

Hideaway Homes In Old Mexico: Americans Find The Quiet Life

By **CLYDE V. SMITH**
The San Diego Union's
Real Estate and Building Editor

Want to get away from it all . . .
And live in idyllic, primitive but beautiful surroundings, on a wide and sandy (and clean) beach where the waves of the Pacific roll gently against the shore?

No telephones.
No television.
In fact, no electricity.

But most of the other modern comforts of home, including fresh water and modern plumbing, are available.

If this strikes a note of fancy, then the Land of Mañana may be of more than passing interest. Or more specifically, the land of La Mision.

It has appealed to many American families who have established homes there, mostly second homes for vacation or weekend quiet life.

La Mision is a growing American colony in Mexico, rimming the ocean front in Baja California just 36 miles south of Tijuana.

It is not limited to Americans. Mexican families have their retreat homes there, too. In fact, the homes of the Latins are the most elaborate. But in numbers, the appeal of the area has attracted far more Americans than those of Mexican heritage.

La Mision has more going for it than just the relaxed life in Old Mexico. It is economical, involving far less outlay of funds than comparable accommodations in the States.

An expenditure of \$15,000 will finance a comfortable La Mision dwelling of about 1,200 square feet, including cost of the lease. For Southern Californians, the area is easily accessible, a 30-minute drive from the border over a new, four-lane highway.

Another attraction intrigues those who consider the possibility of retiring in Mexico, where the cost of living, so they say, is much less than on this side of the border. A vacation or second home can easily be converted into a retirement home.

Sites in this colony are available to Americans on a lease basis. The Mexican government does not permit aliens to own property close to the seashore or the border. But leases may be renewed on options up to 20 years and then, if desired, resold to another member of the family.

Mexican families, of course, do not have to go through leasing procedures. They buy their sites and own their homes outright.

At present, more than 75 homes have been completed in La Mision and more are under construction. There are other developments along the Baja California coast, including mobilehome parks, but none is growing as rapidly as La Mision and none among the permanent housing developments has direct access to such a wide stretch of beach as this American colony.

Although most La Mision dwellings are of moderate size and price, the area is sprinkled with elaborate homes, including an \$85,000 residential extravaganza owned by a Mexican family, Mr. and Mrs. Alfonso Bustamante. For

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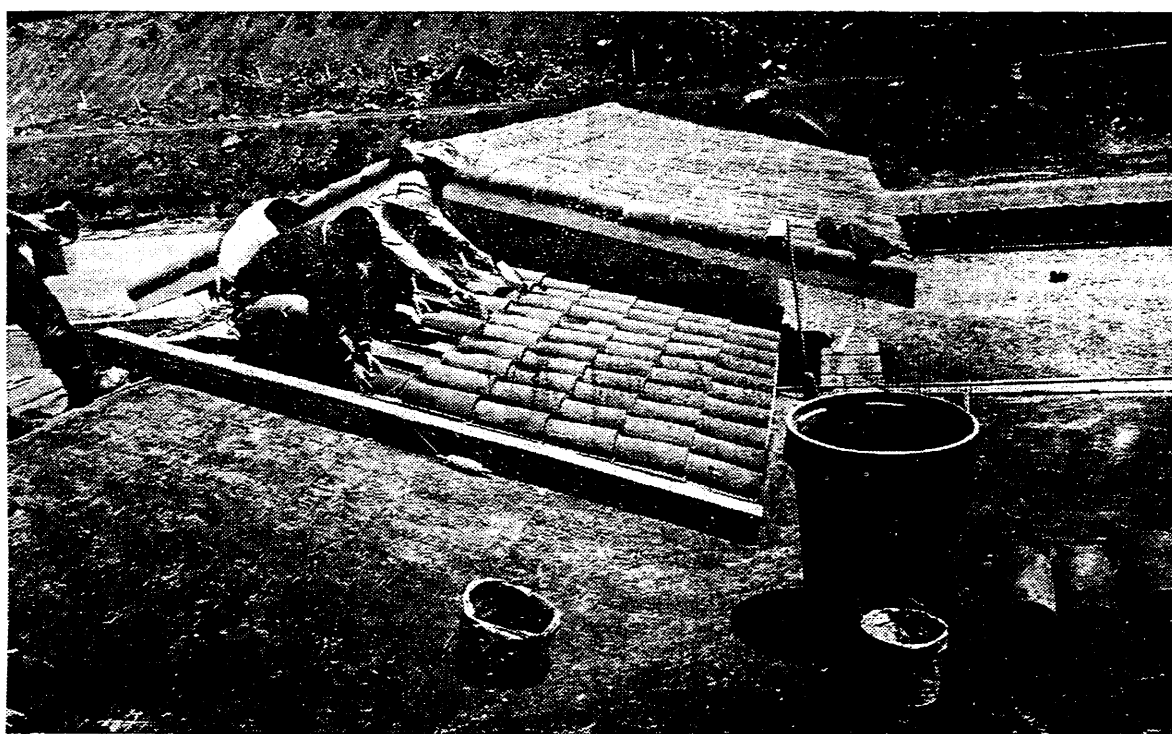


TYPICAL ARRAY of homes on the beach in Mexico are these small dwellings at La Mision, a growing American colony 36 miles south of the border between Tijuana and Ensenada. Most are second or vacation homes — a place to get

away from it all — for U.S. citizens, who lease the sites and contract for the construction. The cost averages about \$15,000 for a 1,200-square-foot dwelling. All are masonry, mostly native mission bricks, a fired adobe.



LA MISION STREETS are being paved with cobblestones by workers who imbed rock in foundation of sand. It accents the primitive atmosphere.



ROOFS ARE COVERED with handcrafted red tiles, made in Mexico, on practically all of the new homes built in La Mision. This, plus the masonry construction,

reduces fire hazard and accents appearance. This house is being built for Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Farlee, now residents of Ventura.



CAREFREE BEACH FUN is part of La Mision's appeal. Carla, 4, and Brandi, 6, daughters of Dr. and Mrs. Ed Fahlsing, enjoy romp. Homes line beach front.



GREEN Tour Of Huge Adobe Home

A Rancho Santa Fe house constructed of adobe, believed to be the largest residence in San Diego County, will be open for a preview showing, a benefit tour called "Fiesta de la Hacienda" next Sunday afternoon.

The house has an interior of 15,000 square feet, seven or eight times as large as the average residence, more than 15 times as large as many dwellings.

This work in adobe — the walls are 16 inches thick — spreads among the eucalyptus trees on an eight-acre site. It will be the future home of Mr. and Mrs. Thomas H. Friedkin.

The tour, from 1 to 6 p.m., is being

CIRCULAR FORMS accent 15,000-square-foot adobe home in Rancho Santa Fe, open for benefit tour next Sunday. It was designed by La Jolla architect Sim Bruce Richards.

sponsored by San Diego Mills College Alumnae Association for the Mills College "Challenge Fund." The cost, or "donation," is \$5.

The "Challenge Fund" is a drive stimulated by a Ford Foundation grant, which called for matching funds to be used for scholarships, faculty salaries and building at the college.

Mrs. Colin Wied, chairman, said tour visitors will gather at Whispering Palms, where tickets will be available. Transportation then will be provided to the residential showplace.

Sim Bruce Richards, La Jolla architect who designed the home, said the architectural style was borrowed from Old Mexico and blended with "exciting contemporary imagination."

Curving forms and arched passageways accent the structure. Few right-angled corners are evident on the exterior. Huge exposed beams throughout the house are reclaimed bridge timbers.

A cluster of "sculptured" chimneys, also of adobe, includes three fireplaces and a bell tower. There are five fire-

places in the home, located in two groups, fashioned in variations of adobe, handmade brick and stone from Arizona.

Many other dramatic features are evident in this home, built by Weir Brothers of Escondido, specialists in adobe construction.

Actually, the house is not yet fully complete, although all structural work has been accomplished. Owners permitted the opening of the house for the benefit tour prior to the finishing work.

The house has five bedrooms and four bathrooms. There is a large family room, plus a den with home bar. Behind the bar is a hydraulic lift, which will lower to a wine cellar when the need arises.

The architect selected materials to give the home a rustic, natural appearance, blending with the wooded, rural surroundings. Most of the adobe walls remain exposed in natural colors. Some of the rough bridge timbers are 50 feet long. Neutral brown stain

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