



# Oaxaca Times

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# Fandango Costeño

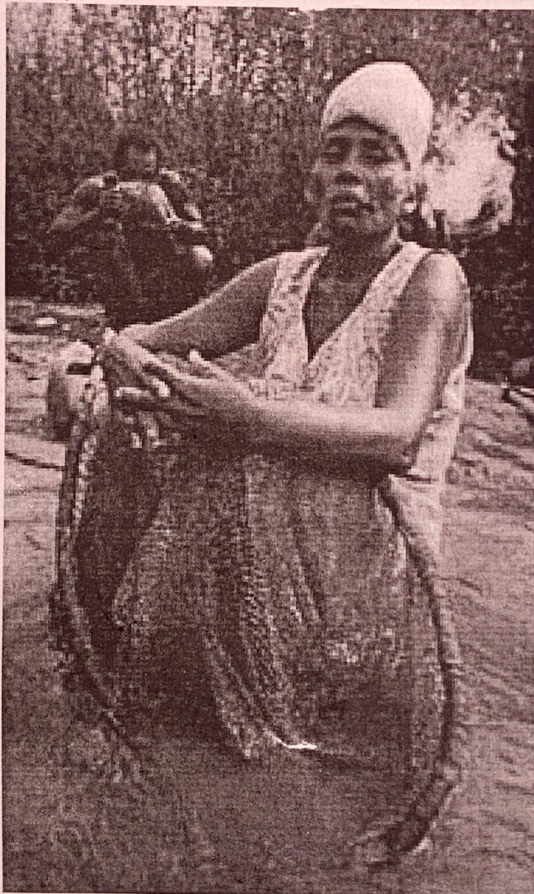


photo: by Maya Goded

Después de un largo día de pesca,  
un poco de coco y ron.

NEWS • EVENTS • ACCOMMODATIONS AND MORE...

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# short fiction story

## A Sweetheart in Mexico

The original short fiction by  
Er. Arnab Jan Deka, B.E.(civil),  
LL.B.

(About the Author : Arnab Jan Deka (born-16 September 1967, at Guwahati) is a well known Indian writer. Originally writes in English and Assamese. Authored 40 books within the life span of 36 years including several Novels, Short fictions, Essays, Biographies, Radio Drama and Poetry. One of the youngest writers to be recognised by the Indian Literary body - 'Sahitya Academy' with inclusion of biography in 'Who's Who of Indian Writers'. Winner of All India literary Award in the year 2003 for short fiction on The Himalayas. Also a Documentary filmmaker of International repute, with screening credits in countries including USA and Switzerland. Painter and Patron of folk music. An University topper Engineering Graduate in Public Health, and also a Graduate in Law. Professional credits include Journalism, Editing of journals, Engineering consultancy and Legal practitioner. Presently writing 2 weekly columns in two reputed daily and weekly newspapers. Future projects include making of a English/Assamese feature film to be shot in the USA, Australia and India. Hails from a cultured family. Family members include father Principal Bhabananda Deka, retired Principal of Pragjyotish College and noted Educationist and Economist, mother Mrs. Nalini Prova Deka, reputed senior lady writer in Assam, brothers Ankur Deka--first Assamese singer and musician to compose and sing songs in Mizo language, and Jim Ankan-- youngest Music Director in Assam.)  
Rio was in fact my destination. I had commenced my journey with the dream of participating in the world-famed carnival at Rio-de-Janeiro, passing the carefree evenings along the sprawling Copacabana sea beaches and also wit-

nessing some of the exciting football matches as one of the two hundred thousand strong spectators at the Maracana Stadium.

By the time our Greyhound bus covered the extensive tiresome stretch in Florida from California, where I had accomplished the preliminary works of realising my long overdue dreams of making my first Anglo-Assamese bilingual cinematic venture as well as the formalities with regard to setting up of our Limited Liability Company at Philadelphia with my friend Vavani as the anchor person and myself playing a supporting advisory role, my financial state was not quite enviable. The dollars given in exchange of the Indian currencies were simply inadequate to completely cover my stay in the expensive States.

Had I not been hosted by Vavani's family in California, those of Manoj and Sibashis in New Jersey, besides that of Amiya Dada at Tallahassee in Florida, by this time I would have been forced to return to my pavilion. Else I would have had to eke out the living costs by acting as a restaurant waiter or an assistant in a garage or a gas station at one of the places. Thanks to the hospitality of these people, I was saved from such embarrassments.

The southern Florida town of Tampa Bay besides the sea shore fell in my itinerary for the singular reason of giving the final touches to a long-standing project I had taken up with Debbie of a decorative design company....

Debbie a.k.a. Deborah Ann Sumlin had to undergo immense trouble while despatching the sample of her hand-made plexo-glass designs to me. Two of her earlier parcels had got misplaced while on postal transit. Finally, I directed her to send the third one to Monideep in Miami who in turn despatched it to Vavani in San Francisco. Finally, I got Debbie's gift from Vavani, who personally

handed it over to me during his visit to Assam. And, after going through the samples, there was simply no question of skipping my appointment with her in her hometown in Florida. This, in a nutshell, is the story behind my trip from California to Florida.

It was during my stay in Tampa that I decided to visit Rio. I would have only myself to rue if I miss the carnival in February.

Debbie too had been repeatedly inviting me to her home town of Land O' Lake. She regularly visits her younger sister Donna in Tampa.

What a lovely maiden meeting it was! I did not have to take the trouble of going all out in search of her though there was an almost irresistible desire to take a trip to her township. As the name connotes, its dales are dotted with lovely water bodies of various shapes and sizes - from small ponds to large lakes. Like a concise and compact verse, this picturesque town came alive in Debbie's descriptions. It would have been quite enervating to have stayed in that place at least for a few days. It was also scheduled that after returning from Brazil, I would put up at her place for a short while.

The Rio carnival is an annual affair. If I miss this event, it would be a tedious wait for another twelve months. But, this time Debbie would be therewhen I return from Rio. Besides, the town of Land O' Lake would also be waiting for me.

Donna is an enterprising lady. She is much more worldly wise than Debbie in practically all affairs. She dabbles in a number of diverse trades. Donna on her own accord conducted all necessary communications pertaining to my trip to Rio.

'She gave me a sound advice,--' Why don't you do one thing? Proceed from Tampa to Mexico by sea and then fly out to Rio from Mexico City.'

To be continued: next issue.

## Guelaguetza

Capture the spirit of Oaxaca, over 20 regional Dancers in traditional costumes join us for a spectacle to remember and buffet savour. 14 piece brass band in the majestic setting of our 16 century chapel.  
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The OaxacaTimes  
Congratulates  
the distinguished  
Zapotec writer :  
**Natalia Toledo.**

Winner of the National  
literature Prize  
NEZAHUALCÓYOTL 2004