



Free

# Oaxaca Times

Oaxaca's English Tourist Newspaper

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OAXACA, OAX.

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## June 15 Father's Day

### Ethnic Groups PART V CHINANTECOS



The region called the Chinantla, home to the Chinantecos, is in the northern part of Oaxaca, near the Veracruz state line. Chinantla means "Enclosed Land" and so it is, surrounded by mountains and rivers, almost like a fortress and all but inaccessible during certain parts of the year.

The fertile soil produces a large percentage of the tobacco, sugarcane tropical fruits and chile peppers grown in the state, as well as barbasco, a root plant used to make soap. The Chinanteco population is estimated at about 54,000 with 75% being bilingual. Their language is very tonal and a word can have different meanings depending on the tone of voice used. Handicrafts are limited mostly to embroidered blouses, tablecloths, napkins, etc. Years ago the Chinanteco women wove their own cotton for these handicrafts but not buy it commercially. The social and economic future looks grim for many of these people due to the construction of the large Cerro de Oro dam, whose huge lake will flood thousands of acres of the best farmland, displacing the present inhabitants.



*Dad, my way it's not your way but however we walk hand in hand together.*

FAMILY-GARCIA CARRASCO ONE OF THE OLDEST IN OAXACA

## Tehuantepec festivities



A typical Tehuantepec party took place on May 20th at the Deportivo Oaxaca. A huge dance floor was surrounded by dozens of banquet tables and various beverages were for sale. A large number of the ladies present were dressed in festive, traditional Tehuantepec costumes, each representing a different village or neighborhood. A line was formed, the name of each participant was announced and she in turn made a circle around the dance floor to much applause from the responsive audience. Other dignitaries were also introduced. All of the dresses were full and floor length, most with a wide band of white lace trim at the bottom. Both the skirts and bodices were heavily embroidered with floral patterns in reds and greens, and

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2



# Pardon me señor is this the Oaxaca choo choo?

For those, like myself, who enjoy the slow pace of train travel, the trip from Mexico City to Oaxaca on the "Oaxaqueño" is a pleasant experience. It leaves Mexico City daily at 7 p.m. and arrives in Oaxaca about 9 a.m. the next morning. I booked a single "camarin" which is an individual compartment or roomette. It consists of a wide seat with two arm rests, a huge window, a fold down bed, toilet, fold down sink, a small closet, a drinking fountain with paper cups, two ashtrays, two lights, an air regulator and a button to summon the porter. The train pulled out of the station exactly on time and fifteen minutes later the porter informed me that dinner was being served. The

dining is half dining and half lounge. I sat with a young English couple who were backpacking it to Chiapaas and the Yucatan. Soup was the first course and there was a choice of three entrees followed by dessert and coffee. After a brandy in the lounge, I returned to my camarin. The trick here is to get yourself ready for bed. You have to back out into the passageway and pull down the bed which is already made up. If you are in doubt, the porter will assist you. The bed is quite comfortable with crisp sheets and an extra blanket. The train, being of 1910 vintage, rattles and creaks and groans but after a while you get used to the rhythm. I was lulled into the

twilight zone and remember thunder and lightning and a bright moon. I awoke at dawn as the train slowly crawled through the mountains, mostly uninhabited forest with a small village here and there. You could be anywhere. Breakfast was announced about 7 a.m.. At about 9 a.m. we pulled into Oaxaca. The camarin, including two meals, is only \$18 US dollars. That has to be the bargain of the century. There are also doubles or, if you prefer, very comfortable 1st class reclining seats the price of which also includes two meals at half the cost.

FELIZ VIAJE!

## TRAVEL-WISE GETTING AROUND OAXACA

walking is the ideal way to get around Oaxaca. The colonial heart of the city is laid out in a simple grid, and all major attractions are within easy walking distance of each other. Taxis are readily available, especially near the main hotels. Check with your hotel desk for the current fare.

Most of the larger hotels offer bilingual day tours to places of interest outside the city. If your hotel does not offer such tours, check with a large hotel close by. Advance reservations are recommended.

If you prefer traveling by yourself or with a smaller party, hire a taxi by the hour. Again, ask your hotel desk what the going rate is.

### WEATHER

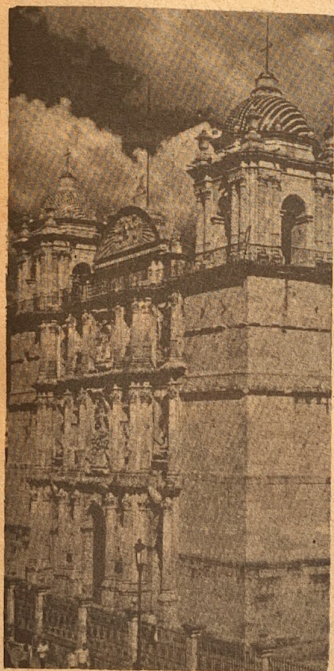
The temperature expecting in June 72°-18°, July 71°-28° (° Fahrenheit), bring with you a raincoat because it's a rainy season.

### THINGS TO SEE AND DO

#### In the City

**ANDADOR TURISTICO:** (pedestrian Mall) Calle Macedonio Alcalá from Av. Independencia (near the cathedral) to Calle A. Gurrion (near the church and Ex-monastery of Santo Domingo). Historical buildings, shops, and small restaurants line the street.

**BASILICA DE LA SOLEDAD:** (Basilica of Our Lady of Solitude) Calle Independencia 107th century, the basilica houses the image of Our Lady of Solitude, patron



saint of Oaxaca. Daily 5:30 a.m. - 9 p.m.

**CATEDRAL (Cathedral)** Av. Independencia 50; Tel 65580. Built in the 16th century; partially destroyed by earthquakes; reconstruction finished in 1733. Daily 8 a.m. - 8 p.m.

**IGLESIA Y EX-CONVENTO DE SANTO DOMINGO:** (Church and EX-MONASTERY OF santo Domingo) Calle Macedonio Alcalá at the corner of Calle A. Gurrion; tel 63720. One of the most brilliantly decorated churches in Oaxaca; completed in 1600. Part of the secularized monastery now houses the

Regional Museum of Oaxaca (see below) Mon-Sat. 7 a.m. - 1 p.m. 4-8 p.m. Sun. 7 a.m. - 2 p.m.

**MUSEO CASA DE JUAREZ:** (Juárez House Museum) Calle Garcia Vigil 609. Memorabilia of the Mexican hero Benito Juárez, housed in the 19th century home where he was a servant in his youth. Tues.-Sun. 9 a.m. - 7 p.m. Admission \$ 270 Mex., Sun and hols. free.

**MUSEO DE ARTE PREHISPANICO "RUFINO TAMAYO":** (Tamayo Museum of Pre-Columbian Art) Av. Morelos 25; tel 6 47 50 Collection assembled by the famous Mexican painter and donated to his native city. Mon., Wed.-Sat 10 a.m. - 2 p.m., 4-7 p.m. Sun 10 a.m. - 3 p.m. Admission \$800 Mex.

**MUSEO DE OAXACA:** (City Museum) Andador Turístico, Calle Macedonio Alcalá 202-204 tel; 6 84 99. Exhibits featuring local crafts and the work of local artists in a variety of media. Housed in the Casa de Cortés (Cortés House) a former colonial residence. Tues-Fri 10 a.m. - 2 p.m., 5-8 p.m.; Sat., 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.

**MUSEO REGIONAL DE OAXACA:** (Regional Museum of Oaxaca) Housed in the former Monastery of Sto. Domingo (see above) Tel 6 29 91. Ethnological collection focusing on the various Indian groups who live in Oaxaca state. Teh archaeological collection features the treasures discovered in Tomb 7 at Monte Alban and material from throughout the state. Tues-Fri. 10 a.m.- 6 p.m.; Sat-Sun 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Admission \$950 Mex., Sun and hols free.



# Arts and entertainment

## The last visit to the hill

This time I followed a couple of paces behind her. Her weakening hand gripped the cane with determined tenacity. What was once a proud and upright posture, now remained an internal determination driven by her still remaining pride to once more reach the top with me.

I wanted to lend my hand and support but there are some things we must do alone. Either for the first time or the last. My heart filled with tears as I knew this would be our last trip to the hill together.

In years passed, we stopped and picked wild flowers as a reminder of our visit to the hill. But today, the lady was too fragile to bend down but was consoled when a gentle breeze lifted their scent up to her.

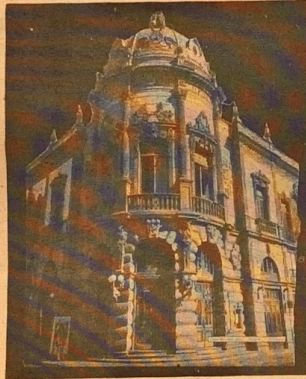
We sat together on the wooden bench which I made for us so many years ago. A bird's call for its mate was the only sound to be heard. She sat quietly, holding my hand and I could feel her crying on the inside but banishing a quiet smile. She too was reliving our memories of our yesterdays.

I miss you so much my dear mom...Rest in peace...

Dale Marsh

## Show Biz

The Macedonio Alcala Theater is certainly one of the most beautiful south of Mexico City, or for that matter, anywhere. The lobby and staircase leading to the theater are of white marble. The main theater itself is horseshoe shaped and has five balconies divided into boxes. The overall color scheme is soft grey and white with heavy gilt ornamentation. The seats, curtain and balcony drapery are all of wine colored velvet. The floor is of highly polished dark wood. A huge crystal chandelier and white globe wall sconces provide the lighting which is most dramatic. The ceiling of the lobby and the main theater as



well as the stage backdrop in allegorical figures, chariots, clouds, harps. Cameos of the world's composers frame this the ceiling frescoes in soft pinks, blues and pastel hues. There is a schedule of events, but is so close to the Zoo worth checking out. The interior is more than price of admission to an Usually under \$2.00 US

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# Letters from our readers

Dear Editor: (Excerpt)

Oaxaca is wonderful. I have been coming here for years. There is a problem. The problem is BANCOMER and the money exchange system. How do you think tourists feel when they have to wait in line for 3 hours (average 1½ hours) to change money in a line where one poor girl (she is wonderful) is both changing money and cashing checks for another long line. I'd say if México wants tourist dollars, it better take them!

Yours Sincerely

Peter L. Dodge  
Minneapolis, Minn.

Querida Editor:  
Oaxaca es maravilloso. Me estado yendo a Oaxaca por muchos años pero hay un problema. El problema es BANCOMER y el sistema de cambio de moneda. Que creen uds. que sienten los turistas cuando tienen que esperar tres horas en fila y al mismo tiempo estar viendo a una pobre muchacha que está cambiando dinero en efectivo y cheques en otra fila. Yo diría que si México quiere dolares, es mejor que los cambien, de acuerdo al monto que necesite el turista y con eficiencia.

Yours Sincerely

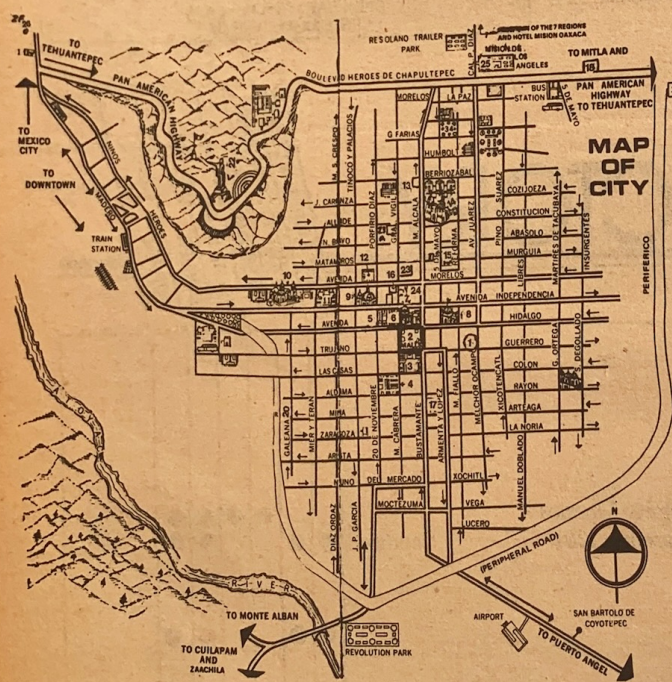
Peter L. Dodge  
Minneapolis, Minn

15 May 1989

Kind Friend:

And FRIEND you are to provide us Oaxaca lovers with the much needed and appreciated source of enlightenment and practical info. My heart leaped when I saw the article (arriving in my home) about Herve el Agua. One of my very favorite places. Years ago when Zenon Ramirez guided the Santo Domingo Museum friends we were taken there and marveled. Clotilda Schandube and others uniquely informed offered what they know about the place including a fine gentleman giving a detailed analysis of the bubbling water. Reading this I fear I shall have to plan a third trip to Oaxaca this year. I am homesick..... Take this chance to thank you for your gracious answer of any & all questions. Even when you are sooooooh busy. Carry on & I promise to have comida together on next visit.

Marrily



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| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1.- INSTITUTO DE COMUNICACION Y CULTURA SPANISH LANGUAGE SCHOOL AND OAXACA TIMES OFFICES</li> <li>2.- ZOCALO</li> <li>3.- GOVERNMENT PALACE</li> <li>4.- JUAREZ MARKET</li> <li>5.- POST OFFICE</li> <li>6.- ALAMEDA DE LEON</li> <li>7.- CATHEDRAL</li> <li>8.- MACEDONIO ALCALA THEATER</li> <li>9.- CHURCH OF SAN FELIPE NERI</li> <li>10.- THE BASILICA OF SOLEDAD</li> <li>11.- BELLAS ARTES</li> <li>12.- TAMAYO MUSEUM</li> <li>13.- GRAPHIC ARTS INSTITUTE</li> </ol> | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>14.- SANTO DOMINGO AND NEXT DOOR THE MUSEUM</li> <li>15.- EL SOL Y LA LUNA RESTAURANT</li> <li>16.- CATEDRAL RESTAURANT</li> <li>17.- NI-HAO RESTAURANT</li> <li>18.- EL ARCA DE EMMANUEL VEGETARIAN RESTAURANT</li> <li>19.- FONDA DEL RINCON RESTAURANT</li> <li>20.- MONTE ALBAN BUS STATION</li> <li>21.- GUELAGUETZA AMPITHEATRE</li> <li>22.- OBSERVATORY</li> <li>23 &amp; 23 A.- COCIJO FOLK ART STORE</li> <li>24.- "TALY" FOLK ART STORE</li> <li>25.- AEROMAR AIRLINE</li> <li>26.- COTTON CLUB</li> </ol> |
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15 de mayo de 1989  
Querida Amiga:  
Y amiga eres al proveernos a los amantes de Oaxaca de la muy necesitada y apreciada fuente de brillante y práctica información. Mi corazón latió cuando llegando a mi casa vi el artículo acerca de Herve el Agua. Uno de mis lugares favoritos. Hace unos años Zenon Ramirez nos guió a un grupo de amigos al museo de Sto. Domingo del cual quedamos maravillados clotilde Shoudube y otras personas fueron los únicos que nos informaron de lo que ellos sabían de Herve el Agua, inclusive un caballo nos hizo un análisis detallado del agua que hierve. Leyendo esto senti que debo regresar a Oaxaca este año, extraño Oaxaca.... Aprovecho esta oportunidad para darle las gracias por sus amables respuestas a todas nuestras preguntas, aunque sé que está muy ocupada trabajando y trabajo prometo que en mi próxima visita la invitaré a comer

Sinceramente

Marie Krishow  
153 Market St. 53044  
Kohler, WI