



Oaxaca Times

Vol. 6 No. 47

MARCH 1994

FREE

The Greatest Week

In most places Easter is just another Sunday. There are few religious processions and no profane parade of new clothes either inside or outside the church.

SEMANA SANTA, or Holy Week, is celebrated in every part of Latin America. It is time of almost continual religious observances, of colorful processions, of vivid passion plays. Churches are beautifully decorated for the occasion with green growing things and golden fruit. Scenes depicting events leading up to the crucifixion and resurrection are erected in many of them. During the days of the mourning, the church bells are silenced and matracas, or wooden rattles, are used to announce the services. Altars and saints are covered in many of the churches during this time.

Holy Week begins on palm Sunday with the blessing of palms in the churches. Some of the people carry simple palm branches, but many have attractively woven and decorated figures. Banners, crosses, spears, and letters are among the many unusual forms.



Some of the smaller towns have processions every day during holy week, but in most places nothing much happens between Palm Sunday and Maundy Thursday. On Thursday special altars known as monumentos are decorated with flowers and lighted candles. People go from church to church to view the monumento until they have visited seven different churches. On this day also, priests wash the feet of twelve of their altar boys or members of the parish to commemorate the washing of the feet of the twelve disciples by Christ. Small villages love to dramatize the last supper and the betrayal and arrest of Christ.

On Saturday morning the Mass of glory takes place, and the somber part of Holy Week is over. Church bells once again ring with a deafening clamor; firecrackers go off in happy bursts. In some places effigies of Judas are hanged or burned.

In most places Easter is just another Sunday. There are few religious processions and no profane parade of new clothes either inside or outside the church.

Enjoy learning
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Instituto de Comunicacion
y Cultura, A.C.
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CALENDAR

OF EVENTS FOR MARCH

Festivals & Celebrations Traditional Fiestas

THE LENTEN SEASON

MARCH

Theater. 14 to 20. "The Storm" by William Shakespeare. Monday, Wednesday, Friday 9 a.m. and 11 a.m. Tuesday and Thursday 4 p.m. and 6 p.m.. \$ 5.00 Pesos General Admission. Teatro del Centro Cultural. Ave Tecnologico.
11. Samaritan Day - Noon- All churches of Oaxaca.

11, 18 & 25. Ocotlan.- Placitas Espanolas. Traditional festivity starts at 6 p.m.. Take bus.

18. Traditional religious festivity of the " Senor de las Penas " Etl. 15 minutes from the city.

21.- Benito Juarez Birthday: Special Ceremony in his home town Guelatao - 58 kilometers. Banks will be closed

27.- San Antonino, Ocotlan : 20 to 30 minutes away from the city. Do not miss the Palm Sunday in this little town. Take the bus on the 5th street of Armenta y Lopez and enjoy it! 9:00 a.m.

27.- Palm Sunday in Jamiltepec: Every night of the Holy Week they have processions and they play sacred music from the XVIII Century. 35 kilometers from Pinotepa Nacional.

APRIL

1.- Pinotepa Nacional: Traditional fair, special ceremonies with the indigenous Mixtec groups.- 389 kilometers from Oaxaca.

3.- Huge dance: Natives will perform the well known dances from the coast.

MARCH

SHORT FILMS ABOUT FAMOUS ARTISTS AT THE M.A.C.O.- M. ALCALA #307-12. FREE ADMISION.

4, 5, 6.- Leonardo: To know how to see (58 minutes) 7:00 P.M.

11, 12, 13.- In search of Rembrandt (58 minutes) 7:00 P.M.

17, 18, 19.- Durer - Revelation (5 minutes) 7:00 P.M.

17, 18, 19.- EL GRECO (6 minutes) 7:00 P.M.

17, 18, 19.- RUBENS (6 minutes) 7:00 P.M.

17, 18, 19.- CANALETTO (4 minutes) 7:00 P.M.

Oaxaca is famous all over Mexico for its religious events during the Lenten season arriving to this area which takes pride in serving its heritage.

On Friday, March 4, between 7 - 9:00 a.m. University students from all over the city will arrive on Benito Juarez Park, commonly known as "El Llano". The girls (this is called a paseo) in groups around the large park and they bring flowers to give to the girls they consider the prettiest. This is a perfect time for flirtation. Finally, after a competition, one of the girls is chosen and awarded the title of "Madrina de Viernes ". This is repeated for seven consecutive Fridays (11, 18 and 25th) The seventh Friday will be in the Alameda Park, from the Cathedral. Various bands play during the festivities including the State Marimba Band. The celebration of Samaritan Day is held on the fourth Friday, March 11, at 12 noon. This is in honor of la " Samaritan " who according to the Bible, was the one to give Jesus some water in defiance of the Roman guards. Altars decorated with bougainvillea and other flowers are erected at the front of the churches and flavoured waters (fruit drinks) are dispensed free of charge from huge earthenware containers to the public who arrive with their own containers. Some of the flowers offered are: horchata (cinnamon and almond) chilacayota (pumpkin and brown sugar and lemon rind), tamalito (rind, melon, pineapple, jamaica and dried flower), etc. The same afternoon dances are held at schools and government offices with marimba music for dancing. On the seventh Friday, April 1, at 7 a.m. another parade is held in the Alameda (like the ones held at el Llano) and it's worth a visit to go nearby Juarez market to see the tamales made with vegetables at the beginning of Holy Week. All churches will have daily religious services.

Oaxaca's Only tourist publication published monthly as a cultural extension of

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25, 26, 27.- TURNER (8 minutes) 7:00 P.M.

25, 26, 27.- BLAKE (5 minutes) 7:00 P.M.

All the movies in exhibition were made by the National Gallery of Art, in Washington, U.S.A.

Walking Tours

Day 1:

From the Zocalo go north one block on Valdivieso St. to Alcala. Which is closed to vehicular traffic. One block up on the left corner is the National Pawn shop (Monte de Piedad) Where there is all kinds of jewelry and other items for sale. Across the Street on the opposite corner is the Government Library which is a lovely old colonial bulding. Of equal interest is the State museum of Oaxaca which is right next door.

Few steps north is the Modern Art Museum. Farther up the street on the left is the beautiful Plaza Alcala. A beautiful XVI century that houses a very good restaurant and on the secon floor The Institute of Comunication and Culture (The best Spanish as a Second language School in Oaxaca).

Farther up the street is the Historic Church of Santo Domingo with its adjoining Museum.. Across the street is the Graphic Art Museum, free admision. Return to the Zocalo.

Day 2:

From the Zocalo go south on Flores Magon Street to the Market where everything from soup to nuts is for sale. You will be amazed at the colorful displays of fruits, vegetables and flowers, reach Aldama St. Look to the right. On the opposite corner or Aldama & 20 de Noviembre Sts. is the small Church of San Juan de Dios where you will see a collection of 16th century religious paintings.

This church forms the corner of a 2nd market which houses mostly food and bread stalls.

Continue south along 20 de Noviembre St. until you reach Zaragoza St. turn right and walk 2 blocks to the Handicrafts Market (Mercado de Artesanias) where you will find all kinds of handmade clothing, blankets, rugs, jewelry, etc. Return to the Zocalo.



Day 3:

From the Zocalo, go west on Independencia St..2 blocks to the corner of Tinoco y Palacios St. and the Church of Sn. Felipe Neri, a 18th century baroque building where Benito Juarez, the Lincoln of Mexico, was married. Continue west on Independencia for 2 blocks until you reach a stairway on the right handside. Walk up the stairs to the Churh of the Madonna of the Solitude who is patron saint of Oaxaca.

ART EXHIBITION

"Bi-locacion", an exhibition of the work of 18 artists from the U.S.A., will open on Friday, March 11 with a reception beginning at 8:00 p.m. in the Gallery of the Escuela de bellas Artes located in front of the Soledad Church in Oaxaca. A number of the artists will be present.

Most of the work in the exhibition has been done since the beginning of a six - month project that was initiated in October, 1993, & organized by PINKY / MM BASS who has been coming to Oaxaca with Clara Couch, another of the artists, since 1988.

The artists are from Alabama, Georgia, North Carolina, New Mexico, Pensylvania and Minnesota. The group includes photographers, painters, sculptors and a number who work with mixed media. Most of the artists are known internationally and their work is included in many prominent collections.

GRAPHIC ARTS INSTITUTE OF OAXACA

ALCALA No. 507 OAXACA, OAX

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MONDAY THRU SATURDAY:

10 A.M. TO 2 P.M. AND 4

P.M. to 5 P.M.

CLOSED TUESDAY