

Vol. II, No. 2.

August 31, 1981

# PHASE RABITER

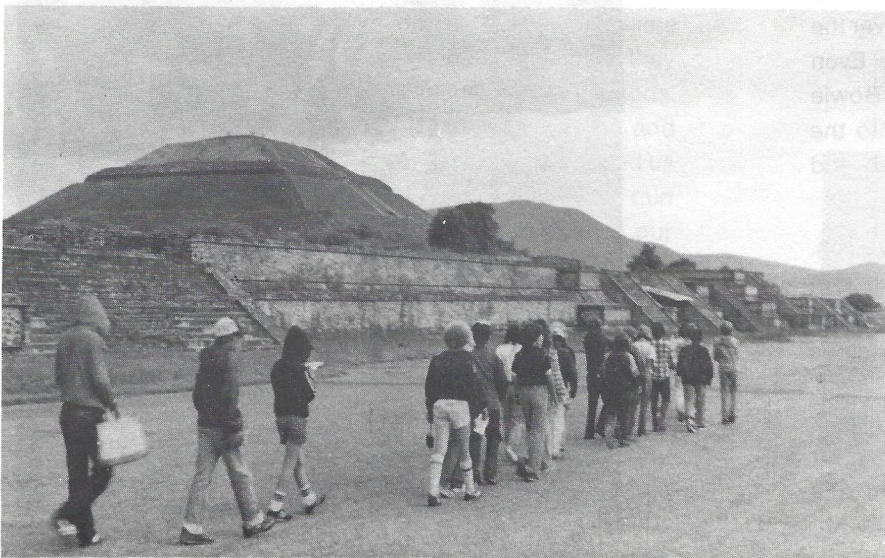
## MEXICO ENCOUNTER



*July 14, Teotihuacan, Mexico. Twenty-two children walk down the steps of the Pyramid of the Moon*



*and along the Street of the Dead*



*turning their backs on childhood.*



*In torrential rain, they climbed the Pyramid of the Sun as youth.*

# SIXTH GRADERS ENCOUNTER MEXICO

The sixth grade journey of 1981 was an encounter with the land and people of Mexico. Twenty-two sixth graders made the journey, left Chicago in two vans on Sunday, July 28 and returned for a closing ceremony on Sunday, August 2.

The purpose of the journey, which has been a part of the Phase I program since 1969, is to make the pass from childhood to youth. In previous years, the sixth graders have gone to the Grand Canyon, Seattle and West Coast, Appalachians, Colorado Rockies and an Indian Reservation in Montana. This is the first year that the sixth graders went outside the United States.

The group was divided into teams representing five great civilizations of Latin America. The members of each civilization follow: Toltecs: Christina Slicker, Robert McKay, Sandra Ariel, Peter Woodbury; Aztecs: Jane Sharp, Tim Rebstock, Shannon Williams, Eric Cox, Robert Cawfield; Olmecs: Emanuel Ward, David Duffy, Carol Griffin, Sean Scott; Incas: Matthew Lord, Lyle Stoner, Stuart Wright, Karyn Crow, Bob Galbreath; Mayas: Andy Parker, Sumit Parekh, Sarah O'Boyle, Jon Slotta.

The adult guides were Joseph Mathews, Araceli Mathews, Desmond Avery, Ann Avery and Lorena Cobio.

The following articles, written by the five teams, describe the five weeks of the journey.

## WEEK ONE: FROM CHICAGO TO SAN ANTONIO

We started in Chicago and went from there to San Antonio via St. Louis, Oklahoma City and Dallas.

San Antonio was important to us because it was the last stop in the U.S. and it told us about some U.S. history before we left for Mexico.

These are some of the things we learned at the Alamo: Daniel Boone took a cane, drew a line and told everyone who wanted to fight the war to step over the line. Only one man refused to step over the line. Even a cripple had himself carried over the line. Jim Bowie was wounded when some Mexicans broke into the Alamo. They ran in, threw Bowie onto bayonets and killed him.

By Saturday, July 4, all of our members were with us. We had waited in San Antonio till everyone could join us. The Broersmas — Tom and Trish — invited us to spend the night in their yard. We had a delicious supper consisting of hot dogs and baked beans, potato chips, fritos, lots of cookies, brownies and milk and watermelon. It was saved from their neighborhood block party. After that we went to a football field and let off bottle rockets with Mr. Broersma.

## WEEK TWO: FROM THE BORDER TO SALAMANCO

The heat was tremendous as we waited on the sidewalk. We had just crossed the border into Mexico and Joe was getting our tourist cards. They checked the vans but when they got to the trailer they took one look and closed the doors. We drove six hours through plains and mountains to Monclova. We spent the night there on the floor of a school hallway. The next day we traveled 16 hours to Salamanca, with only one stop for breakfast at a little restaurant on the way.

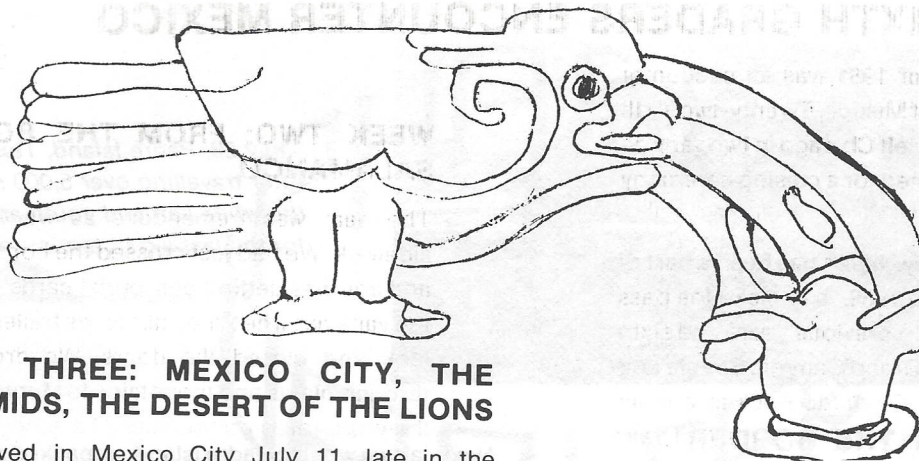
When we arrived late at night in Salamanca we were greeted warmly by the Martinez family. They served us very delicious steaming hot soup. Then we went to sleep in their patio. Next day Miguel Martinez took us to the big market at Guanajuato and we did a lot of sightseeing. We saw a big collection of mummies and a giant statue of a freedom fighter on top of a hill.

Next day we got up early and went out the Martinez' agricultural ranch. On the way, we got stuck in the mud and we all had to get out and push the vans. When we finally got to the fields, there were already Mexican workers there. We were in the fields because we were learning how to earn our food. We weeded for two days. After each work day we went swimming.

We had a fiesta to share our cultures through songs, dancing, gifts, a pinata and a delicious meal.



July 10, Salamanca, Mexico. David Duffy tries to break the pinata as others cheer him on at the fiesta the last night in the Martinez home.



## PEACEMAKER GOD from the Temple

*Sarah*

### WEEK THREE: MEXICO CITY, THE PYRAMIDS, THE DESERT OF THE LIONS

We arrived in Mexico City July 11, late in the afternoon. We settled down in Linda Vernooy's apartment and experienced our first night in Mexico City. The next day we went to the Basilica and saw the Virgin of Guadalupe. It was very crowded, although it was a big place.

We went to the Museum of Anthropology and saw a big fountain and learned about the pyramids and the ancient Aztecs. That afternoon we saw the real thing, the ruins of Teotihuacan, for the first time. Stuart Wright and David Duffy nearly got lost and left behind along with the ghosts of the Aztecs because they didn't know what time it was.

On Wednesday, we started a three day odyssey, at the Desert of the Lions. We each got one bolillo (a Mexican piece of bread) to last for seven hours. We were left alone at the Cruz Blanca and had to wander all day in the forest, looking for the monastery. When, at last, we had all got there, we waited for Joe and four people wandered off and so we had to hike some of the way home. Then, we had a feast and slept.

The next morning, Thursday, we went to Teotihuacan. We were left alone with our teams to explore the ruins. We met at the top of the moon pyramid to say goodbye to our childhood, then made a procession along Death Road to the Sun Pyramid. We stopped at the bottom of the Sun Pyramid and were told how the Aztecs used to do this same procession hundreds of years ago, only then they tore out the hearts of humans for sacrifice to the gods. We climbed to the top and it poured with rain and thundered and the wind blew very strong. Joe led us in a ritual of saying hello to our youth. The rain supposedly meant the gods were happy with our sacrifice. Some people thought it was a baptism into youth.

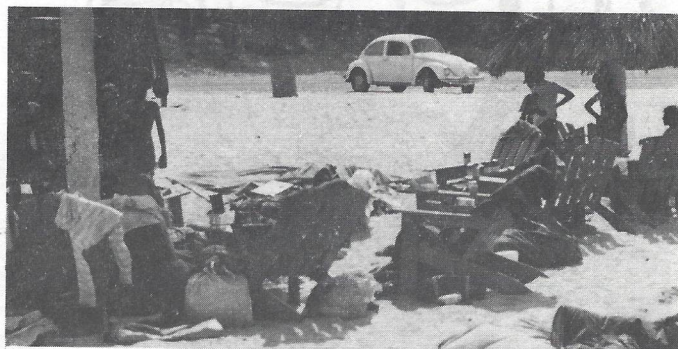
The next night we camped at the Desert of the Lions but it rained so hard the tents were flooded out and we had to sleep sitting up in the vans. The next day we moved to a very poor neighborhood of Mexico City and camped in the shell of a ruined church. We had House Church, where we all received stone crosses. We had to drink pop and leave the dishes dirty as there was no water. The third week was finished.

### WEEK FOUR: IN MEXICAN HOMES AND ON TAMPICO BEACH

Monday was our last chance to shop in Mexico City and we were left in the market for an hour where we bought things like rings, food, a vase and a silver chain with a shark's tooth. After that we were taken to a parking lot and there we met eighteen families we were going to stay with. We had met their kids playing soccer at Desert of the Lions two days before. Their coach and Araceli arranged a cultural interchange. We got split up and went to their homes. They were very generous and hospitable and we found out how Mexicans live.

For example, two of the families were the Velardes and the Peregrinas. The Velarde family have two children, Miguel and Gustobo. Bob Galbreath enjoyed staying with this family and going to an amusement park and football practice with them. The Peregrina family took Karyn Crow for a boat ride in a swamp and to a movie. Their children were called David, Rosa Maria, Martha and Sylvia.

We spent till Thursday morning with the families, then drove to Tampico Beach. We were left on our own on the beach for two days with 25 pesos for food and a litre of water a day for each of us. The sand was very hot. People got sunburned and blistered. The Incas, our team, managed to build a bonfire and roast marshmallows on it. There was a dead tree in the water and we played on it, knocking each other off the branches.



July 25, Tampico Beach, Mexico. Youth enjoy two days of sun, sand, sea and independence. Blisters came later.



July 28, Padre Island, Texas.  
After travelling over 5,000 miles  
the white van and youth are ready  
for the last leg of the journey.

## WEEK FIVE: CROSSING THE BORDER AND COMING HOME

We were driving homewards towards the border when the small van broke down in the middle of nowhere. We spent about one-half an hour trying to fix it but it couldn't be fixed so we hooked it on the back of the big white van and towed it to the border, about 200 miles.

At the border, the immigration officer made us get out of the van and called us by name, one by one. He asked David Duffy what his father does and David answered, "Oh, he's just in the Order." When he had finished, we found that Sumit's visa had expired and he had to go back across the Rio Grande with the Averys. They were going to let us through customs without unpacking the trailer, but Jane said she had two oranges in her knapsack. We had to unpack most of the trailer to find them. That night we slept at a fish hatchery while Sumit and the Averys slept at a hotel.

Next day we went to Padre Island, unpacked and went swimming. That night the white van came back with Sumit, the Averys, eight pizzas, two gallons of milk and a case and a half of coke. Everybody cheered. Next day we went to a church to write the Orbiter report while the small van was getting a whole new engine put in. By the time it was finished, we had to drive from Brownsville to Chicago without a break.

The trip was over. We want to thank the many, many families and individuals who have helped us on our way.

## THE RITE OF PASSAGE AS COMPLETED IN THE GREAT HALL "From Childhood Through Mexico to Youth. . ."

The Great Hall of the Order was full the last day of the Summer Council, August 2, as the returned youth walked in to present their gift to the Order.

Sarah O'Boyle and David Duffy presented the gift, a black rock with a diagonal white streak. David told the story that the group had created that morning as they reflected on that rock and their own experience. He said that it represented their journey "from childhood through Mexico to youth." Sarah handed the rock to Carol Pierce, representing the Panchayat, who asked her to show it to the whole assembly.

The second part of the ceremony was a ritual in which the youth said that they abandoned childhood and were ready to take on the responsibility of youth.

Finally, Joseph Mathews explained to the Council the ceremony at the Pyramids of the Sun and the Moon and presented the group to the Order and the Movement. After this, the group sang *Si eris grande y lo sabe*, (If you're great and you know it). Carol Pierce thanked the group for making the journey which we all would have liked to take. She asked the youth to see that their parents and colleagues had also been on a journey and were different people than they were when the journey began.

