

Lawrence, Kansas. March 18, 1983 830318-6
John Bowen & a friend Adra spent a week or so
in Mexico and return the day before we left for
our trip. He reports the following:

Always go on first class fares whether train, bus or
planes, otherwise one might be passenger with chickens,
pigs and piles of boxes. Plane fare from Mexico City to
Acapulca is \$11.00 and by bus was \$3.20. Train fare
from Las Mases to Chihuahua was 7.00 (first class). Food
is unbelievably cheap. Bananas in best tourist sections
was 5 pesos. We went into fruit markets in one of
the many in Mexico City where we stood around and
looked at all the fruit, some kinds of which we had
never seen and an old gentleman came up and
befriended Adra and the next thing we knew we were
tasting all the different kinds of fruits and they
would not let us pay for them. It is necessary to
have a travel agent make reservation otherwise it is
impossible to make headway in Mexico. We got
40 roses (fresh) in a base pot for \$12.00. In the states
it would be a hundred dollars worth of roses. We were
told were over paid for it. A dollar worth of fruit
would be more than you could carry unless you
bought some very expensive stuff. If you are
planning to buy anything down there you are allowed
to send back 1 package per day worth not more than
\$25.00. The main problem is mailing the packages.
The Mexican postal workers are about half as efficient
as American postal workers and I have never seen a
more crazy system than they use but you can still
deal with it. The first thing to remember is you have
to have things in boxes and wrapped in paper which
is hard to come by so if you mail out instead of
carrying them around mail them because postal rates
are cheap. The main thing is to get heavy brown wrapping
paper and wrap them with twine. Don't tape it as
they frequently inspect it. You can register packages.
First at post office you get a customs stamp, and
then fill out a whole bunch of forms which you do not
have a prior advantage of studying the information.