



Oaxaca Times

Oaxaca's English Tourist Newspaper

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OAXACA, OAX.

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April 30

is Children's Day. This edition is dedicated to the children of the world who are so much a part of our lives.



When I come near a child I feel two emotions; one is the tenderness for their innocence, the other, a respect for their potential.

Pasteur

The steles of Monte Alban

About 10 kilometers southeast of Oaxaca is a group of mountains overlooking the fertile valleys of Etla, Tlacolula, Ocotlan and Oaxaca. Atop these mountains are the ruins of Monte Alban, made up of a village, pyramids, a central square that measures 400 by 200 meters, and many mounds, most of which have not as yet been uncovered. Among the many details of the central square that draw the attention to the observer we find several large stones



representing human figures. These have impressed many visitors, some of whom have given opinions as their meaning which contain a certain validity according to different criteria and knowledge. The figures have been identified as "Warriors" as "Priests" and as "Dancers".

A great deal has been written about the "Priests" theory. Dr. Dávalos Hurtado believes that these figures represent emasculated priests in charge of guarding the Sacred City. He tells us that dancers and singers, as a group, have always been sexually undifferentiated; that Apulieus speaks of the effeminate mannerisms in the dances performed by Syrian priests; that Seneca reproached Roman dancers for their affected ways; and Martial pokes fun at the eunuch priests of the goddess Cybele and their effeminate rites. He goes on to say that Sahagún, the historian, mentions like

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Ethnic Groups

PART III HUAVES

They inhabit five principal towns on the spits of land or sand that form the Upper and Lower Lakes, to the east of Salina Cruz.

The names of their towns are: San Donisio, San Mateo, Santa Maria del Mar, San Francisco, Ixhuatan. They are very isolated; to reach the first three, one rides some 40 kilometres on horseback from Salina Cruz, or one can go in a truck through Juchitan and Xadani and then by oxcart and finally in a canoe or dugout.

These Indians are robust and well-built, intelligent but ignorant, and a little mistrustful. It is believed that they came originally from Peru or Nicaragua. Formerly their clothing was very scarce, but now they dress like the Tehuanos. The boys of less than twelve years of age go about innocently in the dress of Adam whilst the little girls wear some clothes.

Their principal occupation is fishing in the lakes and in the sea where they usually wade with their nets or in dugouts to stretch out their seines. They have no boats for deep water and do not use oars but poles or a sail.

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HIERVE EL AGUA

A new place to discover!

If you are spending some time in Oaxaca, and have a car, there is a little known place to visit that will give you a different view of the state of Oaxaca. It is called "Herve el agua", the boiling water. For those that are tired of crowds and tourist attractions, hervie el agua is the perfect spot to sit back, relax and take in the slenery. Unlike most places where there are natural springs, hervie el agua is located on the side of a mountain, almost at the top. The view is stupendous and would be worth the trip without the waters. The rugged terrain of the mountains is offset by the view of two valleys, both dotted with small pastures and maguey fields. This is rural Oaxaca at its best. The waters themselves are quite enjoyable. Contrary to what the name implies, they bubble but don't boil. The temperature is cool and refreshing, and two of the pools are perfect for wading or sitting in the sun with your feet dangling in te water. The largest of the pools can get as deep as 4 feet, depending on the season and how much water is allowed to drain out. The water is cloudy from calcium, but has no smell to keep you from enjoying the fresh mountain air. Hervie el agua es located 30 km. past mitla, a few kilometers past the tiny Village of San Lorenzo Albarradas. To get there from Oaxaca, take mx 190 east out of the city. About 40 km from Oaxaca, bear left towards the town and ruins of Mitla. From this turn it is 30 km. further so check your odometer here. Continue past the town and head up into the mountains. The road becomes unpaved, but is well graded and no problem in dry weather.

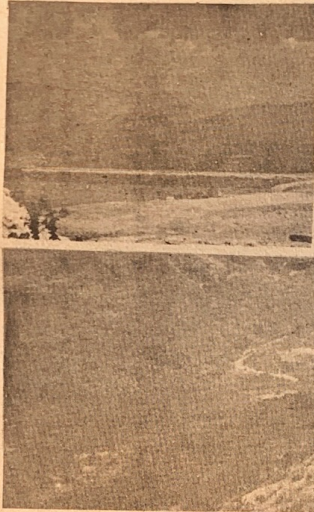
Just before San Lorenzo, bear right at the "Y" intersection.

There is even a sign for hervie el agua! continue slowly through the village, and go until the road ends at a level turn around area.

Trust your odometer. As you look down in to the valley, there is a trail to the right (south) that heads down to a large tree with a bench under it. You can't see the water until you get there, the springs are a 5 minute walk from the turn around area. If all else fails, every person you have seen since Mitla knows where you are going; just ask anyone (as often

as necessary) and you will receive a smile and a point in the right direction. It should take 1 hr. and 15 min. of easy driving from Mitla.

There are no facilities (and no people!) at hervie el agua, so pack your lunch, sunscreen, swimming clothes and a camera. The people and places along the way are as enjoyable as hervie el agua itself, so make a day of it and do some shopping in the towns on the way home. Prices are often lower in the afternoon. Don't waste a day in Oaxaca fighting crowds; go to hervie el agua and experience the beauty of rural México and its pe



The steles..

behavior among the Aztec priests. This is contradicted by the Rev. Francisco Javier Clavijero, however, who roundly denies that this type of mannerism existed among the Mexicans. It hardly seems credible that malformed individulas were emasculated and made priests to keep the temple. A priest, who would be a moral religious leader, is a respected figure, who wears a special dress that sets him apart from other men and is always represented with special attributes of perfection and religious ornaments. He would never be shown naked deformed and emasculated.

With regard to the label of "Dancers", the word itself connotes one who skillfully moves legs, arms and body to the rhythm of musical sound. Even more than a warrior, a dancer requires a normal body, and the constant exercise of dancing tends to perfect it even more. Although dancing can be devided into war dances and popular dances, in either case the dancers would be normal.



Steles of Southside Plataform. Monte Albán.

Free art exhibition at Cultural Museum

CULTURAL EVENTS FOR APRIL

- April 4-May 6 "Faces and places" (Photography).
- April 6-May 6 Art opening by the Oaxaqueño artist Genaro Castañeda.
- April 13-May 6 French Architecture exhibition by Le Corbusier.
- April 25-May 9 Paintings by Pia Anderson (Denmark).
- April 27-May 21 Exhibition of Oaxaca Art by Oaxacan artists; Cristina Valladapes, Alexandro Santiago, Fernando Rivera, Eteo Pérez Rojas

Notes: First night openings are at 8:00 pm. Every Tuesday Ethnographic movies are shown.

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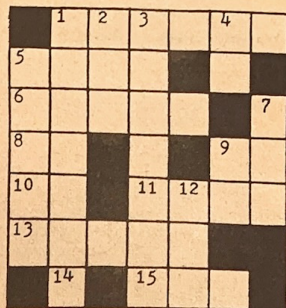
LIVE MUSIC

PIZZAS-SPAGHETTI-
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9-12 Nightly 3,000 pesos cover charge.
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(Free Drink If You Present This Ad)

THE GARDEN

ENGLISH/SPANISH



- | | |
|----------------------|----------------------|
| HORIZONTALES: | VERTICALES: |
| 1. Garden | 1. Hyacinth |
| 5. Shovel | 2. To the (two wds.) |
| 6. Perhaps | 3. Rakes |
| 8. If | 4. Ditto (abbr.) |
| 9. She gives | 5. Promenade, walk |
| 10. In | 7. Sheaf (grain) |
| 11. Root | 9. I gave |
| 13. Others (masc.) | 12. So |
| 14. Or | |
| 15. Without | |

ANSWER TO PUZZLE

1.- Jardin
5.- Pala
6.- Acasos
8.- SI
9.- Da
10.- En
11.- Raiz
13.- Otros
14.- O
15.- Sin

1.- Jacinto
2.- A la
3.- Rastro
4.- Id
5.- Paseo
7.- Haz
9.- DI
12.- ASI

A C R O S S
D O W N

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.

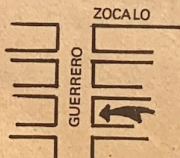
Yolanda Garcia C.
Publisher

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