

Expedition No. 11: 1973 CAR TRIP TO MEXICO¹ AND GUATEMALA (Sept. 11 – Dec. 17, 1973; total of 13,077 miles by car in 67 days; probably in his VW)

Summary: Jack Harlan, once again driving alone in his VW, departed Champaign, Illinois on September 11, 1973 and headed for Mexico. His first stop was Tulsa, Oklahoma and then San Antonio, Texas. On September 13 he entered Mexico at Matchuala. The next day, he drove from Matchuala to Metropol. The following day began a two-day long national celebration of the birth of modern Mexico and nothing got done. On September 17 he traveled to Las Estacas, to the south of Mexico City and stayed there for nine days, while various people came and left. Las Estacas is the home to a luxurious natural wonder called “Topiltzin Contreras-MacBeath”. Please view the website <http://www.revistascisan.unam.mx/Voices/pdfs/5417.pdf> for a good historical description and photographic panorama. We do not know if Dr. Harlan was simply touring this area or if there was some kind of agricultural facility on site. Several people came and left during his stay.

October 7-10 Harlan went collecting in the country. He does not say what he collected, but he seems to be in Mexico. On October 8 he wrote in his pocket journal: “Lv. Guadalajara 6:50 // Ar. Barra de Navidad 2:45 // many stops; lots of Tr.” It might be that he is collecting *Tripsacum* (Tr.). A year later Harlan, along with de Wet, published two papers on the genetic interaction between maize and *Tripsacum*:

de Wet, J.M.J. and **J.R. Harlan**. 1974. *Tripsacum*-maize interaction: A novel genetic system. *Genetics* 78: 493-502.
Engle, L. M., J.M.J. de Wet and **J.R. Harlan**. 1974. Chromosomal variation among offspring of hybrid derivatives with 20 *Zea* and 36 *Tripsacum* chromosomes. *Carylogia* 27: 193-209.

It looks like Harlan brought back to the U of I a lot of *Tripsacum* seeds which they grew out and crossed in their greenhouse with *Zea* maize and did a microscopic study of the chromosomes on the hybrids.

He moved on down to the south and stopped at Tlaltizapán for five days (Oct. 19 – 23, 1973). On October 22 Harlan delivered a seminar. There is a CIMMYT research station at Tlaltizapán; so, probably Dr. Harlan gave his seminar at that facility. It was established in 1973, so the staff there may have been minimal. See <http://libcatalog.cimmyt.org/download/cim/24496.PDF> to see a report prepared in 1973 about CIMMYT in Mexico in 1973. The International Headquarters of CIMMYT is in El Batán

On Nov. 5, he mentions Jean and she seems to have met him there at El Batán.

Expedition Transcript:

Sept. 11, 1973: Departs Champaign & drives to Tulsa. (Beginning odometer reading: 17,729)

Sept. 12: Depart Tulsa 6:00 am, arrive San Antonio, Tx, 4:30 pm

Sept. 13: Depart SA, pass customs 11 am, arrive Matchuala, Mex. 6:00 pm

¹ In practically every entry there is an odometer reading on his car. I left these out except for beginning & end.

Sept. 14: Depart Matchauala, arrive Metropol, 3:30 pm Sept. 15-16: National Celebration (Independence Day: Sept. 16, 1810, began with the *Grito de Dolores*, *the Cry for Independence*, delivered at Dolores.)

Sept. 17 (Monday) – Arrive Las Estacas (south of Mexico City) / went to El Batan² (A) first, but no room in the inn. Grays arrive. [El Batan is an important CIMMYT experimental farm, 11 km] CIMMYT, Centro Internacional de Mejoramiento de Moiz y Trigo

The **International Maize and Wheat Improvement Center** (known by its Spanish acronym **CIMMYT** for **Centro Internacional de Mejoramiento de Maíz y Trigo**) is a non-profit research and training institution dedicated to both the development of improved varieties of [wheat](#) and [maize](#) with the aim of contributing to food security, and the introduction of improved agricultural practices to smallholder farmers to help boost production, prevent crop disease and improve their livelihoods. It is also one of the 15 non-profit, research and training institutions affiliated with the [CGIAR](#), formerly known as the [Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research](#). (Wikipedia)

There seems to be an experimental facility at El Batan and at Las Estacas. Harlan seems to be going back and forth between them. At this point in time (2017 – 44 years later), even with the internet, it is a bit difficult to discover what Dr. Harlan was doing at these two facilities. They had something to do with CIMMYT and this seems to be the draw.

Sept. 18-20: in Las Estacas [11 km SSW from El Batan]

Sept. 21: Grays depart.

Sept. 22: Tom arrives

Sept. 23-26 In Las Estacas

Sept. 27: To El Batan, meeting with Mario & Keith

Sept. 28: Saw Celia & Migual at Curdras for the night.

Sept. 29: at Cuadras, Tom S. to airplane

Sept. 30: to Las Estacas

Oct. 1: Las Estacas

Oct. 2: Las Estacas

Oct. 3: Lv Las Estacaso after pollinations, ca 10:00 ? Ar Taxco, ca 12:30

Oct. 4: Lv. Taxco 12:00 noon arr. V. de Bravo 4:30 Pm

² The CIMMYT International Headquarters is located in El Batan, Mexico.

Oct. 5: Lv V. de Bravo, 8:00 am, Ar. Morelia 5:00 pm

Oct. 6: to Guadalajara

Oct. 7: collected in am, Tapalpa pm

Oct. 8: Lv. Guadalajara 6:50 // Ar. Barra de Navidad 2:45 // many stops; lots of Tr.

Oct. 9: Lv. 6:30, Return 2:30 // collecting on Los Mazos

Oct 10: Lv. 6:30 Ar 7:00 Moralia, some collections. Called Jean finally after 10:00 Ignatius!

Oct. 11: Car repair – the wheel done by noon; did the Zocolo & rested/needed badly.

Oct. 12: Lv. Morelia 6:40; Quiruzá 7:00; Oatcyra 7:30; Urynoab 8:30; ?? 10:00; Playa Azul, (Google: Irapuato) 2:30 p

Oct. 13: No room at Uruapan or Patzcuaro, so went back to Morelia.

Oct. 14: Morelia

Oct. 15 (Monday): to CIMMYT³ (El Batán? JRH notes say this was a 32.7 mile journey. Google has 332 km, or 206 miles. There must be another CIMMYT facility closer to Morelia.)

Oct. 16: Cocktails in Mexico D.F.

Oct. 17: In by 2:30 am; car in shop

Oct. 18: Car out of shop; little done

Oct. 19: To Tlaltizapán⁴ // Bird came to call (Bob)

Oct. 20: Worked on book; world series

Oct. 21: Collected artifacts, world series

Oct. 22: Seminar 10:30 went OK

Oct. 23: Tlaltizapán

Oct. 24: Visit with Jugoslav; didn't show. Rev. Book

Oct. 25: Mexicana; Deposit junk with Marie; 1:00 Seminar at Chapruyo // Lunch w/Cuadios

Oct. 26: Rugs with borders ca \$15.00 // Chickenquack // To Las Estacas

³ Address of CIMMYT: km 45 Carretera Mexico-Veracruz, El Batón 56130, State of Mexico, Mexico (Google)

⁴ 130 km south of Mexico City (Google)

Oct. 27: To Taxco

Oct. 28: To Valle de Bravo /

(Notes:) Sma. Virgen del // Sdo. Corazon

Oct. 29: To Morelia

Oct. 30: To Uruapan

Oct. 31: To Playa Azul

Nov. 1: Playa Azul

Nov. 2: To Chilpancingo (Google: Chilpancingo, Hipódromo, Cuauhtémoc, Mexico City, Mexico, seems the most logical)

Nov. 3: To Mexico D. F.

Nov. 4: Mexico D. F.

Nov. 5: Jean to Plan?? // To El Batan

Nov. 6: El Batan

Nov. 7: Mexico D.F. (re boat tickets)

Nov. 8: L. Mexico D.F. 11:00 AM, Ar. Iguala PM (Road a bit slow)

Nov. 9: Lv Iguala 8:15, Ar. Pinotepa Natcional 2:45 Hot!

Nov. 10: 38.0 Pesos

Nov 11: Pachula // Yocum's phone # (813-447-xxxx) // Drew #2 // Lv. Oaxaca 9:30 , Ar Pte Escandido 8:00 pm [Google: Puerto Escondido, Adolfo López Mateos Los Olivos, Ciudad López Mateos, Mexico]

Nov. 12: Lv. 9:00p, Ar. 6:15 p Oaxaca

Nov. 13: Oaraca [Google: Oaxaca]

Nov. 14: Lv 8:15, Ar. Tapachula 5:00 p (Google could not find a location with this name that was about 9 hours away. What I finally settled on is 12 hours away in 2013; so, I don't think I found this one. HVH2)

Nov. 15: Car serviced. Lv Tapachula 11:00, ar. Quetzaltenango (Google: Quetzaltenango, Guatemala)

Nov. 16: Lv. Q at 9:30 Camera stolen at SF al Alto Ar. Guatemala Ca [City?] 2:00 bought camera Ca 3:30 Roosevelt Motel nerzatzte" 15.00 [This seems to be the farthest they went into Guatemala]

Nov 17: Hotel Los Azahares

Nov. 18: Gran \$2.00 hotel ... Quetzaltenango, Guatemala [200 km east of Guatemala City]

Nov. 19 Monday: Culiapa // Antigua // Quezaltenango // Bonifaz [Google: Bonifaz Calvo Ibarrola Javier, Santiago de Querétaro, Mexico] [I DON'T THINK HE WENT BACK INTO MEXICO THEN BACK INTO GUATEMALA, SO SOMETHING'S NOT RIGHT WITH THIS ONE. HVH2]

Nov. 20: Quetel Huchuetenango Zaculeu (Google: **Zaculeu**⁵) [94 km north of Quetzaltenango, Guatemala]

Nov. 21: Huchuetenango to Sn Antonio Guatemala Huista + Buskup + to La Mesilla, Motel O.K. \$3.00 [on the border with Guatemala]

Nov. 22: Collected Tlax (Flax?)⁶ cult. nearly all day crossing border – to Tuxtla Gutierrez Rex Hotel [Southern Mexico]

Nov. 23: Villahermosa San Diego poor [Google: 275 km north of Tuxtla Gutierrez]

Nov. 24: Campeche Balvartes (Google: Baluartes, 16 de Septiembre, Campeche, Mexico)

Nov. 25: Telephoned all day // Campeche Balvaeks // Notes at bottom of page: S. Wortman phone # 212-256-8100 Re China

Nov. 26 Monday: Merida Hacienda Inn too much

Nov. 27: Merida do // car repairs

Nov. 28: Calle 60 No. 469 // Transportes Maritimos de Yucatan // car repairs // Merida alo

Nov. 29: via Chitzen – ITZA

Nov. 30: get some Guinness from gay Hatch! // Meride via UXMAL

Dec. 1:

Dec. 2: Dean Hatch's birthday // Guinness

Dec. 3-16: no entries except mileage and gallons as he makes it back to Champaign.

Dec. 17 30,869 END (HVH2 calculation: Total mileage: 13,077 miles)

⁵ Mayan ruins at [Huehuetenango](#), Guatemala

⁶ Yes, they grew flax in Mexico in 1973. It was not native, but neither was cotton, etc.