



Betsy McCall Writes from "Meh-he-ko"

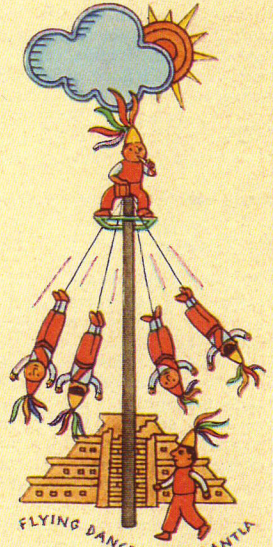


ME BUYING A BALLOON

¡Hola! Linda—that means "Hi, Linda." First thing I learned here in Mexico City was to call myself a *North American*, because Mexicans are Americans, too. And to say *gracias* for *thank you* and *por favor* for *please*. Our first Sunday, we woke so early that Daddy thought we'd be the only ones up. But we weren't. In Chapultepec Park, balloon sellers were selling the most gorgeous HUGE balloons you ever saw. Pretty soon every child (me, too) had a balloon by a long string. In another part of the park, there was a rodeo, with cowboys in big sombreros and jackets embroidered in silver. Far in the distance we could see two ENORMOUS volcanos, with snow on top although it was a warm day. Daddy says that they're 18,000 feet high and it's winter up there. Their names are enormous, too—*Popocatepetl* and *Ixtaccihuatl*. Daddy and I have been to lots of other cities, by plane and by bus.

A little Mexican girl sitting next to me on one bus pointed to herself and said, "*Me llamo Maria*." So I tapped myself on the chest and said, "*Me llamo Betsy*." We felt friendly, even though all we could do was smile at each other. Linda, there isn't a day when there isn't a fiesta somewhere in Mexico! And such exciting markets! We went to Oaxaca (*Wah-HA-ka*), where they have the most wonderful Saturday market, and to Guadalajara (the *j* sounds like *h*), a very big city, where you hear mariachi bands wherever you go, and, brother, what a lot of noise they make! But I *loved* it. Daddy is calling me, so I must stop. The pictures in this letter will show you other places we visited. Let's all come here for the Olympic games in the autumn. Wouldn't that be the greatest?

¡Hasta la vista!—which means "See you soon."
Love, Betsy



FLYING DANCERS OF PAPANTLA



ME IN A MEXICAN HUIPIL



YUCATAN DRESS



TEHUANTEPEC FIESTA DRESS

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