

Names in Brief

The Surname González.—Of the Spanish-Portuguese patronymics, González and Gonçalves are among the most widespread. The Portuguese retain the more archaic form; and Gonzalvo > Gonzalo is the medieval Gundisalvus, which represents the Germanic *Gundisalv*.

The first element, *gundi*, "battle," is one of the commonest of Germanic namegiving. Förstemann has counted 217 names into whose formation *gundi* enters. But the second element, *salv*, has been a riddle for onomatologists.

For a considerable period *Gundisalv* was considered a German-Latin hybrid (as Valeric and Leonard) in which *salv* was interpreted as the Latin *salvus*. Its significance would be "he who saves the battle." This is a forced and indefensible interpretation. There was an attempt to relate *salv* with the OHG *salo(wer)*, turbid, which yields the French *sale*: a still less acceptable version.

Meyer-Lübke saw in *salv* an ancient *salu*, due to the confusion between *v* and *u*. *Salu*, "house, dwelling, meeting-place," *seli* in OS, *salor*, *sael*, in AS: "house, palace." *Gundisalv* would be something like *Kampfhaus*, "house of combat," that is, "fortress, castle."

Neither is Meyer-Lübke's version plausible. The error of my predecessors has been to separate *Gundisalv* into *Gundi-salv*. The solution of the problem is simple. Actually *Gundisalv* is *gundis-alv*. *Gundis* is a variant of *gund* (cf. *sigis*, variant of *sig*, in Sigismund, Sigisbert) and *alv* is 'elf,' the same 'elf' that is found in *Alv-rich*, *Alberich*, "the king of the elves" (which yield *Aubrey* and *Oberon*) and in many other Germanic names. *Gundisalv* is the "elf of battle." I have found a proof of the correctness of my version in the 'reciprocal' name *Albigund*, "battle of the elf" (cf. *Wolfgang*, *Gangwolf*; *Hardnit*, *Nithard*; *Haribert*, *Berthari*; *Walthari*, *Hariwald*, etc.).

National University of Mexico

GUTIERRE TIBÓN

The Name of Guadalupe.—The Virgin Mary was worshipped in Extremadura in the Monastery of *Guadalupe*. This name was given by Columbus to one of the Lesser Antilles because of his discovery

of the island on the day of Our Lady of Guadalupe (1493). From the devotion of Cortés and his followers to the Virgin of their province, arises the Mexican cult of María de Guadalupe who, according to tradition, appeared to an Indian called Juan Diego on the 12th of December, 1531.

Guadalupe is one of the commonest baptismal names in Mexico and has also become the name of hundreds of places in the Republic. Outside of Mexico we may note Guadalupe Santa Fe (Argentina); Guadalupe San Nicolás (Cuba); Guadalupe (Guatemala); Guadalupe (province of Agusán, Philippine Islands).

At one time it was supposed that Guadalupe was an Arab-Latin hybrid formed from *uadi*, "river, valley or ravine," and *lupe*, the genitive of *lupus*, "wolf." The sanctuary of Guadalupe took its name from a river so called because wolves used to come there to drink.

For years I have thought that the second element of Guadalupe was interpreted as wolf (*lobo*) by folk etymology. Almost all the Spanish place names in whose composition "uadi" enters, are essentially Arabic: for instance Guadalquivir, Guadalajara, Guadarrama, Guadalmedina, Guadalcazar. With the assistance of the lexicographer Miguel Sabbagh, of Damascus, compiler of the Arabic-Spanish dictionary, I have been able to formulate a new hypothesis. *Lub* in Arabic is the plural of "black gravel." Guadalupe would be "the river of black gravel," as Guadalajara is "the river of pebbles." The first took its name from the bed of small black stones and sand which characterized it, and the second from large, rounded stones.

Recently (Spring 1953) I received a letter from the Governor of the Province of Teruel, in which he informed me that the River Guadalopillo passes through a coal bearing region, thus verifying partially the new interpretation. I await the answer from the civil and ecclesiastical authorities of Cáceres, Extremadura, whom I have asked to inform me if the river Guadalupe is in fact characterized by its black gravel.

GUTIERRE TIBÓN

National University of Mexico

Clocks.—One of the plant wanderlusters is showing now throughout the Southwest its magenta stars, bright against its green mat. It is a wild geranium, the filaree, commonly called by the children "clocks." The Greeks call the plant "crane's bill." The Spanish name means "needle." The botanical name is *Erodium cicutarium*.

It is not a native American plant, but has traveled to us from the Mediterranean. In doing this, it has beaten its way just as effectively as does a "brakebeam tourist." It is common near those Spanish seaports from which sailed Columbus and, later on, the Conquistadores. The filaree seeds probably stole their first ride in the woolen saddle-bags of the horses which were soon to terrify the Aztecs when Cortez marched on Montezuma's capital.

Now, why do children call the plant "clocks"? The shape of the filaree seed is such that it not only resembles a needle, it also takes the form of that remarkably highly evolved bill of the heron or the crane. The mathematics of seed forming result in a 5-clustered seed with a long appendage attached. The seed, itself, has a needle-like point. As the seed ripens, the long appendage automatically separates from the center stem. The children anticipate the maturity of the seed by taking it and inserting it in woolen clothing. The stem then commences to revolve. The youngsters, with their fine imagination, say they can thereby tell the time of day. Two twists means 2 o'clock, three twists means 3 o'clock, four twists means 4 o'clock, etc.

You can try "clocking" yourself—but do not rely on catching a bus by its "time."

C. M. GOETHE

Named Engines of the Central Pacific Railway.—Instead of having serial numbers as at present the pioneers of the rails bore names, some of them of historical significance and others indicating the emotions evoked in the minds of those who first beheld these novel steel monsters. Among the first engines were the "Pacific," "F. D. Judah," "Sargent," "Nevada," "Humboldt," "Arctic," "Hercules," "Piute," "Amazon," "Tamaroo," "Industry," "Gold Run," "Achilles," "El Dorado," "Colossus," "Tip Top," "Red Deer," "Grizzly," "Jupiter" (used at driving of last spike ceremonies), "Storm," "Whirlwind," "Vesuvius," "Terrible," "Growler," "Apollo," "U. S. Grant," "Clipper," "Rattler," "Rambler," "Hawk," "Golden

Eagle," "Blue Bird," "Sunbeam," "El Gobedor," the last one a huge freight locomotive, built in the Sacramento shops and so heavy that many trestles and bridges had to be braced. It was used on the climb up the Sierra, long before the coming of the Mallets.

RALPH EMERSON WOODS

MORE NAMES AND TRAINS

Corrections from the A.A.R.—In stating that only two women have given their names to trains the author of "Names and Trains" must have overlooked the Norfolk & Western's *Pocahontas*, named for the Indian princess and the Atlantic City train *Nellie Bly*, named for the New York girl reporter who beat Jules Verne's time around the world. On the other hand, the Central of Georgia's train *Nancy Hanks* was not named for the mother of Lincoln except in indirect fashion. It was named for a famous harness race horse in the 1890's, whose name was taken by a speeding train of that period. The train was discontinued for many years but was revived in its present-day streamlined form under the name, which has become familiar to an older generation, of the *Nancy Hanks II*. Two other names ascribed to trains of the Pennsylvania Railroad are more commonly associated with other railroads which join in their operation. These are the Seaboard's *Orange Blossom Special* and the C&O's *FFV*, both of which become Pennsylvania trains only between Washington and New York.

ROBERT S. HENRY

Phoebe Snow.—Many people still believe that the name Phoebe Snow, which appeared in large sloping letters on the sides of the Lackawanna R.R. cars belonged to a real person. However, the name with its application, "Route of Phoebe Snow," was the invention of a bright young advertising man in the early 1890's. Most all other lines (except the Pennsylvania) were using soft coal, which caused the locomotives to throw a continuous shower of cinders, but the Lackawanna was using hard (anthracite) coal that made a hot, clean fire with hardly any smoke or cinders. Phoebe Snow was supposed to be a young lady wearing a white dress with many frills and traveling all day on the Lackawanna without even a smudge.

RALPH EMERSON WOODS

Wolverine.—In connection with the name of a train derived from the nickname of a state, in turn derived from the name of an animal a statement in Albert H. Marckwardt's article "Wolverine and Michigander" (*Michigan Alumnus Quarterly Review*, May, 1952) may be of interest: "Zoologists inform us that wolverines are now extinct in the state and indicate some doubt about their ever having been here at all in any considerable number. Historians have searched in vain among early fur inventories and bills of sale for similar evidence. Yet the earliest recorded instances of the nickname precede Michigan's admission to statehood by a very few years.

Nor is the mystery of its application at all recent in origin. Karl Neidhard, whose *Reise Nach Michigan . . . im Sommer 1834* was published in Leipzig in 1835, speaks of "our *wolverine* or *glutton*, as the inhabitants of Michigan are nicknamed for some strange reason." It should be noted that in English the word "glutton" was a synonym for wolverine as early as the seventeenth century, and that *Vielfrass* ("glutton") is the only German word for the animal.

The Egyptian, the name of the passenger train of the New York Central, is an example of the survival of names after the reason for the naming has disappeared. Originally the train ran between Chicago and Cairo, Illinois (Little Egypt), and the name was perfectly justified. When the train was shifted to the run between Chicago and Harrisburg, the old name was kept although it was no longer appropriate.

Funny Train Names.—In my article on the names of North American passenger trains in the March issue one class of names, that with a humorous connotation, was omitted. In this class belong *The Beachcomber* of the Boston & Maine, *The Stampeder* of the Canadian Pacific, *The Nightcap* of the New York New Haven & Hartford, and *The Man o' War* of the Central of Georgia.

E. G. G.

Speed.—The train *Nellie Bly* of the Pennsylvania RR should not be among the train names "chosen for their sound and their catchiness." It is a name definitely indicating "speed." Nellie Bly traveled around the world in 72 days, 6 hours, 11 minutes, quite an achievement in—1889.

H. K.