

BIENVENIDOS AMIGOS

Welcome, Reader, to the first issue of OAXACA TIMES. Oaxaca, Mexico's best kept secret, is a beautiful, clean, colonial city with friendly people and a nearly perfect climate. Despite all its qualities, Oaxaca can be a frustrating place when you are trying to exchange money, to find out about a cultural event, or to accomplish some basics of living.

OAXACA TIMES aims to provide the English-speaking visitor with valuable information which will enhance and enrich his/her stay. Our writers have worked hard to put together a valuable publication. We need your

feedback though. Write, call (6-34-43) or come by our office (Guerrero 311) with your tips and recommendations about Oaxaca. We also urge you to patronize our advertisers and to tell them that you saw their ads. Without their valuable support, we cannot provide this publication for free.

Our office is only 2 1/2 blocks east of the Zocalo at the Institute of Communication and Culture, A.C. Come and get acquainted. Bring us your input. But, above all, enjoy our beautiful Oaxaca and have a "Feliz Navidad y Prospero Año Nuevo."
Yolanda Garcia C.
Publisher

HOLIDAY SEASON (continued from Page 1)

CHRISTMAS EVE Mass will be held at 11:30 at the Cathedral of Oaxaca. At midnight there will be a grand finale of the Christmas festivities with music and fireworks on the Zocalo.

CHRISTMAS DAY Most stores and restaurants will be closed on Christmas Day, Sunday, Dec. 25th as well as Monday, Dec. 26. Hotels and some zocalo restaurants, however, will be open for business. There will be nativity displays on the Zocalo and on the Alcala tourist promenade leading to Santo Domingo Church and some entertainment on the Zocalo.

NEW YEAR'S EVE Major hotels and discos will offer New Year's Eve dinners and dances. Mass will be at 11 p.m. at all churches except the Cathedral at 11:30 p.m.. There will be plenty of action on the Zocalo that evening too with music, fireworks and much merry-making.

NEW YEAR'S DAY Again, most stores and restaurants will be closed on New Year's Day, Jan. 1 and Monday, Jan. 2, except for hotels and some Zocalo diners. You will probably appreciate a quiet day to recuperate from all the activities of the previous two weeks.

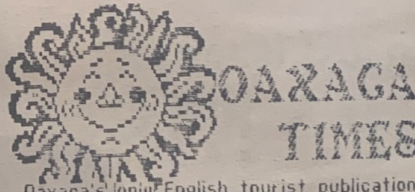
Just a reminder: the holiday greetings are "Feliz Navidad" (fee-lease nah-ve-dod) for Christmas and "Prospero Año Nuevo" (pra-spare-oh Ahn-yo Nu-wave-oh) for New Year's.

NO NEED SAY 'NO SE' LEARN SPANISH TODAY

To get maximum enjoyment out of your stay in Mexico, you should learn Spanish. Forget any bad memories of high school language classes; it is easier and much more fun to learn a language in an environment where you have countless opportunities to practice it everyday. Plus, your efforts will be instantly rewarded.

Oaxaca offers many language schools. Institute of Communication and Culture Guerrero 311 is highly recommended for small, personalized classes and convenient location only 2 1/2 blocks from the Zocalo. Winter Session runs January 9th through February 3rd but private classes may be arranged to meet your time requirements. All instructors are university trained and have broad experience.

Yolanda Garcia C., Director and Founder of the Institute, lived in the U.S. and has been the Faculty of Languages at the Benito Juarez University in Oaxaca for many years. Under her able direction, the Institute has expanded to offer English Tourism classes for Mexico working in the industry and publication Oaxaca Times to assist Oaxaca's visitors.



Oaxaca's only English tourist publication

published monthly as cultural extension of

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NIGHTLIFE

Whether you like disco, jazz, Mexican music, romantic ballads, or what-have-you, Oaxaca has something for you:

LOS GUAJIROS - 303 Alcala, open 7 p.m.- 2 a.m. nightly; 2,000 peso cover during performances by Guajiro and Evelyn (Cuban/Romantic), Sunday and Monday, and by Cero En Produccion (salsa group), Tuesday through Saturday.

TEATRO JUAN RULFO, - 300 Independencia (corner of La Soledad), 8 p.m. show Saturday and Sunday featuring Canto Nuevo specializing in folkloric music of Latin America, 2,500 peso cover.

HOTEL MONTE ALBAN - Alameda de Leon, right in front of the Cathedral, offers a folkloric show every night 8:30-10, 5,000 peso cover charge.

RESTAURANTE REGIO DE OAXACA - Corner of E. Carranza and Palmeras in Colonia Reforma, Lina Medina sings romantic music on Fridays and Saturdays, 9-Midnight.

KAFTANS - Calzada Porfirio Diaz, in Hotel Mision de los Angeles, disco music nightly 9:30 p.m. - 3 a.m., cover charge.

YONKEE - Jalisco 15 in Hotel San Felipe Mision, video disco from 9 p.m.- 2 a.m. Fri. and Sat./ Sun. 5-11 p.m. disco with cover charge during weekend; Tue.-Thurs. video bar, no cover.

VICTORIA DISCO - Cerro del Fortin in the Hotel Victoria, disco Mon. thru Sat. from 1:30 p.m. , cover charge and 11,000 peso drink minimum.

PASHA - Corner of Porfirio Diaz and Belisario Dominguez in Colonia Reforma, disco nightly from 9:30 p.m., cover charge.

DINING OUT

Oaxaca has restaurants to suit every taste. Here is a summary of the major ones:

ALAMEDA, J. P. Garcia 202, 9 a.m.-6 p.m. (closed Tue.), Regional & International food; speciality Mole Negro and Chiles Rellenos.

LOS CANTAROS, Jalisco 15 (Hotel San Felipe Mision), 7 a.m.-10:30 p.m. daily, Regional, Mexican, & Int'l menu; speciality Filet Chemitto.

PLAYA DEL CARMEN, Belisario Dominguez 225 (in Colonia Reforma), open 12 to 6 p.m. daily, seafoods.

MI CASITA, Hidalgo 616-Upstairs, 1-6 p.m. (closed Thurs.), Oaxacan specialities.

NUU-LUU, Iturbide 100 (in San Felipe del Agua), 1-7 p.m. daily, Regional and International menu specializing in Oaxacan appetizers.

FONDA DEL RINCON, Emilio Carranza 1201 (in Colonia Reforma), 1 p.m.- midnight daily, Mexican food specializing in Crepes of Huitlacoche (from ears of corn) and Enchiladas del Rincon and Meats.

EL MARQUES, North side of the Zocalo below Hotel Marques del Valle, 7 a.m.-11 p.m. daily, Mexican and International menu, Oaxacan appetizers are their speciality; favorite place to linger and watch the world go by.

NISHANDA, Venus 118 (in Hotel Fortin Plaza), 7 a.m.- 10:30 p.m. daily, International entrees, regional dishes are their speciality.

SANTA FE, 5 de Mayo 103, 8 a.m.- Midnight daily, Mexican and International menu featuring the Filete Santa Fe; outstanding service and excellent meats.

ASADOR VASCO, Portal de Flores 11-Upstairs, 1-11:30 p.m. daily, fine dining specializing in food from Vasca region of Spain, superb meats.

ALFREDO DA ROMA, Alcala 400, 1:30- 11 p.m. daily, Italian menu featuring pizzas and pastas.

NI-HAO, Bustamante 305, 1:30- 11 p.m. Mon. thru Sat. & 1-6 p.m. Sundays, Chinese restaurant near Zocalo.

EL SOL Y LA LUNA, Murguia 105,, 7 p.m.- 1 a.m. nightly, outstanding pizzas, spaghetti, lasgna, and salads.

CATEDRAL, Corner of G. Vigil & Morelos, 8 a.m.- Midnight daily, Regional and International dishes featuring filets.

FONTANA, Plazuela La Bastida 117, open 1:30- 11:30 Tues. thru Sunday, International cuisine specializing in Argentine style cuts of meat.

LA MORSA, Calzada Porfirio Diaz 240 (in Colonia Reforma), 1-5 p.m. daily, fish and seafood featuring smoked marlin.

EL MESON, Hidalgo 805 (NE corner of the Zocalo), 8 a.m.- 1 a.m. daily, Regional dishes and tacos; their "Sopa de Tortilla" (tortilla soup) is a hearty favorite but slightly spicy.



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SUNDAY BUFFET - TAKE OUT
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PH. 6-91-46 MORELOS 509

RESTAURANT REVIEW

FLOR DE LOTO HAS A VEGETARIAN MENU

"Flor de Loto," 509 Morelos, one of Oaxaca's best vegetarian restaurants, is the place to go if you're looking for healthy food loaded with vitamins, nutrition and flavor. Constantino Antonio Mendez and Rene Garcia, owners of the Flor, see to it that all food is prepared very carefully. Only a small amount of vegetable oil is used and fat or grease is never used. All vegetables are disinfected in a solution of microdine, garlic and sea-salt. The food is based on international vegetarian menu with many enticing choices such as nopal, crepes and souffle.

Constantino has been in the vegetarian-restaurant business for six years. He doesn't



EL S

y La Luna

Restaurant - Bar - G
PIZZAS - SPAGHETTI - LASAGNA - SA

LIVE MUSIC

9-12 Nightly - 2,000 peso cover charge
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(Free Drink if You Mention This Ad)

eat or prepare fish, chicken or grasshoppers popular Oaxaca delicacy. In addition to health business, he practices yoga meditation. His philosophy is "All things exist within our realm serve us in some way without ever asking for anything exchange."

OAXACA IS MEXICO'S HANDICRAFT HAVEN

Oaxaca is considered to be Mexico's center for native handicrafts, owing to its large Indian population. Amazingly, prices in Oaxaca are often lower than in the villages where the goods are made. Zocalo vendors (see story on page 8) offer a sampling of goods, but shops and markets offer a wider selection.

SHOPS - You may pay higher prices here but you can often find collector-quality work plus have the advantages of using your credit cards and having your purchases packed and/or shipped. For many gringos, the major advantage of shopping at the shops will be the fixed prices. Bargaining can give ulcers to the untrained. But, whether you plan to make your purchases on the Zocalo, in the shops, or in the market, take a look over the merchandise at the shops to get an idea of quality and price ranges. Here are some of the best shops in Oaxaca:

ARIPO, Garcia Vigil 809 (Mon. thru Sat. 9-1 & 4-7:30 and Sun. 9-1). Large selection of woven goods, Xmas ornaments, pottery, cutlery, and colorful crafts.

YALALAG, Alcalá 104 (Mon. thru Sat. 9-1:30 & 4:30-6) Extensive collection of quality handicrafts attractively displayed in a colonial setting.

FONART, M. Bravo 116 (Mon. thru Sat. 9-2 & 4-7) Government owned shop with arts and crafts from throughout Mexico; pottery, woven goods, carvings, dishes and clothing.

CASA BRENA, Pino Suarez 58 (Mon. thru Fri. 9-2 & 4-7:30 and 8-4:30 on Sat.) Mainly a textile shop with some pottery and dishes. Low prices and high quality; opportunity to see weavers in action.

LA MANO MAGICA, Alcalá 203 (Mon. thru Sat. 10-2 & 4-8) Collector quality crafts

including a gallery of paintings lithographs.

VICTOR'S, Porfirio Diaz 111 (Mon. thru Sat. 9-2 & 4-8) Outstanding Indian art housed a 17th century monastery.

EL PALACIO DE LAS GEMAS, Corner Alcalá & Morelos (Mon. thru Sat. 10-2 & 4:30-8:30) Abundant inventory of gems, mounted unmounted, and some of the best stone masks and statues in Oaxaca.

ARTESANIAS EL CACTUS, Alcalá 401, (Mon. thru Sat. 10-7) Prices aren't marked, extensive inventory of woolen rugs, tapestry and sarapes. Near Santo Domingo; credit cards accepted. Bargain!

MARKETS The markets are more packed with goods and occasionally you'll find a real steal but it takes bargaining and a good eye. Here are the markets to check out:

BENITO JUAREZ MARKET, located just a block south of the Zocalo at the corner of F. Magón Colon. You can find anything here. The selling price is usually 20-50% below the first asking price. Watch your wallet and valuables due to the crowded aisles but enjoy one of Mexico's most colorful, vibrant markets. Don't miss these shops along the outside too. Open daily from 7 to 8.

MERCADO DE ARTESANIAS, located two blocks south and two blocks west of the Juárez Market at the corner of Garcia and Zaragoza. Especially noted for rugs, sarapes, sweaters and woven goods; see Indian women weaving on looms. Bargaining expected.

MERCADO DEL CARMEN ALTO, located on the left, half a block north of Santo Domingo Church between Alcalá and Garcia Vigil. See Indian weaving and shop in colorful, outdoor market for clothing, rugs, woven purses, and sweaters. Open 10 to 6 except rainy days.

LOST CREDIT CARDS?

In case you lose your credit cards, here is a list of phone numbers to report the loss to request replacements:

- AMERICAN EXPRESS.....5-98-71-22
(weekends).....5-98-81-33
- DISCOVER.....6-58-21-88
5-34-00-34
- MEMBERS CLUB.....5-43-70-20
- MASTERCARD.....5-88-44-22

Note that all numbers are in Mexico City you must call long distance.

LOSE IT? FEEL SICK? HELP IS A CALL AWAY

If you have it, you won't need it -- so here's a list of doctors/ dentists who speak English and emergency phone numbers:

EMERGENCY CONTACTS

GASTROENTEROLOGIST
Dr. Javier C. Gonzales V.
(24 hr. phone & house calls)
Phone: 6-50-67 / 6-25-46

ALLERGIIST
Dr. Rodolfo Garcia Caballero
Morelos 905 - Clinica Sandra
Phone: 6-05-18 / 6-27-52

CARDIOLOGIST
Dr. Ramon Mondragon
5 de Mayo 217F
Phone: 6-48-58 / 5-72-59

DR. Sergio Velasquez C.
M. Bravo 108-1
Phone: 6-20-37

DENTIST
Dr. Virgilio Rodriguez Cortez
Alcala 102-15
Phone: 6-93-65

DR. Concepcion Velasquez R.
M. Bravo 108-4
Phone: 6-20-37

EMERGENCY PHONE NUMBERS

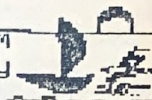
- Red Cross 6-20-56
- Police 6-27-26
- Locatel 6-22-22
- (missing persons, cars, etc.)
- Visitors' Aid 6-38-10
- (complaints, help, theft)
- Traffic Police 6-27-44
- 24 Hr. Pharmacy 6-40-41
- Farmacia Soriano del Sur
- Colon 101 at Bustamante)

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ALCALA & MATAMOROS STREET 628-48

ENTERTAINMENT REVIEW

CATCH THIS DUO!

If you're looking for the sound of traditional/popular music of Mexico and South America then check out "Quetzalcoatl" every Monday and Tuesday (9-12 p.m.) and Saturdays (8-10 p.m.) at El Sol y La Luna, Murguia 105 near Alcala. You won't find the "feathered serpeant" but an excellent duet-- two young men who play the kind of music that let's you know you are in Mexico.

Abel Rocha and Alfredo Lopez Mondragon have been playing together for three years. They say their music is a combination of Spanish, Indigenous Mexican and Black African. Both are from Mexico City but have chosen Oaxaca because, "Oaxaca has its own special identity and its influence in the world of music is very important."



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Plazuela La Bastida 117 - Tel. 6-56-54



MEXICO CITY BY TRAIN IS LUXURIOUS TRIP

Travel magazines have been applauding the new trains put into service by Mexican National Railways. Fortunately, the Oaxaqueño, which makes daily overnight trips between Oaxaca and Mexico City, is one of those lucky lines.

The Oaxaqueño departs daily at 7 p.m. for Mexico City and arrives at 9:30 a.m. The route takes you through some of the most spectacular scenery of Oaxaca State. Oaxaca's Railway Station is a short ride from the Zocalo (approx. 3000 pesos) and you should plan to arrive an hour before departure to confirm your space. You will arrive in Mexico City at the National Railway Station on Insurgentes Avenue near the heart of the city.

The train offers three classes of service depending on the comfort you require. First Class Regular (11,260 pesos) is not recommended as the seats are rigid and would be ex-

hausting for such a long trip. First Class Special (16,270 pesos) offers reclining seats in a modern air-conditioned car. Both first class services include dinner and breakfast served at your seat.

Sleeper cars (dormitorios) are the luxury way to travel. A "camarin" is a private cabin (43,500 pesos) which offers a comfortable berth which converts to a bed, a sink, a toilet, ample storage space. An "alcoba" is a large cabin with comfortable bunk beds and a private bathroom (87,000 pesos for two). Passengers in the sleeper cars dine in the elegant dining car which offers a choice of several entrees both dinner (including a free glass of wine) and breakfast. Beer and soft drinks are sold in the dining car for those who wish to lounge there. The quality of the food service is outstanding and is worth the price of the trip alone. Please note, however, that train tickets may not be changed to credit cards.

Reservations for the Oaxaqueño may be made at Centroamericana de Viajes, located on the west side of the Zocalo next to Del Jarro Restaurant, open 9-1:30 and 4:30-7, M-S.

HOW MUCH FOR TAXIS? WHERE ARE THE THEY?

As a ballpark figure, a trip by taxi of 10-12 city blocks should cost 2,500 to 3,000 pesos. You can hire a taxi to take you to Yagul, Mitla, or the village markets for a flat hourly rate of 15,000 pesos (\$6.60) per hour which is quite reasonable. Always set a price before getting into a taxi. Simply ask "Cuanto a" (kwan-toe ah) then name your destination. Even the Mexicans set a fare before getting in and skip a driver who asks too much. Taxi drivers don't expect tips but 500 pesos may be offered for a courteous driver. They seldom have change so make sure you have some small peso notes before boarding.

The major taxi stand in the Centro area is on the northwest side of the cathedral. Elsewhere, to get a taxi, stand on the shoulder of the street with your arm outstretched when you see one coming and wave your open palm up and down like you are waving good-bye. Often, an available taxi will have its roof light flashing. If you have any trouble with a taxi driver, be sure to get his license number and report the incident to the Tourism Office.

OAXACA AIRLINE OFFICE

(call area located near the Zocalo)

AEROVÍAS OAXAQUEÑAS.....	6-38-2
Armenta y Lopez 209.....	6-38-3
AEROMEXICO.....	6-91-7
Hidalgo 917.....	6-40-5
LINEAS AEREAS OAXAQUEÑAS.....	6-53-4
Hidalgo 503.....	6-52-4
MEXICANA AIRLINES.....	6-84-1
Corner Independencia/Fiallo.....	6-57-1
AEROCARIBE.....	Murguía 103

In addition, travel agencies can make your reservations or schedule changes.



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Plane Tickets

Mexico City Train

El Oaxaqueño



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Portal de Flores 8- Oax. - Ph. 6-31-1

Hotel Victoria 5-21-1

Hotel San Felipe 5-01-1



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AVOID LONG BANK LINES FOLLOW THESE GUIDES

There is a currency shortage in Mexico and if you do not plan well, you can spend an in-uitable part of your Mexican visit standing in line at a bank just to get pesos to spend. Most banks accept foreign currency and traveler's check transactions only during certain hours and they have limits on the amount they will exchange. Oaxaca does have some "casas cambios" which charge around 2% for each transaction and they save you valuable time. If your transaction is not large, this service charge will be a small price to pay.

CASAS DE CAMBIOS: Try these exchange houses when the bank lines look too long: Casa de Cambio Aeropuerto, 107 Abasolo (just north of El Presidente Hotel), (9-2 & 4-8 Mon. - Fri. They offer the best rate: 1-2250 pesos)

La Estrella Money Exchange, 201 Alcala, on the left side on the way up to Santo Domingo, (9-1:30 & 4-7, M-F).

Money Exchange San Felipe, 209 Armenta y Lopez, (9-1:30 & 4-7 M-F and 9-1:30 Sat).

BANKS: There is a bank on every corner but here's a summary of locations and hours for foreign exchange transactions:

BANCOMER, Garcia Vigil 120 (9-11:30 a.m. You may find shorter lines at the Bancomer Branch on Miguel Cabrera just past the Benito Juarez Market).

BANAMEX, Hidalgo 821 and Calz. Porfirio Diaz 231, 9-11:30 a.m.

BANPAIS, Valdivieso 116, 9 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.

BANCO DE ORIENTE, Armenta y Lopez 202, 9 a.m. - Noon.

BANCA SERFIN, Independencia 705, 10-12 p.m.

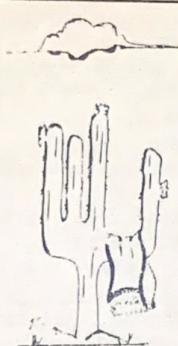
BANCA CONFIA, Hidalgo 513 at 20 de Noviembre, 9-12 a.m.

CASH ADVANCES: If you run out of money, you can also obtain cash advances from our VISA, MASTERCARD, or American Express credit cards. Take your credit card, passport and tourist visa to the appropriate office listed below. Go first to one of the clerks at the desks, show them your card and ask for "dinero de mi tarjeta de credito." The clerk will call for approval and will give you an approval slip and tell you to which window you should report. As a rule of thumb, it takes a cashier 5 minutes to process each person in line so estimate your waiting time. Here's where to go:

American Express - NE corner of the Zocalo Valdivieso & Hidalgo.

VISA- Banamex.

Mastercard (Carnet)-Bancomer or Multibanco Mermex (corner of Independencia and Alcala)..



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OAXACA'S TOP 10 SIGHTS SHOULD NOT BE MISSED

Oaxaca and its surrounding villages could easily occupy you for months. Some people, unfortunately, cannot spend that much time with us. For them, we offer this top ten list of Oaxaca's best:

ZOCALO - Oaxaca's central plaza has justifiably been called Mexico's finest; spend a few hours sitting at a sidewalk cafe or on a park bench enjoying the State Band or Marimbas (starts around 7 p.m. most days).

SANTO DOMINGO CHURCH - This guided masterpiece is truly one of the most beautiful churches in the Americas; closed 1-4 daily.

REGIONAL MUSEUM OF OAXACA - In the former convent next door to Santo Domingo, this museum houses the treasures of Monte Alban, Indian dress and crafts, religious art, and cultural artifacts of Oaxaca; closed Mondays.

MONTE ALBAN - Although outside the city, this mountaintop "city of the gods" is only 15 minutes away; pyramids, temples, tombs, glyphs, ball court --they're all here.

RUFINO TAMAYO MUSEUM - Unique, aesthetic collection of Pre-Hispanic art in bright, attractive museum (closed Tuesdays).

BASILICA DE LA SOLEDAD - Home of Oaxaca's patron saint; museum, convent, bazaar of religious articles.

BENITO JUAREZ MARKET - Colorful people, colorful food, colorful flowers, colorful clothing; Kansas was never like this.

MITLA - Mixtec architecture with outstanding geometric designs; also stop by Yagul on the way.

SEVEN REGIONS FOUNTAIN - This delightful fountain features statues of Indians from the seven regions of Oaxaca; in front of the Oaxaca Medical School.

SAN BARTOLO COYOTEPEC - Typical of the many Indian villages around Oaxaca; famous for its black pottery.

CLASSIFIED ADVERTISING RATES

Classified advertising is available for 600 pesos per word per issue, with a minimum ad of 6,000 pesos. Classified copy must be received by the 5th of each month and is subject to editing to meet space requirements and editorial policy.

APARTMENT FOR RENT: 1 bedroom, full bath, kitchen, dining/living rooms; patio; 2 1/2 blocks from Zocalo. \$10 per day. 6-34-43.

APARTMENT FOR RENT: 4 bedrooms, kitchen, living/dining room, full bathroom, service room, laundry room, parking lot in Col. Reforma. 400,000 pesos per month. Phone 5-07-80

BUNGALOW: 2 bedrooms, full bathroom, kitchen in San Felipe de Agua; all utilities included. 500,000 pesos per month. Ph. 5-3187.

HOMEMADE HEALTH FOODS: Breaded beef, sausage, hamburgers, and sausages—all made without meat. Inexpensive and healthy. Orders taken 4-5 M-F at 6-34-43. Try it, you'll love it!

IMMIGRATION REGULATIONS: English translation of Mexico's Immigration requirements. 10,000 pesos per copy. Available at the Institute of Communication and Culture, V. Guerrero 311. Oaxaca 68000. Ph. 6-3443.

MESSAGE - Stress Release - Healing - Relaxation with experienced therapist. Call 6-3443 for appointment.

SPANISH-ENGLISH TRANSLATIONS: Do you require a letter or document to be translated from or to Spanish? Our professional staff can do the job. 5,000 pesos per page. Institute of Communication and Culture, V. Guerrero 311, Oaxaca 68000. Ph. 6-3443.

WANTED TO RENT: Many international visitors are looking for a place to live in Oaxaca. They don't read Spanish so the OAXACA TIMES is where they will look. If you have an apartment or house to rent, call 6-3443.

YOUR MESSAGE HERE will reach more than 5,000 English-speaking visitors. Call OAXACA TIMES now for information about Classified Advertising 6-3443.

ZOCALO SHOPPING FULL OF VARIETY

If you sit on a zocalo bench or at one sidewalk cafes for more than a minute, you be beset by a never ending stream of vendors. Don't be offended. These people are trying to earn a living and you can get some excellent values if you bargain. Prices are subject to wide differences but we offer the following shopping hints and approximate prices to help you get started:

BRACELETS - These woven "pulseras" are popular among American teenagers and are for \$2-5 in the U.S. Zocalo prices range from three for 1,000 pesos (15 cents each) to 10,000 pesos each (45 cents).

SWEATERS - The colorful, handwoven sweaters are a great buy as well as useful here during chilly nights. Prices range around 7,000 pesos each (\$3.08). Check the seams to be sure all are tightly sewn.

SEPARADOES - These carved, wooden markers and spoons are the most common and at least useful item; price 1,000 pesos.

PAINTINGS - A relatively new offering in the zocalo are paintings of country scenes on masonite board in a Grandma Moses style. Prices vary on size and detail but 20,000 pesos (\$9) is average for a square foot painting.

REBOZOS - These colorful shawls are an inexpensive, useful offering. Prices range from around 20,000 pesos (\$9.00).

WOOL RUGS - Amazingly, rug prices on the Zocalo can be cheaper than at the vendors where they are woven. Prices vary based on size, complexity of design, and the number of tourists in town. For a 30" X 50" rug expect to pay a minimum of 60,000 pesos. To check the rug is wool or not, tug a few fibers from the roll them into a ball and light it. If it stinks to high heaven, it's wool; if it disappears in a poof, it's cotton; if it turns into a shiny blob, it's acrylic. The bright colors, by the way, are more likely to be synthetic dye.

JEWELRY - The costume jewelry is colorfully priced about right for what you get: 10,000 pesos and up for a necklace.

FLOWERS - Who can resist the roses and gardenias? For 2,000 pesos (90 cents), you can't be beat. Look for the freshest.

ONYX CARVINGS - Windchimes, chess boards, carved animals are made of onyx. Boards range around 15,000 pesos (\$6.60) and animals 20,000 pesos.

IF YOU'RE NOT IN THE BUYING MOOD, simply say "No" to the vendor and direct your attention elsewhere. Do not get into a bargaining unless you are serious about buying the



HIEBLAU RUGS EXHIBITION

(Weavers' Co-Op)

Monday thru Saturday 10-2 & 5-8

Murguia 103