

Mexican friar's bones believed at site

## Mission history left scattered

LAMPAZOS, Mexico (AP) — Any hope of finding the remains of Friar Diego de Salazar, founder of the remote Mexican village of Lampazos, remained scattered among the nearly 300-year-old bones unearthed this spring.

The skeletons were discovered beneath the floor of a church within the walls of the city's oldest structure, Mision de Santa Maria de los Dolores, established in 1698 by Friar Salazar.

WHEN THE discovery was made, excited workers ran through the village to a site where architects busied themselves over the restoration plans of three other structures in the city of 6,000. Lampazos is about 80 miles southwest of Laredo.

Work stopped and archeologists were called in from Mexico City.

Meanwhile, speculation ran high among villagers that the bones might be those of the much-revered Salazar, whose burial place has been the object of decades of search by villagers who still revere him.

When archeologists arrived, they spent less than two hours at the site. Much to the disappointment of the community, no instruments were available to sieve through the fine sand. No attempt was made to bring in other equipment that might have separated the thousands of bits of debris.



The Mision de Santa Maria de los Dolores in Lampazos.

WORKERS CONTINUED excavating with shovels and pickaxes. Hundreds more bones were found, and many beautiful but rotted pieces of pecan and walnut coffin wood were uncovered.

Workers also ran into a boulder about 20 feet in circumference. Shovels struck on the boulder surface produced a distinct hollow sound. But attempts to search below its surface were abandoned when even the combined efforts of the workers were insufficient to budge the huge rock.

Of the nearly 100-foot by 45-foot section of flooring removed, an area no larger than 30 by 45 feet was searched. The remaining 70-by-45-foot section was left untouched, poured over with packing sand, and laced with reinforcement bars. By the end of the week it would be buried under a solid slab of concrete nearly 3 feet thick.

AND EXCEPT for several daily visits by the resident architect, neither the archeologists nor the architects in charge of operations remained behind to supervise any of the work.

During the Mexican revolutionary years, Lampazos was raided by both the rebel forces of Venustiano Carranza and Pancho Villa.

In 1912, a band of Carranza's army occupied the mission. The nuns' quarters were overtaken and used to store ammunition, gunpowder, and hay for the horses.

Then one night they burned it to the ground.

One of the older residents of Lampazos, Maria Refugio Guajardo, recalled the days when the mission was a "veritable paradise." Beautiful trees and immense courtyards were surrounded by the convent walls. Children sat at the feet of nuns and learned Latin and Greek, and most learned piano and violin as well.

Near Will + all

you I had the surgery - removed 12  
Polyps the size of index finger to thumb  
All proved to be benign - they left some  
16 more to be removed in February.

Implanted spot for blood pressure correction  
Doing here monitor detail. Hope things are better  
Here in a clipping which might prove of  
interest to you. I fear Salazar would spare.

Foot Padre with De Leon in the Lampazan  
Area of Lampazan County about 1685. The Village of  
Lampazan, the River and the Stinking Springs or  
Lampazan Springs were named by him according  
to Governor Escandon as reported by Tomas Cox  
and Alvarado - both of them men traveled in  
the Army of Martin Bastidas a Captain in the  
Army of Governor Jose Escandon about 1752, when Es-  
candon encouraged the Ferreras party to attempt to es-  
tablish a presidio, a mission and a school at  
Arroyo Caballo some seven miles north and east of the  
springs at Lampazan. This settlement was to serve  
as a barrier in support of the Lipan Apaches who  
had an established village on the heights overlooking  
Arroyo Caballo about one and one half miles south  
and west of the presidio. Many hundreds of arrow heads, flint  
and stone axes and gunning stones were picked up here  
and sent to Joe B. Cox of San Marcos, Tex. who made many copies  
of that location in search of Indian "signs".

On Nov 26, 1984 Ben Lang talked with me at length of  
the great amount of plant Chippings at this site and of the  
number of Rattlers who lived among the rocks along  
the east Chippings around the top of the mesa. Ben also  
spoke of the many wild plum bushes which grew on  
top of the mesa.

When you come back for visit next time I want  
to be able to take off and go with you to this old  
Indian Village near Lamy Creek - I know that Joe  
told you of his many finds there in his boyhood.

Jim Cox, I knowed many Rattlers, Snake Skins  
that he had for belts, Hat Bands Coat Collars,  
and trim for Buck Skin which were treasures.  
I went to hospital - Arroyo - Heart and  
Blood Pressure better - Conscience and  
Mourning Rest as all?