

Taxco Silver - Then and Now



San Fernando

The Taxco, Mexico – Canoga Park Connection



Taxco, Mexico – Canoga Park, California mural on a wall at 7123 Remmet Avenue in Canoga Park, CA. Francis Lederer's stables (left) which is now present day Malibu Wines & Beer Garden (formerly the Canoga Mission

Gallery in 1960s) with Canoga Park High School (center) with Santa Prisca Catholic Church in Taxco, Mexico (right).

1963 Canoga Park

This story begins with Francis Lederer and his wife Marion who were very much into bringing the arts and culture to the Canoga Park community. In October 1963, Francis Lederer started the Canoga Mission Community Art Center. The gallery endeavor was more of Francis' pet project until 1967, when it became Marion's interest post-1967.

Marion was busy with the Friends of Taxco that was starting and rightfully so. For more information on the earlier years of the Canoga Mission Community Art Center, read my recent article, ["Art Culture Did Exist Here In the West SFV"](https://westsfvlifestyle.com/2020/03/20/art-culture-did-exist-here-in-the-west-sfv/) (<https://westsfvlifestyle.com/2020/03/20/art-culture-did-exist-here-in-the-west-sfv/>). Let's backtrack to January 28, 1963 when Marion Lederer (pictured below right), and Howard Spear (pictured below left) and became co-chairs of the Sister City committee. Francis Lederer was the Honorary Mayor of Canoga Park at the time. He had an earlier career as silent film actor and when he moved to Canoga Park he became very involved in the community.



MEXICAN JAUNT PLANNED

Mrs. Marion Lederer and Howard Spear, co-chairmen of the Canoga Park-Taxco, Mexico, sister-city program recently launched by the Canoga Park Chamber of Commerce, are shown at Mrs. Led-

erer's home in Canoga Park planning a trip to Taxco, an ancient silver-working city. Along on the trip will be a large group of Canoga Park residents.—Valley Times TODAY Photo by Gordon Dean.

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Marion Lederer and Howard Spear Canoga Park-Taxco Mexico Sister City Program 1963 Mon, Jan 28, 1963 - 13 · Valley Times (North Hollywood, California) · Newspapers.com
(<https://www.newspapers.com/clip/48173042/marion-lederer-and-howard-spear-canoga/>)

The Journey to Taxco, Mexico Begins

“A Chamber of Commerce sponsored tour is scheduled to visit the historic Mexican silver mining center during a June 8 to 15 tour of Mexico. Officials of Taxco have announced their intention to hold a warm welcome for the “sister city” delegation. “

Tour to Visit ^N 'Sister City'

CANOGA PARK — Residents of this West Valley community are preparing to visit Canoga Park's sister city of Taxco, Mexico.

A Chamber of Commerce-sponsored tour is scheduled to visit the historic Mexican silver mining center during a June 8 to 15 tour of Mexico.

Officials of Taxco have announced their intention to hold a warm welcome for the "sister city" delegation.

Details of the June tour were finalized at a special luncheon meeting.

Mrs. Francis Lederer, wife

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of the community's honorary mayor, and Howard Speer, are co-chairmen of the chamber's sister city committee.

Canoga Park and Taxco agreed last January to hold "sister city" exchanges.

Tour to Visit "Sister

City" Canoga Park-Taxco 1963 Sun, May 5, 1963 – 242 · *The Los Angeles Times* (Los Angeles, California) · Newspapers.com (<https://www.newspapers.com/clip/48173074/tour-to-visit-sister-city-canoga/>)

By May 1963, the plans were put in motion which was sponsored by the Canoga Park Chamber of Commerce. The excitement was building as the trip was departing in the next month.

On June 8th, the journey began, as more than 20 Canoga Park residents were flying on that day to visit their "Sister City" of Taxco, Mexico.

Just think, travel was a luxury in the 1940s-1960s and was very expensive, until the Airline Deregulation Act of 1978. This federal law deregulated the airline industry, allowing a free market for the commercial airline industry, helping make fares competitive.

Canoga Park Delegation Off to Taxco

CANOGA PARK—A delegation from Canoga Park departs by air today for a visit to this community's "Sister City" of Taxco, Mexico.

More than 20 Canoga Park residents are taking part in the seven-day tour under sponsorship of the Chamber of Commerce.

The visit to Taxco, where

the delegation will be honored by city officials, marks the culmination of a year of friendship activities. Canoga Park adopted Taxco as a "Sister City" a year ago and the delegation is carrying greetings to the Mexican city.

In addition to Taxco, the Canoga Park tour group will visit Mexico City, Acapulco, Cuernavaca and other tourist sites.

Heading the Canoga Park delegation is honorary mayor Francis Lederer and his wife, a co-chairman of the project.

Members of the "Sister City" delegation, in addition to the Lederers, include co-chairman Howard Speer and his wife; Mmes. and Messrs.

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W. Speer, Frank Tristen,
John Z u u r b i e r, Sidney
Whites, Mrs. Adelaide Arm-
strong, Mrs. Eleanor Oliver,
Bede Gallup and Roland
Gleason.

Dr. and Mrs. White will
make the trip in their own
airplane, meeting the group
in Mexico City.

Canoga Park

Delegation Off to Taxco 1963 Sat, Jun 8, 1963 - 2 · *The Los Angeles Times* (Los Angeles, California) ·
Newspapers.com (<https://www.newspapers.com/clip/48173105/canoga-park-delegation-off-to-taxco-1963/>)



READY FOR TRIP — Canoga Park residents get ready for their week-long trip to Mexico. Lorraine Gallup, left, coordinator of the tour, gets a color film of Canoga Park to be given to Taxco, Canoga Park's sister city in

Mexico. Also going are Mrs. John Zuurbier, second from left, and Mrs. Adelaide Armstrong, residents of the Valley community. Joe Hillings is manager of the Canoga Park Chamber of Commerce, sponsor of the trip.

Canoga Park Group Flies To Sister City Of Taxco

Valley Times TODAY
West Valley Bureau

A group of 15 Canoga Park residents are transplanting a little bit of Canoga Park to Taxco, Mexico.

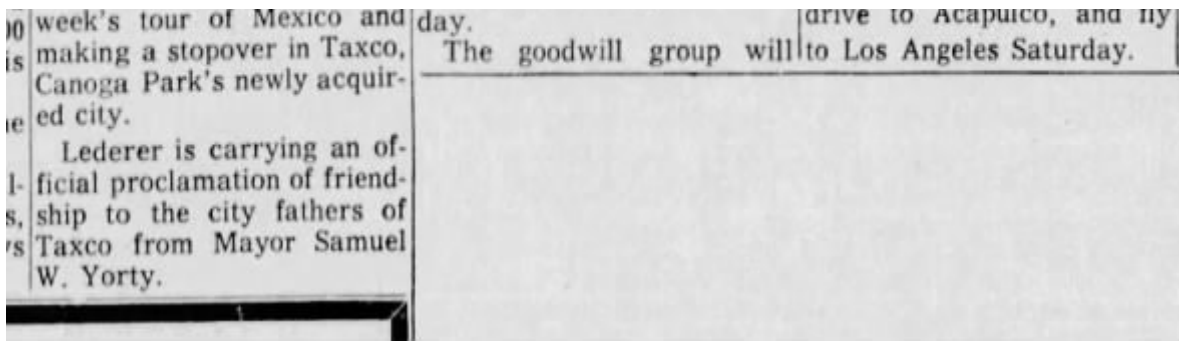
Headed by Canoga Park honorary mayor Francis Lederer and his wife, Marion, the party is taking a

He also has a color film showing scenes and activities in Canoga Park in recent months "to give our sister city an idea of what our community is like."

The Canoga Park Chamber of Commerce is sponsoring the trip which began at International Airport Satur-

stay in Mexico City for three days, then drive to Cuernavaca and arrive in Taxco Tuesday afternoon. The Canoga Park ambassadors will take part in sister city ceremonies sponsored by Taxco city officials.

On Thursday, the tour will



Canoga Park Group

Flies to Sister City of Taxco 1963 (2) Mon, Jun 10, 1963 – 12 · *Valley Times* (North Hollywood, California) · Newspapers.com (<https://www.newspapers.com/clip/47637809/canoga-park-group-flies-to-sister-city/>)



Los Angeles International Airport in the 1960s, Courtesy of Wikimedia Commons By SAS Scandinavian Airlines



(<https://media.giphy.com/media/yLP1upXMTIz8Q/giphy.gif>).

Take Off!

Travel in the late 50s and early 60s was known as the “Golden Era” of flying. Although, I’m not sure what airline they chose to take, I found this video that was made in 1958 of what it was like to fly. I did read in my research, however, it hadn’t much changed by 1963. It had become a tad more casual in the mid to late 1960s. This is to illustrate the journey the Lederers and the 20+ Canoga Park residents that traveled to Taxco, Mexico in 1963. Is it different than today?

What it was like to fly in late 50s early 60s.

Taxco de Alarcón, Mexico

Taxco, Mexico from the 1930s through the 1960s had been a getaway for Mexican and American celebrities before Acapulco became the place to be. The city sits on rugged hilly uneven and irregular shaped streets. Interestingly, the streets, according to Wikipedia, “are paved with dark stones, adorned with lines, pictures and even murals of white stone. Some of the pictures in the street are from the Zodiac and meant to indicate certain commercial activities in times past. One example of this is the sign of Taurus near the Church of Santa Prisca, which used to indicate the area of butcher shops. Buildings in the city typically have Spanish-style, red-tile roofs.”

Village of Taxco, Mexico, 1960s

In the 1920s, American architect and artist, William Spratling visited Taxco a few summers. He was inspired by Mayan archaeologist, Franz Blom and anthropologist and writer Oliver LaFarge whom he was friends. He became a lecturer on colonial architecture and would travel to colonial towns in Mexico and sketch and write articles on his travels. He moved to Taxco in 1929 and in early 1930s found himself

needing to support himself. He reached out to his friend, who happened to be the U.S. Ambassador to Mexico. Dwight Morrow, encouraged him to design and produce silver jewelry for the blossoming tourist industry in Mexico.

“The art of silver work had died in Taxco during Mexico’s 19th-century war for independence, when Spanish barons destroyed their mines rather than lose them to rebels.

In 1929- a year after the highway from Mexico City reached Taxco- William Spratling, an architecture professor from Tulane University, arrived and saw the change for a silver arts renaissance.

Spratling recruited goldsmiths to teach local men. Today, 31 years after Spratling’s death, his former students run many of the hundreds of silver shops lining the narrow streets.”

-Deseret News, Aug. 2, 1998 (<https://www.deseret.com/1998/8/2/19394212/mexico-s-colonial-past-lives-on-in-taxco>).

For more information about the history of silver jewelry in Taxco, click on this article [A Short History of Silver Jewelry Production in Taxco](http://www.ladap.org/short-history-silver-jewelry-production-taxco/) (<http://www.ladap.org/short-history-silver-jewelry-production-taxco/>).

As mentioned earlier in this post, if you haven’t already read about what was happening in Canoga Park while Marion Lederer was focusing on Taxco, it will provide better context as to why perhaps Taxco was also selected as the Sister City. The Lederer were into art and bringing the arts to Canoga Park, so this comes as no surprise Taxco was the choice.

Taxco Silver Then and Now



[Ver más en Instagram](#)

155 Me gusta

uncommonjewels

Some silver saturation!

Sterling ovals pin \$65

Sterling horseshoe with horse pin \$85

Sterling bracelet pin \$95



jewelcatsvintage
1.741 seguidores

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24 Me gusta

jewelcatsvintage

Back in Canoga Park

With the trip behind them, The Valley News wrote an article briefly outlining their experience in Mexico. They were greeted with much pomp and circumstance as well as Lederer mentioning that Canoga Park was the “space center of the world”. Unfortunately, that is not the case today, but it was a burgeoning

industry and part of Canoga Park's history at the time. It seemed both cities had things to be proud of and to gain from each other.

THANKING TAXCO residents for their hospitality during visit by Canoga Park Sister City delegation is honorary mayor Francis Lederer, at microphone with his wife Marion, co-chairman of Sister City committee, and unidentified travel guide. Standing at right with small Mexican boy is Taxco mayor Luis Tellez Bustamante.

Canoga Park Group

Takes Trip to Mexico Sister City (1) Sun, Jun 30, 1963 – Page 6 · Valley News (Van Nuys, California) · Newspapers.com (<https://www.newspapers.com/clip/47637856/canoga-park-group-takes-trip-to-mexico/>)

Canoga Park Group Takes Trip to Mexico Sister City

A delegation of Canoga Park residents, in a trip sponsored by the community's Chamber of Commerce, has paid a visit to Taxco, Mexico, and officially adopted the town South of the border municipality as a Sister City.

The Valley residents were

greeted in the Mexican city by the local drum and bugle corps and both the Mexican national anthem and the "Star Spangled Banner" were played in the ceremonies for formal recognition of the two communities as Sister Cities.

Praises City's Beauty

The mayor of Taxco, Senor Luis Tellez Bustamante, whose full title is presidente municipal constitucional, delivered a message of greetings to the delegation and Canoga Park honorary mayor Francis Lederer addressed the gathering.

In his speech Lederer paid tribute to Taxco for "architectural beauty from tip to toe, culture, intelligence, tradition, atmosphere, and beauty wherever you look."

He told the Taxco people that "Canoga Park is the

space center of the world" and outlined its role in rocketry and electronics.

Lederer, on behalf of the Sister City Committee of Canoga Park, invited the Taxco people to visit the West Valley community.

Present Tray of Metals

Taxco, a mining town founded in the Spanish colonial era centuries ago, is noted

2 Women Die as Fire Hits Hillside Home

A 51-year-old Sunland woman and her aged mother were burned to death early yesterday in a fire that gutted their home in the foothills.

Mrs. Katherine Eynon, a Lockheed Aircraft Corp. employe, and her mother Mrs. Emille Jones 83, were burned beyond recognition in the blaze at the three-bedroom, stucco home at 8029 Ellenbogen St.

Hillside Endangered

A discarded cigaret was blamed for touching off the flames. Damage was estimated at more than \$10,000.

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FIRE OFFICIALS SAID THE BLAZE was under way between one and two hours before it was noticed by a neighbor. The structure was heavily engulfed in flames when the first fire units arrived around 2:30 a.m.

The home is the last below a brush-covered hillside. Acting Batt. Cmdr. Girard A near credited a 30-foot clearance at the rear with preventing the spread of the fire.

Housekeeper Away

Both bodies were found in the back bedroom where the blaze started. One woman was found dead in the bed. The other body was sprawled nearby on the floor.

The two women lived alone except for a housekeeper who had the week end off. Mrs. Eynon was employed in the retirement section at Lockheed.

PERMIT GRANTED FOR WHOLESALE PLANT NURSERY

VAN NUYS — Associated zoning administrator C. V. Cadwallader today had approved a zone variance to

that era centuries ago, is noted as a silversmithing center of the continent.

The mayor of Taxco presented Lederer a huge tray made of a number of different metals from the area, blended together in a process known as "the wedding of the metals," and carrying the key to the city of Taxco.

The Canoga Park guests also were hosted at a party in the mayor's residence, a morning band concert, a performance of native dances, tours of a silver factory and leather goods factory, and visits to the studio of a local artist and the governor's office in the state capitol.

Stop in Mexico City

The trip, conducted in the People-to-People program formulated by President Eisenhower, was the initial meeting to build close relationship between Taxco and Canoga Park.

The tour also included a stop-over in Mexico City for sight-seeing that included bull fights and historic points of interest, the Shrine of Guadalupe and the Pyramids of Teotihuacan, the University of Mexico campus and a return side trip to Acapulco.

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HEADING SOUTH—Mr. and Mrs. Joe Hillings look over some of the gifts they plan to take to Taxco, Mex., Canoga Park's sister city, during their 10-day vacation. Hillings is manager of the Canoga Park Chamber of Commerce and she is secretary.

Times photo

C of C Chief to Deliver Gifts for Sister City

CANOGA PARK — Gifts, greetings and invitations to this community's sister city of Taxco are being carried to the Mexican silver city by chamber manager Joe Hillings and his wife, Joann, the chamber secretary.

The Hillingses are scheduled to depart tonight for a 10-day vacation trip to Mexico. They are combining a bit of business with pleasure.

"We are bringing to the mayor of Taxco and its chamber of commerce greetings from Mayor Samuel W. Yorty and the County Board of Supervisors," Hillings said. "Also we will extend an invitation to

Taxco officials to attend the June 12 celebration here, marking Canoga Park's first anniversary in the sister city program."

The Hillingses will spend Friday, May 1, Mexico's Labor Day, in Mexico City, and plan to be in Taxco on Tuesday, May 5, Cinco de Mayo.



C of C Chief to

Deliver Gifts for Sister City (4) Wed, Apr 29, 1964 - 7 · The Los Angeles Times (Los Angeles, California) · Newspapers.com (<https://www.newspapers.com/clip/47637932/c-of-c-chief-to-deliver-gifts-for/>)

Formal Recognition

Los Angeles has extended formal sister-city recognition to three foreign cities; Nagoya, Japan; Elath, Israel; and Salvador Bahia, Brazil.

Four Valley communities have adopted Mexican cities as their "sisters." Van Nuys has chosen Puebla; Canoga Park, Taxco; Studio City, Ajijic and Encino, Puerto Vallarta.

Visits between dignitaries and cultural exchanges have been carried out and residents of the Valley areas and their Mexican counterparts have found a growing enthusiasm and feeling of international goodwill through the program.

It has troubled officials of Canoga Park and the other Valley communities, howev-

er, that the greetings and honors that can be extended to Mexican dignitaries when they visit here do not carry the official stamp of municipal recognition.

Sun, Oct 11, 1964 -

222 · *The Los Angeles Times* (Los Angeles, California) · Newspapers.com
(<https://www.newspapers.com/clip/48173507/>)



TAXCO STUDENTS—Joining hands in symbolizing the friendship between the United States and Mexico are these six students, some of whom are from Canoga Park and some of whom are from Taxco, Mexico, Canoga Park's Sister City. The Taxco students, part of a group of 15 who are visiting

in Canoga Park, and their hosts took a tour of Topanga Plaza. The six are, from left, Juan Luis Bustamante, Taxco; Yvette Velazquez, Canoga Park; Cesar Garcia, Taxco; Martha Ellertson, Canoga Park, and Jaime Chew and Alba Rosa Bustamante of Taxco.—Staff photo by Jeff Goldwater.

Taxco Students

Canoga Park 1965 Fri, Jul 23, 1965 - 3 · *Valley Times* (North Hollywood, California) · Newspapers.com
(<https://www.newspapers.com/clip/47638011/taxco-students-canoga-park-1965/>)

Wednesday, Nov. 15, 1967

Memories Of Mexico

By NANCY KALTAD

"Salud, dinero y amor y tiempo para pensar."
 (Health money and love and the time to enjoy them.)

SO READS an excerpt from the just-published "Mexican Memories of Mexico," the sale of which will help build one-room rural schools in Taxco, Mexico.

The atmosphere was perfect for the introduction of such a romantically titled manuscript — the authentic Mexican style home of Mr. and Mrs. Francis Lederer of Canoga Park.

The house, with its high ceilings, cool tile floors, massive Spanish furniture and ancient Aztec artifacts might easily have been plucked intact from the golden Mexican countryside and transplanted to its site on a Canoga Park hill top.

Martin (Mrs. Francisco) Lederer, who may be Mexico's staunchest friend north of the border, stood before the heavy hand-hewn table and deftly arranged a piece of golden brown chicken atop a heap of pungent rice for the best possible photographic effect.

STANDING by was Gloria Gunther, who is the number one candidate for title of "California Authority on Mexican Cookery." Also assisting in preparation was Gloria's daughter, Maria.

"I spent the entire summer last-summer these recipes," said Maria, indicating the cook book.

"We members of the sister city committee have spent such happy hours in Mexico," said Gloria, "that some of us thought it might be nice to collect recipes for some of the dishes we have eaten in the homes of our Taxco friends."

"The idea for the cook book was born about two years ago, but we started serious preparations about eight months ago when we decided to help build another rural school in Taxco."

"Taxco administers a school district larger in size than the city of Los Angeles and many of the people in the rural areas are quite poor," Martin said. "When Taxco needs a new school, the city must provide one-fourth of the funds. The state then matches that amount and one-half is provided by the federal government."

"THERE IS already one 'Canoga Park Sister City School,'" said Gloria. "We felt that by selling the cook book we could raise funds to build another one."

Once committed to the selling chore, Gloria's summer was one and a half of tummy-tugging research — hours over the kitchen stove — trips to the library for tidbits of Mexican history and folk lore — to Gloria Street to determine sources for "where to buy" ingredients called for in the recipes.

Letters flew between Canoga Park and Taxco. "Do you really mean two cups? Didn't you leave out the flour?" Gloria would query and flying back would come replies from her co-editors, Senora Elizabeth E. (Chabela) de Castrejon and Maria Ines C. via de Bustamante.

"Two cups? Two teaspoons — please!" and "Oh yes, the flour, sugar and a half!"

Friendships deepened and knowledge expanded as Martin and Gloria, Senora Bustamante, Carlos Rodden, Miguel Arruavech Dorantes and a gentleman known as honor Maganda delved into the fascinating world of Mexican songs, games and history.

LEAVING through the book is a lesson in Mexican folk lore. The soup section bears the legend:

"Solo nos caso el caldo que las abuelitas."
 (The broth was never expensive than the most health.)
 Under meats and fish we find:

"Casado el pollo tiene poca carne, es vigilia."
 (When the poor man has money for meat, it is lent.)

When one buys the book, he truly acquires the heart of Mexico. The book can be purchased at the Canoga Park Travel Center, 21527 Sherman Way; the Independence Bank, 11045 Sherman Way; and the Canoga Park Chamber of Commerce, 2084 Sherman Way.



AZTEC ARTIFACTS in background set the mood for Mrs. Gloria Gunther, left, and Mrs. Francis Lederer to look over authentic Mexican recipes to be found in "Mexican Memories of Mexico," compiled by the Canoga Park Sister City Committee.



MRS. GUNTHER takes a peek at Pollo Con Arroz as daughter, Maria, and Mrs. Lederer look on.



MRS. LEDERER prepares chicken for Pollo Con Arroz (Chicken With Rice).

Memories of Mexico

Canoga Park-Taxco 1967 Wed, Nov 15, 1967 - 9 · Valley Times (North Hollywood, California) ·
 Newspapers.com (<https://www.newspapers.com/clip/48183685/memories-of-mexico-canoga-park->

Historic Taxco Lures World



COMMANDING VIEW—Over the red tile rooftops looking upward to Santa Prisca church, visitors get a commanding view of Taxco from the balcony of the ancient fiscal Taxcoans.

This is one of a series of articles on "Silver Cities" of San Fernando Valley re-written by Ellis E. (Bob) Reed, executive editor of The Valley Times
By ELLIS (BOB) REED

Taxco, Mexican "Silver City" of Canoga Park, existed long before 1525 when Hernan Cortez sent his lieutenants looking for the precious Aztec mines which he had heard were producing vast quantities of silver. It was here in 1526 that Jose de Borda brought his burro loaded and began leading the precious ore over treacherous mountain slopes and through street impassable jungles to waiting ships.

It was around 1577 that de la Borda turned out some new silver coins and had the magnificent Santa Prisca church built in gratitude to God for his good fortune. It is one of the world's finest examples of Baroque-Choquecuanco architecture. It has a tremendous facade on the high Central Plaza over looking the city of cobbled, cobble streets and tiled roofed houses which has since become a national monument.

Sometimes later they put a covered clock, a dial with odd looking materials and the hand like a pocket stopped at each hour. Taxco has been selling time at a straight face ever since then.

The silver mine in Taxco, once known as Taxico, "the place of the half gold," is one of the richest, if not the richest, in the hemisphere.

Today the silver is still coming from the Taxco mine in a steady stream. About half of Taxco digs silver and the other half sells it. There are hundreds of silver shops lining the narrow streets.

Because it has been preserved as a national monument Taxco has all the charm it had centuries ago and the American National Tourist Council will tell you that many thousands of tourists come here annually to stay at one of the many fine hotels that have been built here. There is the big Hotel de la Borda that is perched on a mountainside overlooking the picturesque city and the old Taxcoans, built during the time of Borda and now recreational activity to please the investors of 1967, as well as other fine establishments.

During the early 20s Taxco was a full day's trip over the mountainous rough Canoga Road. Today Taxco is reached by a fine modern highway that continues on to Acapulco in three to three and a half hours by auto or bus from Mexico City. The railroad is crowded with the "expatriates of the West" in the United States while the airline and particularly Aeromexico, is crowded with expatriates of Mexico and Canoga Park's "Silver City" is now less than a day's journey from this area.

How the ancient church, the silver mine and the historic landmarks of this delightful little city are worth every inch. There is the old colonial facade of four stories which dates back to 1578, the Casa Borda, now a silver shop and Casa Figueroa the "house of love," which is representative of what wealthy Mexican homes would like to be national monuments.

Hundreds of American artists and painters have moved to Taxco and nearly all of its 12,000 inhabitants speak English.

We spent Christmas in Taxco a few years ago and witnessed one of the colorful pageants in our experience in Mexico. The processions from the church led by residents chosen to represent Joseph and Mary originated at the historic Taxcoans, after working through the narrow cobbled streets, and here they found a place for the Christ child to be born. There was dancing and gifts and in the adjoining courtyard the most marvelous pageant was given by the children.

For two years now residents of Taxco and Canoga Park have been getting acquainted with each other, the most recent trip having just been concluded by residents of this area who spent five days in Mexican hotels. In the returning delegation were Mrs. Frances Lofner, chairman of the local group and other members.

There were adult groups from Taxco here in May of 1966 and again this year. Last year there were 40 in the group, this year 18.

In September the local Silver City group led a one day dinner sponsored by Canoga Park youths who had visited Taxco earlier this year. At that time each of the youths told of their experience and showed slides of the picturesque Mexican city. Each was awarded an achievement citation by the Canoga Park Chamber of Commerce.

In October a money-raising benefit, Fiesta De Vias, at Canoga Park Masonic Art Gallery, in the interest of the state-city program. John Martin's paintings were on exhibit.

Another money-raising project is a sale of a book-club of Taxco recipes, illustrated by a Taxco artist, Mrs. Ernest Gardner in chairman-ship the project.

The Silver City program has helped finance one school in Taxco and it is hoped to help build two more rural schools. The benefit activities have been financed locally in the Taxco area.

Clara, Robert Feldman is treasurer of the local group and Mrs. George Clancy, correspondence secretary; Mrs. Ruth Galley, street-exchange co-chairman and recording secretary; and Gladys Galera, co-chairman of student-meetings. Mrs. C. W. Cox and Mrs. Gladys Galera are hospital-chairmen; Ruth Galley is publicity chairman; Mrs. Howard March, youth adviser; and Mrs. Ernest Gardner, cultural-educational chairman.

Taxco Mayor, Dr. Jaime Carreras, organized the movement there (Bella he and his wife are UCLA graduates). Pedro Perez has been Taxco chairman, assisted by Jim Minton and Harold Ross.

Taxco was chosen from an idea suggested by Mrs. Lofner. According to Mrs. Galley a group of CP people filed the site of a new city, and they met under sponsorship of Chamber and accepted the idea of taking Taxco. (By 1967-68).

"Taxco is the response from Canoga Park," Mrs. Galley said. "We're an ethnic community and they are a silver-mining city." Canoga Park is now in the San-Juan of the Valley but Taxco is a mountainous area.

The local project started in June, 1963. Another state-city activity has an Spanish house at Shadow Ridge Park. A \$5 donation is used for the project's benefit. Classes are held Thursday evenings in language, handicrafts and recreational types.



BORDA'S GIFT TO GOD—Ornate spire of Santa Prisca Church in Taxco are considered the most beautiful in the world. The Church was built in 1577 by the silver industry founder, Jose de la Borda in gratitude for God's goodness to him.

Photos by Mexican National Tourist Council & Author



NARROW COBBLED STREET—Streets like this are typical of Taxco. Almost every street in the heart of the city has silver shops and perfumeries.



SPANISH-COLONIAL TAXCO—This 16th Century monument of winding cobblestone streets and vibrant flowers has been restored a national monument by the Mexican government as the 16th age car never touch its sacred beauty and charm.



HONEYMOON PARADISE—Many young Americans every year come to Taxco for their honeymoons.

Taxco and Canoga

Bringing Taxco Art to Canoga Park 1968

By 1968, the Sister City program was in a rhythm. The Canoga Mission Community Art Center had been revamped and renamed the Canoga Mission Gallery with Marion Lederer at the helm. Using her connections, she brought in a Taxco artist couple, Jose and Elizabeth Castrejon for an exhibit at her gallery. The Castrejons also showed at Topanga Plaza and Bullocks.

<https://www.instagram.com/p/Bhf58dXBASS/> (<https://www.instagram.com/p/Bhf58dXBASS/>)



CANOGA PARK OBSERVANCE FEATURES TAXCO EXHIBIT

Jose Castrejon, designer from Taxco—Canoga Park's sister city in Mexico—shows one of modern Mexican rugs featured in Canoga Park's Cinco de Mayo exhibit in Canoga Mission Gallery. Viewing artistic piece from left are Castrejon, Mrs. Francis Lederer,

wife of community's honorary mayor; Harvey Parkinson, president of Canoga Park Chamber of Commerce which sponsored exhibit; Elizabeth Castrejon, also designer from Taxco, and C. W. Guy, Canoga Park sister city chairman.

Taxco Canoga Park

Canoga Mission Gallery 1968 Thu, May 9, 1968 – Page 58 · *The Van Nuys News (Van Nuys, California)* · Newspapers.com (<https://www.newspapers.com/clip/47638395/taxco-canoga-park-canoga-mission/>)

Wall Hangings by Two Artists Slated for Plaza Display

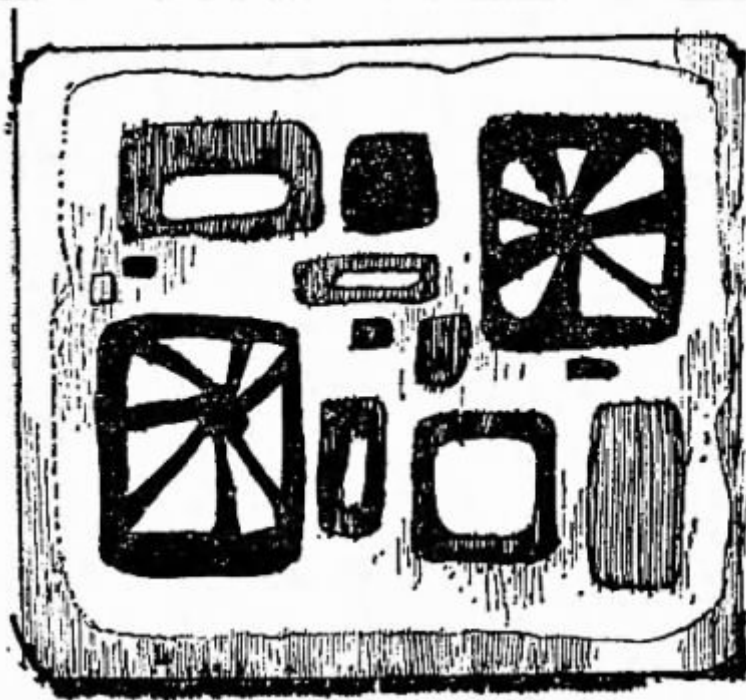
A selected exhibit of wall hangings by Elizabeth and Jose Castrejon will be presented at Topanga Plaza, 6600 Topanga Canyon Blvd., tomorrow through Saturday.

The artists are both active in the Canoga Park-Taxco, Mex., Sister City Program, and have created unusual contemporary effects in the old art form of rug weaving.

Sponsored by Canoga Mission Gallery and the Sister City committee, the wall hangings will be on display in the Plaza's north court from 10 a.m. to 9:30 p.m. each day.

Elizabeth and Jose

Castrejon Wall Hangings Canoga Park-Taxco 1968 Sun, Jun 9, 1968 - Page 6 · *The Van Nuys News (Van Nuys, California)* · Newspapers.com (<https://www.newspapers.com/clip/48183767/elizabeth-and-jose-castrejon-wall/>)



Original Wall Hangings or Rugs by Elizabeth and Jose Castrejon

Now on sale, a collection of contemporary designs interpreted in one of the oldest art forms with which culture has been recorded through the ages.

Intricate patterns designed by the Castrejons are painstakingly recreated in luxuriously colored wool yarn giving exciting dimension to the dramatic rugs and wall hangings.

The Castrejons live and maintain their workshops in Mexico. Mrs. Castrejon is on the Board of Directors of the Taxco-Canoga Park Sister City program. Sizes are from

22 inches by 44 inches, to 56 inches square.

Prices start at \$112.

FOUNTAIN COURT, Home Store Level

BILLOCK'S

DULLOCKS
SAN FERNANDO VALLEY

Monday, Thursday, Friday 'til 9:

Jose Castrojon Wall

Hangings 1968 Bullock's Thu, Jun 27, 1968 – Page 214 · *The Los Angeles Times* (Los Angeles, California) · Newspapers.com (<https://www.newspapers.com/clip/47638502/jose-castrojon-wall-hangings-1968/>)

Taxco Mural Gift 1969

A mural was dedicated by the mayor of Taxco in 1969 to the Canoga Park and was to be displayed along with artifacts and treasures of Taxco in a proposed Taxco room at the Orcutt Ranch. Today, they are on display at the Canoga Owensmouth Historical Society. (<https://www.facebook.com/canogaparkhistory/>).

BUILDING FRIENDSHIP

Honor to Taxco At Canoga Park

A full size photographic mural of the city of Taxco, Mex. was dedicated in Canoga Park recently by officers of Friends of Taxco, the Canoga Park — Taxco Sister Cities program.

The mural, donated by the Mayor of Taxco, Dr. Jaime Castrajon, will be displayed along with artifacts and treasures from Taxco, in the proposed Taxco room of the Orcutt Cultural Park on the Orcutt Estate in Canoga Park.

Taxco, a city of 35,000 is the silver center of Mexico, located 150 miles south of Mexico City on the road to Acapulco, in the State of Guerrero.

The Canoga Park — Taxco Sister City program was founded in 1963 by Canoga Park businessman Howard Speer and Mrs. Marion Lederer and has since developed into one of the most successful sister city programs in the United States.

Founding co-chairman Speer, a candidate for City Council from the Third District points out that the program has resulted in increasing cultural exchanges and the building of seven rural school houses in the Mexican City.

In addition, Canoga Park Chamber of Commerce, which

program was among the nation's first sister cities projects which now number 500 nationwide.

Speer and Mrs. Lederer initiated the program in response to former President Eisenhower's request for cultural exchange and citizen diplomacy to promote better international understanding.

Both Speer and Mrs. Lederer flew to Washington in 1963 and talked to administration officials about the concept, then flew to Taxco to set up the machinery which is now considered a model of America's Sister Cities programs.

Supervisors Ask School Problem Board Probing

County supervisors have asked the grand jury and the superintendent of schools to make a full investigation into problems facing local schools.

Supervisor Kenneth Hahn won unanimous support for a motion requesting the review and urging changes in school curriculum.

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quires students
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threats or sermon

Lockheed Mis-
Space Co. has dev-
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Decision' that put
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In dazzling multi-
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In the interview
said, "Nothing m-
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once assigned the project to a committee, has now formed an entire division of the Chamber dedicated to helping the project and sponsoring annual student and adult exchange programs.

The Canoga Park — Taxco

Hahn said he feels there is a need to bring the best teachers to disadvantaged schools — perhaps by premium pay.

He also called for more discipline in the early grades.

"We are paying the price of a permissive society," he said.

barefoot and pre turns kids off."

In another plus gram, parents and leaders are dra They are shown s media presentati quaint them with and, hopefully, wi port. The desi parent involu

Article Canoga Park

-Taxco Mural 1969 Wed, Mar 19, 1969 – 34 · Valley Times (North Hollywood, California) · Newspapers.com (<https://www.newspapers.com/clip/48184062/article-canoga-park-taxco-mural-1969/>)



Howard Speer

Canoga Park-Taxco Mural 1969 Pic Wed, Mar 19, 1969 – 34 · Valley Times (North Hollywood, California) · Newspapers.com (<https://www.newspapers.com/clip/48184043/howard-speer-canoga-park-taxco-mural/>)

In 1973, this feature article was written by The Van Nuys News outlining the trips that would be taken to Taxco by students and the Sister City members. It seems many students benefited from the program. If you were a student, please write in the comments at the end of the post about your experience in Taxco.

Friends of Taxco Begin Pilgrimage

By **GEORGE SHAFFER**

CANOGA PARK — Friends of Taxco, an organization of good will across the border which is made up largely of Canoga Park Chamber of Commerce members and spouses, along with like minded others, today had sent off the last contingent of a 33-person visitation party to the Canoga Park sister city in Mexico.

The visitation began last Saturday when a contingent of plane travelers flew south, and the pilgrimage has continued since Saturday by auto, by train, by ship, and with one West Valley couple heading north from a vacation in Guatemala.

The visitation will mark the 10th annual anniversary of Canoga Park-Taxco sister city relations, and as the yearly custom has been, it will usher in three more intercity exchanges this summer.

Taxco Greeting

In Taxco the Valley visitors this week have run into a tidal wave of hospitality, some of it official from the Mexican state of Guerrero and some from educational circles which, as usual, will this year benefit by a renewal of scholarship contributions from here and funds toward construction and equipment of schools.

A 10-day program of hospitality will be Taxco's greeting to Canoga Park, just as the arrangements committee headed by Charlotte (Mrs. Joseph) Cardella here, has already put together a sequence of entertainment for Taxco's adult visitors who will arrive here on Monday, Aug. 6.

trippers have returned home.

Students Selected

One of the pleasant occasions awaiting the Taxco contingent when they come here in August will be a reception at the showplace home of actor Francis Lederer and his wife, artist Marion Lederer, as the honorary mayor and honorary first lady of Canoga Park. The Los Angeles Mariachi Band will enliven this occasion.

Other group exchanges between Canoga Park and Taxco this summer will be of students. Canoga Park's students selected for the Taxco trip will leave around July 5. Taxco students will come to Canoga Park in early August.

Each time the students will stay about three weeks.

Go by Ship

These student exchanges have become a yearly event, awaited by West Valley students with great anticipation, according to Mrs. Elizabeth Ortega, who is heading the planning in 1973. Mrs. Maurine Henry is the Canoga Park chaperone for the trip from here.

When the local group left Saturday, Mr. and Mrs. John G. Zuurbier

went by ship to Acapulco and then inland to Taxco; Mr. and Mrs. Ed Stauff chose the train.

Others flew by Western Air Lines to Mexico City and then were to ride in the automobiles of their Taxco hosts for the two-hour trip through Mexico's silver producing area via Cuernavaca.

President Robert Morgan of the chamber Sister City Division here, and the Friends of Taxco organization, with Mrs. Morgan, were to fly and motor north to Taxco from Guatemala where they have been visiting missionary friends.

Sojourners Leave

President Bedent Gallup of the Canoga Park Chamber and Mrs. Gallup were en route by plane and automobile from Mexico City yesterday.

Heading the sojourners who left Saturday were Commander Robert Seddern USN (ret.) and Mrs. Seddern. The commander is vice president of Friends of Taxco.

Others were Mr. and Mrs. Obdulio Galeana, Mr. and Mrs. Edward Baltutat, Mr. and Mrs. Eugene Cox, Mr. and Mrs. G. Walter Dauncey, Dr. and Mrs. Harry J. Deeths, Mr. and Mrs. Jerry Frary, Mr. and Mrs. Errol Newton.

Also, Mrs. Kitty Olsner, artist; Frank Crisalli, Mrs. Marion Lederer, Ethel Mason, Mrs. Tom Padgett, Mrs. Renee White, Mrs. Marie Beridon, Mr. and Mrs. Lionel O'Roark. The O'Roarks were winners of a door prize trip in the Friends of Taxco activities leading up to the trip.

OFFER COURSE ON SECURITY INVESTMENTS

A six-week course on securities investment is being offered at Reseda Community Adult Sum-



Begin Pilgrimage 1973 Fri, Jun 8, 1973 – Page 39 · *The Van Nuys News (Van Nuys, California)* ·

Newspapers.com (<https://www.newspapers.com/clip/48185128/friends-of-taxco-begin-pilgrimage-1973/>)

Student Exchange With Mexico

CANOGA PARK—Applications are available for the Canoga Park-Taxco, Mexico, student exchange program July 7-27. Deadline is Feb. 29. Applications are available at high schools.

Canoga Park Taxco

1976 Exchange Ad Thu, Feb 19, 1976 – Page 210 · *The Los Angeles Times (Los Angeles, California)* ·

Newspapers.com (<https://www.newspapers.com/clip/48185258/canoga-park-taxco-1976-exchange-ad/>)

Friends of Taxco Today

The above call for deadlines for the student exchange program was the last I could find. It seems this program still exists as I've found the organization has a website. I have found a more recent article in the Los Angeles Times written in 1996 that "*Friends of Taxco has helped build and equip more than 20 schools in Taxco, Guerrero, Mexico. Taxco is known for its silver resources.*" If you are interested in finding out more information, [click on this link Friends of Taxco. \(http://www.friendsoftaxco.org/?fbclid=IwAR1vDQ7ZuS_j4D9ZPqIxmM6BrboOCZuL9qmhWHheY8qVOT_zFYZ_7agMD8\)](http://www.friendsoftaxco.org/?fbclid=IwAR1vDQ7ZuS_j4D9ZPqIxmM6BrboOCZuL9qmhWHheY8qVOT_zFYZ_7agMD8). They are also on Facebook- Friends of Taxco. (https://www.facebook.com/pg/FriendsOfTaxco/about/?ref=page_internal).

Examples of Taxco Silver Jewelry Today

Click on the images below to take you to Amazon's NOVICA jewelry. NOVICA was founded by Andy Milk, Charles Hachtmann, Michael Burns, Mina Olivera and Jose Cervantes and strives to connect artists and artisans from all over the world providing a platform for them to sell internationally. Purchasing from NOVICA

"Your purchases are that powerful. They directly and indirectly provide for education, help with health care, fund basic needs, support children, preserve disappearing arts, and of course, spread happiness around the world."

-NOVICA (<https://www.novica.com/our-mission/>).

Guillermo Arregui


"Taxco Flora"


Maria Belen Nilson

“Fleur-de-Hearts”

Oscar Figueroa Escorcia

“Taxco Waves”

 (https://www.amazon.com/NOVICA-Turquoise-Natural-Sterling-Necklace/dp/B004Y3W4J4/ref=as_li_ss_il?dchild=1&keywords=%22Taxco+silver%22&qid=1586730487&refinements=p_89:NOVICA&rnid=2528832011&sr=8-18-spons&psc=1&spLa=ZW5jcnlwdGVkUXVhbGlmaWVyPUE0TDIKM0pFU1RFQU0mZW5jcnlwdGVkSWQ9QTAwODI4OTEzU0w1Ulc2UUxVUUg0JmVuY3J5cHRlZEFkSWQ9QTAyMzY2MjJBRURYMIY5MUZNUkcmd2lkZ2V0TmFtZT1zcF9hdGZfbmV4dCZhY3Rpb249Y2xpY2tSZWRpcmVjdCZkb05vdExvZ0NsaWNrPXRydWU=&linkCode=li3&tag=curatedbycolo-20&linkId=acec0e6cfb047327507e7de7138e4b37&language=en_US).

 (https://www.amazon.com/NOVICA-Sterling-Silver-Bracelet-Hearts/dp/B08562HM5D/ref=as_li_ss_il?dchild=1&keywords=%22Taxco+silver%22&qid=1586730487&refinements=p_89:NOVICA&rnid=2528832011&sr=8-20&linkCode=li3&tag=curatedbycolo-20&linkId=3beb6e66cc558f7bcebc7dd0214c2ffa&language=en_US).

 (https://www.amazon.com/NOVICA-Sterling-Silver-Bracelet-Taxco/dp/B06XQ1ZWRQ/ref=as_li_ss_il?dchild=1&keywords=%22Taxco+silver%22&qid=1586730640&refinements=p_89:NOVICA&rnid=2528832011&sr=8-43-spons&psc=1&spLa=ZW5jcnlwdGVkUXVhbGlmaWVyPUEwODhBTUxSNVpCSENaJmVuY3J5cHRlZElkPUEwNDEzNzU1M0pRRDdQNzFBTTVETiZlbnNyeXB0ZWZlZElkPUEwMjkyNTQ5MzJIQVlwe8wU1dRVCZ3aWRnZXROYW1lPjNwX210ZiZhY3Rpb249Y2xpY2tSZWRpcmVjdCZkb05vdExvZ0NsaWNrPXRydWU=&linkCode=li3&tag=curatedbycolo-20&linkId=a75630f4e9a88a5446fc533ef3b6f80d&language=en_US).

Guillermo Arregui


“Taxco Night”


Alon Diller


“Hummingbird Mystique”

Maria Belen Nilson

“All-Seeing Eye”

 [!\[\]\(cb1960474df5b19cdeae2009c7323e63_img.jpg\) \[!\\[\\]\\(d08b0fd4d750d53eedcbf354f1702398_img.jpg\\) \\[## Books on Taxco\\]\\(https://www.amazon.com/NOVICA-Sterling-Pendant-Necklace-All-Seeing/dp/B0855NB7B2/ref=as_li_ss_il?dchild=1&keywords=%22Taxco+silver%22&qid=1586733436&s=apparel&sr=1-58&linkCode=li3&tag=curatedbycolo-20&linkId=3762550c76ca67b8777e681069e567b8&language=en_US\\).
_encoding=UTF8&qid=1586733436&sr=1-58&linkCode=li3&tag=curatedbycolo-20&linkId=3762550c76ca67b8777e681069e567b8&language=en_US\\).</p></div><div data-bbox=\\)\]\(https://www.amazon.com/Silver-half-earrings-Hummingbird-Mystique/dp/B003JLLXWG/ref=as_li_ss_il?dchild=1&keywords=%22Taxco+silver%22&qid=1586733436&s=apparel&sr=1-76&linkCode=li3&tag=curatedbycolo-20&linkId=78306603252cfe3e19fabd6c310798ce&language=en_US\).
_encoding=UTF8&qid=1586733436&sr=1-76&linkCode=li3&tag=curatedbycolo-20&linkId=78306603252cfe3e19fabd6c310798ce&language=en_US\).</p></div><div data-bbox=\)](https://www.amazon.com/NOVICA-Sterling-Silver-Dangle-Earrings/dp/B01D3OH8Z4/ref=as_li_ss_il?dchild=1&keywords=%22Taxco+silver%22&qid=1586733294&s=apparel&sr=1-56-spons&psc=1&spLa=ZW5jcnlwdGVkUXVhbGlmaWVyPUEwMjc5Njk3MTRITzlaOE5PMFBVVCZlbnNyeXB0ZWRBZEIkPUEwNzA1MDkxVFJXV05PTTAwRU9SjndpZGdlE5hbWU9c3BfYnRmJmFjdGlvb11jbGlja1JlZGlyZWNoZmRvTm90TG9nQ2xpY2s9dHJ1ZQ==&linkCode=li3&tag=curatedbycolo-20&linkId=522a97c30f3036f2c05eb97ff5bfe0ed&language=en_US).
_encoding=UTF8&qid=1586733294&sr=1-56-spons&psc=1&spLa=ZW5jcnlwdGVkUXVhbGlmaWVyPUEwMjc5Njk3MTRITzlaOE5PMFBVVCZlbnNyeXB0ZWRBZEIkPUEwNzA1MDkxVFJXV05PTTAwRU9SjndpZGdlE5hbWU9c3BfYnRmJmFjdGlvb11jbGlja1JlZGlyZWNoZmRvTm90TG9nQ2xpY2s9dHJ1ZQ==&linkCode=li3&tag=curatedbycolo-20&linkId=522a97c30f3036f2c05eb97ff5bfe0ed&language=en_US).</p></div><div data-bbox=)

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_encoding=UTF8&qid=1586733865&sr=1-5&linkCode=li3&tag=curatedbycolo-20&linkId=c5cfe4123bcd160b1c10c567354ee58e&language=en_US\\\).</p></div><div data-bbox=\\\)\\]\\(https://www.amazon.com/Dreaming-Silver-So%C3%B1ar-Plata-Artists/dp/0764356518/ref=as_li_ss_il?dchild=1&keywords=Taxco+art&qid=1586733865&s=books&sr=1-4&linkCode=li3&tag=curatedbycolo-20&linkId=fa816638e4038892e0a6ae590167ef2a&language=en_US\\).
_encoding=UTF8&qid=1586733865&sr=1-4&linkCode=li3&tag=curatedbycolo-20&linkId=fa816638e4038892e0a6ae590167ef2a&language=en_US\\).</p></div><div data-bbox=\\)\]\(https://www.amazon.com/Silver-Gringo-William-Spratling-Taxco/dp/0826320791/ref=as_li_ss_il?dchild=1&keywords=Taxco+art&qid=1586733865&s=books&sr=1-3&linkCode=li3&tag=curatedbycolo-20&linkId=91e8369cc503b96943ebfa8d20a7740a&language=en_US\).
_encoding=UTF8&qid=1586733865&sr=1-3&linkCode=li3&tag=curatedbycolo-20&linkId=91e8369cc503b96943ebfa8d20a7740a&language=en_US\).</p></div><div data-bbox=\)](https://www.amazon.com/William-Spratling-His-Life-Art/dp/0807156264/ref=as_li_ss_il?_encoding=UTF8&qid=1586733778&sr=8-3&linkCode=li3&tag=curatedbycolo-20&linkId=df6a9913f3eda0b8d9380c4fb5099b4b&language=en_US).
_encoding=UTF8&qid=1586733778&sr=8-3&linkCode=li3&tag=curatedbycolo-20&linkId=df6a9913f3eda0b8d9380c4fb5099b4b&language=en_US).</p></div><div data-bbox=)

 (https://www.amazon.com/Silver-Masters-Mexico-Hector-Aguilar/dp/088740961X/ref=as_li_ss_il?dchild=1&keywords=Taxco+art&qid=1586733865&s=books&sr=1-7&linkCode=li3&tag=curatedbycolo-20&linkId=e0b61996dcadf6fd7639c1bfaf71e21c&language=en_US).

Taxco Today Through Instagram



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Taxco De Alarcón, Guerrero, Mexico

Ver perfil



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1.239 Me gusta

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Taxco de Alarcón, Guerrero.
Pueblo mágico.

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I hope you enjoyed taking the trip to Taxco and stepping back in time to discover why Taxco, Mexico and Canoga Park, California are Sister Cities. If you have any information about the Friends of Taxco or are a member, I would love to hear more about it. Please post a comment on this blog.

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