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## Broader Horizons Opened In Mexico

(Continued from Page 2)  
other hand seemed always on the streets. Work habits and hours varied widely, with construction workers starting at about 5 or 6 am and finishing at about 6 pm, but, Bill observed, "Very little work is done by these people in this time."

Street hawkers and outdoor markets were also an attraction, and he was grateful for Mr. Martinez' instruction on bargaining. "The bargaining part of buying was an experience and a real thrill. The people will soon come to your price or just above it when you say 'no thanks' and walk away."

The vast variety of souvenirs available in Mexico caught the eye of Matthew Kudejka of Williams Secondary. These he classified as "nostalgia, native & classic". The first were cheap, but according to Matthew often had no affinity with the country. Native souvenirs he found interesting, plentiful and very much in demand.

Classic souvenirs were expensive, made of fine materials, but in comparison with similar items in Canada were not costly. Made of gold, silver, onyx or precious stones they could not often be bargained for. Antiques and furniture were included in this category. Betty Walsh of Langstaff found the historical sites of Mexico City the highlight of her trip, particularly Chapultepec Castle built in 1600 on an island at the mouth of the seven lakes of Mexico.

The home of Emperor Maximilian and Carlotta Von Hapsburg, the castle is furnished to reflect the splendor of the era in which they lived. "On the top floor there is still the Imperial Gardens designed by Carlotta on display for the public," reports Betty. "The public may also see the original bath of Carlotta, the Grand Salon, state dining room, the Imperial bedroom and the crested silver service."

She found many students busily writing notes in the exhibits of imperial trappings, carriages, clothing, uniforms, and historic murals. "Therefore the castle is not only an historical building, but also an historical book. This is true for many other buildings as well," observes Betty Walsh.

The Mexican markets fascinated Fiona Stanton of Newmarket and Ruthanne Snider of Langstaff, who observed, "Mexican markets are a conglomerate of family business on rented ground where they sell everything from jewellery to baby caskets — when a turista has decided upon an article the vendor will state his price. Through experience we found the stated price is usually the expected price. It is only the novice buyer who will pay the stated price. Through haggling and bargaining, a price is usually agreed upon that is pleasing to both parties involved."

Arguments between sellers and Mexican customers can go on for several hours, the girls observed, but the "turista" is generally pleased if he thinks he has "beaten" the vendor. Nevertheless they found the markets better than city shops for bargains and for authentic native products.

"Mexico is a world of contrast: dirty and clean, colorful and dowdy, but the real contrast is between the rich and the poor," reports Lorie Wells of Langstaff.

"The rich are the smaller class and live on a level of their own, keeping the distinctions between them and the lower class. The poor are the ones the tourists have more confrontation with, for they are everywhere."

Lorie was startled to notice the lack of concern for cleanliness in the market places. "In Mexico the flies buzz around the food being cooked by greasy, grimy hands. Drinks are served from one glass and you wait in line for your turn while it is rinsed out in a bucket. Little children wandered around in Toluca market eating raw fish from a stick, and the sale of iguanas and rodents for dinner is generally accepted."

She comments, however, "The people did not seem unhappy. They loved bright colors and sunshine and they enjoyed living, bargaining and excitement. It is a cross-section of life that everyone should witness because it is

a fact everyone knows about but disregards." \*

Headquarters for their stay in Mexico City was the Hotel San Francisco, but there were many side-trips and stops in neighboring communities, and visits to numerous churches and cathedrals of historic and aesthetic interest, as well as to the Ballet Folklórico de Mexico. Donna Fieldhouse of Woodbridge, Linda Spence of Stouffville and Kathryn Iris of Langstaff reported on a visit to the ballet founded in 1952 by Amelia Hernandez and eight students, now operating under the official patronage of the Mexican government.

There are now two ballet companies with over 200 dancers, musicians and singers — a touring company and a resident company. The girls describe "The Deer Dance" — "The dance is preparing for the hunt. It is a ritual still performed by the Yagui Indians who live in the land of their forefathers and make a living in the same manner."

"A specially chosen member of the tribe imitates the movements of the deer. The deer is then pursued by two priests, playing the role of hunters. Then you watch as a beautiful animal dies." The students agree unanimously with their teachers — there should be more such school journeys. "They learn far more in this way than they can learn from a textbook or in a classroom," commented Mr. Rees after their return.

## Rambling Around

(Continued from Page 2)

the government of the country or by doing something in a physical, financial or artistic way . . . or just by simply helping in the neighborhood."

Lois attributes her interrupted education at Queen's University for part of the political impetus. She studied political science for a year and spent much time in political discussion.

Following Queen's, she worked for Bell Canada as a service representative and became interested in the methods and procedures of collective bargaining.

After her marriage to Lionel Hancey, she maintained this attitude of political inquiry.

She has a cherished memory of Agnes MacPhail. Though she was only a small girl, she, along with her family, felt the fascination of this admirable parliamentarian. Many people still talk about her.

"Miss MacPhail cared about people," said Mrs. Hancey, "just as Lex Mackenzie did . . . as most real politicians do. Agnes MacPhail made it her job to hear what people said to her and she did her best for them." \*

### FROM LITTLE ACORNS

This is Lois Hancey's seventh year as councillor in Richmond Hill. As with many politicians, the beginning was unique and the end result was not deliberately planned.

"I felt I didn't have sufficient interests," said Lois, "so I looked around for something constructive to do. I enrolled in a Red Cross home nursing course held in Willowdale. I thought the knowledge would prove handy in raising my family. While there, I happened to fill out a card which posed the question, 'What can you contribute by way of experience?'"

"All I could do was swim," said Mrs. Hancey, "so that was what I put on the card."

The upshot of this was that she was called by John Passmore and Bill Hamilton of the Red Cross to take over their summer water safety program. Mrs. Hancey took up the challenge, fully backed by Lionel and the boys. She recalled that these were pre-Centennial Pool days and that she was largely instrumental in arranging for 300 children, plus transportation, to receive 16 lessons at Thornhill Swimming Pool. Volunteer mothers acted as supervisors.

"I could see that there was a very real need for Richmond Hill youngsters to have a swimming pool of their own, so my husband and I began campaigning for it. We drew up a brief and took it to the town council.

"Walter Scudds was one councillor who said he would look into it and a committee was appointed. But for reasons of their own, and which we didn't appreciate, they kept putting off the issue.

"Finally when Lion Cliff Bennett came forward and said the pool could be financed by a drive for funds, the town council decided to back the Lions. Lionel and I knew that they couldn't raise sufficient money by public subscription, but we determined to get behind the campaign and help. We suggested that they apply for a Centennial grant from the provincial and federal governments. By that time I was elected to council."

Mrs. Hancey is still on council and enjoying the work immensely. She sums up her satisfactions and her hopes for the future. \*

**THE HILL IS NOT AN ISLAND ANYMORE**  
During the past six years many things have been achieved by town council.

"There are the smaller improvements like parks and roads, the establishment of the fire department and better ambulance service.

One of the bigger events according to Councillor Hancey was the confrontation with former Federal Minister of Forestry Maurice Sauve over the decision to move the federal forestry research station from Maple to Sault Ste. Marie. In her opinion, forestry research has been put back years and a number of knowledgeable research men have either gone into teaching or have left the country because they didn't want to live in Sault Ste. Marie.

Through representation on the regional library board, Richmond Hill became a resource centre in the regional library system representing the Counties of Peel, York and Ontario.

"We don't live as an island to ourselves anymore," said the councillor. "I feel I have brought this fact home to council a little more clearly. What happens in Brampton and Mississauga and other localities does have an effect on what happens in Richmond Hill. I believe council has been looking outward in the past six years more than they ever did."

The establishment of the Centennial Swimming Pool was a great satisfaction despite the long delay. And last but not least, Councillor Hancey has the satisfaction of being able to represent the female population of the area in striving for some balance of the legislative power.

### PRIORITIES A LA HANCEY

The councillor asserts fearlessly her desires for the future.

"I hope," she said, "that regional government can be set aside until the provincial government recognizes its responsibility and restructures the municipal tax system."

"I'd like to see a study of the area to see what the economics really are.

"I'd like to see a plan based on the real economics and the potential economics and tax restructuring. One area of taxation that needs immediate change is in the matter of school taxes. The main burden of educational costs should be shifted to the senior level of governments where it belongs.

"I would like also a restructuring of our political boundaries and attendant responsibilities to fit such a regional plan.

"This is the order in which I place my priorities," concluded Councillor Hancey. "I believe if these are fulfilled it would open the way for a truly long-lasting structure at the municipal level of government." \*

## County School Insurance Plan Pays For Dental Repair Claims

About 60 percent of the claims filed under the York County Board of Education student accident insurance plan are for dental work.

From September to the end of March claims for more than \$35,000 were filed, trustees were told at a meeting of the board on May 11. About 23,900 students were enrolled in the plan, and premiums totalling \$55,000 had been paid.

It is board policy that students wishing to take part in competitive sports or go on field trips must present proof of student accident insurance as well as the provincial plans offered by Ontario Hospital Insurance and OHSIP.

A staff report stated that there has been some misunderstanding on the part of the parents with the advent of OHSIP on October 1, 1969.

Commented Trustee Merna Colbourne of the Town of Markham, "This is an understatement."

The main benefit of the school plan, said Markham Township Trustee Louise Aime is for dental work which is

## Old Newspaper Tells Of Yonge St. Rail Line

Gerald Steeves, 746 Srigley Street, Newmarket, found a little bit of history hidden behind an old print of Queen Victoria which he rescued from the attic of a log house at Roche's Point recently.

Gerald and his wife were salvaging the gilt frame when they discovered a page from the "Toronto to World," the city's "only one cent morning paper," tucked in behind the print.

It was dated January 26, 1897, and coincidentally, one of the major stories on the page dealt with the construction of a railway up Yonge Street to Richmond Hill. The writer predicted great success for the project.

Advertisements on the page offered men's winter overcoats at \$4.75 and linen handkerchiefs for five cents each.

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## In The Spotlight

(Continued from Page 2)

than the two leads, but made a good foil to Mrs. Jones' "flapping" and near hysterics.

A young actress who was fun to watch was Fran Bishop as Nurse Kelly, especially in her sallies with Dr. Anderson, competently played by Neil Crowe.

Ed Moriarity as the psychiatrist was convincingly pompous, and his eventual harassment by Harvey delighted the audience.

In supporting roles were Jane McLaren, Philip Trow, Joan Iddon, Burt Funnell, who also handled publicity for the club, and Lloyd Sanders. The off-stage singing was by Elizabeth Jennings.

The Footlights Club is planning further productions, starting in the fall. New members will be welcome, and those interested can call 889-1429. Certainly "Harvey" will have given the Footlights' new adventure an excellent beginning.

Bayview Secondary School, which is well known in this area for its productions of dramas and musical comedies, recently presented a "first" for the school, an evening of musical entertainment entitled simply "Music".

Under the musical direction of Ray Barton, the band and string section played selections of popular numbers, and both instrumental and vocal solos completed the program.

The band's selection from "Oliver" was particularly well received. The rendering of "Aquarius" dragged somewhat, due more to the arrangement than the performers.

Gordon Adams, accompanied by Louise Deacon, gave two euphonium solos, and Bruce Brown, on trumpet, played "Portrait of a Trumpet", accompanied on piano by Christine Burnett.

The audience was appreciative of Brenda Haddock's fine vocal performance. The well known "Tonight", "Stranger in Paradise" and Shubert's "Ave Maria" were well suited to her voice. Dave Laursen was her accompanist.

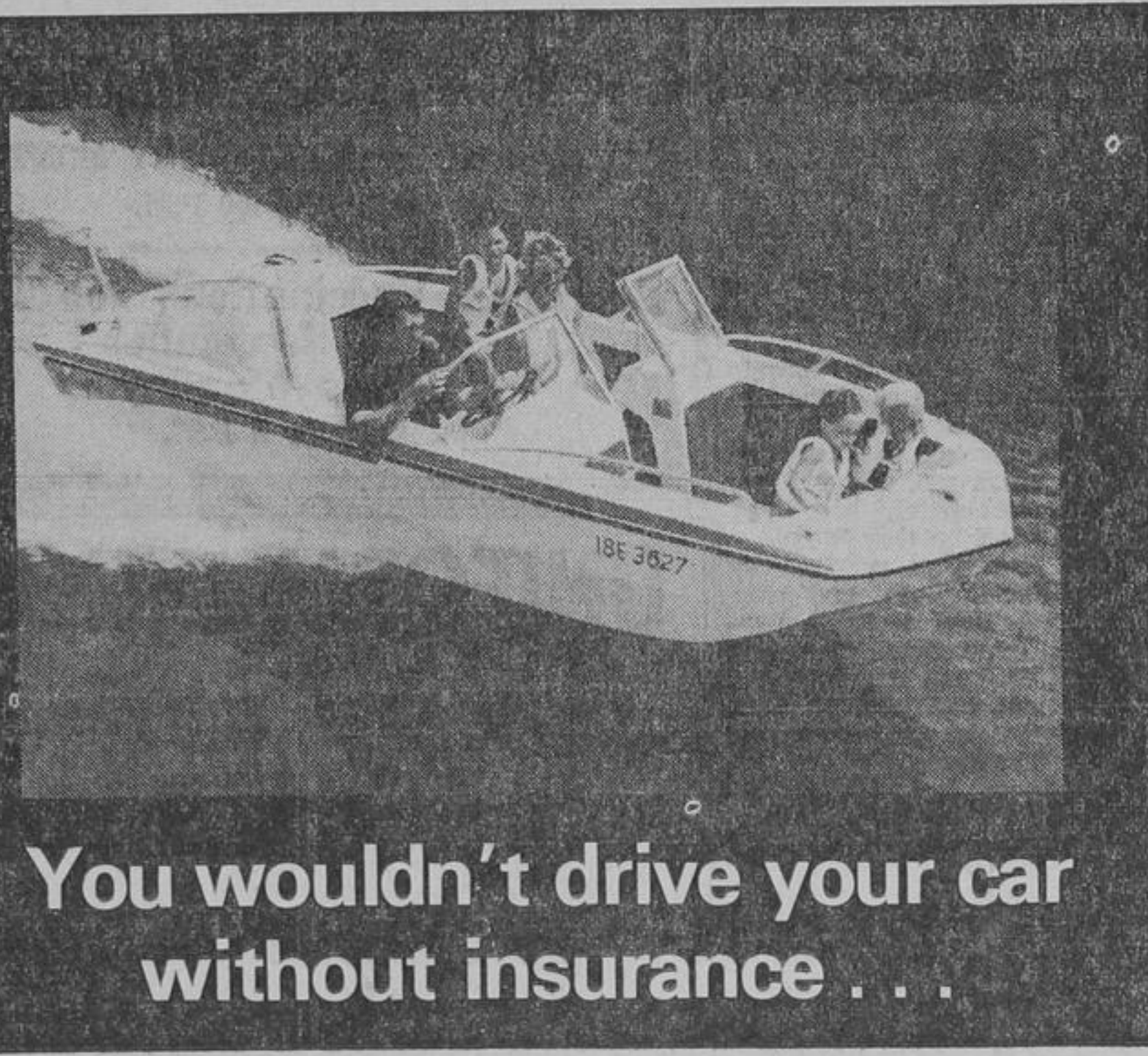
The string group has been fortunate in having had the encouragement and tuition of George Szabo formerly first violinist with the Toronto Symphony Orchestra. He has been taking students in weekly classes since February, and the group's performance was evidence of his help and experience.

It is to be hoped that the school will make this type of program a "regular" in its full year of activities. \*

If you were watching the Toronto news on television on Friday, you will have seen Richmond Hill's Jennifer Morton, and Brian Toogood, formerly of the Hill, leaving by plane for Osaka, where, with over twenty other young dancers, they will be performing at the Canadian Pavilion at Expo '70.

Heading the "expedition" is Alan Lund, who auditioned and chose his dancers last fall, and who has choreographed the numbers which will be performed in Japan.

It will be remembered that Jennifer and Brian were the principal dancers in the musical "Gypsy", presented recently by the Thornhill Theatre of Performing Arts.



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