

# Success Story In Mexico Yankee Style

**Mary Margaret McBride**

MEXICO CITY — Fred Davis from Gilman, Ill., population 1,500 (same as Paris, Mo.), invited me to breakfast yesterday. Surrounded by paintings of famous artists, pottery, wrought silver, embroidery and straw work, we drank coffee grown on Mr. Davis' hacienda in Cuernavaca and talked of his hobby, Mexican handicrafts, which has now become big business.

Fred was very young when his father died and he asked a friend, who had gone from Gilman to Mexico and started to work for the Sonora News Company, to try to find him a job, too. Then, abashed at his own daring, he began to hope he'd never hear from the friend. However, word soon came and the youth arrived in the Mexican capital, frightened, penniless and speaking, of course, not a word of Spanish.

Immediately he was put to work as a train boy, selling chewing gum and newspapers. He picked up the language as he went along and learned to know and like the people he met. He also was impressed by their hand-woven serapes and rebozos, patterned jugs and lacquered trays.

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His room over a store of the company began to be filled with floor mats, baskets, clay utensils, fiesta toys and other examples of