Around the World
with *Stan Delaplane*

SAN BLAS, MEXICO—This is a jungle seacoast village off the beaten track to Mexico's West Coast highway 15. Watch for the highway sign a little over a hundred miles south of Mazatlan.

A paved road takes you 23 miles along a jungle river to the town, laced with coco palms and looking like the South Seas. A lot of booming surf. An interesting old ruined town—from days when it was a Spanish seaport.

Three fair hotels. Only bad thing about San Blas are the little biting gnats called jejenes. They raise a welt that lasts an itchy week. Spray with repellent. It MIGHT discourage them. Especially around the ankles, morning and evening.

Might be better to skip the beach hotels and stay up in town. They seem to stay in beach areas. There's a good boat trip on the jungle river. Worth a day's side trip. Mexican highways have gone so modern they bypass the towns.

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"We are really looking for a small art colony in Mexico where we can live comfortably but not expensively . . ."

The art colonies I've seen are at San Miguel de Allende (between Guadalajara and Mexico City just off the highway through Queretaro); at Ajijic, on Lake Chapala near Guadalajara.

I've heard of a new art school at Patzcuaro, and that might be the least expensive. A pretty, shady town near Lake Patzcuaro, off Highway 15 between Guadalajara and Mexico City. Not far from Morelia, one of Mexico's prettiest towns.

Patzcuaro is quite Indian. Colorful market in the plaza. Two fair hotels — I don't know about rentals. It's high, and that makes it cooler in the summer. A little too cool in winter. I just about froze there one winter night in an unheated hotel room.

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"We have no idea how to plan our trip since we're 'babes in the woods' on this."

I think most of the enjoyment of traveling is reading about it before you go. I write the country's tourist bureau. There's great quantities of stuff they send you. And it's free.

Some interesting ones I've run into lately: British Travel, 680 Fifth Avenue, New York City has a beautiful book, "Vacations in Britain 1968." The Hertz car rental people have a great auto trip planner — "Unguided Tour of Europe" — address 660 Madison Ave., New York City.

Another worth sending for. Three weeks in Africa, $1160 from the West Coast, $869 from New York. This from Qantas. 350 Post St., San Francisco is the head office. Ask for "Royal Road Tour of Africa."

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"We have been interested in flying to American Samoa . . ."

Sorry to say I found American Samoa the least attractive island in the South Pacific. Old tires tossed into lagoons. Rusting tin roofs on thatched house — and Samoans build the loveliest house in the Pacific.

But — just across the channel is Western Samoa. Just like you think the South Pacific should be. The villages are well kept. The lagoons are clean. Apia used to be called "The Hellhole of the South Pacific." But today it's a charming Pacific town on a great curve of sea walk. There is a plane every day from American Samoa.

The islands to see now before the Hiltons move in are Western Samoa, the Tonga islands, the outer Fijis, Bora Bora, and the Tuamotu atolls. All have service by small airlines.

No night life and not much to do but look at blue sea and white surf on the reef. But it certainly unwinds you. It killed me to put on shoes again.

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"A good Mexican restaurant in Mexico City please?"

Bellinghausen, a block from the Geneve hotel, serves all the good food we used to get at Prendes. (Prendes bought it.) An attractive garden where you can eat. Refugio is popular at night. Done in a touristy Mexican decor. But the food is good—and a little on the pricey side.

GOLD AWARD . . . L. E. Jenkins (right), district manager for Southern California Edison Co., presents a "Gold Award for Scholastic Achievement" to Steven J. Dzida, a senior at Serra High School. Dzida, 17, has been named winner of a $4,000 college scholarship offered by the utility.

Serra High Senior Wins Edison Award

Steven J. Dzida, a 17-year-old senior at Junipero Serra High School in Gardena, has been named winner of a $4,000 college scholarship offered by Southern California Edison Co., according to C. R. Simpson Jr., Edison division manager.

Dzida, son of Mr. and Mrs. Joseph S Dzida of 1203 W. 162nd St., was awarded the four-year scholarship following a personal interview before a final judging panel in Los Angeles.

He plans to attend Loyola University, one of 25 private colleges and universities participating in the Edison scholarship program.

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THE ELECTRIC company's scholarship provides $1,000 per year toward the winner's tuition and expenses. A collateral grant of $750 per year for the four academic years is also awarded to the college attended by each winner.

Simpson noted that more than 1,000 outstanding southern and central California high school seniors competed for the six Edison scholarships this year.

One scholarship winner was selected in each of the company's six geographic divisions from among the three finalists in each area.

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ALL THE finalists, who earlier had won a "Gold Award for Scholastic Achievement," also receive a share of Edison common stock, he said.

Serving on the final judging panel this year were Miss Christy Fox, society columnist for the Los Angeles Times; Dr. Norman W. Firestone, director of Reading and Speech Clinics at Occidental College; John Newman, agriculturist and member of Edison's board of directors; Tom Self, Los Angeles bureau chief of Business Week Magazine; and Robert Sweany, executive vice president of the Los Angeles Chamber of Commerce.

Plans Approved for New Storm Drain in Lomita

Increased drainage protection for sections of Lomita was seen today with approval of plans and specifications by county supervisors for a major project.

Supervisor Burton W. Chace said the facility will cost an estimated $127,000.

Bids are being sought and will be opened May 17 in the offices of the County Flood Control District. Award of the contract by the supervisors is due 10 days later.

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CHACE SAID the project calls for installation of nearly a half-mile of reinforced concrete pipe varying in diameter from 33 to 45 inches.

Routing of the drain begins in 254th Street west of Western Avenue and runs in 254th to Walnut Street, then to Ebony Lane, and in Ebony Lane to Lomita Boulevard.

Specifications will require the contractor to erect a temporary five-foot high chain link fence around the trench when work moves past Alexander Fleming Junior High School at 254th Street and Walnut Avenue, Chace said.

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PLANS WERE prepared under the direction of County Engineer John A. Lambie. Construction, operation and maintenance will be handled by the Flood Control District.

Funds to build the key drain have been provided from savings on regular projects included in the 1958 storm drain bond issue program.

Work will get under way within three weeks after the contract award and take about six months to complete, Chace said.

Boys on Bicycles Dodge Car

A car occupied by three or four teenage boys attempted to run down two bicyclists on 238th Street near Walnut Avenue Thursday afternoon, police said.

Darting off the roadway to avoid being hit were Michael Peaslee, 10, of 1809 W. 245th St., and Daniel Sandoval, 9, of 1826 W. 238th St. Witnesses said Michael's bike overturned as he dodged the car.

Police are looking for a white or light blue vehicle with the license INS 810. A check revealed that the car is not registered.

After the car took one pass at the boys, it circled around and tried to run them down again, witnesses told police.

Ballet Class

A children's class in ballet and modern dance is currently forming at the Lomita Recreation Center. Classes will be held Tuesday and Saturday afternoons. Youngsters between the ages of 5 and 13 may enroll for either one or two lessons per week. Fee is $4 for each eight-week course.

Recreational Facilities Will Be Scrutinized

Torrance residents will be given the opportunity to voice their opinions on the development of future facilities and programs in the North Torrance area, Wednesday at 7:30 p.m. ni the Magruder School cafetorium, 4100 185th St.

This meeting, conducted by the City of Torrance Park and Recreation Commission, is being held to assess the recreational needs of North Torrance.

This is the second commission meeting held in various areas in the community. The first meeting was held in the West Torrance area.

A need for more swimming pools, sports facilities, community recreation buildings, and a large recreation park complex was brought to the attention of the commission.

Parents may attend and bring the family. Recreational activities will be conducted for children during the meeting.

Assemblyman Calls for 'War on Crime' in Area

Assemblyman L. E. Townsend (D-Torrance) today called on his constituents in the 67th District to join him in an all-out war on the prevention of crime, and particularly juvenile delinquency.

Results of a survey taken by his office show that crime is the most critical issue facing the people of Los Angeles County today, Townsend said. It ranks well in front of such other important issues as taxes, welfare, and air pollution in the concern of the people.

"Although combatting crime in the frontlines is still the main function of the police," Townsend said, " it is the citizen's job to give law enforcement officers all the help possible."

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HE POINTED out crime prevention must start with the public—with the understanding that the public attitude toward crime has a dynamically positive effect upon the commission or non-commission of crime.

Townsend also said there is great urgency in fighting juvenile delinquency, referring to a report by the California Youth Authority predicting a 60 per cent increase in crime in California in the next decade because of the growing numbers of youth.

The Assemblyman said the young have too much, too soon, and get it too quickly, that too many are being smothered in the wrong kind of "love" — indulgence.

"The policeman is helpless," Townsend concluded, "without the parent with guts enough to erercise a little discipline at the fireside. And before the youngster knows what has happened to him—he is a number."

Two Appointed

Preston N. Silbaugh, president of Beverly Hills Federal Savings and Loan Association, has been named to the International Development Committee of the U. S. Savings and Loan League.

Kenneth F. Spencer, executive vice president of Beverly Hills Savings, was named to the league's Committee on Supervision, Examination, and Audit.

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