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THE SANTA FE FIESTA

IN 1680, nearly three-quarters of a century after the founding of Santa Fe, the Pueblo Indians all up and down country rose in rebellion, slew all the Spaniards they could lay hands upon, and drove the rest out of the province. For a dozen long years, no white man had a definite footing at any point farther north than Paso del Norte. Came then upon the scene General Don Diego de Vargas Zapata Lujan, and by the end of 1693 the reconquest of the city and province was accomplished and the government of the Villa de Santa Fe restored to the hands of the civil authorities.

In September, 1712, the then Governor Jose Chacón Medina Salazar y Villaseñor, Marqués de la Peñuela, issued an order that in commemoration of the "redemption of this ancient capital from the possession of the Indians, a fiesta season be established and observed annually for all time to come." We do not know how long this order was obeyed; but as the years went by it got lost in the shuffle of time and was forgotten—until the early part of the present century.

According to one old-timer here, the credit for the revival of this celebration is due to the Rev. James Mythen, one-time rector of the Episcopal Church. Early in 1911, in a conversation with some friends at the Santa Fe Club, Mr. Mythen remarked that Santa Fe ought to do something in the way of celebrating some of the important events in her history. For several years prior to that, the Woman's Board of Trade had been holding an annual festival on the Plaza, chiefly for the purpose of raising funds for the library. As a result of Mr. Mythen's suggestion, it was decided to stage that festival on July 4, 1911, and to combine with it a pageant depicting the re-entry of General De-Vargas (1693). Arthur Seligman was made general chairman of the celebration, which was a decided success. More than a hundred Indians took part.

This was repeated once or twice in the years immediately following, then abandoned on account of the World War. It was revived again in 1919 under the definite name of "The Santa Fe Fiesta," since which time the celebration has been given annually and without interruption up to the present. This year it will take place on September 5, 6, 7, and 8.

For a number of years after the Fiesta's revival in 1919, the program consisted largely of Indian dance ceremonials. But the neighboring cities of Gallup and Albuquerque then stepped in with their "Inter-Tribal Indian Ceremonial" and "First American" respectively, both of which staged programs much along the same lines as those of the Santa Fe Fiesta. For this reason, and also in order to bring the Fiesta more into harmony with its original purpose, a change in program policy was adopted, whereby the Indian participation was given less emphasis than before, and the Spanish participation was greatly increased.

The 1931 Fiesta will be staged in accordance with that policy. It will begin the night of September 5, with El Baile de los Conquistadores. The evening of Sunday, the sixth, vespers will be celebrated at St. Francis Cathedral, followed by the procession to the Cross of the Martyrs, where a sermon will be delivered in Spanish, commemorating the lives of the friars who were slain in the 1680 uprising. The pageant of the re-entry of DeVargas (Monday, the seventh); the Spanish market; Spanish songs, dances, games, etc.; and much of the Pasatiempo Parade—all will be handled and managed by such organizations as Alianza Hispano-Americana, La Unión Protectora, and El Auxiliar Femenil. The Spanish Colonial Arts Society will have an exhibit of articles in line with the purpose of the organization as indicated by its name.

Indian participation will consist of an exhibit of Indian arts and handicrafts and a program of Indian dances.

In addition to all these, there will be such other features as a pet animal show, The Burning of Zozobra, and a play by the Santa Fe Players, turning on the life and death of Billy the Kid.

For the most part this is a free show, no admission being charged except to the Fiesta play and perhaps to the Indian dances.

JOHN D. DEHUFF.

NEW MEXICO FOLKLORE SOCIETY

AT THE University of New Mexico, in May, was organized the New Mexico Folklore Society, for the purpose of collecting and preserving the folklore of the state. The first efforts of the society will be concentrated on the Spanish and English lore, and it is hoped that the society will be able to publish matter collected and properly organized.

Membership in the society is open to all who are interested in this line of work. Annual dues are \$1.00 a year; \$5.00 a year includes membership in the American Folklore Society; \$25.00 will make one a life member.

At the meeting for organization, Prof. Anita Osuna was elected president, and correspondence may be addressed to her at the University of New Mexico, Albuquerque.