

Around the World with Stan Delaplane

LARGE DISTANCIA, MEXICO — For a month over the holidays, you couldn't get to Mexico for love, money, or enchiladas. Airlines were booked solid. (One company was over-sold 20 per cent.) Hotels loaded. Our Mexican friends began to avoid us on phone calls: "He has gone to the country for the weekend, Senor."

Finally I got to a hotel man in Acapulco. "It may ease up by the fifteenth," he said. "You might get into Zihautanejo." This little coco palm beach town is 150 miles north of Acapulco — 125 paved. The last 25 is the reason it is not another Puerto Vallarta. "Not much better than riding in a creek bed," reports a friend of mine who blew a tire within the first five miles.

But — it's got three fairish hotels. A beautiful blue bay. Great skin diving and game fishing. And few tourists. They buton up the town and turn off the electricity at midnight.

We were looking for a place to build a house. And there's plenty of seaview land. One piece on a point over the bay for \$400.

Of course, there's a catch. Foreigners can't own land in Mexico within sight of seacoast or border. But there are leasing arrangements a Mexican lawyer can work out for you. An airline runs in, usually overbooked.

Get away from it all. And when the Hiltons begin building in the next five or ten years, you're a millionaire.

"Is it possible now to drive to Puerto Vallarta?"

Friends of mine wrote last week: "There is still about 10 miles of fairly bad road between Guadalajara and Puerto Vallarta. They are still dynamiting. That means you might get through on a lucky day. Or if you're unlucky, you arrive just after the powder has gone off."

It's impossible to be sure. Ten miles from where they're working, the people don't know how the road is up ahead. Mexican road crews have a fearful disregard about dynamite and black powder. I got held up in a car alongside a man who was tamping black powder in a hole — with a hand-rolled, lighted

cigarette drooping from his lip! On one of these new road jobs between Taxco and Taxateopan. For 100 pesos (\$8 U.S.) the road crew brought in a caterpillar and BUILT me a block of temporary connecting roads so I could get through.

"I don't seem to recall seeing the jicamas you mentioned in Mexico . . ."

At nearly every street stand when it's in season. It's a crunchy, juicy root vegetable. Chinese often use it as a substitute for water chestnut. Looks like an oversized new potato.

Now here's one place where I don't buy them ready cut off the stand. I buy a whole one and slice it — you should always carry a Boy Scout-type knife in Mexico. Slice it. Squeeze lime juice on it. And salt and chili powder if you can. It's good and refreshing. (Pronounce it HEE-kah-mahs.)

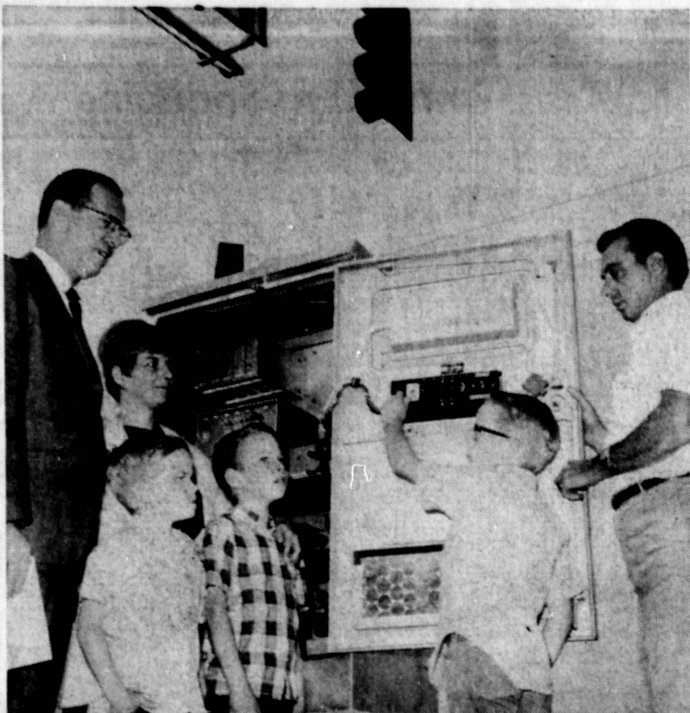
Try some ceviche while you're in the Acapulco area. This is sliced red snapper raw. But don't let that throw you. They soak it in lime juice which "cooks" it. It's served as a cocktail with tomato, onion, hot sauce.

And you may be offered turtle eggs. Size, shape and appearance of a ping-pong ball. They break this in a glass and dash it with so much hot sauce and lime juice you don't know what you're eating. (But as all Mexico will tell you, turtle eggs are aphrodisiac. Of course, of course.)

Woman, 72, Slits Throat With Knife

A 72-year-old Torrance woman attempted suicide Saturday night by slitting her throat with a 12-inch butcher knife. Doctors at Little Company of Mary Hospital reported her in fair condition, noting that she refused treatment.

The victim told police she tried to kill herself because "no body cared about her."



ACTIVATE SIGNAL . . . Mrs. Ronald White, president of the Van Deane Elementary School PTA, and her three sons join Supervisor Kenneth Hahn to officially turn on a recently installed traffic signal at Torrance Boulevard and Catalina Street. Hahn asked for the signal to protect children attending Van Deane School while crossing a newly improved section of Torrance Boulevard. At right is Robert W. Biendly of the County Road Department. The boys are (from left) Shannon, 8; Ian, 9; and Dennis, 11.

Earnings, Purchasing Course Resources To Begin Wednesday Increase

Courses related to the field of purchasing management are offered by UCLA Extension in the winter quarter beginning next week on Wednesday evenings, 6:30 to 9:30 p.m., at North High School.

"Fundamentals of Purchasing and Materials Management," focusing on procurement and materials management principles, methods and procedures in industry, government and institutions, will be conducted by Donn R. Parsch, purchasing manager, North American Rockwell Corporation.

The use of operations research techniques in forecasting the purchasing requirements for material and operation costs will be explored in "Mathematics of Purchasing." Instructing the course is Kenneth J. Kearns, purchasing supervisor, Rocketdyne Division, North American Rockwell Corp.

Harbor JC Slates Japanese Classic

"Rashomon," a traditional Japanese play which will be the next production of the Harbor College Theater Arts Department, makes the audience do some of the work. Like "The Lady or the Tiger" it has an unusual ending.

The play will be presented Jan. 15 through Jan. 18 in the College's Starboard Theater at 8:30 p.m.

"Rashomon" deals with an encounter between a bandit and a husband and wife. What transpires in the meeting is later retold by three different people. Each person has a different version of the event.

Although the stories are basically the same, each varies enough to make the viewer wonder about who is telling the truth. This the viewer will have to decide for himself.

Unique in this production will be the use of film. The actors in this play have been spending their weekends at Malibu Canyon filming each version of what transpired at the meeting of the three people. While the actors tell what they believe is the truth, film will be shown to reinforce their stories. The film also provides the play with sets impossible to reproduce on the small stage.

The bandit is portrayed by Steve Woodard, the wife by Louise Breakstone and the husband by Phil Beck. These three students are relatively new to the Harbor stage.

Chuck Cumiskey, who starred in "Barefoot in the Park," is playing the part of the wig-

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IN MEMORIAM
Survivors of servicemen whose remains were lost at sea after May 27, 1941, may receive a memorial flag by applying to the Veterans Administration.

Marina Radio Club to Meet
The Marina Amateur Radio Club will meet Thursday at 7:30 p.m. in the El Nido Park clubhouse, 182nd Street and Kingsdale Avenue.

All persons interested in radio communications as a hobby are invited to attend the session.

BENEFITS AT 65

War veterans who are 65 or over are presumed to be totally and permanently disabled for purposes of eligibility for VA pension.

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