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**Back from Mexico - Land**  
**Of Sunshine and Colour**



By Ron Cairns

Two thousand miles south of this fair Dominion of ours lies a land of all contrasts. Mexico has thousands of square miles of desert and mountains.

During my recent trip through this ancient land I saw many things that were in direct contrast to our way of living. The only place that made me feel closer to home was Mexico City itself. This city has a population of about 4,000,000. It is situated on top of a level plateau seven thousand, three hundred feet above sea level.

On the way up the mountains one notices a filling sensation in the ears, this being caused by the sudden change in atmospheric pressure. In the surrounding valleys there is excessive tropical growth which adds to the beauty of the country. Banana plantations and coconut groves are very numerous and cover much of the countryside. Other things of nature are the many volcanoes (some of which are still active) and dust storms which send long columns of sand and dust into the air over Mexico City. Due to this dust, visibility around and over the city is very poor.

The climate is ideal, but is sometimes marred by a little of our cold air getting down to them. The temperature in winter is around 65 degrees and in summer ranges between 60 and 65 at night to 80 to 85 in the daytime. The rainy season is from May to October.

Among some of the places I visited that will live in my memory for a long while is the lovely town of Vera Cruz. I was at this famous seaport for four days of the week-long carnival that was in full swing. I do not believe there is anything more colourful in the world than this Mexican Holiday which by the way is said to surpass the world-famous New Orleans Mardi Gras.

The holiday is only noticeable to any great extent in the smaller towns. Vera Cruz was one of the towns that went all out to have a good time. Every few streets there is a district square and around this men and women, boys and girls walk throwing confetti on each other. Some are in costume and by the end of the evening each one has a companion of the opposite sex. This goes on every evening for the duration of the carnival. This is, of course, the quietest side of the carnival. The rest I'll leave to your imaginations.

The beaches of this district make up another good word for the country. One of the best is Mocombo Beach. Beach chairs are set up for the greater comfort of the visitor.

The climate of most of the coastal towns is hot (winter and summer) Mexico City has one of the most irritating traffic problems I have ever seen in my life. If there be a city with traffic any worse, I would not like to be in it, (without life insurance).

One travelling through Mexico must be very careful of the water he drinks. Water in Mexico is very high in mineral content and can make a person very sick as well as risking the danger of typhoid and other diseases. Motels and Hotels as well as most high class restaurants use only purified water, so there is no need to worry or die of thirst. For the cautious one, water that has been treated and purified has been brought in bottles.

The next topic of interest is food. On my way down to Mexico I was told to eat all the Mexican food I wanted before I got to Mexico. At the time I thought this was a joke but, as I found out, it wasn't. As many have found out, Mexican food is very hot, if you do not ask about what you are getting, I have asked many Canadians and Americans what they thought of Mexican food, and the looks of agony on hearing the question were surprisingly numerous. On the menu one

**Local and Personal Happenings**

Mr. Joseph D. Winterstein of Second Street has returned home from York County Hospital where he underwent an operation recently.

Excavation was started this week on the 9th concession, south of Stouffville, for a new home to be erected by Nick Bangay. His residence will be located next to the home of his brother, Bob Bangay.

Mr. and Mrs. Lloyd Turner were entertained to a turkey dinner one evening last week, at the home of their daughter, Mr. and Mrs. Robert Madill, Claremont, it being their 40th wedding anniversary, and Mrs. Turner's birthday. Mr. and Mrs. Grant Turner and family from Markham and a number of friends from Toronto were present.

**Helen Madill Weds James Benson Lawson**  
 On Friday, March 2, 1956, Helen Madill, the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Herman Madill of Shelburne was united in marriage with James Benson Lawson, son of the late Mr. and Mrs. George J. Lawson of Stouffville. The ceremony was conducted by the Rev. R. A. Cranston, in Toronto, at 200 Old Orchard Grove.

The Easter Meeting of the Woman's Missionary Society will be held in the United Church April 5th at 2.30. Mrs. Murdoch, President of Toronto East Presbyterian, is the guest speaker. Neighbouring societies have been invited. Will all interested ladies help to make this Easter Meeting a means of inspiration.

The Easter Monday Conference of the Faith Mission of Canada will be held in Altona Union Church Monday, April 2. Meetings will be held afternoon and evening. Lunch will be provided by the ladies of the church.

Two truckers, Gordon Dale and Arnold Boyd paid \$10 and costs in Newmarket Court for overloading, and Wm. Reaman of R.R. 3, Stouffville paid a like amount for speeding. The charges were laid by Constable Diamond of Stouffville. A number of other cases are pending, including one for careless driving.

**Horticultural Meeting**  
 Arrangements have been completed to have one of the speakers from the recent Convention at the King Edward Hotel in Toronto, attend as Guest Speaker, our meeting here in the United Church basement on Monday, March 26, at 8 o'clock.

Mr. Thomas W. Thompson, B.S.A., Metropolitan Parks Commissioner, will address the meeting on "The Value of Horticulture in Our Day." You are invited to come and hear this interesting speaker.

**Engagements**

Mr. and Mrs. Walter W. Jacob, Stouffville, wish to announce the engagement of their daughter Joyce Lenore to Mr. George Campbell Kerswill, son of Mr. George Kerswill and the late Mrs. Kerswill, Unionville, Ont. The marriage is to take place April 14th at Baker Hill Baptist Church.

Mr. and Mrs. Frank Barclay announce the engagement of their daughter, Beverley Georgina, to Mr. Earle Wilfred Wilson, son of Mrs. Wilson and the late Mr. George Wilson. Wedding will take place at Claremont United Church, Saturday, April 7th at 3 o'clock.

Mr. and Mrs. Evans Benson, Claremont, wish to announce the engagement of their daughter, Mary Lorraine, to Gordon T. Coxworth, son of Mr. A. and the late Mrs. Coxworth of Markham, Ont. Wedding to take place March 29th, 1956.

may see a dish with spelling similar to one of our own meals but my friend do not be taken in by the spelling, always ask about it.

Mexico City's "Floating Gardens" are one of the most fabulous and colourful splendours. They are situated a few miles out from the city. Approaching one of the entrances you see a large archway woven with flowers. There is a row of lovely coloured orchids and roses on each side of the main pathway. There is a small terminal where you may pay a few pesos for a trip by gondola through the very colourful gardens. There are whole islands of roses and tropical flowers, also shrubs that are trimmed into the shapes of animals and humans. There are little bridges over the waterways from which you may stand and look down the long rows of red, green, violet, yellow and white against the sky-blue water, the impression you may get only if you are there, is one of magnificent beauty.

Work was started last week on the erection of a new Fire Station on the south side of the highway between Stouffville and Ringwood.

According to reports, the farm owned by Mr. Steve Koteles, better known as the old Martens property, has been sold to Mr. Ronald Fenson of Milliken. We understand that certain parties are also interested in the Jim Barry farm.

On Good Friday evening, March 30, the choir of Stouffville United Church, under the leadership of Mr. Lorne Boardway, will present the sacred Cantata, "The Crucifixion." Plan to attend this service.

Mrs. W. Rathman and Miss Olive Todd of Kingston were in Stouffville to attend the funeral of the late F. L. Button on Thursday and remained with Miss G. Todd for a few days.

Mr. Lambert Malloy of Stouffville experienced quite a startling mishap last week while enroute to his teaching duties in Toronto. The hood latch on his car released and the pressure of air tore the hood cover completely off and sent it sailing through the air before Mr. Malloy could stop.

We are sorry to report that Mr. Lon Blizzard, 7th concession of Markham, suffered a stroke, on Thursday morning of last week and is presently confined to the Stouffville Hospital. Mr. and Mrs. Blizzard celebrated their Golden Wedding Anniversary only two weeks ago, on Wednesday, March 7th.

Stouffville Municipal Council is meeting in special session this Thursday evening to deal with the forthcoming application to the Municipal Board for permission to proceed with the sewerage system here. The Engineers who have been preparing the extensive plans in connection with the work, will be at this meeting to go over the project with council members.

**Home and School News**

Despite the disagreeable weather of last Wednesday, it was gratifying to see a goodly number of parents present at the Public School "Open House."

In keeping with Education Week, the staff and pupils cooperated in preparing some very interesting displays of the work being done in each of the classrooms. All members of the staff were present, and parents were able to spend a few minutes chatting with the teachers, as well as looking over the rooms at their leisure.

Samples of handwriting, geography maps, art work, and examination of work books afforded parents an opportunity to see how their own child's efforts compared with others in the classroom. Some outstanding group projects brought many favourable comments. Among these was a water-colour mural called "The Crusaders" done by Grade 8 students; also a fine chalk mural depicting early history of Canada by Grade 7 students. The puppets in grade 5 and some exhibits of needlework and woodworking by Grade 8 boys and girls, added much interest.

Among the visitors from out of town, was a former High School principal, Mr. Archie Stouffer and Mrs. Stouffer, parents of Miss Mary Stouffer who teaches Grade 3. It is 27 years since Mr. Stouffer left Stouffville. At that time there were only eight teachers in the Public and Continuation Schools. He is now an inspector in the Minden area, where he resides.

Refreshments were served in the main hall by the Social Committee of the Home & School Association.

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F. Boone of Armadale held No. 866, and Miss H. Harris of Toronto with No. 529, were the lucky winners of the Mary Maxim sweaters given away as lucky program prizes by the Stouffville Skating Club at their annual Carnival on Friday evening.

At the IOOF euchre on Thursday night of last week, there were nineteen tables. The winners were as follows: Ladies—High—Mrs. Art Woods; Second—Mrs. J. Eddington; Low—Mrs. Frank Whetter. Men—High—Mr. Walter Slack; Second—Johnny Elson; Low, John Williams. Another euchre will be held on Thursday night, March 29th.

Recent guests with Mr. and Mrs. A. Bartholomew were Mr. Allan Bartholomew of Newmarket, Mr. and Mrs. Jim Morrison and Donnie of Siloam, Mr. and Mrs. Clarence Bunker of Goodwood, Mr. and Mrs. Bert Boy of Queensville, Mr. Frank and Mr. Carl Bartholomew and Miss Lita Goldrich of Cooksville.

**Garrett Evening Auxiliary**

On March 14th, the Garrett Evening auxiliary of the United Church met in conjunction with the Lenten services conducted by our pastor, The Rev. D. Davis spoke on "The Bible and You" and scripture reading taken from 13th chapter of St. John's gospel. This was the fifth of the Lenten Series. Second half of the evening was chaired by Mrs. Storey and considerable business dealt with. Miss Gladys Brooks gave us two very human and interesting stories taken from the "Home Missions Digest," the first on the work of a port worker and the second on a Prairie missionary. Miss Anne Lehman and Miss Eva Hoover favoured with a delightful piano duet. Program conveners were Miss Emma Winn and Mrs. Williamson.

**Library Reading**

When a man can laugh, not only at what is going on around him, but also at himself once in a while, he is referred to as "having a sense of humour." In no nation is this quality so marked as with the British. This sense of humour is as natural and effortless as breathing. It shines brightest in times of adversity, and cuts across all classes, from the lowly Cockney to the hard-pressed aristocrat.

In these times of reading such trivialities as radioactive fallout, and the business prospects for 1960, it is a welcome relief to turn the pages of "The Best Hundred Years of Punch," a treasury of cartoons from what is unquestionably the most famous weekly in the world.

The Library also has a new copy of "New Yorker" cartoons, as well as a "Treasury of The World's Cartoons." Readers are reminded that Canada's own great humorist, Robertson-Davies, is represented in the local library. His book, "The Diary of Samuel Marchbanks," should be read by all who feel they are in danger of losing their sense of humour. —G.F.

Remember — the 30 mill-tax rate in Stouffville in 1923 raised the total tax levy of \$16,786. Tax levy today is nearing \$100,000.

The sun is getting stronger every day, for which we are all very thankful, but just in case you get too optimistic, we had a big snow storm in this district on March 27th last year.

Apparently another rash of milk bottle pilfering is breaking out. Cash was lifted from bottles on Baker Avenue last week. A number of these petty thefts were carried out from householders in the east end last fall.

We're getting a few complaints concerning stores being short staffed at noon hours at which time a good number of working people find it necessary to drop in for their goods. Whether these are isolated incidents we don't know, but business folks might check their mealtime trade and see if it warrants staggering their staff, leaving more on hand at noon hour to handle the trade.

Stouffville United Church was filled on Thursday afternoon for the funeral of the late F. L. Button. Rev. Douglas Davis assisted by Rev. Chas. Fockler, conducted the services. Rev. Davis centred his eulogy of the deceased around the words of St. Paul, "I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith." Floral tributes banking the front of the church were most beautiful. The pallbearers were Messrs. Telf. Henle, Fred Crossen, Donald Hodgins, Dr. Neil Smith of Stouffville, Mr. Stanley and Mr. Trotter of Toronto, Reeve Elmer Daniels and Mr. Guy Rutledge were flower bearers.

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