

# Mexican People, Culture Offer Refreshing Contrast

Mexico has just been discovered by your columnist and my enthusiasm might confuse the public as to the initial discoverer being Cortez.

This country is about one-quarter the size of the United States. Reflexive of the Mexican in a servile state and you can see the Spanish and French influence today in the appearance of the physical stature of the people as well as their artistic expression. There are 20 states, two territories and a federal district which is Mexico City. The peso is the unit of money, about the size of our dollar coin and is worth 8 cents.

**THIS TRIP** was planned to avoid tears but to get to know the people, their culture and the beauty of the country. The great aids I found in this regard were two guides: John Wilhelm's "Guide to Mexico City" and Andrew Hepburn's "Complete Guide to Mrs. Burlingame Mexico."

Mexico is different than traveling in Europe. It is often difficult to find somebody who understands English, so be sure and have a small pocket Spanish dictionary for your purse if you aspire to travel south of the border. Before you have home become steeped in a knowledge of Mexico. Go with an idea of acceptance and not comparison with our way of living. Go to Mexico with the attitude of an explorer and you will return rich with experience. Their art and craft work is fabulous. Their buildings have details our current architects are reaching for constantly. Believe me, if I had a large architectural firm I would consider a designer from Mexico an important attribute to the work team.

**OF COURSE**, while there you spend money as though it is going out of style because the delightful use of color and design result in beautiful craft products. Silver pieces have beautiful detail. Whether you are in Mexico City or in the interior you see a great deal of poverty through lack of opportunity and education. The men-

**AIR JOURNEY Highlighted in Travel Series**  
The Community House, Bates and Townsend in Birmingham, is off to the familiar flying start, as its Travel Film Series begins the 1964 season at 8 p.m. Friday and Saturday.

Robert Auburn, who has himself logged over a million air miles, will take his audience with him as he travels in his single-engine plane to film "Flying over the Caribbean."  
The color film covers a journey of 5,000 air miles and 4,500 surface miles and 4,500 surface miles where Auburn uses a motor scooter to film an in-depth report on the islands.

**THE WATERS of the Bahamas**; settlements on Great Abaco; Free Ports of Nassau and St. Thomas where visitors may buy luxury items from all parts of the world at low prices; San Juan, with its architectural contrasts of Old Spanish versus towering skyscrapers; the mountainous terrain of the West Indies; and the Dutch influence on the island of Curacao, with orange-tiled rooftops, are only some of the pictorial highlights of the films.

The trip is completed by sailing the blue waters that are so crystal clear that one can observe sea-life 50 feet below the surface without getting his feet wet.  
Robert Auburn goes one step further by diving in a two-man submarine to film the reefs and surrounding world beneath the waves that lie off the coast of Eluethra.

**THE COMMUNITY HOUSE** has planned a prefilm dinner menu: "Trinidad Chicken Pelau" is only one of the entrees, and the Caribbean journey includes the island favorite, "Avacado with Haitian Dressing," or a rum-almond dessert.  
Dinner reservations are requested by noon today. Dinner is served beginning at 6 p.m. each evening of the film showing.  
No reservations are necessary for the movies, but for those wishing to assure themselves a seat, tickets are now on sale at The Community House.

dark cotton dresses, 1 knit suit, 2 sweaters, no shorts or slacks, 3 cocktail-type dresses, many pairs of string or cotton gloves, low walking shoes, Terryloth robe which could be used as a bathrobe or beach robe and a handbag with a good closure (buy an extra large one for use to hold Mexican money).

You will welcome a jacket or fur piece to use in the evening.

**OTHER ADDITIONS** which will make your trip more pleasant are a roll of Scotch tape (you will use it many, many times), set of plastic bags with a draw string (to store the book, diary, guide books, maps, small packages of nose tissue, envelopes of lemonade mix (you get so hungry for its tartness), water-purifying pills purchased from your drugstore (you place one pill in a small bottle with water and dispense drops of it in all of your fruit juices and beverages), wash cloth and soap, and a lot more film than you anticipate using.

Please pardon me for using the entire column for a report from Mexico but you see I consider you "family" and I know that you would want to share some of this report as a roving reporter and then to

Elie Abel, foreign affairs commentator for the National Broadcasting System, will address Birmingham Town Hall on "Strategy for Peace" at 11 a.m. Nov. 12 and 13 in the Birmingham Theatre.

As a reporter for 10 years on the New York Times, he covered the 1955 summit conference in Geneva and the following year headed that paper's coverage of the Hungarian uprising.

He also covered Premier Khrushchev's press conference where the Soviet leader criticized the United States over the U-2 incident.

Abel was born 44 years ago in Montreal, Canada. He was graduated from McGill University in 1941 and from Columbia University School of Journalism in 1942. During the war, he served with a radar unit in the Royal Canadian Air Force. When the war ended, he became United Nations correspondent for the Overseas News Agency. In 1947, Abel joined the New York Times and began a series of assignments that took him to Berlin and most of Eastern Europe as a roving reporter and then to

India, Pakistan, Nepal and Ceylon. He left the Times in 1959 to become chief of the Washington bureau of the Detroit News. That same year, he covered Premier Khrushchev's tour of the United States. He came to NBC News Nov. 1, 1961.



ABEL



## Card Benefits Children

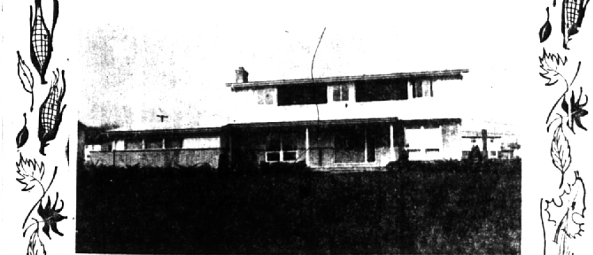
This is the 1964 design for the Christmas card sold by Friends and Relatives of Retarded Children of Oakland County. Proceeds help support training centers in Birmingham and Ferndale, for mentally retarded children for whom public educational facilities are not available. Cards can be purchased through the Ferndale center.

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