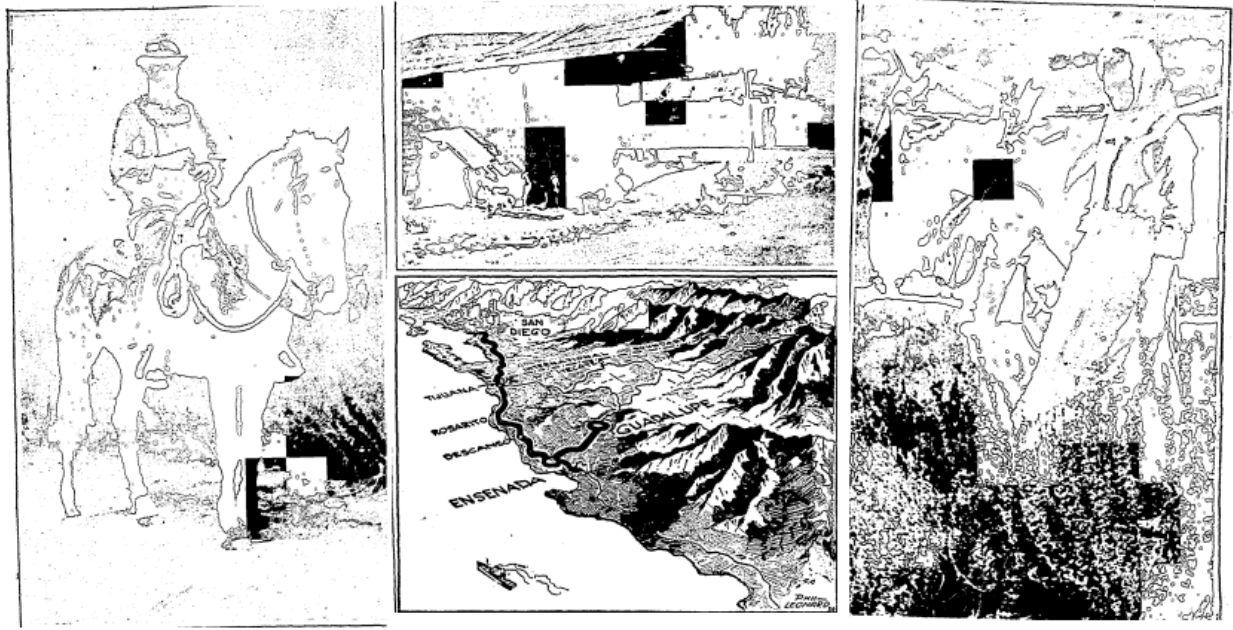


## Guadalupe in Mexico Offers Peculiar Appeal



### Preserve Customs of Old Home on Other Side of Atlantic.

Showing type of Russian peasant immigrant now populating Guadalupe — bearded father and husband and the lace-capped mother with one of her sons. Center is view of barnyard at one of home, heavily populated with ducks, geese and dogs. Map shows route from border south.

### Russian Peasants Keep Customs in New Country Unusual Dress and Customs Offer Something Different for Auto Trip from Los Angeles

The Saturday night bath.

Don't think for a minute that it is an exclusive old-fashioned American custom.

And don't think it is too old-fashioned to be a fact today.

The Saturday night bath is but one of the peculiar honored customs of the 50-family population of Russian immigrants of Guadalupe, Lower California, Mexico—terminus of this motorlog and the suggested goal of a two- or three-day auto trip from Los Angeles into Mexico.

Locating on the Lower California peninsula a group of Russian farmer immigrants have established a clannish farming community about 16 miles inland from the Pacific where they have maintained their language, dress, and practically all habits of life. Among them are one

American rancher, three or four Mexican families, a few pieces of modern machinery, adobe style houses but practically nothing else different from their original surroundings in Russia.

Working six days of the week in their wheat fields, these Russians accumulate a hearty coat of dirt that is undisturbed until Saturday evening. It is rather a ritual, this bath. A huge kettle of water is heated in a close room that is tiered with stone shelves that absorb a comfortable heat from the fire heating the water and on which the entire family stretch out to enjoy a version of the Turkish bath. The room becomes steam filled, the rocks are warmed and as the members of each family lie on the rock shelves water is cast over the rocks and the occupants of the shelves.

## SUNDAY PARADE

The entire family now has but a night's rest separating it from the coming holiday and day of worship when all discard their western garb of working clothes and assume their Russian peasant costumes. It is Sunday and ~~meeting church~~ going brings out every citizen in peasant costume. So far as the costume is concerned the women seem to favor a blue colored flowing ankle-length dress that seems to be bolstered by an endless amount of underclothing to make the whole costume heavy and cumbersome. The most conspicuous and [page 2] distinctive part of their dress is the white lace head covering. There is a delicate white lace cap worn in combination with a small shawl like lace wrapping that is drawn over it and pulled together under the chin.

The men are just as distinctively dressed, but sport nothing more conspicuous or apparently as essential as a full beard (perhaps the one place in the world the famous razor maker's name [Gillette] is unknown.)

## BIG BLACK BEARD

If a full beard on a Russian signifies that he is married, there are no unmarried men in Guadalupe old enough to grow a beard.

Guadalupe is entirely different than any motorlog ever suggested in these columns. It must be visited from other headquarters — San Diego or Ensenada — for there are no accommodations for the tourist. It offers no comforts, no food, no hotel. Not even a store, unless a shelf stocked with matches, two or three single boxes of breakfast foods, and perhaps a dozen cans of meat and fish, and 5-cent packages of unsmokable Mexican cigarettes, the whole value of which cannot be over \$3, can be counted enough stock to call the one trading establishment there a store.

## SUNDAY BEST DAY

Guadalupe should be seen only on Sunday. Only on that day is it colorful with the citizens (almost none of them English-speaking, incidentally) in costume. It is their native dress.

It is located 16 miles from the coast and about 25 miles from Ensenada or 98 miles from San Diego in a fertile valley back in the mountains. It has an altitude that makes it comfortable in summer, in fact, such an altitude that less than 10 days ago there was a heavy rain there, in an area ordinarily dry at this season.

The valley is bisected by a sizable stream that furnishes a year round water supply for the people, the fields of growing grain and a seemingly unlimited number of ducks and geese that populate every barnyard.

The houses, contrary to the usual practice of farming districts where the home is the pivot of the individual farm, are located closely together and surround school. Each home consists of a house of adobe with thatched, mud or shingled roof, depending on the enterprise of the builder and materials available at time of construction. The house is surrounded by from one to three or four outbuildings. These are barns of various sizes. Dogs are only outnumbered by the duck and geese. No hens were seen. There are a few turkeys, many horses and a goodly number of dairy cows for so small a population.

Buzzards are outnumbered by crows. These red-headed buzzards sit calmly atop every piece of carrion in the valley. The crows line every fence. Wild life? Quail, deer, dove, are plentiful.

## PECULIAR FENCES

These fences. A very few are of wire. Mostly, however, they are Lincoln-like split rail fences. Occasionally they may be of evenly piled rocks. These are the fences about the fields. Deviating from these types are those about the home. Invariably they seem to be of one or two-inch thick sticks about five feet long laced together and held upright in almost a solid screen by wire stretched between posts and trees.

Horse and saddle or team, and wagon have no competition as the means of transportation unless a few ten-year-old (or more ancient) automobiles burning gasoline that must be hauled from the coast can be counted. None of them seem to indicate with their heavy coating of undisturbed dirt that they are very frequently used.

## ROUTE TO FOLLOW

Guadalupe is reached easiest by following the Coast route from Los Angeles 138 miles to San Diego, thence 15 miles to the border, where a ten-day permit to visit Ensenada is issued at no charge. Driving through Tia Juana the paving is left behind where the roads turn off to Ensenada. Now a good gravel road permitting a speed of 25 miles an hour comfortable average lasts until about 5 miles north of Ensenada, where the route turns inland to Guadalupe. Now for

16 miles the road is poor, but with no steep grades as the ascent is made to the mountain home of the Russian Immigrants.

#### STOP AT ENSENADA

It is advisable to break the trip from San Diego by a stop at Ensenada overnight, where accommodations may be had. Then it is a pleasantly interesting and unusually quaint day to Guadalupe and back up the coast to San Diego and thence to Los Angeles. To make the trip in two days is to hurry, three days should be the minimum allotted the trip.

Costs are low. Sufficient gasoline can be carried that probably no more than f5 gallons at an extra cost under 50.cents will have to be bought in Mexico for any but the very largest cars. Food and accommodations, though not elaborate, are reasonably rated.

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