



# EL CONQUISTADOR

DE MEXICO CITY COLLEGE



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MEXICO, D. F.

Tuesday, January 20, 1948

## Mexican History Is Outlined For Gringos

Are you new to Mexico? If so, and you need orientation, forget about reading all those guidebooks and history books. Last Winter Quarter Paul R. Edmondson, former MCC student, and history professor extraordinary (without portfolio) wrote a thumbnail sketch of Mexican History which was published by WEEK END magazine. We reprint the article by request.—Ed.)

I know how you people must feel when the conversation drifts around to the Mayas, Toltecs, Mixtecas, Aztecs, Cervezas, and the Texacos. You feel pretty much left out of things, don't you?

Well, I once suffered the same feeling of frustration and social inadequacy that you are suffering now, and I believe that I can be of some help to you. While I do not claim to be the final authority on Mexican history and pre-history, I have accumulated an amazing amount of knowledge of what is essential in order to maintain a toehold in any discussion of the subject.

But first a word of warning: don't try to bluff or pretend to know more than you really do. Remember this: a knowledge that Cortes is the Henry Wallace of Mexican history is not sufficient basis for you to pose as an authority on the subject.

Probably the most important historical personage is Moctezuma. As his name will come up quite frequently, it might be well for you to memorize a few important facts about his life.

Moctezuma was born of poor but honest parents near the site of the brewery which today bears his name. He was a healthy child, but subject to fits of melancholy and sunburn. Legend has it that he could, at the age of seven, recite long passages from Virgil, Homer, and Cap'n Billy's Whiz Bang. His mother, whose face is known to us today only through a faded daguerrotype, overlooked by the revolutionists of '29 in their pillage of Moctezuma's village, was ap-

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## Mrs. Heltzell Heads New Art Building

Mrs. Josefina Ybarra Heltzell has been added to the administrative staff of Mexico City College and will be in charge of the new quarters located in the Banco Nacional building at Insurgentes and Coahuila.

Mrs. Heltzell, a Mexican citizen, is married to James T. Heltzell, a veteran and student at the college. She has had business college training and wide experience in office work in the United States. Her office will be located to the right of the head of the stairs and just to one side of the converging formed by the construction of classrooms in the new building.

SAME OLD MAN  
SAME OLD JAIL  
SAME OD BUNCO

(We clipped the following story from the LOS ANGELES EXAMINER.—Ed.)

Lo, after these many years, the Old Spanish Prisoners is in the clink again.

This time, instead of Spain, he's in Mexico City. And his beautiful 16-year old daughter, after a decade or two, is now 18.

And all it takes to get him out is to hasten to Mexico City with \$8300 to pay his fine and collect a reward of \$333,333 plus expenses. (Continued on Page 4)

## Student Profile-----Tony Vlahakis

By JEAN CUIVRER

The ministry's loss was the art world's gain when Anthony Vlahakis abandoned a projected career in the Greek Orthodox priesthood to study painting.

"Tony" still claims a lively interest in things theological however, and only last month astounded a local Benedictine monk by his knowledge of church history.

Descended on both sides from a long line of Cretan warriors, he is justifiably proud of his ancestors. His family surname Vlahakis means "mountain" and was given to his grandfather, a General in the Greek Army who stopped the Bulgarians at Vaurilika in the mountains of Macedonia during the Balkan wars.

The isle of Crete where Tony's

parents were born in famous for its fighting men and also for its women warriors. Unlike the mainland Greeks, the Cretan soldiers do not wear skirts, which Tony points out was a Turkish importation.

Tony has a passion for anonymity and unlike some artists, neither desires nor seeks publicity. His paintings have drawn high praise from art critic Justino Fernandez, and from Merle Wachter and Fernando Belain, art instructors of the MCC faculty.

Tony's favorite medium is oils, and he specializes in realistic paintings of everyday life. His "Calle Organo" captures the authentic flavor of a sordid street scene, while his "Sun Bather" has been hailed as a masterpiece both

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## Miss Carroll Replaces Mrs. Vaughn As Dean Of Women

Mr. Gwenyth Vaughn, who has held the position of Dean of Women at Mexico City College since July, 1946 has resigned in order to dedicate herself to the development of a private school here in the capital with which she is connected. She will also give part of her time to work in the department of music at the American School Foundation. Before coming to MCC, Mrs. Vaughn had been Dean of Women's College. At the time of appointment there she was the youngest dean of women in the United States.

Appointed to succeed Mrs. Vaughn is Miss Eleanor Carroll, who came to the college at the start of last fall quarter. Miss Carroll was formerly connected with Manhattanville College, New York City, and served with a Red Cross unit in the South Seas during the war. She will continue to teach her courses in Sociology while carrying on the duties of Dean of Women. An office for Miss Carroll and a small rest room for women students have been opened on the third floor next to the library.

## The WQIM Group Arrives at MCC

Twenty-five students, most of them from Ohio State University, arrived in Mexico City on Saturday evening, January 3, after a six-day bus ride that had them somewhat groggy but still quite pleased with all that they had seen on the way down.

A welcoming committee composed of Deans Murray and Carroll and Mrs. Mancebo and Mr. Camargo was on hand to greet the students and see that they were put into taxis and sent to the boarding houses to which they had been assigned before leaving the United States. It had been planned to have Mr. Maurice Maclane, president of the Student Senate, present also but the early arrival of the students' bus (6 p.m. instead of 8.45 p.m.) upset this part of the program.

Mr. Maclane will have an opportunity to address the OSU group in the near future as it is planned to have all new students attend a general assembly before the first week of classes is over.

## Advice To Students These Old Excuses Are Not Valid

As a service to new students we list some of the excuses that have been used in past quarters.

Just remember that if you are planning an absence don't use these old dog eared ones. Think up something new. Our deans can appreciate versatility.

Perhaps one of the best excuses (Continued on Page 4)

## MCC Background For New Students

We are assuming that most of the old hands at MCC are up to date on the college history and they can skip this article. It is written entirely for the benefit of those foreigners who are invading our campus for the Winter Quarter.

## Let's Go Out And Eat Worms

Everyone's heard the expression, "I'm going out and eat worms." In Mexico you can do just that.

The Maguey, better known as Century Plant, is cultivated on great plantations. After a plant is about 8 years old the heart is cut out and a bleeding process starts. The sap is removed, usually in pigskins turned hair side in, and fermented. This is pulque. Upon being distilled it becomes one of two very potent drinks, mezcal or tequila.

Making its home in the maguey is a gusano (worm, to you fore-

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## Important Changes Made In Schedule of Classes

Prof. Wigberto Jiménez Moreno, world renowned authority on Indian language and pre-Cortesian Mexican history, will teach History, will teach History 340 at 1700 Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday instead of Anthropology as originally announced. The course will be a survey of Mexico's pre-Hispanic cultures.

Dr. Isabel French will teach a history course concerning the origins of German imperialism and militarism from the 16th century to the present. Monday, Wednesday and Friday at 6 p. m.

Students desiring to study Spanish on-the-spot had always been stopped by the difference between Latin American and United States educational systems, credits received in one country were no good in the other, until 1940 when Mexico City College with its American style educational system came into being.

In the early thirties, according to Dr. H. L. Cain, the idea of an American college in Mexico was kicked around. Nothing was done however until 1937 when Dr. Cain and Mr. Paul V. Murray, present dean and vice president, and co-founder with Dr. Cain, decided not to let money, or rather lack of money, stand in the way of such a college.

In 1940, backed only by nerve, belief in the idea, and a more than adequate background for the project, Dr. Cain and Mr. Murray started the Mexico City College.

While more than 60 instructors will strive to instill a considerable amount of learning into the head of 600 students this winter, when the college first opened seven years ago only five teachers were present to concentrate their efforts on the whole student body. And only six students constituted that original study body.

The first graduation as a two-year institution was held June 27, 1944, and a second in June, 1945. In all, twenty graduates received diplomas of Associates in Arts and Associates in Science.

On July 1, 1946, it was decided to change from the semester to the quarter system. Also, the (Continued on Page 4)

## Faculty Profile-----Rod Voigt

By PHIL QUERIDO

MCC will be a well known college in the near future, or at least it will be so if jack-of-all-trades Mr. Rodney Voigt keeps up the good work.

Voigt is the newly appointed journalism teacher, taking over Herman Althen's job. But in addition to his journalistic instruction, Voigt is also tackling the full-time job of MCC publicity, as a sideline to being the faculty advisor to "EL CONQUISTADOR".

During the war Voigt was the Pacific correspondent for LEATHERNECK, the Marine Corps publication. He is also the ex-night-editor of the LOS ANGELES DAILY NEWS, besides having been manager of the LA CITY

NEWS, besides having been manager of the LA CITY NEWS and a score of other major newspapers and agencies.

Voigt came to Mexico last August "for a short jaunt" as he put it, but then enrolled at the college "to improve my Spanish." He is now prolific enough to say: "Si señor como no!" According to him, the most useful phrase in the Spanish language.

After being a student for a short while, Voigt started to publicize the college. He had previously done this work at Occidental College, the west coast branch of Princeton University.

Right now all the stories and notices relating to MCC that are appearing in many United States (Continued on Page 4)



Jen Parrott ..... Editor  
 Bob Trimmell ..... Business Manager  
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## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

To the Editor, EL CONQUISTADOR:  
 Hola, amigo:

I am constantly reader of your paper and especialmente letters to editor, porque I think maybe I learn to know to espeak the English more better when I read what the estudents from esmart like hell United Estates have to say. Always I read in the letters so much profound things, like the estudent who want to pay VA clerk for working on his días de fiestas so that he can collect check, porque his money no last. The American estudents are so esmart in how you call it, high finance, where they make their money last longer by espending it more quick. Such esmart hobres wem do not have in Mexico.

I also read that some estudents think maybe "La Ciudad Automática" eshould be burned on fyre, pire (how you call it?) like Hitler, Mussolini, and Estalin do. I think maybe the estudents are make mistake in this. Hitler and Mussolini now burning instead of books, and Estalin is burning up all world.

The letter from "name withheld by request" interests itself to me very much, pero no se what it wants to say. I do not know the English very much and I think she must be one esmart hombre to write such long five-peso words like "naturellement". I look in dictionary pero it cannot find itself the word. She must be esmart like college to know more words than man who writes book. I also have difficultad in comprending what it means when it say "sick (repulsed), someone's (anyone's)." o me the head aches when I read "oh-so-potent mouths," and find in the dictionary that "potent" wants to say "estrong". I think maybe the unknown but attractive yound lady makes the joke with English.

She say, "Respectfully, humbly, and unashamedly submitted for más pláticas." What wants this to say? I think maybe the young señorita is unashamed to be so esmart, pero it pleases itself to me if you print explication of what letter wants to say.

It gives to me such pleasure to be estudent of "esteemed", like the "name withheld by request" say, of Mexico City College the year past, pero I want to be esmart like other estudents, so I go to America and like there for awhile and get intelligible like gringos.

Respectfully, humbly, and unashamedly submitted for más pláticas!!

Eduardo José Vinques.

To the Editor, EL CONQUISTADOR:

It's not very often that I feel so moved to write letters of complaint concerning matters handled by people who know a lot more about what they are doing than I do, but there is one matter in your paper that I should like to bring to your attention. It obviously has bothered other people who feel the same way I do. It's attitude toward this matter seems to be displaying particularly bad taste.

I hope you will not consider this complaint as one against the paper as a whole for outside of this one fault it is a very good paper, and I enjoy rtading it a great deal.  
 Disturbed.

FROM THE  
 Desk of the Dean  
 PAUL V. MURRAY

I have never beenm much of a believer in New Year's resolutions. It has always seemed to me that too many resolutions are made at just about the time the clock begins to strike twelve — and then you find them reposing in some nice gutter along about 6 a. m. of January 1. Too often these resolutions, like the ones some people maye for Lent, resolve themselves into "giving up" ometising for the duration of the year. I think the emphasis —and this goes for Lent, too— should be rather on doing something actively, that is, resolving to add an extra task or job to our usual routines rather than on the passive idea of "giving up."

Wasn't it George M. Cohan, the famous actor, who, when asked what he was giving up for Lent said, "I'm just giving up"? And that's what happens too often after the bells stop ringing and the whistles stop tooting on New Year's. Too many people "just give up." So my advice —which none of you will take— is simply this: If you want to make a resolution for 1948 make it be something you haven't done before. Don't be satisfied just to stop doing something you used to do in 1947.

It wouldn't surpse me if our boys who played Trinity last month sent a telegram to the U. S. C. squad saying: "We know how you feel." From all we hear Michigan hit them with everything but the rose bushes. Perhaps the best "sittings on-the-fence" comment came from Red Blaw, the Army coach, who remarked that you can't compare Michigan and Notre Dame, since one is the master of the single wing offense and the other of the T. That should save a lot of argument but is no balm to Southern Cal's wounds.

(We're kind of sorry Martin Schnitzer, El Conquistador's football expert, isn't around these days because if we remember rightly it was Martin who published a very erudite piece in an earlier issue of this paper, proving with statistics, comparative scores, battle strategy, etc. that single wing teams were always low-scoring teams. Maybe someone on the Michigan team read the essay and decided to give Marty something t othing about in the future.)

Single wing or T, we think those Coast Conference teams better get set with a small atomic bomb to throw in the 1949 Rose Bowl game. Or is it just that the California sunshine is tapering off a bit since the war?

The old timers like myself it seems incredible to read of basketball teams that average forty to fifty points a game, year in and year out. I haven't been following the rules much since I came to Mexco but it would certainly seem that they favor offense over defense by a wide margin. Years ago the teams that dashed down the floor, shooting for all they were worth and not worrying much about what the other team did were said to favor the "Indiana style" of play.

At that time Indiana was considered the basketballest state in the union and may be still, for all I know. In the twenties a good team, high school, college, or professional was supposed to be able to defend as well as attack; and great stress was put on the work of the guards. The so-called "standing guard" hardly ever took a shot at the basket and a running guard who made thirty or forty points a year was a glittering start.

Nowadays there are guards who compete with centers and forwards for top scoring honors. I  
 (Continued on Page 4)

## Notice

# to the Student Body

Because of the new laws governing immigration in this country, many rumors are current concerning the status of foreign students now residing in Mexico.

Mexico City College is vitally interested in the new laws and in its students. We have been seeking an interview with the Secretary of Gobernación, Dr. Héctor Pérez Martínez, for the past week and have been promised an opportunity to state our case.

Such an interview is necessary in order that the atmosphere be cleared. It seems that so many new laws were passed at the end of 1947 that neither the authorities themselves nor the people most affected by the laws are exactly sure what procedures to follow.

Until we can get a clear statement from the Mexican Government relative to the status of students we ask you to the following things: W

1.—Please do not help to spread alarmist rumors concerning the laws or the future activities of the college. They will hurt rather than help the situation.

W 2. Please do not go seeking information at Gobernación, the Embassy, the V. A. office or the newspapers. Who shall give you definite and exact information as soon as we have it.

3. Please see Mrs. Walters for information relative to any problems concerned with your stay in Mexico.

We shall appreciate your cooueration in this matter.

PAUL V. MURRAY,  
 Vicepresident and dean.

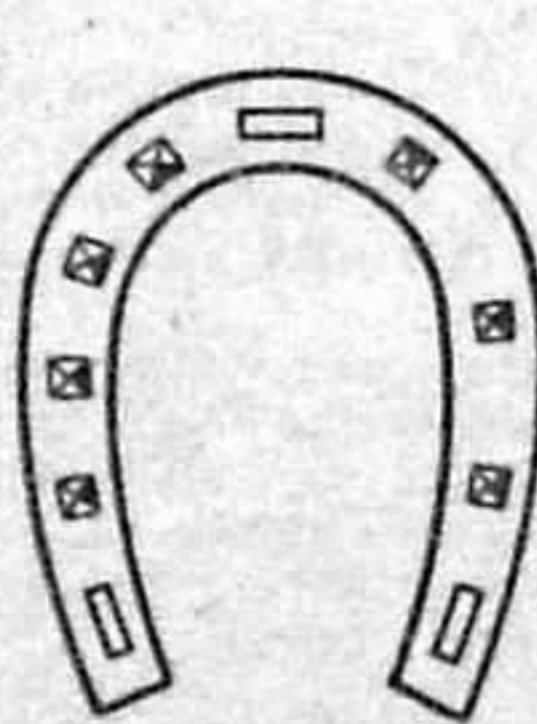
# Get Your Identification Cards

## The Student Senate Requests:

That all new students get their Identification from Monday the 19th to Friday the 23rd. This card serves as an identification when cashing checks, as an entrance card to the Club Hacienda, secures a discount at several restaurant and shoms, and for any emergencies. The procedure necessary to obtain these cards is:

- (1) Small foto —1½ by 2 inches in size.
- (2) Bring it to the Senate Office in the patio.
- (3) Have it stamped and signed.

All identification cards issued THIS YEAR must carry the signature of Senate President—Maurice McClain.



*Saratoga*

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 LADIES BAR

INSURGENTES Y CHIHUAHUA

Cozy atmosphere as you  
 like it  
 Genuine drinks  
 Students MCC 10% discount

# Under my Sombrero

By JUAN COBRE

Henry Wallace, by his entrance into the '48 presidential race, has given invaluable support to the Republicans who now think they can win even if they run a jack-ass for president. Senator Taft's chance for the Republican nomination has increased considerably.

Despite what the U. S. press may say, there is more danger of Europe going communistic now than ever before. The Reds have been quick to capitalize on the ineptitude of the United States Congress which haggles over every penny designed for starving Europe. Communist arguments are reinforced by the action of congressmen like Harold Knutson of Minnesota, Charles Halleck of Indiana, and W. Lee O'Daniel of Texas. These men fail to realize that if there is no Marshall Plan there will be a Stalin Plan that will put Europe's clock on Moscow time.

We respectfully suggest that the Pulitzer prize for the best comedy of the year be given to the Thomas-Rankin committee for the Hollywood floor show it staged in Washington a little while back.

Ginger's mother and Adolph Menjou were splendid in their roles as authorities on Marxism, while investigator Robert Stripling performed ably as a peddler of red herrings. Our only criticism is that the charge for the show was rather high. Liberty, honesty, and decency seem to high a price to pay ever for a good farce with an all star cast.

Arab Christians in the Near East are genuinely worried over recent developments in Palestine. They fear possible engulfment in a Moslem sea if Palestine becomes an all Arab state. In the Lebanon, many Maronite Christians (53% of the population) favor the partition of that country into two states, one Arab, and one Christian. The Maronite Patriarch is friendly toward Zionism, and like many of his co-religionists, would like to see a Jewish buffer state as a check to Moslem dreams of a Greater Syria federation, and a revived caliphate.

Why is General Wedemeyer's report on China being suppressed? It is because he, too, like so many other U. S. observers in China, uncovered the sordid truth about Chiang Kai Shek's regime?

Aid to nationalist China now, Mr. Bullit and Life Magazine not withstanding, would be money down the rat hole. Unless there is a drastic reorganization of the Nanking government, American assistance would serve only to fan the flame of hatred toward us by the Chinese, and keep a corrupt and reactionary clique of militarists in power.

Masterminding the communist operations in Greece is Nicolas Zachariades, head of the Greek Communist Party, who is believed to be in Moscow. Zachariades, who spent three years in Dachau, is one of the ablest of Stalin's agents, and he is both feared and respected by the Athens government.

May democratic Greeks are being driven into the arms of the communists by the terroristic policies of Foreign Minister Tsalsaris, a notorious rightist who has more power than 87-year-old Premier Sofolous.

The election of poet Romulo Gallegos as president of Venezuela was a serious blow to the clerical force there. Although no new restrictions on the church are being contemplated, the ones existing will be strictly enforced.

Canada's next Prime Minister will probably be handsome, young Finance Minister Douglas Abbot. I met Mr. Abbot at the Bretton Woods Conference when he refused to pay seven cents for a copy of the New York Times. Said Mr. Abbot, "It goes against my Scotch blood." We may be assured that his fiscal policies will be based on sound principles of economics.

### BRICKBATS AND BOUQUETS

A brickbat to Henry Hazlitt of Newsweek for suggesting that the U. S. withhold aid to socialist nations until they become capitalist again.

A brickbat to Raymond Moley for proposing the outlawing of the U. S. Communist Party. The comrades thrive on persecution and will hail this as a symptom of our own weakness and lack of confidence in democracy.

A brickbat for the U. S. liquor industry for its high pressure lobby to get vitally needed grain for distilling purposes.

A large brickbat for Walter Winchell, who daily fights World War III in his column.

A ton of brickbats for all the fellow-travelers who continually apologize for Murder Inc. a la Ruso (Joe Stalin & Co.). The judicial murder of Petkof was merely one of the many crimes that this gang has committed.

A bouquet goes to Clifford Durs of the FCC for defending the civil liberties of government employees.

Three bouquets, one each, go to Time Mag. Harpers, and Drew Pearson for turning the spotlight on the pitiful condition of America's stepchildren, the Navajos.

A belated bouquet to Archbishop Ritter of St. Louis, Mo. for standing firm in the face of threats, and refusing to permit segregation in Catholic parochial schools in his diocese.

A bouquet to Walter Reuther, the man who broke the communist grip of UAW. May he become the next president of the CIO.

And finally we wish to give a large bouquet to those fine people, the Society of Friends, better known as the Quakers, who efficiently and without fanfare quietly go about their job of administering succor to those in need regardless of race, creed, or color. Their program of aid to war torn nations is a lesson in applied Christianity that is worthy of study.

Before or After the Show its

RESTAURANT  
*Longchamps*

for  
Hamburgers  
Malted Milks  
Sandwiches  
in  
The Best American Style  
HOTEL REFORMA

# La Barca de Oro

Yo ya me voy al puerto donde se halla  
La Barca de Oro que debe conducirme,  
Yo ya me voy, sólo vengo a despedirme,  
Adiós, mujer, adiós, para siempre adiós.  
(Se repite).

No volverán mis ojos a mirarte,  
Ni tus oídos escucharán mi canto,  
Voy a aumentar los mares con mi llanto,  
Adiós, mujer, adiós, para siempre adiós.  
(Se repite).



### HOLLYWOOD STEAK HOUSE

RESTAURANT BAR

The Best Steaks Malted Milks  
Hamburgers, Hot Dogs Ice Creams  
We now offer to our select clientele  
A delicious Commercial Lunch  
Av. Insurgentes No. 349

### A Students Hangout

PRICES RIGHT SERVICE RIGHT ALL RIGHT

### Indianapolis Bar - Restaurant

Liverpool at Ambers 1 1/2 Blocks from Hotel Geneve.

CAFE RESTAURANT

# VICTORIA

PASTELERIA VIENESE COOKING  
LUNCH \$ 2.75 MENUS \$ 5.00  
A bit of Old Vienna under the spray of the fountain  
at PLAZA POPOCATEPETL

### LIBRERIA CENTRAL

"IF IT'S PRINTED, WE'VE GOT IT!"  
Mexico's best known book store and art gallery. All  
the latest magazines, American newspapers, books and  
Mexican paintings.  
AT THE CROSSROADS OF THE NATION  
Juarez 4, two doors from San Juan de Lotran

## Grandpa Fennel's Nature Corner

Gravity, a mere nuisance to man, would be a horrible force to a Giant like Jack found on his bean stalk.

To the mouse and any smaller animal it presents practically no dangers. You can drop a mouse down a thousand-year mine shaft; and, on arriving at the bottom, it gets a slight shock and walks away, provided that the ground is fairly soft. A rat is killed, a man is broken, a horse splashes. For the resistance presented to movement by the air is proportional to the surface of the moving object.

Divide an animal's length, breadth and height each by ten; its weight is reduced to a thousandth, but its surface only to a hundredth.

So the resistance to falling in the case of the small animal is relatively ten times greater than the driving force.

An insect, therefore, is not afraid of gravity; it can fall without danger, an can cling to the ceiling with remarkably little trouble. It can go in for elegant and fantastic forms of support like that of the daddy-longlegs.

So all my gentle readers that got pets bigger than mice I want to warn you not to go around dropping them just like it didn't matter because it does. In hurts something awful and they got feelings too just like humans only sometimes more so.

But there is a force which is as formidable to an insect as gravitation to a mammal. This is surface tension. A man coming out of a bath carries with him a film of water of about one-fiftieth of an inch in thickness. This weighs roughly a pound.

A wet mouse has to carry about its own weight of water. A wet fly has to lift many times its own weight and, as everyone knows, a fly once wetted by water or any other liquid is in a very serious position indeed.

An insect going for a drink is in as great danger as a man leaning out over a precipice, for trying to cross Insurgentes without a General Sherman tank. If once it falls into the grip of the surface tension of the water—this is to say, gets wet—it is likely to remain so until it drowns. A few insects, such as water-beetles, contrive to be unwaterable; the majority keep well away from their drink by means of a long proboscis.

So from this you will understand my exhortation to all my gentle readers to please keep your pet mice and insects away from water. (Nothing can get quite so furious as a wet mouse.)

If you got water-beetles or water luffaloes, why, you're safe, that is, unless these two pets develop rabies. I'm telling you, gentle readers, there is nothing quite so ravenous as a rabbit water-beetle.

But that's another story, one which the editor tells me to keep to myself (I assume he means until the next issue.)

Patronise Advertisers  
OF EL CONQUISTADOR

### Mex. History...

(Continue from page 1)

parently a very comely woman in her early 30's.

The boy's father remains to this day the Mystery Man of Mexican History. Some authorities have made bold to suggest that he may have been one of the crew members of the brig "Santa Maria" which, it is true, made some voyages into Mexican waters at about this time. Sailors, being in those times much as they are today, this possibility is not to be shrugged aside without consideration.

Although historically more believable counter claims would seem to indicate that the father was one Ignacio Fortegroin, the earliest representative of the Singer Sewing Machine Company.

Suffice it to say that Moctezuma himself, starting from scratch with only a borrowed pound of brewer's yeast and a few dozen discarded Pepsi-Cola bottles, soon became the brewing tycoon of all Mexico. His name remains to this day revered and respected as the father of modern business methods in the country.

For purpose of brevity I shall lump the various pre-historic tribes into two classes, or possibly three, depending upon the number.

The first group includes the Aztecas, the Mixtecas, and the Cerveza. They lived in "rebazos" made of birch bark, and are remarkable for having invented the "sombbrero" of Tlalpeltl, as it was then known, the antecedent of our modern game of water polo.

These quaint folk also introduced the "siesta". If you have not already bought one of these curious relics of a colorful past, do so immediately as there is no surer sign of the greenhorn in Mexico than to be seen in public without one.

They have some rather nice ones at Sanborns, but if you can stand the crowds, and do not mind mingling with some of the coarser elements of Mexican society, try one of the native market places; Ciro's, San Souci, or the Minuit, where amid the color and gaiety of those exotic old centers of commercial activity some of the finest examples of the traditional art of siesta making can be purchased.

The woven ones are ostentatious to the point of being gaudy, but they quickly go to pieces under constant wear, so try to get hand-hammered ones if possible.

But to get back to the Aztecas, or Conquistadores, as they are frequently called; their history goes back quite a ways, but except for a few cave drawings of questionable authenticity, little is known of them save that which I have already mentioned.

The Texacos were something else again. Do not fall into the error, as so many novices do, of thinking of them as just another ancient tribe whose history is more myth than recorded fact.

The Texacos made more contributions to modern civilization than all other tribes put together. They invented the calendar, the ladder, the wheel; the yo-yo, jet propulsion, and the Cuba Libre.

An interesting facet of the Texaco character is revealed in their strange marriage ceremonies, first commented upon by the earliest travelers in this region. Hasta Mañana, in his book, "Of Maiz and Muchachas".

Mañana, whose honesty I fear is more to be admired than are his ethics, tells that, having been accepted as the re-incarnation of the legendary white god of the Texacos, took upon himself the not unenviable duties of that deity. These duties, or godly prero-

gatives, included the initiation of each marriageable young woman into the circle of "preparadas". After which the young woman was permitted to wear her "zapatos" (a veil of coconut fiber) as an indication of her changed status. Mañana cannot be classed among the more able historians, but that he was not lacking in other abilities, and was, in fact, zealous in fulfilling his duties to the grateful Texacos, is evidenced by the great number of Mañanas who survive even to this day.

The other tribes can safely be ignored as having contributed little or nothing to the history of Mexico, so I will finish this summary with the hope that it will prove useful to those of you who have heretofore been in ignorance. Until another time then, "Hasta Ventana!"

### Voigt ..

(Continue from page 1)

newspapers, and on the English pages of the local newspapers, are Voigt's doing ..

And his publicity is partly responsible for the new record of students which is expected to be set here for the Winter Quarter in Mexico. Dean Murray recently revealed that he expects nearly 600 students.

Voigt is deeply entranced in journalism. Not only are all three of his brothers, Art, Bob, and George, full-fledged journalists on the west coast, but his charming wife, Betty, used to work for the International News Service and was west coast representative of the NEW YORK DAILY NEWS.

His two sons, Marshall 7, and Stephen 9, aren't old enough yet to start working. But they'll undoubtedly follow in their family's footsteps. Only Stephen disagreed when he recently said: "I'd rather be a fireman any day." Pop just shrugged his shoulders.

While in Mexico, Voigt, besides his scholastic activities, has also decided to work on a "daily" again. He is at present city editor of the DAILY NEWS, the new English language newspaper here.

His roaming days aren't over yet, though. After the handsome teachers leaves Mexico, he hopes to spend a few years in Paris, and from there, well. ¿Quién sabe? China maybe?

"Sí, señor, cómo no!"

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### Deans Desk...

(Continue from page 1)

guess the game must be more thrilling than it used to be and the wear and tear on the boys must be terrific but I'll never forget some of the teams I saw play in small gyms when the closed five-man defense was in its heyday. To see those men close all avenues to the basket, intercept the ball, and then break down the floor for quick basket was a sight to remember.

Supergiant centers, pivot plays, and rules have changed the game mightily just as the livelier baseball and the disappearance of the drop and place kick and the emergence of the forward pass changed our other great sports.

There is just one question I have to raise about basketball along with the other sports: I wonder if the modern crop of players can "take it" like the old timers could? (Take a look at what Grantland Rice had to say in his article explaining the selection of the 1947 All American football team.)

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Potosí

### Old Excuses...

(Continue from page 1)

ever offered, and no doubt still good, is the one offered by Ruth Ann Johnston. Miss Johnston neither claims to be an obstetrician nor even a plain M. D., but she was absent one morning delivering her maid's baby. Not only should Ruth get an excuse (which she did but in our opinion she should receive) "I was capable of coming but sure."

Then there is the man who said-but in just what subject we're not give an extra hour or so of credit, hardly thought it feasible." Ohters plainly stated that dysentery was to blame. Newcomers can work this excuse for all it's worth. You may not get excused, but at least you'll get sympathy.

Another deserving fellow was the one who took his mother-in-law to the border, though of course we don't know HIS mother-in-law.

One other incident worth an excuse was the friend of ours that called a Mexican diver a "dope". The driver had spent fifteen years in the U. S. and was a graduate of U.C.L.A. He considered that his honor had been impugned. What was more important, he was a plainclothesman. Our friend languished in jail until his wife and three pesos arrived.

Other excuses from left over malaria (by the way, that word is Spanish for "bad air") to inability to save the bus systems.

### Worms...

igners) several inches long, red, quite oily. A nice clean little worm that never leaves its habitat.

Some merchants sell a crock of megal to which is tied a small cotton sack containing "sal de gusano". This is an oily red salt, concocted from maguay worms. You can also buy a "torta de gusanos" for a peso in the La Lagunilla market downtown.

Often these gusanos de maguay are also strung on willow twigs, twisted into rings, dried, and sold.

They are surprisingly palatable, we are told. The oily content imparts a rich, nutty taste, and added to that is a faint likeness to shrimp, plus a tang all their own. You eat them like salted peanuts.

So if a Mexican friend says: "Let's go get some nice french fried worms." He's not joking. He's going out and eat worms.

### Old Bunco...

(Continue from page 1)

ses, hidden in a trunk in an American Customs warehouse.

Revival of the "Spanish Prisoner", hackneyed bunco game, came to light yesterday in letters received by a "select" list of Los Angeles business men.

They were implored to carry their cash to a Mexico City hotel and contact the beautiful daughter of an "imprisoned banker". She and the prison guard would do the rest.

At a late hour last night, none of the chosen business men had hied south of the border and the mythical Spanish Prisoner was still in the mythical cooler.

Cause an accident in Brasil, hide out for 24 hours—and you can't be prosecuted. No kidding, it's the law. In Manaos recently an auto and a streetcar piled up, and both drivers just dashed off, leaving the vehicles in the middle of the busy street.

The old electric light plant was carefully tended and its use rationed to two hours every evening at Itaituba, on the Tapsjos River in northern Brasil. The mayor of the town, leaving for a two-month journey to Belem, made sure it wouldn't be over-used during his absence. He carried a vital piece of the machinery with him, leaving Itaituba in darkness for the period of his trip.

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### MCC Begin...

(Continue from page 1)

college decided to go on a four-year basis and to grant the B. A. and B. S. degree. Experience has shown, however, that the great mass of students who come to Mexico are only secondarily interested in science so that until further notice only the degree of Bachelor of Arts will be awarded.

MCC was the first American school on foreign soil to be approved by the Veterans Administration under the GI Bill of Rights. A regional office of the VA was later established here, being the first of its kind to be located outside of the U. S. A.

The end of the war encouraged an influx of college-conscious veterans who desired to combine their schooling with a desire to live in cosmopolitan Mexico City and today nearly two thirds of the students enrolled are veterans.

Of the original faculty of MCC three are still actively connected with the college. Dr. H. L. Cain, president; Mr. Paul V. Murray, vice president and dean; Mrs. Elizabeth T. de López, assistant dean and registrar.

The school has outgrown two other buildings and moved to its present location at Calle San Luis Potosí 154 in January, 1947.

### Vlahakis...

(Continue from page 1)

artistically and anatomically.

Although Tony is sympathetic to new trends and developments in art, he has nothing but scorn for those who attempt to disguise bad painting by using gaudy colors, or by copying Barnum and Bailey circus posters. He believes that art should be a living expression of reality, not a shadow of a world of fantasy.

Tony thinks that Mexico's scenic beauty and local color is a conducive atmosphere for art students to study in. He is enthusiastic about Mexican art and especially admires Orozco.

Tony is a native of New York City, and served three years in the U. S. Marine Corps, including a year in the South Pacific. Not yet 22, he has a promising future in the world of paint and brush, and we venture to predict that he will attain great success in his chosen field.

## Randolph Loses Silver Bowl Meet

The Mexican All-Stars put on the football show of the year in Mexico City on December 20 when they went out and licked the suffling out of the highlyrated Randolph Field Ramblers in the first Silver Bowl Contest ever held. The score—it is no secret now—was 24 to 20 and everyone who saw the game will remember it for a long time to come.

Most of the spectators expected Blanchard, Tucker and Company to roll up a tremendous total against the supposedly inferior Mexican team. Imagine their surprise (and the surprise extended to the Rambler bench as well) when the red, white, and green clad team marched straight down the field, ripping the huge Flyer line to shreds and then popped over a touchdown pass in as brave a start as this writer has ever seen.

Not once were the Mexicans stopped on that eightyyard drive. The Ramblers fought back, even went into the lead, but they never did have the zip and the click that distinguished their opponents all afternoon.

Tucker was hurt early in the game and the Ramblers missed him. Big Doc Blanchard only got under way a couple of times. Most of the rest of the time he was either stopped or was used for blocking or "attempted" pass catching. Only once or twice did he look like three-time All American of years past.

It is fair say that although the Mexicans had stars on the field, every man who went in the game played for all he was worth—and that was plenty. The smaller line outfought and outcharged the big Ramblers both on offense and defense while the backs had a field day going through tackle and around the ends. Passes were used sparingly because the running game was so good but when they were trotted out they clicked just as well as the dashes through the line and the gallops around end.

Representing Mexico City College were Bud Fellows at guard and Morris Williams at tackle. Both played like "true Mexicans" and received the plaudits of the crowd along with the native sons. Each has a little silver football to show for his efforts and both were full of satisfaction at having played with a great team that was formed less than three weeks before the big battle.

The local Shriners are to be congratulated for their work in getting a good team down from the States—and don't let anyone tell you that Randolph Field isn't good. The publicity was well handled and a crowd of about 35,000 paid fairly stiff prices to see what is generally considered to be the greatest game yet played in Mexico.

All of us hope that the Silver Bowl will continue, that the first game played in it will mark the opening of a new era for American football in Mexico—and for something else: team work and sportsmanship. After the game was over and while enthusiasm was still high, the writer heard one Mexican gentleman say to another: "What wonderful team work we had out there today! If only we Mexicans could pull together in everything we do the way those boys pulled together out on the field today we could change the history of our country in ten years!"

I believe it. And to me that sentiment will always be connected with the great victory of December 20, 1946—team work, sportsmanship, playing the game for Mexico.—P. V. M.

## Xochimilco

Bernal Diaz del Castillo, in his book, "The Discovery and Conquest of Mexico," tells how he and his fellow Conquistadores said to each other upon first beholding the great city of Tenochtitlan, now Mexico City.

"These things are like the enchantments they tell of in the legend of Amadis. Are not the things we see a dream?"

As early as the fourteenth century, the Aztecs entered the Valley of Mexico as a crude, nomadic, hunting people. They built their great city of Tenochtitlan in the midst of the waters of Lake Texcoco.

Their enemies had driven them to take refuge on two small reed covered mud banks in the center of the lake.

The Aztecs were forced to subsist on fish, birds, and aquatic plants and vegetables which they were able to grow on "chinampas" (floating gardens). The floating gardens were formed by heaping soft mud from the bottom of the lake on to rafts made from reeds and logs.

These floating gardens gradually increased in size. The interlacing roots of the plants made them more compact, and eventually anchored them to the bottom of the lake.

More and more were built, and as their number increased, they became a series of garden plots separated by canals wide enough for the passage of canoes. The

floating gardens of Xochimilco not far from Mexico City are a present day illustration of this type of man-made land and communicating waterways.

The Aztec name of Xochimilco means "The Place Where Flowers Are", and it is well named, for carnations, calla lilies, gladiolus, dahlias, daisies, tuberose, violet, and many other flowers grow there in profusion.

The waters of the canal, through which, the boatmen propel their craft, are covered with tiny green aquatic plants, which coat the surface life green moss. Interlacing logs of ancient rafts can be seen. The long tough roots of the trees drip into the water, seeking the soft mud of the lake bottom. The tall trees, which are like a cross between a feathery-leaf willow and a Lombardy poplar, grow thickly on the islands.

From the boat, glimpses of little Indian huts and farms, with luxuriant corn and vegetable and flowers can be seen. Butterflies dart across the water. There is no sound in the back canals of this Indian Venice except the peaceful splash of the boatmen's pole and the sprays of flowers brushing against the canoe's canopy.

The canals throng with vendors, also in canoes, selling flowers, food and photographs.

Xochimilco, a living study for the historian and anthropologist, is a "must" for all vacationists

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## Harold A. Gregory Publishes Poems

"Love Under Cover", a book of poems written by Harold A. Gregory, MCC student, is new on sale at the American Book Store, Sears & Roebuck, and the Patio Book Store.

This is the Mexican edition of Gregory's poems, having first published it in the Phillipine Islands in 1945. Each year he expects to have another edition in a foreign language. French and Brazilian editions are scheduled next.

MCC students will recall that EL CONQUISTADOR recently printed several of Gregory's poems. They have also appeared in several stateside newspapers.

## L. Diaz Resigns

Luis Diaz, director of athletics at Mexico City College since July 1 last, has presented his resignation and it has been accepted by the college authorities. No successor has been appointed as we go to press and no plans for the future development of athletics at the college have been announced.

Dean Murray had no comment on Diaz' action but did say that the future of football here would depend largely on how the local "big league" circuit gets itself straightened out between now and next fall. Neither he nor President Cain was satisfied with the handling of tickets sales, get receipts, etc., and it would seem that both are determined not to enter the Liga Mayor again unless several changes are made looking towards better over all control of league affairs.

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## Book Review

From time to time in this column I have published notes on new books that deal with Mexico. Before 1947 passed into history another new book on Mexico, written by an American came to my attention. It's called THESE ARE THE MEXICANS and was written by Herbert Cerwin.

Mr. Cerwin was connected with the activities of Nelson Rockefeller's office for some five years here in Mexico and is, I believe, of American-Guatemalan ancestry. I haven't seen any notes on the book in Mexican publications but is is my prediction that there will be a lot of discussion about it in the course of the next few months. Time has not allowed me a thorough reading of the volume but I cannot agree with my friend, Harry Sylvester, whose Herald-Tribune review was reprinted in the front pages of Excelsior and Novedades some weeks ago. Or perhaps I can, to a certain extent.

Harry said it was "the best book on Mexico since Gruening's MEXICO AND ITS HERITAGE." The point is that I have long considered Mr. Gruening's tome one of the most misleading and unhistorical things ever passed off on serious students of Mexican affairs. Therefore, Mr. Cerwin's book wouldn't have to be too good to be better than Gruening's.

My first reaction to the book is that Mr. Cerwin decided to "tell all" so we hear even about the sex life of the Mexicans, both married and unmarried. There is some pretty good stuff on pottery makers and sarape weavers and farmers, all of whom Mr. Cerwin seems to have visited and sympathized with. When he is writing personal experience stuff or making observations on some of the crude realities of the Mexican scene, Mr. Cerwin is on fairly safe ground—at least it is ground that he himself trod.

My major objection to his writing is that many of his observations and conclusions are based (I almost said "biased") on false information, particularly historical. Granted that he is partly a Latin American and that he (I suppose) speaks and reads Spanish fluently—Mr. Cerwin still must be accused of presenting as historical facts many things which are notoriously untrue or which are still in the process of intensive study by men and women who are outstanding experts in their fields.

For several months now I've been thinking about doing a piece, preferably critical, on the various new books on Mexico which seek to interpret the country for English-speaking people. If and when I get around to it I shall give a few pages to These Are The Mexicans. Meanwhile, there is a copy in the library and you old-timers in the student body (that means anyone who has been here for two quarters or more) can read it and make your own criticism. P. V. M.

# 1947 PICTURE REVIEW OF MEXICO CITY COLLEGE

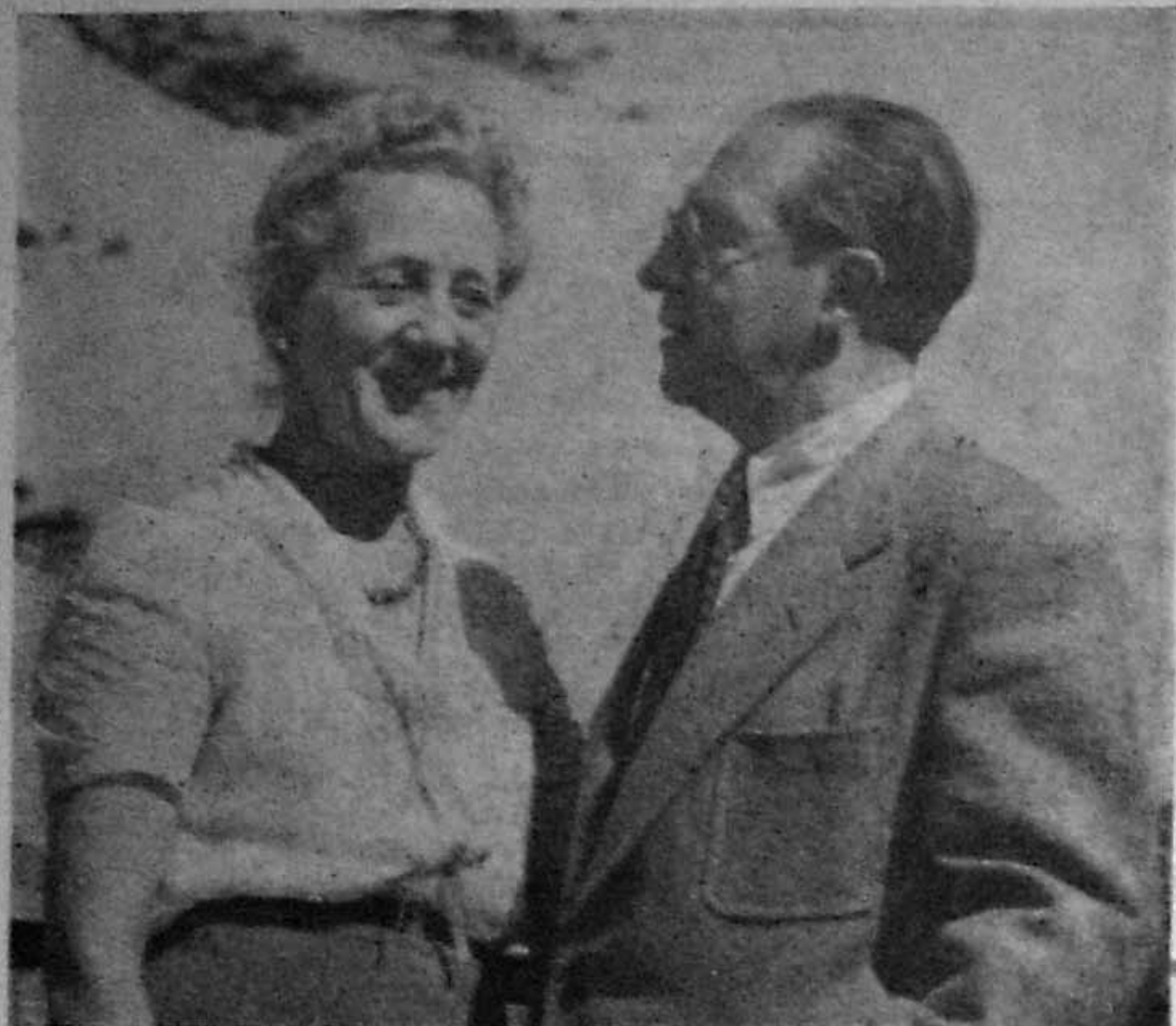
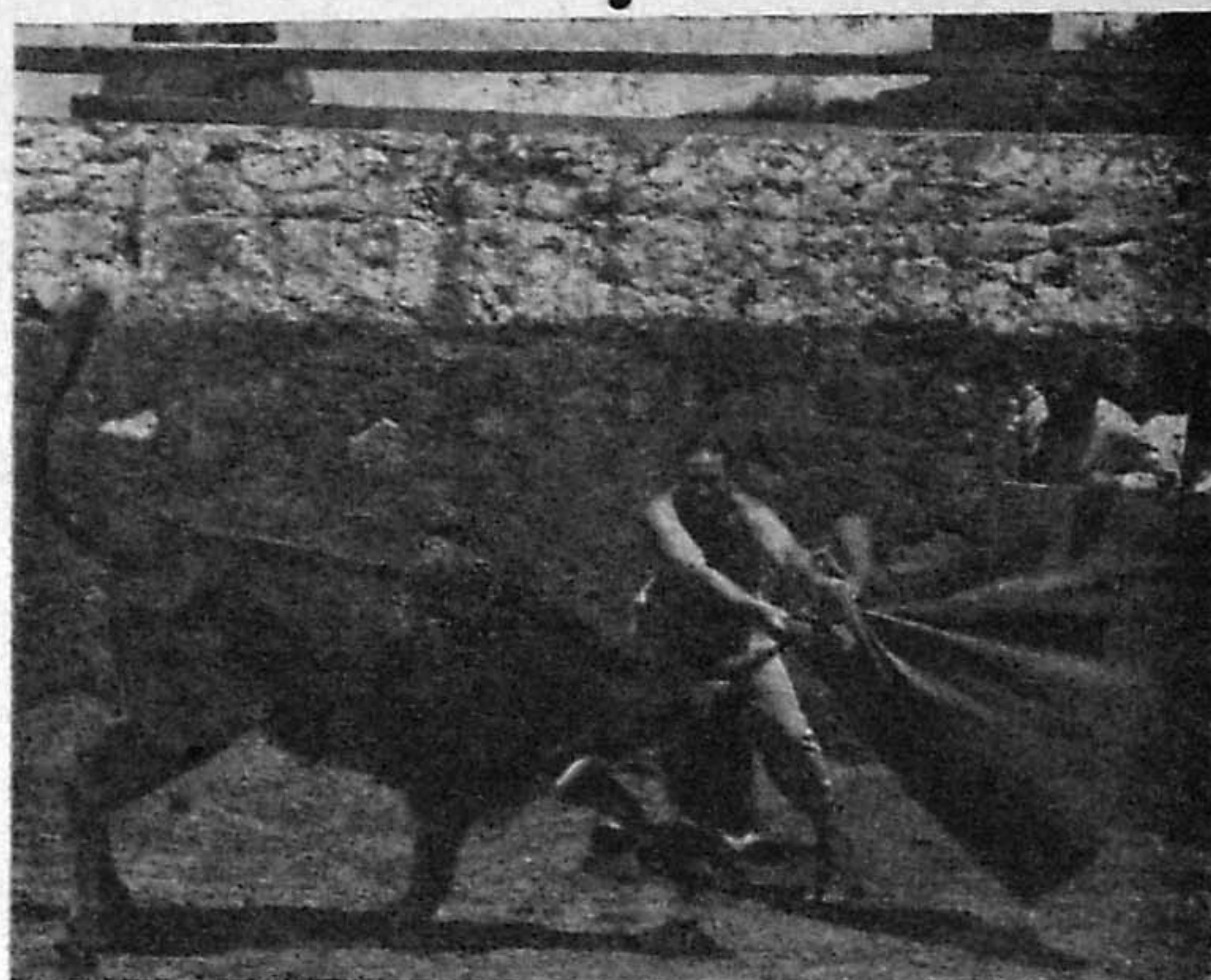


Photo by Gene Bonfiglio.

Sra. Rivas, one of MCC's favorite Spanish instructors, and her husband, shown together after a separation of more than seven years. Sr. Cipriano de Rivas Cherif was a Franco political prisoner.



Merle Watcher, MCC's art instructor swinging the cesta during a game of jai alai. Wachter is one of the few Americans to play this dangerous and strenuous sport.



Matador Harlan Althan executing a difficult pass. It is alleged that the matador outweighed the bull by two kilos. Althan, MCC's ex professor of Journalism and Publicity Director, is now in Vienna, Austria attached to the Public Relations Section of the U. S. Military Government there.



Dr. Bosch Pedro Guimpera, MCC history professor, famous anthropologist, and former Catalonian Minister of Interior.



The wax caricature of President Truman depicting his recent visit to Mexico. The work of Sr. Luis Hidalgo, Mexico's great ceriesculotr.