

### Birth of a volcano: Paricutin

Dioniso Pulido was a Mexican peasant, owner of a field located not far from the village of Paricutín, approximately 320 kilometers to the west of Mexico City.

One fine summer day in 1942, while he was cultivating corn, he discovered a large hole with a depth of one and a half metres in his field. In spite of the surprise, Dioniso did not worry and continued his activity.

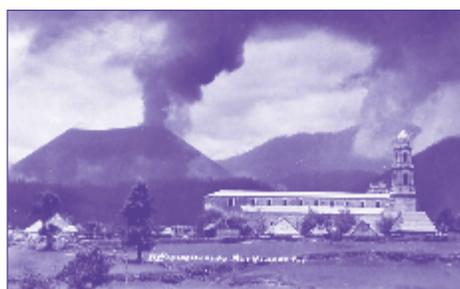
Dioniso continued to work his fields until the 20th February 1943, when, after having heard rumblings coming from the ground, he saw a long crack of a few tens of meters letting ash escape in the middle of his furrows. The inhabitants of the village close to San Juan Parangaricutiro had also felt these rumblings as well as small earthquakes.

Upon arriving in his field the next morning, Dioniso Pulido discovered a cone of ten meters high. A few hours later, after many explosions, the cone measured nearly 30 meters in height and lava started to run out of this new volcano which had just been born, to which was given the name of the nearby village: Paricutin.

During the following days, the volcano continued to grow: 106 meters in one week, 148 meters in one month, 190 meters in three months, to reach 336 meters at the end of one year.

During this time, Paricutin ejected ashes and lava flows.

In July 1944, one of which destroyed the village of San Juan Parangaricutiro by covering all the houses. Only part of the church was spared. The people were evacuated, including in September 1944, when the village of Paricutin was buried by the ashes and lava.



The eruptions continued for eight more years. In March 1952, after nine years of eruption, the Paricutin cone measured 424 meters.