

1935

The Quarterly Birthday Party

University of New Mexico Press

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Recommended Citation

University of New Mexico Press. "The Quarterly Birthday Party." *New Mexico Quarterly* 5, 2 (1935).
<https://digitalrepository.unm.edu/nmq/vol5/iss2/45>

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The Quarterly Birthday Party

On the evening of March 16 at the Original Mexican Cafe in Albuquerque, THE NEW MEXICO QUARTERLY represented by its editorial staff and by contributors to the magazine and their guests held a birthday party. There was no especial reason why the birthday party for THE QUARTERLY should be held this year any more than last year or the next. But the magazine had never had a birthday party and how can anything grow in grace without birthdays and parties?

As the chairman of the evening remarked, "THE QUARTERLY never even had a christening party and a proper baptizing to save it from original sin." But it did come into the world surrounded by friends. Among those whose sponsorship guided the magazine in its earliest days were Dr. J. F. Zimmerman, Mr. Paul Walter Sr. and Mr. Paul Walter Jr., Mrs. Mary Austin, and Dr. E. L. Hewett. THE QUARTERLY acknowledged the aid of these and other individuals who by letter and by personal contacts helped to nourish the infant journal beyond the stages of infant mortality.

The party on March 16th was not so much to review the past of the magazine or to predict its future as to celebrate its present and those present, of whom, not counting THE QUARTERLY, there were more than half a hundred. THE QUARTERLY announced that it was good to be alive and proposed *that* as a theme for the evening—not a silly theme, THE QUARTERLY emphasized, pointing out the heavy number of magazine deaths during the depression from malnutrition.

First of all were the birthday cards and telegrams of congratulation from Elizabeth Willis De Huff of Santa Fe, Frances Gillmor of Tucson, Edith Botsford of Raton, Sussanna Myers of Santa Fe whose postal bouquet of blossoms of the Giant Cactus almost matched the real birthday bouquet presented to the party by the Original Mexican

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Cafe which played the host with music, gaily decorated tables, and super-super Mexican food. There were out of town guests who brought congratulations in person: Ina Sizer Cassidy, Ruth Laughlin Alexander, Hester Jones of Santa Fe, Katherine Powers Gallegos of Los Lunas. Then there were all the Albuquerque people who played the host and hostess (for the party was a Dutch Treat) and who complimented the magazine by attending its self-proposed party and joining in the program of the evening.

And the program! It rivalled the famed Gridiron Club for sparkle of wit and flash of humor! What would one expect of those talented with the pen? Is the pen mightier than the tongue? To report the sallies and sayings of the evening would be to share too generously with those who could have come (if there were any) and didn't. Then too, the editor failed to take stenographic notes and much would be lost. Here, however, is the program, arranged in the manner of a magazine composed though not edited for the evening, which makes no mention of the interruptions from the claque at the corner table which insisted upon paging each speaker in some vociferous manner.

Introductory remarks (exceedingly gay)—The editor.
Toast, in Verse, "To the Occasion"—Carey Holbrook—
page one of the Magazine.

"Little New Mexican Detours from a Bus Window"
(with pantomime), Lynn B. Mitchell—page two.

"Dramatic Monologs after the Manner of E. A. Robinson"—Tilbury St. Clair—page ten.

"Making a Stein of Verse"—Gertrude S. Fisher—page twelve.

"Smoke Talk and Correspondence Column"—Harvey Threlkeld—page thirteen (a bad number).

"A Communication from an Anonymous Contributor"
—Erna Fergusson—page twenty.

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Toast to an Absent Guest—"A Blossom of Barren Lands," poem by E. M. Rhodes, read by Lansing Bloom—page twenty-five.

Poets' Contest—Dorothy Parker Crosno, Ezra Pound Gardner, Shang Sing Ho McGovern—page twenty-seven.

"Modern Poetry—As I Feel It"—F. M. Denton—page thirty.

Toast to *Comidas Mexicanas*—Katherine Powers Gallagher—page forty.

Book Reviews of Unwritten Books—*Ancient Man Hunters of the Third Mesa, A Sur-realist Looks at Life or Above the Below, Kaffee Klatches at Old Königsberg, Nudism on the Horizon or Expanding Educational Frontiers, New Mexico's Past or Back-Washing in Old Spain, The Gold Standard or No Quarters Given, Storied Easels or Will Canvases Hold Out?*—T. Menken Pearce.

Such was the party! THE QUARTERLY felt much older and wiser after it was over. Next time THE QUARTERLY is going to ask for birthday presents. Subscriptions? Well, the guests did have to pay for the birthday cake.