

Middle Class Rise Feature In Mexico

By HARRY FERGUSON
United Press International

MEXICO CITY (UPI) — It is our pleasure today to have a chat with Senorita Isabel Valdez Ramirez, an attractive stenographer-translator for the Continental Emco Co., distributors of oil field equipment.

Senorita Ramirez doubtless never thinks about it, but she is the end product of a series of revolutions in Mexico. Wars have been fought, presidents assassinated and the soil of Mexico soaked with blood to make it possible for her to have the job she holds, buy the things she buys and do the things she does.

The outstanding development in Mexico in the last 30 years has been the rise of a middle class. Senorita Ramirez is a member of it. So are millions of other salaried employees, small-business men and union workers. Until the rise of the middle class Mexicans were either enormously wealthy—and there were precious few of them—or lived in grinding poverty. Modern Mexico can give as its birth date the day it became possible for girls like Senorita Ramirez to go out and get a job.

Income Improving
The per capita income of the Mexican middle class still is far below that of America. But it is getting better all the time and as it improves so do living conditions. Senorita Ramirez earns \$240 a month. Here is her budget:

Clothes, cosmetics and beauty parlors, \$120; lunches, \$28; transportation, \$1.60; filter cigarettes, \$1.92; ballet lessons, \$7.20; Italian lessons, \$8; income tax per month \$1.28; rent, none because she lives with her parents; savings for vacation, Christmas etc., \$72.

In the romantic atmosphere of Mexico it seemed ungallant to ask Senorita Ramirez her age or why she spent half her income on clothes and beauty treatments. Suffice it to say that she is in

and—only since 1953—women were allowed to vote. The result was a more equitable distribution of the national income and more jobs available.

And more leisure time. The average Mexican embraced this joyously. There is no country in the world where so many different sports are played and watched. The Mexicans have bullfighting, jai alai, boxing, wrestling, tennis (very good, too), baseball, golf, horse racing, swimming, fishing, jude and two kinds of football—American and soccer. If all of these things should pall, a Mexican can invest 24 cents in a ticket on the proletarian national lottery and dream of winning \$24,000.

The government operates several types of lotteries, and in two blocks you are likely to encounter six persons peddling tickets. The government's share goes to welfare projects. Proceeds of the national lottery have built a 32-acre medical center and provided \$4 million a year for breakfasts for school children.

Many TV Sets
One estimate, possibly too high, is that there are 500,000 television sets in Mexico City alone. Antenna sprout from almost every shack in the poorer sections of the capital. In any event the

government operates several types of lotteries, and in two blocks you are likely to encounter six persons peddling tickets. The government's share goes to welfare projects. Proceeds of the national lottery have built a 32-acre medical center and provided \$4 million a year for breakfasts for school children.

Slow, Painful Transformation

It was a slow, painful and bloody transformation. In the process large estates were seized and turned over to the peasants. American oil property was expropriated, unions were organized

Mexicans are great fans for television and the radio. There is great interest in American TV. Perry Mason wins all his cases as easily in Spanish as he does in English. Paladin's six-gun speaks the same language in Mexico as it does in the United States, but the words that come out of his mouth are Spanish. American TV is so popular that 500 Mexican actors have year-round work dubbing Spanish on the films.

Rich or poor, the average Mexican is a neat fellow. You almost never see a man who needs a hair cut. The shining of shoes is a major industry and there are an average of three bootblacks to the block in the large cities. It is mandatory to have your shoes shined once a day, but some Mexicans exercise the option of having it done once in the morning and once in the afternoon. When business is dull, the bootblacks shine each other's shoes. The going price is one peso—eight cents. Neatness extends to your automobile and no Mexican allows much dust to settle on his car. Boys with buckets and sponges go up and down the line of parked automobiles doing a brisk business at 24 cents a car.

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GIVE A PINT OF FUEL BEFORE YOU GO

Predicts Annual Assembly Session

By HORTENSE MYERS
United Press International

INDIANAPOLIS (UPI) — A prediction that Indiana eventually will have annual meetings of its biennial legislature came today from a veteran participant in future legislative planning.

Miss Jean Clemons, secretary to the Indiana Legislative Advisory Commission since its activation six years ago, made the comment as she stood in the middle of her biennial office-moving job. The IAC, which functions as an interim body between sessions of the legislature, normally occupies the Senate post office, but becomes virtually inactive when the lawmakers are in session.

"I'll be at the front desk in the House either as a minute or journal clerk," she said in an explanation of her duties for the 61 days starting with opening of the 1963 Legislature Thursday.

Miss Clemons, a native of Indianapolis, who calls Rockville her legal residence, sits in on every meeting of the IAC and at many conferences of its subcommittees which make studies leading to new legislation. "The commission is very necessary and accomplishes much that could not be done during the session.

Believed Wise Move

"Personally, I think we eventually will see a fiscal session of the entire legislature, on the even years. Several leading people are thinking seriously that this would be a wise move," she said.

This would mean that the legislature, which now meets only on odd-numbered years, would meet annually but the "in-between" session would be a short one concerned only with budget matters. Miss Clemons said such an arrangement would permit Indiana

to continue with its "citizen legislature" tradition.

One of the main reasons Indiana has clung to its 61-days-every-other-year plan is because it wants the members of its legislature to be drawn from a wide range of occupations and not "professional legislators." Annual pay amounts to \$1,800 a year.

"The fact that it isn't the salary which attracts our legislators means we get some excellent members who are interested in the future of the state," Miss Clemons believes.

Career In Industry

She came into legislative background work from a career in industry.

"I worked for DuPont de Nemours at the Wabash River Ordnance Plant at Newport, and for Eastern Trucking Co. at Terre Haute. I've also worked for a loan company and a lumber company," she said.

After her wartime marriage ended in divorce, Miss Clemons

was interested in a different type of work and Warren Buchanan, Rockville, then Indiana Public Service Commission chairman, persuaded her to go to work for the 1953 Legislature as a clerk.

"I love it," she said of the legislature. "I hate these people who act as if the legislature is some

form of a circus. These people who come here to make laws are a cross-section of our state. Most of them are leaders in their own communities.

"They are here to do what they

think is best for the state, at least most of them are and I don't like the attitude that he legislature is something to be endured for 61 days every other year."

Grand Jury To Study Charges Against Walker

my decision is not to attend the university next semester, under the present circumstances," he said.

The riot cases were not the only ones scheduled before the grand jury, and any indictments handed down probably would not come up for trial until next May when the U.S. District Court for Northern Mississippi begins hearing trial cases.

Appeals to Parties

Meredith's statement brought an immediate appeal from Atty. Gen. Edwin Walker, who asked that state and school officials meet the conditions.

Kennedy said that if Meredith leaves the university "it would be a reflection" on the United States. He urged school and state officials to "make it possible for Mr. Meredith to continue his education without interruption."

The attorney general also urged Meredith to consider "hopes of many of his fellow citizens" before leaving school.

University Chancellor John D. Williams Monday night strongly defended the school administration and said the school has "fully complied" with all federal court orders in the Meredith case.

Williams said the university has "followed closely the counsel of practicing attorneys to make certain the compliance was complete, both to the letter and the spirit of such orders."

He said the administration and faculty "have done all that was reasonable and proper to insure the best possible education for all students."

Former Local Man Is Plant Manager

John F. Newhard, a Decatur high school graduate, has been named the new plant manager in charge of the entire operation at the American Screw Company in Wytheville, Va.

Newhard has held a similar position at the Shapero division of the Illinois Tool Works for 10 years before moving to Wytheville recently.

A 1932 graduate of Decatur high school, Newhard is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Orie Newhard, 616 N. Seventh St., Decatur. His sister, Mrs. Jerry Ross, resides at 227 N. 16th street in this city.

Newhard was born in Preble, and recently moved to Wytheville from Arlington Heights, Ill. His other positions include five years with the A. L. Smith Corp. in Milwaukee; a period of time with the Highway Trailer Co. in Edgerton, Ill. He also spent five years with the U. S. Steel Corp. plants at Gary and in Pittsburgh.

According to the Southwest Virginia Enterprise, Newhard is a man extremely well qualified by training, ability and experience for the post. He has been an active civic and church leader in Illinois.

His wife is a native of Newman, Ga., is a registered nurse, and also very active in the civic and church activities at Arlington Heights. They have two children, John F., Jr., a sophomore at Ripon college, Wisconsin, and Nancy, 14, a freshman in high school.

Newhard plans to move his family to Wytheville near the end of January.

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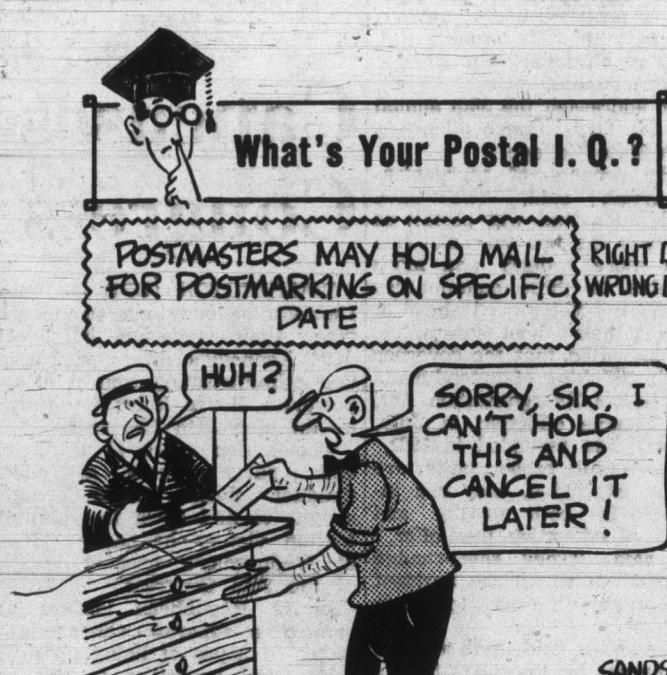
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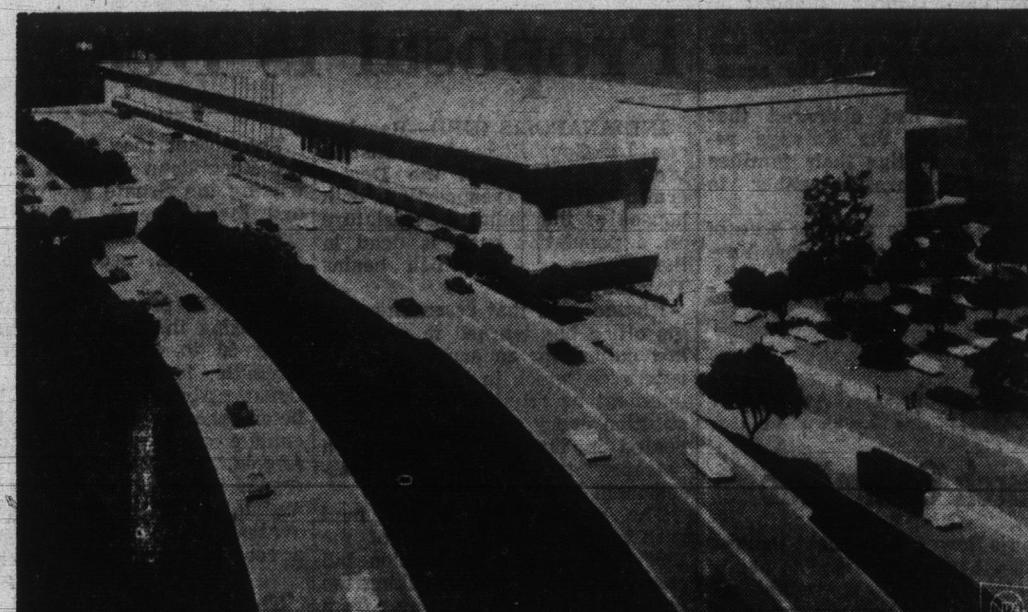
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