



Oaxaca Times

Free

Oaxaca's English Tourist Newspaper

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ETHNIC GROUPS PART VIII THE MIXES



They are the inhabitants on the rough and lofty mountains of the Knot of Zempoaltepetl and to the south reach the Department of Tlaxcolula and Tehuantepec; to the east they border on Chiapas. Some say that there are five thousand of this race, while others say there are double that number. In their great territory we may mention as chief towns: Zacatepec, where there principal chief lives; Xuquila Mixe (San Juan) Quezaltepec, Ixcuintepec (Santiago), Villa Alta (San Idelfonso); San Juan Guichocovi, near the station of Mogone on the Interoceanic. There is a persistent rumor that the mixe race seems to be of anglo-saxon origin but Mr. Wilferido C. Cruz, after investigating their language, their mentality, their beliefs and even their witchcraft shows that, in spite of their differences from the Mixtec Zapotec race, they are so closely connected with it, that all idea of their European Origin must be put aside.

FESTIVE NIGHT



San Agustin Etla is a very picturesque village located west of the city only 20 minutes away by 2nd class bus or colectivo. If you are interested in pagan and mestizo traditions you should visit this village on the night of Nov. 1st to see the different groups, called "Comparsas", dressed in humor-

ous costumes, representing town personalities, who go from house to house verbally criticizing, in a playful manner, the social and political problems of the village. They carry empty baskets which are filled with bread, chocolate and fruit, etc, called "muertos" by the local townspeople.

Enjoy learning SPANISH incredibly fast!

Instituto de Comunicación y Cultura, A.C.
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OPEN-9-1 4-8 P.M.



DAY OF THE DEAD AT HOME

In the United States Halloween means Jack O Lanterns and witches and black cats and costume parties and it's all a lot of fun. In Oaxaca Dia de los Muertos which falls on the same date means something much different, something much more personal, more spiritual. It is the gathering of the family, both past and present.

When I was a little girl I couldn't wait for this day to come around. It was fun, it was exciting, it was special, even more than Christmas. I still feel that way.

Months before my Mother would set aside money for all the things she had to buy. Some families would beg, borrow or steal the funds necessary to purchase all the things needed. There were long lines at the Monte de Piedad, the national hockshop. Everything had to be the very best, after all this is for your family. The best chocolate for mole, the freshest eggs and flour for pan de muerto, chiles, cinnamon, and cocoa, fruits and vegetables and on and on goes the list.

On a table an alter was erected of sugar cane stalks and decorated with flowers, mostly wild marigolds as they are called "flor de muertos" or flower of the dead, votive candles and photos of the departed. Sweets, guavas, oranges, kumquats, candied fruit, small bowls of mole with turkey breast and even cigarettes and mezcals were put on the alter as an offering to the spirits of the dead.



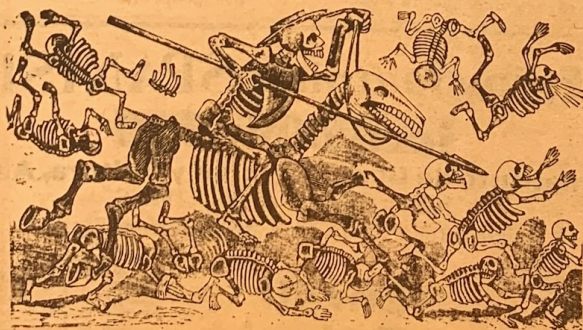
Any favorite foods they might have enjoyed in life are prepared and put on the alter. All this was very tempting to the children and sometimes things would be taken. If this were the case the children legs were gently tied while they slept. When they awoke and could not walk, they were told that the spirits of the dead had tied their legs to punish them for stealing their food.

For breakfast special tamales were prepared and served with chocolate and pan de muerto. At 2:00 rich chicken soup, mole with turkey and rice were eaten with stewed pumpkin with cinnamon for dessert.

Close friends would come to the house bringing gifts of bread, chocolate and small pots of mole and receive similar gifts in return. These gifts are called "muertos".

Tuesday is All Saints Day and all the family would go to the cemetery early in the morning to bring flowers to decorate the graves. It makes no difference if they were bad or good in real life or if they went to heaven or hell. They are all Saints.

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HUATULCO

HUATULCO,

THE DEVELOPMENT OF A DREAM
Excerpts from an article by
Juan Arturo Lopez Ramos
State Director of Tourism

A series of splendid bays, pristine beaches, the clarity and tranquility of its beaches, long sunny days and the rugged mountains jutting into the sea, all make Huatulco one of the wonders of nature.

But more still, it is the past experience of the most advanced Mexican engineering, planning & technology along with government cooperation which made the creation of a modern, functional tourist city possible as we approach the XXI century. It is also because of the cooperation of all those from different levels who contributed to its formation: The farmers, the workers, the merchants, etc. but above all to the people



of Oaxaca whose decision to build this dynamic community made it a reality. Furthermore it is due to the guiding hand & foresight of Governor Heladio Ramirez Lopez who so clearly understands the importance of tourism to our economic well being and the necessity of showing to the world our unique cultural heritage, that Huatulco, for Oaxaca, is the development of a dream

Bienvenidos amigos

Welcome, reader, to the OAXACA TIMES. Oaxaca, is a beautiful, clean, colonial city with friendly people and a nearly perfect climate. OAXACA TIMES aims to provide you, the English-speaking visitor, with valuable information which will enhance and enrich your stay. Write, call (6-34-43), or come by our office (Guerrero 311) with your tips and recommendations about Oaxaca. Our office is 2 1/2 blocks east of the Zocalo at the Institute of Communication and Culture, A.C. Come by and get acquainted. But, above all, enjoy our beautiful Oaxaca.

Yolanda Garcia C.
Publisher

NEED A NEW TOURIST CARD ?

This is my story of travelling to Guatemala to get a new tourist card to replace one which was soon to expire.

For those of us who reside in Mexico with a tourist status, it is necessary to acquire a new tourist card every 180 days. This is done by surrendering your about-to-expire card, exiting Mexico, and reentering to obtain a new card, whose duration (30, 90 or 180 days) is up to the discretion of the immigration official on duty at the time. This operation can be done at the U.S. border or the borders of Guatemala or Belize, depending on where in Mexico one resides.

Unless you have some special desire or business in the U.S. Guatemala is the obvious choice for us who live in Oaxaca. It is quicker (45 min. by plane to Tapachula) and less expensive (US\$112 R.T.). However, if you have the time and patience you may also travel by bus (17,000 pesos O.W. & 12-15 hrs travel time)

I left Oaxaca at 11:30 a.m. on a direct Aeromexico flight to Tapachula, arriving there 45 minutes later. The heat hit me as I left the plane. I walked through the air-conditioned terminal and took a "colectivo" (4000 pesos)

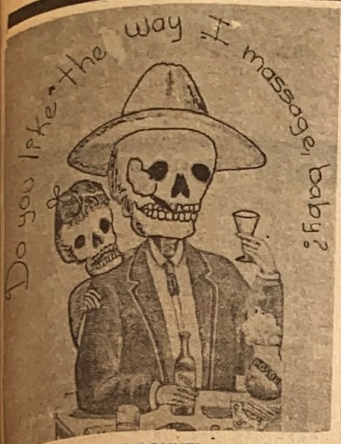
to downtown Tapachula, arriving there just after 1:00 p.m. I took a taxi to the Guatemalan Consulate and much to my surprise I was their only customer. I asked for and was granted a 5-year multi-entry visa (good for 30 days each time). There was no charge for this service and I was amazed at the lack of red tape. I was out of there in 15 minutes.

I returned downtown and took a "colectivo" (2000 pesos) to Ciudad Hidalgo, a small town right on the border, about 25 kilometers south of Tapachula. I then walked a short distance to the border (you can take a pedicab), went through Mexican customs and surrendered my tourist card to the immigrations official. I then paid 500 pesos to walk across the international bridge separating the 2 countries, changing some pesos to quetzales (900 pesos for 1 quetzal) along the way. Arriving at Guatemalan immigration, they stamped my passport (2 quetzales) with an entry permit. I passed through customs and there I was in Guatemala.

The Guatemalan town of Tecunuman is across the river from Ciudad Hidalgo and is very dusty and poverty

stricken making it's Mexican counterpart look like Palm Springs in comparison. Deciding not to spend any time in Guatemala at this time, I retraced my steps; passed through customs, obtained an exit permit (3 quetzales) at immigration, recrossed the bridge, changed my remaining quetzales back into pesos and reached Mexican immigration. The immigration officer was the same one who took my old card. I began to worry. He hesitated about issuing me a new tourist card and went to confer with his supervisor. I began to perspire profusely thinking they might refuse my reentry and force me to return to Guatemala. Finally he returned with a new tourist card which I promptly filled out. He then asked me the crucial question "How long do you want to stay in Mexico?" I stretched the truth and said I needed 180 days as I was taking a course in painting in Oaxaca which would not end until March. He again went to confer with his supervisor. When he returned he said they would give me 90 days and that I could get an extension in Oaxaca if I needed it. (this is true) All my glibness left me and I decided not to protest as they could easily send me back to Guatemala. I thanked him and walked back into Mexico. Mission accomplished. Well, almost.

ARTS AND ENTERTAINMENT



THOMAS O'DONNELL

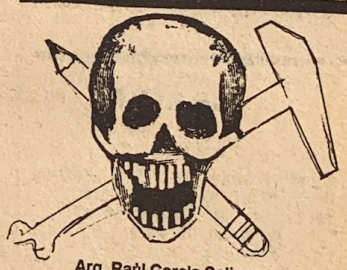
Tom so tall and so thin.
 He's just been kicked out
 from California.
 But, being so old and so
 mean
 He stinks like an moth eaten
 banana
 That's why sweet skull said
 "Come on babe, it's your turn"
 smelling like that there's
 no return.
 There's no time for you
 to eat mole with Doña Ana
 Come to the cemetery to enjoy
 your last Montana

CULTURAL EVENTS

- 1-15 Contemporary European Grafic Art at the Rufino Tamayo Workshops (corner of Murquia and Ave. Juarez.)
- 1-30 Film "Nundehui Planetarium" (our planet earth).
 Show times: 10 to 11 5-6
 11-12:10 6:30-7:30
 12:30 to 1:30 8-9
 General admission \$800 pesos.
- 1-30 Marimba Music "Kiosk of the Zolcalo",
 Mon.-Wed.-Fri. & Sat. at 7:00PM.
- 1-30 Philharmonic State Band "Kiosk of the Zolcalo",
 Tues.-Thurs. & Sun. at 12.:30 PM.
- 1-30 Prehispanic Art at the Rufino Tamayo Museum,
 Mon. Tues. & Wed. Open 10:00-2:00 & 4:00-7:00.
- 1-2 Exhibitions of Alters and Legends of Oaxaca and
 Cults of the Dead at the Ricardo Flores Magon
 Auditorium. #300 M. Alcalá St..
- 1-5 A play titled "A Little Bit of Dead". (Same locat-
 ion as above.
- 12-15 Book Fair (10:00AM) and Contemporary Dance & Latino
 American Music at the Alameda Park.
- 16 Music & Dance (6:00PM) at the Alameda Park.
- 17 Chamber Music (6:00PM) at the Alameda Park.
- 19 Concert by the "Orchestra Primavera" (10:00AM).

HOW TO BUY A PAINTING IN OAXACA

Buying an original painting in Oaxaca to take back home is a good idea right now. Oaxacan art is HOT! The city abounds with exciting quality paintings at exceedingly affordable prices, especially if you consider the cost originals in the U.S. How much do you want to spend? Is US\$200 too much? I have seen some beautiful work in the US\$200-500 range. Be vary, though, of posted prices. Many of these do not include the frame, a practice I question, and framing is expensive.



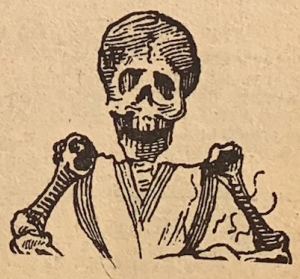
Arq. Radl Garcia Salinas

Poor Raul the architect spends the day in the Zocalo and dreams of building spiderwebs in Xochimilco

When you purchase a painting the simplest and least complicated way to get it home is to take it along with you as baggage. If you buy it framed, have the gallery remove and discard the glass. Most reputable galleries will box it for you free of charge and you can have the glass replaced when you reach home at a nominal cost. Be sure and inquire about this before closing the deal. You should have no trouble at U.S. Customs, just keep your receipt.

Shipping it is another story. This entails export documents, Mexican government approval and lots of red tape and time not to mention money as it would have to be sent by air express.

A painting is a great way to remember your trip to Oaxaca. And who knows? Maybe one day that painting hanging on your wall will be worth a mint.



Dra. Martha Cansecó B.

Tiny Martita the teacher is the smallest girl in Mexicoland instead of English she should be teaching shorthand