

...Let's Go

By LARRY MACARAY

MEXICO CITY: The Christmas season is without a doubt the best time of the year to visit Mexico. The red carpet is rolled out for the thousands of American tourists who spend Christmas and New Years south of the border.

The entire city is illuminated with millions of lights, representing everything from a little Mexican boy on a magic carpet, being pulled by reindeer, to a number of religious themes—some of them ten to fifteen stories high.

Paris has traditionally been called the city of lights—because of the many historical landmarks that are lighted up every night. But at Christmas time—Mexico City has Paris beaten as far as I'm concerned.

THE PYRAMID of the Sun at Teotihuacan is one of the usual tourists' attractions. About 32 miles from Mexico City, the cluster of ancient ruins—including the Pyramid of the Sun, the Pyramid of Quetzalcoatl—makes an intriguing array of pre-Christian temples of worship.

The 210 feet to the top of the Pyramid is practically straight up and very exhausting to climb—once in a lifetime is enough. Imagine the Teotihuacanos climbing to the top where a temple once stood—to worship the Sun—time after time—and I'm sure that some of them must have fallen off—into paradise or their equivalent.

The horde of Mexican "salesmen" that plagues the American tourist soon becomes almost second-nature and one seems to develop a kind of tic that serves as a silent "NO" "NO", "NO." With this in mind, I was rather disappointed upon arriving at the top of the Pyramid not to find a single seller of wares—only obvious Americans (all with cameras) puffing and looking for their lost children.

XOCHIMILCO historically has been called the "City of the Floating Gardens." I had read about it in my high school Spanish language textbook and had heard it referred to many times since then. Reality hardly ever equals the vision we carry in our heads.

The canals were there—the flower-decked boats were there—the Americans were there—

but the flowers weren't there (cabbages along the banks instead). Had to do a double-take upon seeing what the tin coverings for the boats were put on with—bottle-caps!

The vendors that I missed on top of the pyramid were apparently here at Xochimilco, all with a variety of "home-made" boats (?) Where else in the world can you cruise romantically along a beautiful canal, being serenaded on one side by a pair of marimba players, and being exposed to a trio of high powered "salesmen" (mantillas, sarapes, blankets, etc.) on the other?

THE BALLEA Folklorico de Mexico was one of the most exciting productions that I have ever seen. There are two groups of this ballet—one that stays at the Palacio de Bellas Artes in Mexico City and one that travels all over the world. If you ever get a chance to see either group—don't miss it. The Deer Dance was my favorite.

What is Mexico without seeing a bullfight? The largest bull ring in the world was almost to full capacity at 50,000 people. The Matadors weren't too good—but the bulls were tough and very brave. An interesting addition to the afternoon's festivities was the killing of a bull by Juan Canedo from Portugal.

The Portuguese style of bull fighting is much different from the Spanish version. Canedo picked his bull and stuck the banderillas from horseback—wearing hat, chaps and boots. Then he dismounted and made the kill somewhat like the regular Matadors.

PLANS WERE made for our 10-day 1964 Christmas tour to Mexico. Will be staying at the St. Regis in Mexico City and the Prados America in Acapulco. It will be a very exciting tour that will also include Taxco and Cuernavaca.

Next Wednesday evening at 7:30 in the lecture room (room no. 2) of the Art Department, El Camino College, I will show a 30-minute movie of Hawaii and a 30-minute movie of the highlights of Europe.

You're welcome to come and see the films—no charge—and I'll answer any questions you might have about Mexico, Hawaii or Europe.

Know Your Traffic Laws

Prepared in cooperation with the Traffic Education Bureau of the Torrance Police Department

While final traffic statistics for 1963 have not been completed, the figures for the first 11 months show an increase in traffic accidents throughout the city. More than 1,220 accidents occurred on Torrance streets, 511 of which involved injuries. Twelve persons lost their lives.

A total of 742 persons received injuries of various degrees in traffic accidents, and 43 pedestrian accidents were logged. Another 38 accidents involving bicycles and their riders were reported.

Most of the accidents could have been avoided, had drivers heeded traffic laws and rules of common courtesy. The driver who just drove a few miles over the speed limit, went through the signal on what he thought was a caution light, or the driver who failed to yield the right-of-way just because he was in a hurry to get somewhere.

OTHER ACCIDENTS involved faulty equipment on vehicles—tail lights that could have been fixed, bad brakes, or burned out headlights. Whatever the cause, we know most of the accidents didn't have to happen.

The new year poses a real challenge for Torrance drivers, pedestrians, and bicycle riders. The city will continue to grow, and growth means more and more people will be using the

streets, creating more serious traffic problems.

A safety program is no better than the support it receives from citizens. New values must be put on traffic laws, and everyone must do his part to cut down the number of accidents and eliminate a senseless loss of life.

THE TORRANCE Police Department and the Torrance Traffic Safety Council urge all citizens to slow down and obey all traffic laws. Remember, the main causes of accidents in 1963 were: speed, failure to yield the right-of-way, following too close, and the drinking driver.

Twelve deaths and 742 other injuries are grim reminders of the need to walk and drive with care.

'Shot in Dark' Casting Set by Gardena Group

Casting for the Gardena Valley Playmakers production of "A Shot in the Dark" will be held Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday evenings from 7 to 9. Tryouts will be held at the Rowley Recreation Center, 13220 S. Van Ness Ave., Gardena. The cast calls for five men and three women.

The Playmakers are sponsored by the Gardena Recreation and Parks Department.

Attorney Will Address League

Attorney Ben F. Gray will address the Lomita Civic League at the Fleming Junior High School Little Theater Tuesday evening. Gray, who has practiced law in the area for many years, will speak on the difficulties encountered by small incorporated cities. The meeting, which is open to the public, will begin at 8 o'clock.

Industry Ban on Crude Oil Extended by County

County supervisors have unanimously taken action to prohibit the burning of crude oil by industries and power plants all year.

A public hearing has been set for the matter at 2 p.m. on Tuesday, Jan. 14. Current ruling requires the burning of natural gas between April 15 and Nov. 15, when air pollution is usually heaviest.

"It is easily apparent that smog attacks know no season and the health and welfare of the citizens demand that natural gas be used 12 months a year," Supervisor Kenneth Hahn said.

"LAST FRIDAY, Dec. 27, the citizens of this County were victims of one of the worst smog attacks," Hahn said. "We cannot wait for a major disaster caused by smog before prohibiting the use of crude oil."

Concerned agencies using crude oil will have an opportunity to present their case at the Jan. 14 hearing.

"The Federal Power Commission in Washington, D.C., and the State Public Utilities Commission should immediately approve the requests to permit an adequate supply of natural gas for Los Angeles County for all year fuel supply

for industries and power plants," Hahn said.

IT HAS BEEN argued that the supply of natural gas to this area is not sufficient for use all year.

The Federal Power Commission, composed of three men appointed by the President, is the chief agency responsible for allocating natural gas to areas of the nation.

"By requiring that natural gas be burned in Los Angeles County, we will show the Federal Power Commission our intentions and it will be up to it to act," Hahn said.

S. SMITH GRISWOLD, chief of the County's Air Pollution Control District, pointed out that in his opinion there is ample natural gas for this area to extend Rule 62 several months, if not year round.

He pointed out that on Nov. 16, 1963, the day after Rule 62 ceased to be in effect, the use of natural gas dropped 250 million cubic feet in Los Angeles County.

HAHN STRESSED the major source of air pollution is still the exhaust of automobiles, trucks and other vehicles.

"We will win this fight against smog when the auto-

Bank Reports Record Income

Securiay First National Bank has reported a net operating profit of \$3.76 per share on 7,600,000 outstanding shares of stock. The net earnings were 5.8 per cent about last year's figures.

The bank reported net earnings of \$28,592,667. Total resources climbed to a record \$4,503,356, 964.

mobile industry in Detroit assumes its rightful responsibility and equips its product with an effective device for the protection of its customers and all citizens," he said.

Red Cross Will Meet Thursday

Members of the Torrance-Lomita chapter of the American Red Cross will hold their regular monthly business meeting at 7:30 p.m. Thursday. The conference will be held at the branch headquarters, 1617 Carbrillo Ave.

Mrs. Mary Pagac, chairman of the branch, urged all members of the board and all committee chairmen to attend the meeting.

Honesty is spiritual power.—Mary Baker Eddy.

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Smart and alluring — designed especially for sport and dress-up wear. Many beautiful styles and colors to choose from.
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Contains no lacquer — water soluble. Keeps your soft waves & curls smoothly in place... safe even for children's hair.
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GERMICIDE... for bathroom, feminine hygiene & baby care. 89¢ 12 Oz. Size
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