

LIGHTEST MEXICO 2

by John Abney

Other division leaders were Rafael Ramirez, Mateo Coiti, Francisco Manuel Hidalgo, Martin Almeida, Nicolas Basilio and Colonel Epitacio Sanchez.

Mexico City—After 10 years of fighting for freedom, Mexico began its independent life as a sovereign nation on September 27, 1821.

On this memorable date, Agustin de Iturbide y Aramburu, Commander in Chief of the Army of the Three Guarantees, made his victorious entry in Mexico city. It was the closing of a chapter in Mexico's history that brought an end to 300 years of Spanish domination. (Mexico City, or the Grand Mexico Tenochtitlan, fell to the Spaniards on August 13, 1521.) know how to be free and you must point the road to happiness."

The capital was lavishly decorated and triumphal arches were raised (by the people to welcome the Independence Army. The town turned out en masse to witness the parade. group as far as race is concerned. Carlos

This army was made up of 7,616 infantry men, 7,755 cavalry troops and 763 artillery men with 68 pieces. Lope Diez de Armendariz was Ecuadorian,

and Agustin de Iturbide and his military escort rode at the head of the parade on nervous steeds. When they reached the corner of the San

Francisco Monastery, the city council presented Iturbide with the key to the city. noblemen. Two were raised to the chairmanship of the

The march continued on to the Palace where Iturbide dismounted and together with viceroy Juan O'Donoju went to the central balcony to watch the rest of the parade. New Spain, two were ousted by coups d'etat

and General Vicente Guerrero, who had accepted Iturbide as a leader in benefit of the country and the cause, led the first division. José Antonio Echeverria of Viscaine led the second division while Pedro Alqueira led the third division.

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Other division leaders were Rafael Ramiro, Mateo Coiti, Francisco Manuel Hidalgo, Martin Almeida, Nicolas Basilio and Colonel Epitacio Sanchez.

Iturbide, O'Donoju and a large group left the central balcony after the parade and went to the Metropolitan Cathedral to hear a solemn Te Deum. This final ceremony was closed with a speech by Dr. Guridi y Alcocer who had been deputy in the courts of Cadiz.

That evening, Iturbide issued a proclamation saying among other things:

"I have already run the immense space between slavery and liberty. Now you know how to be free and you must point the road to happiness."

By then, New Spain had 63 viceregal terms covered by 61 viceroys. (Two viceroys served twice each.)

The viceroys were a motley group as far as race is concerned. Carlos Francisco de Croix was Flemish; the Marquis of Branciforte was Sicilian; Juan de Acuna Manrique was Peruvian; Lope Diez de Armendariz was Ecuadorean, and Juan Vicente de Guemes Pacheco de Padilla y Orcasitas, one of the most distinguished viceroy and Count of Revillagrigedo, was Cuban.

All others were Spanish and six of them were Bishops and archbishops. Thirty four were noblemen. Two were raised to the chairmanship of the council of Indies in reward for their work while six were transferred to Peru where they got better pay.

Of the 61 viceroys of New Spain, two were ousted by coups d'etat and 12 died in Mexico City.

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Mexico City—On September 21, 1551, Emperor Charles V issued a royal decree in Toro, Spain, founding the Royal and Pontifical University of Mexico City with the same privileges enjoyed by the University of Salamanca.

This past September marked the 415th anniversary of the National University, as it is now known.

Don Antonio de Mendoza, first viceroy of New Spain and Bishop Juan de Zumarraga were the first to take steps for the creation of the university.

Their task was praiseworthy since few people here could make the trip to Spain to attend college.

Mexican youth already had begun yearning for education and professional training. Viceroy de Mendoza asked the Spanish Court to establish a university in Mexico "where all science can be taught and where the natives and the sons of Spaniards can be trained in the affairs of the Holy Catholic Faith and other matters," according to historian Joaquin Garcia Icazbalceta.

The viceroy's sincerity was so evident that he put up a farm he owned for the work while Charles V endowed the university with 1,000 gold pesos a year. Charles V should be around to see the cost of education these days.

The Royal and Pontifical University of Mexico City was not opened until January 25, 1553, during the administration of second viceroy Luis de Velasco.

The Latin invocation at the opening ceremony of the new institution was delivered by Francisco Cervantes de Salazar and Antonio Rodriguez de Quezada became the first rector by appointment of the viceroy and courts.

The university was first housed in the building situated at Seminario and Moneda Streets and owned by Catalina Montejo and Juan Martinez Guerrero. (This building still stands.)

Because of growing enrollment, the university was moved to a building at the intersection of Moneda and Indio Triste (today Correo Mayor Street), owned by the Casa del Mayorazgo de Guerrero.

The school was moved again to a building across from El Volador market and the street where it stood is still called Calle de la Universidad.

Pope Clement VII confirmed its pontifical title in 1597.

The first faculty members were Fra Pedro de la Peña, Fra Alonso de la Veracruz, Dr. Pedro Morones, Dr. Bartolome Melgarejo, Bartolome de Frias de Albornoz, the Rev. Juan Garcia, Francisco Cervantes de Salazar, Dr. Elias de Bustamente and Diego Martinez.

Its first degree in medicine was obtained by Dr. Pedro Lopez who became an eminent physician.

Fra Alonso de la Veracruz, who also was founder of the College of San Pedro and San Pablo, is considered the promoter of college education.

It is believed that during the colonial era the university awarded 29,982 BA's and 1,162 MA's and doctorates. Receivers of these degrees included men who became famous in the courts of Mexico City, Guadalajara, Guatemala, Manila and Santo Domingo.

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Aguascalientes, Mexico—On October 22, 1575, Philip II of Spain issued a royal decree giving permission for Juan de Montero, Jeronimo de la Cueva, Alonso de Alarcon and other persons to settle a site previously selected by them and which had warm water.

They founded the city under the name of Señora de la Asuncion de Aguas Calientes.

This was the birth of the beautiful city of Aguascalientes which today is the capital of the central state of Aguascalientes.

The region where this city was established was inhabited by Chichimecas (barbarian Indians), probably of the Guachichiles, Guamares, Pames, Otomies and other races.

When the city of Mexico Tenochtitlan fell in 1521, Hernan Cortes and his principal lieutenants launched the conquest of the whole Mexican territory and began expeditions through various parts of the country.

Elcodthirsty Nuño dominated the Xalisca Indians and abandoned the Tarascan territory. He ordered one of his equally cruel captains, Pedro Almindez Chirinos to explore the north of the area which today is called "Altos de Jalisco."

Chirinos reached the region of Zacatecas and then returned to join his chief.

He reported to him that he had found resistance and Nuño Beltran de Guzman set out with his scorched-earth policy and leveled whole villages.

He killed all the Indians he could find in the region. The Indians recorded his passing in hieroglyphics as the passing of a snake.

Having wiped out almost all the Indians in the region from Los Altos to Aguascalientes, the Spaniards set out to settle it with their own nationals.

It might be said that Aguascalientes is one of the few cities in Mexico that was truly colonized by Spaniards.

The few Indians who survived fled to neighboring mountains. Therefore, the inhabitants of ranchos and villages in this area show a marked European quality and are white and bearded.

The village of Aguas Calientes prospered little during its first years. The Spaniards did not have Indian labor and the few under-nourished Indians who agreed to work for the Spaniards died off during the epidemic of what they called "matlazhuatl" (smallpox).

The hard work of the Spaniards and their offspring gradually showed results in the land that provided them with good agriculture, good soil and irrigation.

Nurseries and fruit cultures gave excellent results, livestock reproduced and soon temples and buildings rose, solidly constructed and beautifully executed.

Time passed and the courts of Nueva Galicia, which had jurisdiction over the village granted it recognition under the original name of Nuestra Señora de Aguascalientes.

Other families, seeing the new village progress, soon moved in with authorization of Mayor Juan de Montoro who granted them land west of the village.

This is how the town of San Marcos originated. The town today is a part of the city and has become famous for its annual folkloric fair on April 25th. It is known as the "Fair of San Marcos Aguascalientes."

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Mexico City—Today we have some letters from Arizona readers and one of them wants to know about San Miguel Allende. In particular, he is interested in knowing whether to catch a plane from the border to Mexico City or Guadalajara and bus it over to San Miguel.

I would suggest flying to Mexico City. It is closer to San Miguel by highway. When you get here, catch the ADO bus. There are several buses each day to San Miguel and other nearby spots so you can pick your time to leave. As to hotels in Mexico City for an overnight stop you have dozens. The Francis on Reforma Avenue is a short taxi ride to the bus station and it is nice but not expensive.

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WHAT IS THE PROCEDURE FOR LEAVING OUR TRAILER IN MEXICO WHEN WE CONTINUE DRIVING DOWN TO CENTRAL AMERICA?

You have to take it to the Customs Office at the airport and leave it impounded until you return. They won't let you leave it parked in a trailer court because anyone who wanted to could sell a trailer, tell border officials it was parked somewhere and then leave the country. They must have a guarantee that you will return for the trailer.

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WHAT ARE CHANCES OF TEACHING HIGH SCHOOL OR JUNIOR COLLEGE IN MEXICO?

Pretty slim unless you speak Spanish fluently and understand their system of education. However, you might find an opening of some sort at the American High School or the University of The Americas, both located in Mexico City. To contact the high school write to the American School Foundation, Calle 136 No. 135, Mexico City. The University of the

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Americas can be addressed to same, Carretera a Toluca, Mexico City.

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IS THERE A TRAIN FROM ONE OF THE TEXAS BORDER TOWNS TO MEXICO CITY?

Yes ma'am. The old Aztec Eagle leaves Nuevo Laredo (just across the river from Laredo) every afternoon and the ride is plush and spectacular. You also can catch a train from Ciudad Juarez across from El Paso and see plenty of nice country side on that run.

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IS THERE AN EXCHANGE PROGRAM BETWEEN MEXICO AND THE U.S. FOR PHYSICIANS?

I'm not sure but would suggest you write the American Chamber of Commerce, Lucerna 78, Mexico City. Believe they are up to date on all exchange programs.

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ARE PHYSICIANS ALLOWED TO PRACTISE IN MEXICO WITH ONLY A U.S. LICENSE?

Don't think so. I believe you have to pass a series of tests here and get a Mexican license.

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WHERE COULD I FIND OUT ABOUT BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES OR INVESTMENTS IN MEXICO?

A good way is to come down and take a look at the situation. If you can't, you might drop a line to the American Chamber of Commerce, Lucerna 78, Mexico City.

(Questions on Mexico? Write John Abney, Calle San Francisco 1730, Mexico 12, D.F.)