. Banda music from boom boxes filled the air while their children ran up and down the beach screeching and laughing, a fiesta. As the sun set they packed up their belongings and started back along the seven kilometers to the main highway... about halfway they came upon a log blocking the road, in an area surrounded by dense jungle foliage making it impossible drive around, there was no escape.

Suddenly, seven or eight bandidos emerged from the jungle (their number

and ferocity changes depending on the Cerveza consumed by the tale teller) brandishing guns and machetes.

They robbed everyone in the caravan, took everything of value including the remaining Cerveza, the coolers, and the boom boxes... they then moved the log and allowed everyone to leave unharmed.“

The conversation turned to other things and later, many Pacificos and very much later the two men, having solved most of the world's problems shuffled off into the night.



A few days later the old Gringo was returning from the airport after dropping off some friends who were heading north for the summer, the story told by his Mexican buddy still rattling around in his consciousness.

He rounded the bend just before the hills that precede the village of Naranjo and noticed the small green sign which said "Playa De Oro" an arrow pointed to the right... he pulled off the road and thought about it for a moment, then turned down the gravel road that winds off into the jungle. As he drove into the dense overgrowth along the mostly broken shale road with sharp rocks protruding from the surface his first thoughts were about his tires, long overdue for replacement and threadbare. He checked his cell phone, no signal, "of course" he thought.. His mind filled with all sorts of scenarios... of breaking down or rounding a bend on the sometimes single lane partially washed road to find a log blocking his path, of being robbed and stranded. The old Mexicans story played on his mind, yet he pressed on, winding thru ever thickening jungle.

His hands began to sweat, as he laughed silently dismissing his trepidation.. "c'mon nobody ever gets robbed on the way in.. it just doesn't make sense". He turned on his stereo and cranked up the volume as Jimmy Buffett in his best Gulf Coastal twang sang "Old Mexico....".

The old Gringo was clearly whistling past the graveyard...

Have you ever noticed that when you travel someplace for the first time, it always seems to take forever to get there? This was especially true for the Old Gringo that sunny afternoon as he drove ever deeper into the lush jungle..

Finally the jungle receded slightly and he could see the ocean over the next rise, and after a couple more turns the road flattened out and the beach appeared. He was relieved as he drove past an old broken down house on the right, complete with Banda music and barking dogs. "Still," he thought, "what if the people sitting there were sizing him up for a blockade on his return trip?" Off to the left, several buzzards were lazily circling a large craggy one hundred foot tall rock sparsely dotted with cactus. Directly beyond lay one of the most spectacular beaches on Mexico's central coast. Golden sand stretched some two hundred yards or so to the surf.

Magnificent rolling surf filling the air with salt spray against the backdrop of the deep blue of the open Pacific. Several smaller rocks marked a portion of the surf line to the left, and in the distance Turtle Rock was clearly visible,



off to the right lay an open beach that appeared to stretch for several miles.

The raw pristine beauty of the scene wafted over him as he noticed a dust cloud building a kilometer or so down the beach to the right, as the cloud drew nearer shapes of several ATV's emerged. His already piqued imagination immediately envisioned the scurrilous fuel scavengers of the movie Mad Max Beyond Thunderdome careening toward him. Turning towards his vehicle he heard a door slam, looked up and piling out of an old dilapidated Chevy SUV were a half dozen Mexican men. "Trapped" he thought, "Nothing to do but walk normally to my truck and try to get the h... out of here"..

"Hey Senor, you wanna' Cerveza", shouted one of the suddenly less ominous looking would be banditos. Just then the hoard of marauding ATV riders roared past flying not the Jolly Roger, but a flag that said "Hectours" After several beers the Old Gringo, feeling a bit silly, said his goodbyes to new found friends, an over 50 group of ranchers on vacation from their holdings on the side of the Colima Volcano, and sheepishly drove back along the jungle road that would take him to the highway, and home.

The road to the beach is rough, but certainly passable and while it is a desolate spot the seven kilometer trip is well worth the magnificent beach and probably one of the bluest ocean scenes in all the Pacific ... but, do yourself a favor and leave your trepidation behind...

An advertisement for Club Fiesta Mexicana Beach 'Cocula Restaurant'. The background is a photograph of the restaurant's interior, which has a view of the ocean. The text is overlaid on the image. In the top left corner, there is a logo for Club Fiesta Mexicana Beach. The main text reads: "CLUB FIESTA MEXICANA BEACH 'Cocula Restaurant' all tables are oceanview 314-333-1100 Buffet Style Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner, Mexican and International cuisine 15% discount upon presentation of a printout of this advertisement Blvd Miguel de la Madrid km 8.5, Manzanillo".

Revillagigedo Islands

By Terry Sovil



The Revillagigedo (rāvē'yähēhā'THō) Islands, also known as “Revillagigedo Archipelago” or “Islas Revillagigedo”, are four volcanic islands in the Pacific Ocean with a very unique ecosystem. Oddly, though far away, they have been a part of the Manzanillo municipality since 1861! They lie about 386 km (240 miles) southwest of Cabo San Lucas on the southern tip of the Baja and about 720 to 970 km (447 to 603 miles) west of Manzanillo. While a part of Manzanillo, Colima they are under Mexican Federal jurisdiction.

How does a widely dispersed island group become part of Manzanillo, Colima? President Benito Juárez signed a decree on July 25, 1861 awarding territorial control to the state of Colima. His intentions were to build an offshore penal facility on Isla Socorro. This never happened but the decree ceding them to Colima has never been repealed. And you thought Alcatraz was a bit remote?

The four islands are:

Island	Square Area	Highest Point	Elevation
San Benedicto	5.94 km; 2.25 miles	Bárcena	310 m; 1018 feet
Socorro	132.06 km; 51 miles	Mount Evermann	1130 m; 3700 feet
Roca Partida	0.14 km; .05 miles	The entire island	34 m; 111 feet
Clarión	19.80 km; 7.5 miles	Monte Gallegos	335 m; 1100 feet

Together they form an area of 157.81km (59 miles) with the highest overall point at Mount Evermann at 1130m (3700'). There was a naval station established in 1957 in the south of the Socorro Island with a population of 250 (staff and families). Clarión hosts a small naval garrison of 9 men. The islands are otherwise uninhabited. The name comes from Don Juan Vicente de Guemes, the 2nd Count of Revillagigedo, the 53rd viceroy of New Spain (Mexico).

The “inner islands” are the three most eastern ones. These fall in the Mountain Time zone while most all of Colima is in the Central Time Zone. Clarión, to the west by more than 200km (124 miles) is in the Pacific Time Zone. The Revillagigedo Islands, along with Guadalupe Island and Rocas Alijos, are the three Mexican island groups that are not on the continental shelf.

These islands show no evidence of human habitation before their discovery by Spanish explorers. Hernando de Grijalva and crew discovered an island on December 21, 1533 and named it Santa Tomás (now San Benedicto).

Four days later they found another which they named Innocentes (now called Socorro, “Our Lady of Perpetual Succour” – help or assistance). Like so many remote islands, as they were “discovered” and “rediscovered” they got a new home.

Sir Edward Belcher, in 1839, made the first botanical collections. Andrew Grayson, an ornithologist, visited in 1865 and found what was named the “Socorro Dove” and the “Socorro Elf Owl”. Near the beginning of the 20th century Dr. Barton Evermann from the California Academy of Sciences promoted scientific study of the islands. The most comprehensive biological collections were obtained and the volcano on Socorro was renamed after him. March 21, 1972 saw Pablo Silva García, governor of Colima, became the first governor to visit. He placed a plaque to mark the event and Colima’s claim to the islands.





Revillagigedo Islands cont...

While no tourist facilities exist, there are no reliable sources of potable water, there are still visits every year. The seas around Socorro are popular for SCUBA diving where sharks and manta rays are seen. Most visitors are on live-aboard boats or expedition type vessels. This helps prevent the introduction of non-native, invasive, species.



The islands are home to many unique plant and animal species and are often referred to as Mexico's "little Galapagos". Isla Socorro is the most diverse in flora, fauna and topography. They were established as a Biosphere Reserve on June 4, 1994. The island of San Benedicto was wiped out by volcanic eruption on August 1, 1952 but has since recovered. Most all of the native plants on this island are also found on Clari6n.

Most of the plants and animals seem to have come from mainland populations. Plants are most often from Baja California and reptiles seem to be from the Sonora-Sinaloa area. Still pristine in 1956, except for sheep introduced in 1869, the islands have since seen a lot of non-native introductions including feral cats. This has caused pressure on some native species that are now threatened with extinction.



Socorro (Grayson's) Dove
Zenaida graysoni

Blue53 Male

Jeff Downing

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When it's shaken'...where we live

Carey Lind

The sun is shining and it's a great day to go to the beach. But, was that a tremor I just felt? Oh great, we're having a quake!!! Now what do I do? We have all probably wondered that every time we hear about an earthquake somewhere in the world. Many of you have experienced one depending where you've travelled or lived. There are a lot of us who have never been through one, and let's hope we won't, Butttttt what if we get one here? We live in a very seismic active area so the chances are that one day we may have to deal with one, as there have been a few in the past here that created a lot of damage and loss of lives

Let's start with our geographic plates. There are seven major plates on earth with many, many smaller ones, all shifting at different rates, over and under each other. The plates that are off our coast here are the Pacific, Rivera, and Cocos. The Rivera and Cocos plates are moving under the North American Plate. The Rivera Plate moves slowly at about the rate our fingernails grow in a year. The Cocos Plate moves at about 4 plus cm. a year. It was the movement of this plate that caused the terrible quake in 1985 in Mexico City and the 1995 quake here in Manzanillo of 7.9 which lasted for 2 minutes. It was approximately 30 kilometres southeast of the port and there were about 50 aftershocks. If you type 1995 quake Manzanillo into Google, you will find very good explanations and results of this time, with information on the power plant, hotels and hospital that collapsed.

On January 21st 2003 at 8.06 p.m. the three plates met again 60 kms off of Tecoman with pressure building until the eventual release which caused the 7.9 quake of Manzanillo. This 50 second shake of the Rivera plate with the many quite strong aftershocks resulted in a great deal of damage and several deaths both in Colima and nearby Tecoman. Fortunately there was considerably less damage and no loss of life in Manzanillo. The most recent 7.2 shock on April 4th 2010 in Baja California at Guadalupe Victoria was felt as far north as Los Angeles but as yet the plates causing the quake have not been determined.

There is a lot of positive information available too. Just because we have quakes doesn't mean its all doom and gloom. It is a learning experience.

So what should we do when "good old Mother Earth" is shaking her booty!!! First, it's hard to do, butttt STAY CALM and do your best to go with it. Hold on until she takes a breather. Now here are a few pointers for these kinds of events.

If you are in your home, say it's night, drop over the side of your bed, with a pillow until the shaking stops. It has been shown that the triangle formed when you do this, could save you from being crushed by a collapsing wall or ceiling. If you are not in bed pick a spot under a **STURDY** desk or table, if it is not sturdy then don't go there. Go into an **INSIDE** corner of your room away from windows or anything that could bop you on the noggin' and crouch down and cover your head. **DO NOT** try to exit outside until the shaking stops, and then be careful if you have to use stairs as they are one of the weakest spots of a building, and **DO NOT USE THE ELEVATOR**, if you have one, even if it is working. Get away from the building, power poles, you know all the common sense stuff. If you are trapped in your building, try to cover your mouth with clothing and don't move until the dust has settled a bit. Don't shout for help yet!



Images from the Manzanillo Mexico Earthquake of October 9, 1995.



El Centro Malecon 1995

Must be a hard thing to try to contain yourself from doing this but if you don't you could choke on the dust by inhaling dangerous amounts of it. Then bang on walls, tap on pipes, that kind of thing if you can. Leave the shouting until the dust has settled. **Don't light matches**, gas may not be turned off.

If you are in a car, quickly pull over to the side of the road, if possible, away from buildings, trees, poles, and don't go under a bridge. Keep to the side of the road until safe to move slowly forward. This also allows emergency vehicles faster access to assist where needed.



One thing we should all do for our peace of mind is to have an emergency kit in our home and one in our car. It can't hurt, and is good for use for any situation, from hurricanes to running out of gas somewhere and being stranded. It should contain non-perishable food, water, first aid kit, extra medication and a bottle of multi vitamins, flashlight and portable radio with batteries. It's a given that the old cell phone battery may not be able to be recharged if the power is out for long, and a whistle or little horn, facemask, and if possible, a small fire extinguisher. Keep some cash and copies of your ID in a waterproof bag or container. Have a contact name and number of someone that does not live where you do.



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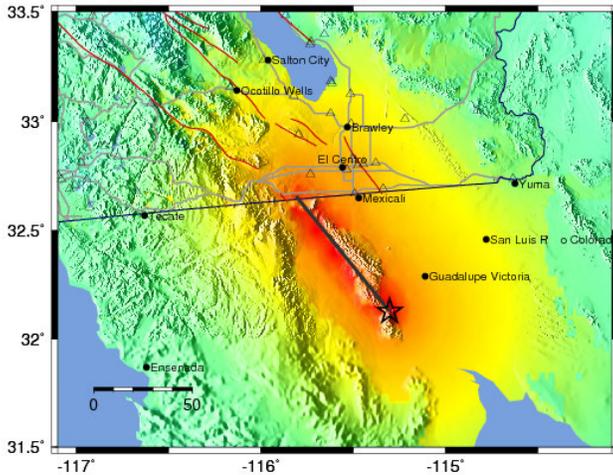
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CISN ShakeMap : 39.0 mi SSE of Calexico, CA

Sun Apr 4, 2010 03:40:40 PM PDT M 7.2 N32.13 W115.30 Depth: 10.0km ID:14607652



Map Version 9 Processed Mon Apr 5, 2010 12:36:25 PM PDT, - NOT REVIEWED BY HUMAN

PERCEIVED SHAKING	Not felt	Weak	Light	Moderate	Strong	Very strong	Severe	Violent	Extreme
POTENTIAL DAMAGE	none	none	none	Very light	Light	Moderate	Moderate/Heavy	Heavy	Very Heavy
PEAK ACC.(%g)	<.17	.17-1.4	1.4-3.9	3.9-9.2	9.2-18	18-34	34-85	85-124	>124
PEAK VEL.(cm/s)	<0.1	0.1-1.1	1.1-3.4	3.4-8.1	8.1-18	18-31	31-60	60-116	>116
INSTRUMENTAL INTENSITY	I	II-III	IV	V	VI	VII	VIII	IX	X+



Damage to area near lagoon 1995 Manzanillo

There is a wealth of information out there to guide us with these situations and it only takes a few minutes of our time to learn to be safe and protect ourselves. Know where you live, know where the safe spots in your home are and then get on with enjoying that sun and those beaches!!!

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PERSONALITY OF THE MONTH

Sra. C. Reynalda Garcia Dominguez (Reina)

By Freda Rumford



"Helping others in an organized fashion is equal to multiplying the fruits of charity"
 "Ayudar a los demas de manera organizada, equivale a multiplicar los frutos de la caridad"
Mother Theresa
 (the translation into English is loose but conveys the meaning.)

C. Reynalda Garcia Dominguez was one of 4 women honoured by Manzanillo Mayor Nabor Ochoa on 4th March 2010, "Woman's Day", with a certificate of gratitude from the State Governor. She was honoured for her "altruistic work, moral fortitude and service to the Community".

Reina is #7 in a family of 14 brothers and sisters of which, 13 of the siblings are still living. Their parents taught them that they were not important and to both pay full respect to others and the needs of those less fortunate, a creed by which all of them still live.

Reina stated in our conversation that she is not important and there are many others who do the same work or even more than she does. She does not need a car or fancy things when others are so desperate for the very basic needs of life.

Most of us have met this lovely smiling lady with twinkling eyes, as she works 6 days a week waiting tables at her sister and brother in law's restaurant, "Juanitos" in Santiago, but none of us knew that in her time off she helps very many charities or organisations. These organisations contact Reina, tell her what they need at any given time and she acts as their co-ordinator. She also distributes money to these organisations as and when donated by individuals or companies and emphasized that receipts for any donations are given for tax purposes.

Reina is a fully qualified and registered nurse and in her young days, served Mexico as one of 3 nurses in the Marines, stationed on the lonely island in the Pacific, Socorro, for 3 years caring for 200 troops. (See Terry Sovil's article about these islands in this edition of Manzanillo Sun.) Upon leaving the service, Reina returned to her family in Santiago and was the nurse in charge of delivering the children of her sister, Esperanza Garcia Corey.

Just 15 years ago she was one of the original group of citizens who fought for the district of Santiago to become a separate municipality from Manzanillo, which unfortunately did not happen. More recently she fought for a group of farmers who were facing another group of people trying to usurp their ownership to land and farms. Reina collected all pertinent forms and details, presented them to the State governor and was eventually successful in returning the properties to the rightful owners. Since then she has represented and acted a sort of ombudsman or intermediary for many other people in representing cases to the Government. John Corey referred to her as a modern revolutionary without a pistol.

Continued >>

Contact Telephone Numbers for Reina's Charities

- CONSEJERA I.A.P REINA GARCIA** CEL: 044 314 448 8345
- CASAHOGAR "LIBORI ESPINOZA" GUSTAVO**
CEL: 044 314 119 5816
- ASILO de los Ancianos SRA. ALMA** TEL: 336 5410
- UNA NUEVA VIDA SRA. RUTH** TEL: 332 4985
- V.I.H.D.A. SIDA MARTIN** CEL: 044 314 122 4150
- B.A.M. BANCO DE ALIMENTOS MANZANILLO**
LIC. JOSE LUIS CEL: 044 314 123 3170
- FOOD BANK OF MANZANILLO**
- ASOCIACION COLIMENSE DE LUCHA.**
- CONTRA EL CANCER ODILIA** CEL: 044 314 353 2534
- JUNTA DE ASISTENCIA PRIVADA DEL GOBIERNO DE COLIMA**
SRA. LEONOR TEL: 01 312 314 5819
- TRO DE VENTA DE BOLETOS BALLETT**
FRATTELLO PIZZA. TEL: 333 0770



Landowners receiving their titles from Reina

Some of the organisations who benefit from Reina's labours

VIHDA SIDA – nearly 15 years
AID's Prevention

UNION OF RURAL COMMUNITIES – nearly 15 years
Co-ordinates with Civil rights and land ownership.

ASILO DE ANCIANOS
Seeks out food, clothing and medicines for the Old Folks Home.

B.A.M. BANCO ALIMENTOS MANZANILLO
Food Bank of Manzanillo Did any of us know this was here?
This organisation desperately requires a large refrigerator and donations of any food stuffs. They feed 800 families each month.

University students go regularly to fields after they have been harvested, to glean the remaining fruits or vegetables – tomatoes, cilantro, bananas, onions, avocados, mangos and many others. On the day of the interview it was the turn of the tomato fields belonging to Pedro Vargas.

HELEN KELLER - UNA MANO AMIGA - 8 years
PNL – PROGAM NEURO LINGUISTICA - (Power of positive thinking)

CENTRO DE ATENCION ALTERNATIVO
Group of 8 persons working with Reina.
For 2 hours every week (on Thursday morning, her day off from work) for 3 months, Reina teaches 15 mothers of children with hearing and/or other severe disabilities – how to turn this negative in both their and their children's lives into positive. At

the end of three months, the group of mothers change but the classes continue year round.

ENTREGA MATERIA DIDACTICO
Searches and obtains special materials – ie: books in Braille, pencils, crayons, for children with disabilities. The group finds the monies to pay for medicines rent, to pay for doctors and to provide wheel chairs when necessary.

CANCER SOCIETY– UNA NUEVA VIDA - ONE NEW LIFE Fund raiser

CASA HOGAR LIBORIO ESPINOZA
Home for underprivileged children. Fundraises and searches for much needed staples.
the end of three months, the group of mothers change but the classes continue year round.

FONDO ENRIQUE COREY GARCIA - 10 years
This is the scholarship foundation in memory of Enrique Corey Garcia, her nephew and the late son of John & Esperanza Corey. This incredible foundation provides schooling for brilliant children who would otherwise not have the opportunity. Reina has been a tireless worker for over ten years in all capacities for this charity which is very dear to her heart.

IUBAM (the University Institute of Fine Arts of Manzanillo) (Instituto Universitario de Bellas Artes de Manzanillo.)
The last and newest organisation she is working for is IUBAM, This summer they are introducing the Ballet Folklorico on 3 separate occasions to bring a fusion of the Ancient Mexican Cultures to both Mexican and Foreign communities.



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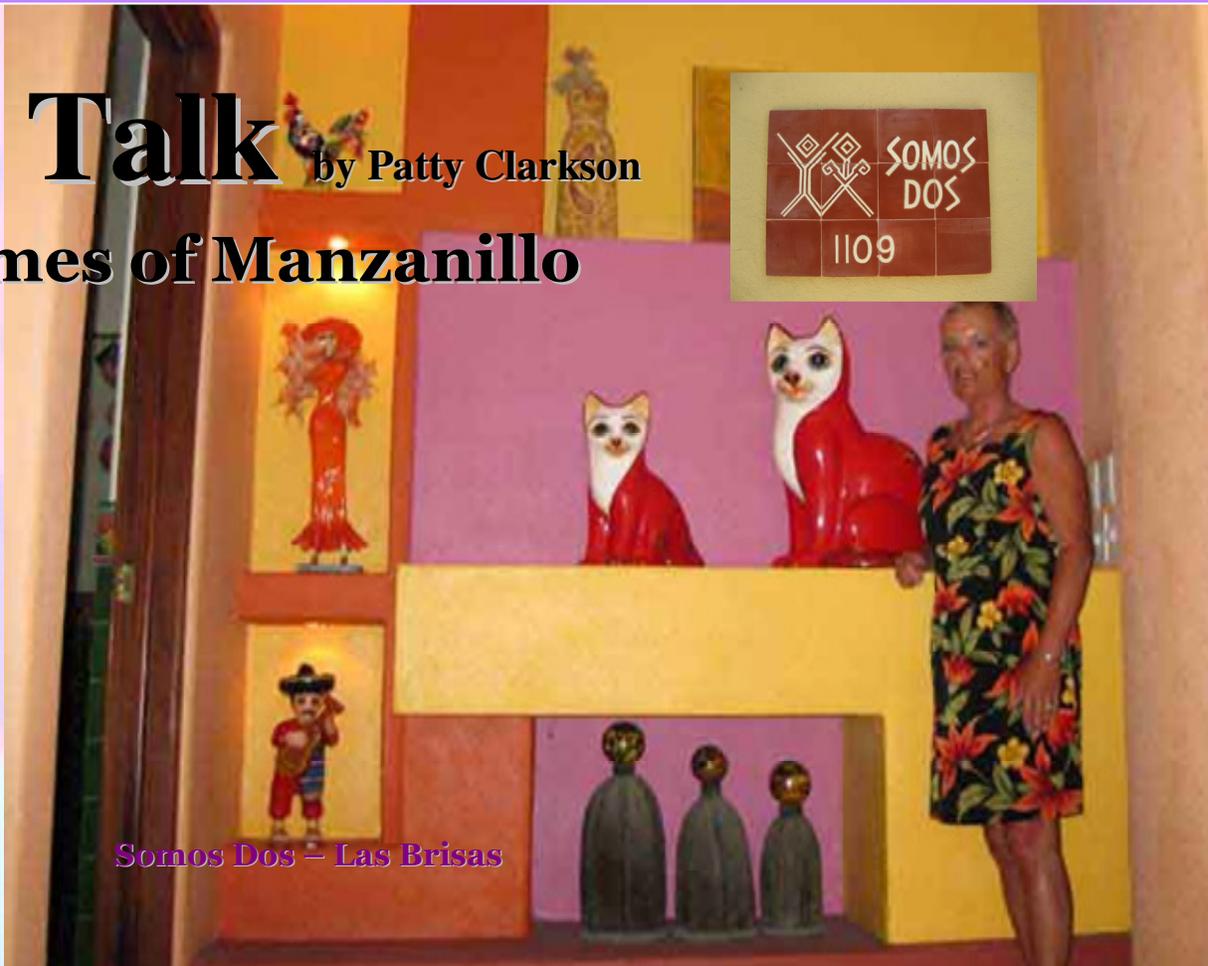
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Casa Talk by Patty Clarkson

The Homes of Manzanillo



Somos Dos – Las Brisas

Lets chat!!! My name is Somos Dos, and my family is Sue and Doug Ellis

I came into this world in February 2006 with little or no stress, thanks to my ultra creative family and their choice of a class gentleman and efficient architect Mario Garcia.



Sue actually created me on graph paper, to be open, airy with strong colors. Mario expanded on the original concept by adding the details that make me so special.



My location in Las Brisa on the shore, is ideal, because my lady loves to swim! Not only does she do that but both she and Doug play golf and tennis whenever they can. WHEW- I get exhausted just thinking about their fitness schedule.



I am perfect for them, because – excuse the bragging – I am done in classic good taste that translates to a casual spacious and comfortable home that is truly a reflection of them.....feisty, eclectic colourful and also enjoyable with lots of personality.

I do have to share them with their other home in High River, Alberta Canada about 5 months a year. But that's OK – I know they really care for me, because they have filled me with décor, that Sue and Doug hand picked for me – like these whimsical paper mache pieces of light and fun works of art from the Sermel Gallery in Tonalá, that specializes in one-of-a-kind numbered pieces.



I am still a work in progress with much more, high energy art and colors to follow, but my heart and soul and the theme that is central to me, is the stylized couple of Sue and Doug., and therefore my name is SOMOS DOS.



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We all have met 'em. .

(The following is a slightly embellished and bit fictionalized account of an almost real event!) **by Tommy Clarkson**

It may be a brother-in-law, next door neighbor or that particularly irritating high school, bellicose bully who has badly gone to seed.

You know the kind - those guys (and occasionally women) who, no matter what you say, are the "I can top that" sort!

Yesterday while flying home, trapped at an altitude of 39,000 feet, one sat next to me. Our (dare I call it such) conversation went somewhat as follows:

Knowing we would share common space for several hours I introduced myself and initiated casual communication with a light anecdote of how, just that morning prior to leaving for the airport, while playing with a friend's puppy, it had nipped me.

That was my first mistake. His immediate, several decibels louder than necessary, response was that this was nothing. He, in fact - while helping Siegfried and Roy perfect their act a few years ago - had found himself alone in the large stage cage with four 800 pound Bengal Tigers that had tried to maul him. But, inasmuch as he understood and "spoke" Punjabi Tiger he had communicated with them, established rapport, playfully wrestled with them for a while and then had calmly walked from the enclosure with them in a state of quiet, docile submission.

Mouth agape, pausing to ponder the sight, I changed topics recounting how much I'd enjoyed barbequed hamburgers, the evening before, with the friends I'd been visiting.

He countered that he found traditional beef too bland and pedestrian, asserting that his favorite red meat dish was three month aged, Himalayan Yak flank filets - smoked over embers of slow burning fresh Gumbo-Limbo wood chips, of the Central and South American Burseraceae family and is related to frankincense and myrrh, spiced with (what those of lesser palates prefer on white meats) a sauce of Lemon Myrtle and Pepperberry.

A bit overwhelmed, I next commented how, the day before yesterday, I had shot what, for me, was a respectable round of golf.

He responded that, following a 72 hole round in which he had shot six holes in one, he'd found the PGA no longer challenging and only dabbled in the sport when Tiger Woods, Steve Stricker, Phil Mickelson and Ernie Els ask for his personal counsel and advice - which he assured me they did weekly.

Feeling a bit deflated, I next offered that I planned to soon commence taking tennis lessons. He tersely responded that such sport was "too tame and unchallenging" and preferred sky boarding from 27,000 feet clad only in a velour codpiece so as to fully stimulate and oxygenate his body's flesh.

Nearly choking on the mental image of his substantial - near 300 pounds - girth so attired, I hastened on to what I thought might be an area of common interest, mentioning how my wife Patty and I had last month found a wonderful weekend "retreat".

In the vein of finding things, his response was how, only recently, he had discovered a new galaxy while perusing deep space from the Mauna Kea Observatory; while coaching Fabien Cousteau he had discovered four, heretofore, unknown species of fish living at an ocean depth of 5,000 feet in the Mariana Trench and found satisfaction in tutoring a previously unknown tribe of primitive pygmies in the bowels of the Brazilian Rain Forest on utilitarian uses of the internet.

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At this point, desperate to find a topic of discussion on which we might have a modicum of parity, I grasped at the fact that, as a youth, I had enjoyed flying kites.

He curtly replied that he tended to "play" at a bit higher elevation inasmuch as he had trained, taught and tutored the entirety of the multi-nation crews for the last eight space shuttles and was the primary consultant for NASA's planning of a Mars mission.

Numb by this time, I stumbled on to how I had enjoyed playing basketball as a kid.

Scoffing, he told me that he regularly counseled the University of North Carolina's coach, Roy Williams, sat behind the LA Lakers team bench at all home games, and how his great grandfather had actually been the one to tell Dr. James Naismith how to affix fruit baskets to the wall, hence creating the sport in the first place.

Stammering, I then shared how my wife and I were looking for and hoped to soon acquire a Labrador Retriever pup.

He rejoined that he had mastered effective two-way communication with a pet lowland gorilla that shared its housing with a exceptional and uncommon, white Asian elephant and a Siberian Musk Ox. And then, as an afterthought, he added how much that his Costa Rican Sloth and Dingo from Thailand enjoyed riding the back of his Cyprus Dwarf hippopotamus.

. . . and then the jet, in which I sat trapped, pulled away from the terminal, began to taxi, heading for take off.....

Next Issue, the conversation continues.....

Classified Ads

Local non-profit (Amigos por un Refugio Animal en Manzanillo, A.C.) is looking for a **webmaster on a volunteer basis** to update our existing website (www.ara-manzanillo.org) monthly. Estimated 10 hours per month. Please contact Debi Teter at buzzndebe@yahoo.com or call 334-3335 if you can help. Site is bi-lingual, but Spanish translations will be provided to the webmaster for posting.

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LORENZO'S CORNER

A wealthy old lady decides to go on a photo safari in Africa taking her faithful aged poodle named Cuddles along for the company.. One day the poodle starts chasing butterflies and before long, Cuddles discovers that he's lost.

Wandering about, he notices a leopard heading rapidly in his direction with the intention of having lunch.

The old poodle thinks, 'Oh, oh! I'm in deep doo-doo now!'

Noticing some bones on the ground close by, he immediately settles down to chew on the bones with his back to the approaching cat.

Just as the leopard is about to leap, the old poodle exclaims loudly, 'Boy, that was one delicious leopard! I wonder if there are any more around here.' Hearing this, the young leopard halts his attack in mid-strike, a look of terror comes over him and he slinks away into the trees.

'Whew!' says the leopard, 'That was close! That old poodle nearly had me!'

Meanwhile, a monkey who had been watching the entire scene from a nearby tree figures he can put this knowledge to good use and trade it for protection from the leopard...

So off he goes, but the old poodle sees him heading after the leopard with great speed, and figures that something must be up.

The monkey soon catches up with the leopard, spills the beans and strikes a deal for himself with the leopard.

The young leopard is furious at being made a fool of and says, 'Here, monkey, hop on my back and see what's going to happen to that conniving canine!'

Now, the old poodle sees the leopard coming with the monkey on his back and thinks, 'What am I going to do now?', but instead of running, the dog sits down with his back to his attackers, pretending he hasn't seen them yet, and just when they get close enough to hear, the old poodle says:

'Where's that damn monkey? I sent him off an hour ago to bring me another leopard!'

Moral of this story....

Don't mess with old farts. Age and treachery will always overcome youth and skill! Bullshit and brilliance only come with age and experience.

Carlos Mendoza

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"Many have read Tommy Clarkson's column "Planting Roots in Mexico", either monthly in the Manzanillo Sun or weekly in the Puerto Vallarta Tribune. Yet others have had the delightful opportunity to be and Patty's magnificent, multi-terraced tropical garden overlooking Santiago Bay. He recently shared that inasmuch as a number of his plants have attained maturity he has a few – in many cases very rare – **FOR SALE water loving papyrus, a few succulents and bromeliads and even some palms unique to Mexico, including a very few Medjool Date Palms which originated around Saddam Huessein's palaces and a giant trunked - yet to be named by the International Palm Society – Washingtonia.** Those who might be interested in purchase of any of these plants or for contracting landscaping services, contact Tommy at **314-334-0856**

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The Streets of Manzanillo



Niños Héroes

Terry Sovil

On your next trip into Centro take note that the street “Miguel de la Madrid” turns into a street named “Niños Héroes” near San Pedrito. This name is often used on streets, squares or schools throughout Mexico as well as once appearing on an MXP 5000 banknote and currently on a MXN 50 coin. The Mexico City Metro station is also named after them. Who are these Niños Héroes, known as “Boy Heroes” or the “Heroic Cadets”? Few Mexican heroes have touched hearts so much as these six young men aged 13 to 19.

The Mexican-American war was in its final stages. The Boy Heroes stood their ground against invading forces from the U.S.A. on 13 September, 1847 at the Battle of Chapultepec, defending Mexico City’s Chapultepec Castle which was the Mexican army’s military academy at that time. The Castle and the hill it stands on was a strategic target. Despite its position 200’ feet above the rest of the countryside there were insufficient men to defend it. American forces outnumbered the Mexicans in both force and weapons.

Ordered to fall back and return home by their commanders, General Nicolás Bravo and General José Mariano Monterde the Cadets refused and stayed at their posts. They fought valiantly until all were killed. The last survivor, **Juan Escutia**, legend says, leapt from Chapultepec Castle wrapped in the Mexican flag to prevent it from being taken by the enemy. Their bravery is honored by a monument at the entrance to Chapultepec Park.

Niños Héroes were:

Juan de la Barrera who enlisted at the age of 12 and was admitted to the Academy on 18 November 1843. A lieutenant in the military engineers he died defending a gun battery at the entrance to the park. Aged 19, he was the oldest of the six.

Juan Escutia was born in Tepic between 1828 and 1832 and admitted to the Academy on 8 September 1847. This brave cadet was found wrapped in the flag on the east flank of the hill, alongside that of Francisco Márquez.

Francisco Márquez was born in Guadalajara, Jalisco in 1834, applied to the Academy on 14 January 1847. A note included in his personnel record says his bullet-riddled body was found on the east flank of the hill, alongside that of Juan Escutia. Only 13 years old at the time of his death, he was the youngest of the six.

Agustín Melgar born in Chihuahua, Chihuahua, sometime between 1828 and 1832 applied to the Academy on 4 November 1846. His personnel record tells how he found himself alone trying to defend the north side of the castle. After shooting one of the enemy to death he took refuge behind mattresses in one of the rooms. Grievously wounded he was placed on a table and found dead beside it on 15 September, after the castle fell.

Fernando Montes de Oca was born in Azcapotzalco, currently a borough of the Federal District, between 1828 and 1832. Applying to the Academy on 24 January 1847 his personnel record reads: “Killed for his country on 13 September 1847.”

Vicente Suárez, born in 1833 in Puebla, Puebla, he applied to the Academy on 21 October 1845. His record notes: “Killed defending his country at his sentry post on 13 September 1847. He ordered the attackers to stop, but they continued to advance. He shot one, stabbed another in the stomach with his bayonet and was killed at his post in hand-to-hand combat. He was killed for his bravery, because his youthfulness made the attackers hesitate, until he attacked them.”

“Brave men don’t belong to any one country. I respect bravery wherever I see it.” Harry S Truman

The bodies of the six youths were buried in Chapultepec Park in an unknown location. In 1947 their remains were found, identified and were re-interred on 27 September 1952 at the Monument to the Heroic Cadets in Chapultepec.

On 5 March 1947, before the 100th anniversary of the Battle of Chapultepec, Harry S. Truman placed a wreath at the monument and spent a few silent minutes. On this visit Truman experienced crowds larger than he had seen anywhere. He returned “Vivas!” and broke away from security escorts to shake hands. He said later to the Mexican Legislature, where he pledged again his ‘Good Neighbor Policy’, “I have never had such a welcome in my life”. He reminded a crowd of American citizens that they, too, were ambassadors. Word spread like wildfire and he too became an instant hero. One Mexican engineer was quoted as saying: “One hundred years of misunderstanding and bitterness wiped out by one man in one minute. This is the best neighbor policy.” When reporters asked him why he visited the monument Truman replied “Brave men don’t belong to any one country. I respect bravery wherever I see it.”



reviewed by Terry Sovil



Drago Sushi joins the select few sushi places in Manzanillo.

You can find them by driving towards Las Brisas on Miguel de la Madrid Boulevard. Pass Soriana and when you see the Marbella Hotel sign on the right start to slow down. Again on the right you will pass the Kiosko, see a Dan Rafa Taco stand and then Drago Sushi. It is across the street from the La Sonrisa. "Drago" means "Dragon" so we're talking Dragon Sushi!

Having been a martial arts fan for a long time I trended towards oriental, and especially Japanese, foods everywhere I could find them from an early age. Japanese food is known for taste and flavors based on the freshness of the food itself, not fancy overwhelming sauces. Not that I don't enjoy fancy, overwhelming sauces too! That said, freshness can make good Japanese food and sushi a bit more expensive than a night at a taco stand. Los Angeles, CA was a blissful relief in terms of quantity, quality and cost. There was a sushi restaurant every 100 yards it seemed. That was a sushi nirvana!

Drago Sushi has a menu that is large and varied. The tempura had a 30 minute waiting period, so I opted not to try that as it is a usual favorite for comparisons. We did try an order of Chicken Yakitoris, an order of Shrimp Temakis, an order of Negris (5 piece sushi mix, chef's choice) and a House Specialty - The Drago Rolled Cone. We were too full to try a dessert, of which there were three very tempting selections that all looked excellent. My favorite was the Chicken Printed on one side in Español and the other in English it has a huge variety of things to choose.

They offer salads, sashimi, spring rolls, traditional sushi, house specialties and desserts to name a few. They also have a full bar and nice selection of liqueurs including Baileys, Kahlua, Sambuca and Amaretto

Yakitoris (skewered pieces of very tender chicken and vegetables)

served on a bed of lettuce with a nice teriyaki type sauce. The Negris was good and included a roe selection and a salmon which was very good and fresh. We also had iced tea and a cerveza.

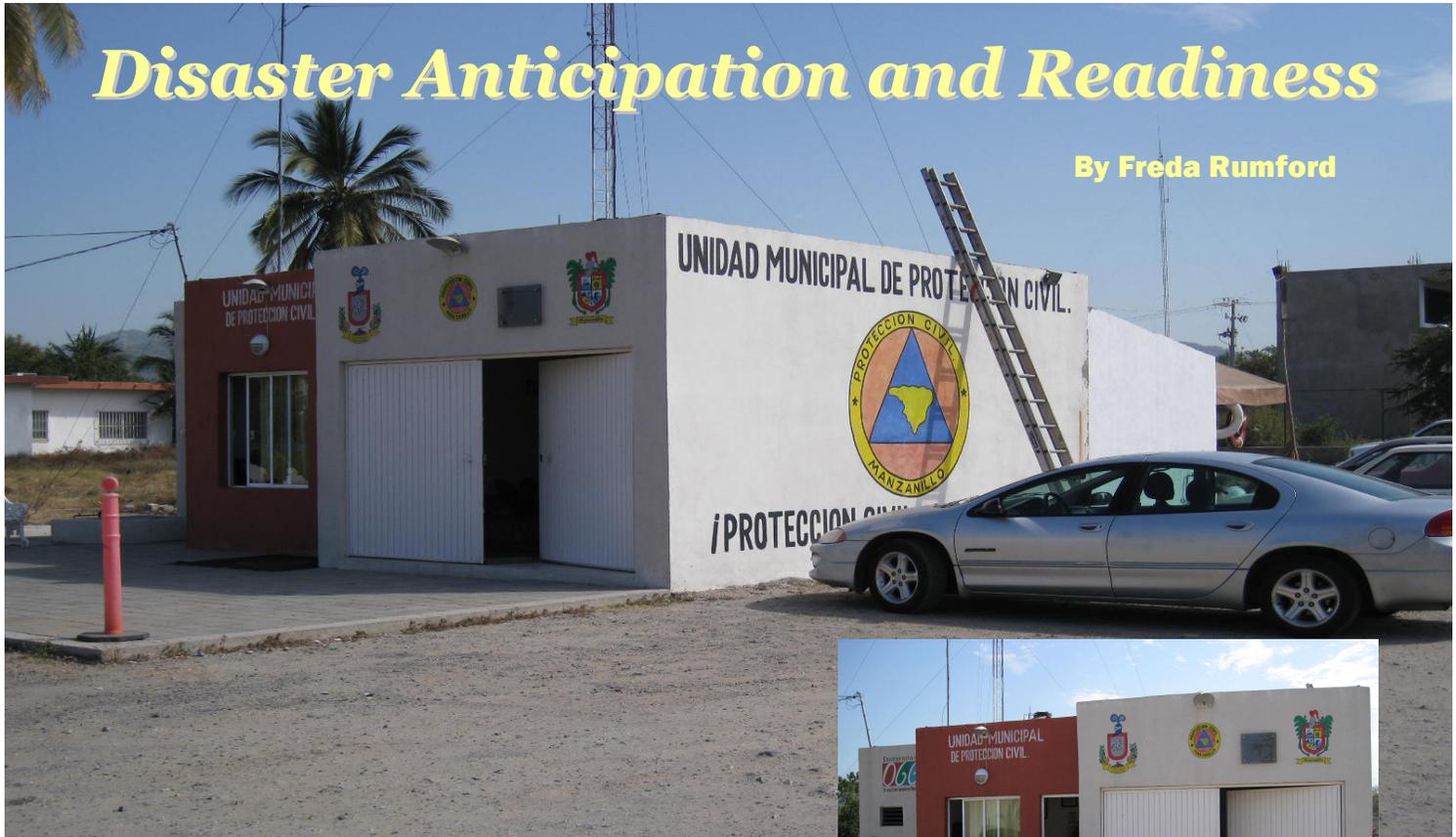
Bruno took very good care of us and brought a large bottle of sanitizing gel to the table before serving us. The total for the evening came to \$310 pesos for some large portions and excellent tastes. If you aren't a sushi fan I would suggest the tepanyaki or tempura dishes, just allow some preparation time and carry on pleasant conversation in their comfortable restaurant.





Disaster Anticipation and Readiness

By Freda Rumford



(Note-This article was originally printed in the Guadalajara Reporter in 2001, it is now being reproduced with up to date information.)

A few years ago, there was an article in this local newspaper that filled me with dread. It was a report from a meteorological office in the United States, which said if there was a natural disaster in Mexico, the country would be totally unable to cope.

Captain David Sanchez Nogales, has trained his band of experts, many of whom are volunteers, in all aspects of emergency action applicable to coastal towns. The Civil Defense office, now next to the Red Cross building in Las Garzas is equipped with CB radios, telephones, computers, and two very large planning charts plus all emergency equipment.

One chart in the office, shows the coastline of Mexico where is recorded the path of storms from their onset and the varying changes in force as they progress northwards towards Manzanillo. Charts such as this enable David Sanchez & meteorologists to determine exactly where we are in relation to any storm and which part of that storm will affect the town & surrounding areas the most. Fortunately, local history shows that the majority of storms and hurricanes veer westward into the ocean away from land, or blow themselves out before they reach the Baja Peninsular.

The other chart is a very detailed map of Manzanillo divided into five areas, the head offices of each are: 1 Civil Defense building, 2 Police stations and 2 schools, each with attached lists of all facilities within those areas. Each office has a chief in charge of operations and aides (who advise the public of the situation at hand), along with other local emergency stations, also noted, are the specific spots that could be cause for the greatest concern in any

particular emergency condition, such as river flooding, wave surges & tsunamis or hurricanes. Should there be a problem with waves, for instance, the escape routes to the high lands surrounding the city are already charted and individuals affected will be directed there by the local advising committee using either public transport or their own private vehicle.

Although the constant task force is small, Captain Sanchez has the authority to summon any extra help that he may require in any given situation. The Navy, Military, Red Cross, Hospitals & Clinics with their staff, local transport and the Police all come under his command and all have suitable training. Civilians could also be asked to help in certain situations if they are able bodied and the emergency warrants it.

This is an extremely slick operation and the capability of Captain Sanchez is very obvious. I left his office feeling suitably impressed and much safer. Like all operations in Mexico, the "Proteccion Civil" is under funded and has a wish list. Their wish is for camp cots, stretchers and a mini van that could double as an ambulance. With all of the down sizing and closing of military posts in Canada and the US, surely there must be some extra beds somewhere. Please?



From T's GALLEY at SCHOONERS RESTAURANT

FISH - VERACRUZ STYLE

Ingredients

- 2 pounds fish fillets (Red Snapper or Dorado)
- 1/3 cup olive oil
- 6 medium tomatoes, peeled and chopped
- 2 or 3 canned jalapeno chilies, seeded and cut into strips
- salt, freshly ground pepper
- 2 medium onions, finely chopped
- 3 tablespoons capers
- 12 small new potatoes, freshly cooked, or 6 medium potatoes, halved
- juice of a small lemon or lime
- 2 cloves garlic, chopped
- 20 small pimiento-stuffed green olives
- 3 slices firm white bread
- Butter for frying

Directions

Season the fish with salt and pepper and lime juice and set aside.

Heat the oil in a skillet and saute the onions and garlic until the onions are soft, shaking the pan and tossing the ingredients, for about 3 minutes. Reduce the tomatoes to a puree in a blender or food processor and add to the skillet with the capers, olives, jalapeno chilies, and the fish.

Season with a little more salt and pepper and cook over very low heat until the fish is tender and the sauce slightly thickened, about 10 to 15 minutes. Transfer to a warmed platter and garnish with the potatoes. Cut the bread into 6 triangles, saute in butter until golden, and arrange as a border round the edge of the platter.



PHOTO COMPETITION



Send us an original photo for one of our next editions of **Manzanillo's Lifestyle E-Magazine**.

The winning selection will be used as the cover photograph on a future edition of our magazine.

Prize: Picnic Lunch for two



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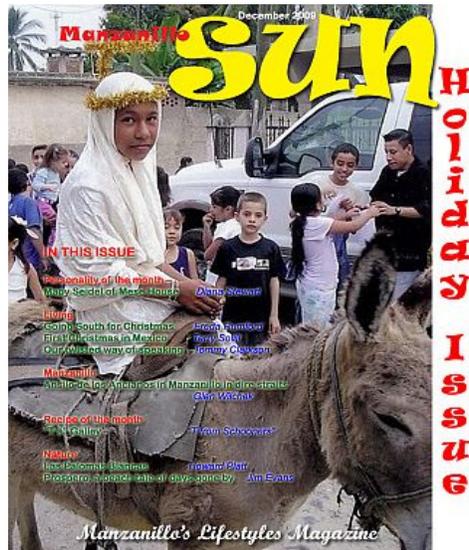


Front Cover Winners

Past Winners of our Monthly Front Cover Photo Competition



November 2009 Edition
 Winner: **Steve Jackson**
 Selected by the Management Team
 for the Premier Edition of the
 Lifestyle E-Magazine



December 2009 Edition
 Winner: **Mapy Seidel**
 Prize: Dinner for two at



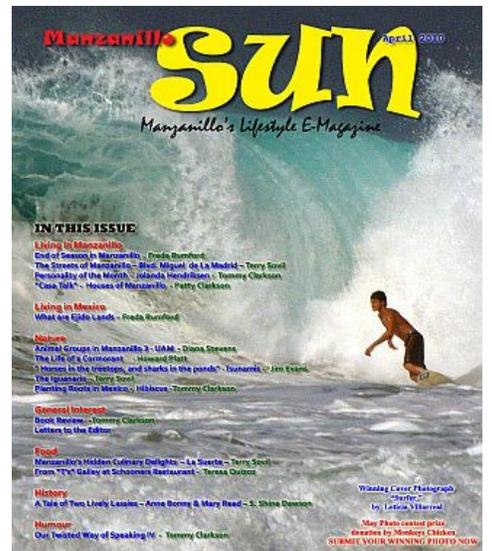
January 2010 Edition
 Winner: **Stephen Carano Sr.**
 Prize: Breakfast for two



February 2010 Edition
 Winner: **Terry Sovil**
 Prize: Meal for two at



March 2010 Edition
 Winner: **Howard Platt**
 Prize: Breakfast for two at



April 2010 Edition
 Winner: **Leticia Villarreal**
 Prize: Dinner for two at



Send us an original photo for one of our next editions of **Manzanillo's Lifestyle E-Magazine**

and you could enjoy one of the prizes generously offered by some of our local restaurants

The winning selection will be used as the cover photograph on a future edition of our magazine.

I.U.B.A.M.

The University Institute of Fine Arts of Manzanillo
(Instituto Universitario de Bellas Artes de Manzanillo.)

The home of IUBAM here in Manzanillo, is on Av. Elias Zamora, next to the University of Colima's Valle de las Garzas Campus (Comercio Exterior). This group, which is connected to the University of Colima but trained in Manzanillo, is excellent and has performed for the last six years at the Enrique Corey Scholarship Fund Dinners. The Director of the Group is the very talented President of the Enrique Corey Fund, Lic. Froilan Ramos, also Director of the University of Colima's Archaeological Museum and Art Gallery at San Pedrito (now under reconstruction because of Earthquake damage).

During the Manzanillo performance schedule, there will also be a workshop for local students in the Folklorico programme. Monies raised from these three entirely different performances, will be split between **IUBAM** (to pay towards a trip for the group to both visit & perform in Arizona) and various other of the charitable organisations in Manzanillo for which Reina Garcia works ceaselessly. The Folkloric Group who will be performing is NOT the well known one from the Colima Campus of the University of Colima (also very well known, they are part of **IUBA**) but from Manzanillo.

Each concert will spotlight different regions of Mexico, with their local dress, so each performance will be different. All performances will be at the IUBAM Centre in Valle Las Garzas.

MANZANILLO SCHEDULE - 2 PERFORMANCES PER NIGHT

22nd May at 7 p.m. and 9.00 p.m. tickets 100 pesos per person
24th July at 7 p.m. and 9.00 p.m. tickets 100 pesos per person
28th Aug at 7 p.m. and 9.00 p.m. tickets 100 pesos per person

Tickets can be obtained from:

Reina at Juanitos after 4 p.m. (except on Thursdays) at Juanitos,

FRATTELLO PIZZA. TEL: 333 0770

or from

IUBAM in Las Garzas Mon- Fri 10 – 2 p.m.



Arizona Schedule

September 15th, 2010 (Week Of - Specific times and dates to be announced)

Tucson, University of Arizona

Phoenix – Arizona State University – Phoenix/Tempe

Flagstaff – Northern Arizona University

Prescott – Private theater – to be announced