

# New Mexico Anthropologist

---

Volume 2 | Issue 4

Article 4

---

3-1-1938

## Calendar of Eastern Pueblo Festivals

John Goggin

Follow this and additional works at: [https://digitalrepository.unm.edu/nm\\_anthropologist](https://digitalrepository.unm.edu/nm_anthropologist)

---

### Recommended Citation

Goggin, John. "Calendar of Eastern Pueblo Festivals." *New Mexico Anthropologist* 2, 4 (1937): 89-94.  
[https://digitalrepository.unm.edu/nm\\_anthropologist/vol2/iss4/4](https://digitalrepository.unm.edu/nm_anthropologist/vol2/iss4/4)

This Article is brought to you for free and open access by the Anthropology at UNM Digital Repository. It has been accepted for inclusion in New Mexico Anthropologist by an authorized editor of UNM Digital Repository. For more information, please contact [disc@unm.edu](mailto:disc@unm.edu).

vention held at Tucson in April. Discussion took place concerning a marked slackness among other chapters in conforming with the scholastic requirements for entrance into Mu Alpha Nu. In order to maintain the integrity and ideals of the fraternity, Beta voted to register a decided protest. The members and faculty believe that unless those requirements are kept, the organization must disintegrate.

W. G. McD.



#### TIWA

At its final meeting of the year, Tiwa voted unanimously to turn its entire treasury over to the NEW MEXICO ANTHROPOLOGIST—badly in need of funds. This sum amounted to approximately eleven dollars, and it is to be hoped that it has done its small part in supporting this worthy publication.

Three members of Tiwa were elected to staff positions on the NEW MEXICO ANTHROPOLOGIST. Gordon Wood was elected as business manager, and Dan McKnight as assistant to Wood. Ernst Blumenthal is manager of the newly introduced advertising section.

Ernst Blumenthal and Peggy Lee have been assigned to jobs at Jemez Field session in August. Tiwa members who will be holding down jobs at Chaco are Bob Jones, Art Rogers, and Barbara Clark.

B. P. C.



#### CALENDAR OF EASTERN PUEBLO FESTIVALS

JOHN M. GOGGIN

It was impossible to record all festivals that took place between September and December, and since the first issue several events have come to attention, therefore it is intended to list them for reference now. This same policy will be followed in the future.

September 6, San Ildefonso, Harvest Dance.

September 29, Taos, Sunset Dance (eve of San Geronimo Day).

November 6, Paguete (one of the villages of the Laguna group), Masked Kátsina Dance. Closed. This and the one following as well as one at Encinal are given when the majority of the deer hunters have returned. During the dance, the Kátsinas call out the names of children and their fathers bring them to the dancers who present bows and arrows to the boys and cradles and dolls to the girls, and sometimes moccasins to either. The presents are furnished by the father who gives them to the dancer to present.

- November 13, Paraje (another of the Laguna group) Masked Kátsina Dance. Closed. Food was given away by the dancers.
- November 22, (or thereabouts) Laguna, a dance is given in the plaza by men who hunted deer. (Thanksgiving?) Several deer are roughly mounted and stood in the plaza. The dancers are not masked.
- November 12-December 25, Jemez, two dances during this period. They are the Hopi dance again repeated and a corn dance. In this corn dance, the women have ears of corn bound on the sides of their heads.
- December 6, Zuni, 1937 Shalako. This year the ceremony was held earlier than usual (December 17, 1936). This was a fortunate year. No errors or stumbles marked the progress of the Shalakos as happened in 1935. The Shalako danced in four houses and there was one house for the Koyemshi. Only one of these houses was completely new. The rest were remodelled or had new additions. Many whites were in evidence as well as a large number of Navajos. Indians from other pueblos were conspicuous by their rarity. Hopi and Santo Domingo Indians were the most common. It may be a chronic habit to ascribe better times to the old days but it seemed to observers of years that this dance is undergoing a subtle breakdown. Two incidents particularly called this to mind. In one instance in a house when food was served, the whites were asked to leave. This seemed to indicate that the basic idea of the feast is being lost. In another house, when white visitors started to leave, they were asked to pay. On protesting they were told that it was a new law, just made by the governor. The amount charged was ten cents at first, but before the evening was over, the ante was raised to twenty-five cents.<sup>1</sup>
- December 12, Tortuga, Fiesta of the Tortuga Indians in honor of the Lady of Guadalupe. Held near Las Cruces. Probably a Matachina is given.
- December 12, Isleta, Guadalupe Day. Boys dressed as Navajos or girls; or girls dressed as boys visit certain houses to dance.<sup>2</sup>
- December 12, San Felipe, Guadalupe Day Dance.
- December 12, Santo Domingo, Guadalupe Day. In the morning and in the early afternoon, dancers go to all the houses of women named Lupe, where they dance, and then are given presents which are thrown to them from the roof. In the late afternoon a group of five dancers give the Hoop Dance. This is very recent in Santo Domingo. The dancers are only fair, their costumes are Plains

1. This may have some connection with ceremonial begging that is done with the Koyemshi, as it happened at the house where they danced.

2. Parsons, Elsie Clews, *Isleta, New Mexico*, B.A.E. Report 47, p. 307.

copies and include beaded moccasins and broaches which are quite foreign to Pueblo culture.

December 13, Santo Domingo, Basket Dance.

December ?, Santa Clara, Sun Basket Dance.

January 1, Dances in many of the Pueblos. Election of officers, Corn Dances at Jemez and Santa Ana.

January 1, Taos, Turtle Dance—generally. Masked Kátsina dance copied from San Juan or Isleta.

January 6, Kings Day. This is the day on which secular officers are installed for the coming year in most of the pueblos. In the Keresan pueblos there are dances in the afternoon. The dancers go to the houses of people named Reyes (kings) where the dwellers are waiting for them on the roof. After the dancers perform for a while, the owner of the house, his wife, and children throw presents to the crowds and the dancers below. Everybody scrambles for them but most are thrown directly to the dancers. On the whole, the fiesta is a very pleasant affair that everyone enjoys, especially when a dishpan or bucket is thrown on someone's head. The gifts commonly thrown are food, fruit, tobacco, and household objects.

January 6, Taos, Buffalo Dance.

January 6, San Ildefonso, Eagle Dance.

January 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, Isleta, Kings dances. These are danced by the Laguna groups for five days. As in the Keres towns, presents are thrown from the roof.<sup>3</sup>

January 7, Santo Domingo, Kátsina (?) Dance Closed (?).

January 9, Jemez, a burlesque of the Navajo dance. This is given for the first time. Dancers costumed like Navajo men wearing sun glasses, mustaches, cowboy boots, and big hats. The women wore a variety of costumes but they all had eagle feathers in their hair and carried others in their hands. The men were of all ages, but the women were unmarried girls. There were six groups of dancers, four men and four women to each group. This dance was thoroughly comic and was enjoyed very much by the spectators.

January 11, Jemez, Comanche Dance. Given in honor of the archbishop visiting the pueblo to dedicate a new chapel. Dancers rode around town on horses in their dancing costumes.

January 13 (or thereabouts) Santa Clara, maskless Kátsina dance.<sup>4</sup>

January 14, 15, Paguete, masked Kátsina dance. Closed.

January 16, Jemez, Zuni Comanche dance. Differs from the Jemez

3. *Ibid.*, p. 307.

4. Parsons, Elsie Clews, *Social Organization of the Tewa*, Memoir 36, A.A.A., p. 169.

Comanche dance only in that women may dance. There were about twenty-five dancers, in one long line, alternating men and women. To one side was the drummer and a song leader. Men wore a varied costume but all had a bow in one hand and a rattle in the other. All of the dancers wore beaded headbands. The women wore a black pueblo dress and carried eagle feathers in each hand. All dancers had a large spot of bright paint on each cheek. This was store paint and not the usual ochre. A few men wore buckskin leggings and beaded mocassins. Only one group danced and they frequently went into one of the houses to rest.

January 22, Santo Domingo, dance preparing for the Buffalo dance.

January 23, Santo Domingo, Buffalo dance.

January 23, San Ildefonso, Fiesta Day, Buffalo dance.

January 24, Santo Domingo, dance.

January 25, Taos, dance very early in the morning.

January (near the end), Jemez, Bow dance.

January ?, Acoma, Scalp dance.<sup>5</sup>

January-February, San Juan, Basket dance.<sup>6</sup>

January-February, Laguna, Kátsina dance by the Laguna people.<sup>7</sup>

January-February, Isleta, Kátsina Basket dance.<sup>8</sup>

February 2, San Felipe, Candlemass day, Buffalo dance.

February 7, Isleta, dance for hunting.

February 9, Isleta, dance for hunting.

February ?, Isleta, dance by the moiety.<sup>9</sup>

February ?, Isleta, dance by the Shichu for snow or rain.<sup>10</sup>

February 10, Isleta, Evergreen Dance.

February 15, Taos, Turtle Dance.

NOTE: Due to my absence from the Southwest during the past several months, the following section is not so complete as that preceding. I am grateful to Mr. George Schafer, U. S. Indian Service for valuable information.—J. G.

February 15, Santo Domingo, Eagle Dance.

February 20, Santo Domingo, Navajo Dance, similar to the one at Jemez but not as good.

February 27, San Felipe, Doll Dance.

March 2 or 3, San Juan, Ceremonial Shinny.<sup>11</sup>

5. White, Leslie, *The Acoma Indians*, B.A.E. Report 47, p. 67.

6. Parsons, *op. cit.*

7. Parsons, Elsie Clews, *Isleta, New Mexico*, B.A.E. Report 47, p. 307.

8. *Ibid.*, p. 307.

9. *Ibid.*, p. 307.

10. *Ibid.*, p. 307.

11. Parsons, Elsie Clews, *Social Organization of the Tewa*; A.A.A. Mem. no. 36, p. 169.

- March 2, San Felipe, Witches come off west mesa to pueblo for first time in five years.
- March 3, San Felipe, Witches visit again.
- March 5, Paguete, Kátsina Corn Dance Closed.
- March 5, Laguna, Kátsina Dance Closed.
- March 6, Laguna, Kátsina Dance Closed.
- March 20-26, Santa Maria de Acoma (one of the farming pueblos of Acoma) Deer Dance given during this week.
- March 27, Acomita, Deer Dance, Buffalo Dance, Eagle Dance.
- March 27, Santa Maria de Acoma, Deer Dance.
- March 27, Santo Domingo, Corn Dance.
- March 27, Jemez, Corn Dance.
- March 27, Cochiti, Corn Dance.
- April 8-11, Isleta, Shure Ceremony.<sup>12</sup>
- May 1, San Felipe, Fiesta Day, Corn Dance.
- May 3, Taos, Ceremonial Races.
- May 25, San Ildefonso, Rainbow Dance.
- May 29-June 4, Tesuque, a Dance was given during this week.
- June 6, San Ildefonso, dance.
- June 8, Santa Clara, Buffalo Dance.
- June 13, Sandia, St. Anthony Day Dance.
- June 13, San Juan, St. Anthony Day Dance.
- June 13, Paguete, St. Anthony Day Dance.
- June 13, Santa Clara, St. Anthony Day Dance.
- June 13, San Ildefonso, St. Anthony Day Dance.
- June 13, Cochiti, St. Anthony Day Dance.
- June 20, Isleta, Kátsina Dance by Laguna People.<sup>13</sup>
- June 24, Jemez, San Juan Day, Rooster Pull.
- June 24, San Juan, San Juan Day, Fiesta.
- June 24, San Juan Day, Rooster Pull.
- June 24, Taos, San Juan Day, Corn Dance.
- June 24, Acoma, San Juan Day, Rooster Pull.
- June 24, Laguna, San Juan Day; food thrown from the houses of people named Juan.<sup>14</sup>
- June 24, Isleta, San Juan Day, Rooster Pull.
- June 24, Cochiti, San Juan Day.
- June 29, San Felipe, San Pedro Day, Rooster Pull.
- June 29, Santo Domingo, San Pedro Day, Rooster Pull.
- June 29, Acoma, San Pedro Day, Rooster Pull.
- June 29, Isleta, San Pedro Day, Rooster Pull.

12. Parsons, Elsie Clews, *Isleta, New Mexico*, B.A.E. Report 47.

13. *Ibid.*

14. Dutton and Marmon, *Laguna Calendar*, U.N.M. Anthropology Bulletin, vol. 1, no. 2.

- June 29, Cochiti, San Pedro Day.  
 July 12-14, Acoma, Summer Masked Dance.<sup>15</sup>  
 July 14, Cochiti, San Buenaventura Day Fiesta, Corn Dance.  
 July 24, Acoma, Rooster Pull.<sup>16</sup>  
 July 25, Cochiti, dance.  
 July 25, Laguna, Santiago Day.  
 July 25, Acoma, Santiago Day, Corn Dance.  
 July 25, Taos, Santiago Day, Corn Dance.  
 July 26, Taos, Corn Dance.  
 July 26, Santa Ana, Fiesta, Corn Dance.  
 August 2, Jemez, Old Pecos Bull Dance.  
 August 4, Santo Domingo, Corn Dance, finest of all Pueblo dances.  
 August 10, Picuris, San Lorenzo Day Fiesta.  
 August 10, Laguna, San Lorenzo Day Fiesta.  
 August 10, Acoma, San Lorenzo Day, Corn Dance.<sup>17</sup>  
 August 12, Santa Clara, Tablita Dance.<sup>18</sup>  
 August 15, Zia, Nuestra Senora de la Ascension Fiesta, Corn Dance.  
 August 22, Isleta, St. Augustin Fiesta.



#### DEPARTMENTAL DIRECTORY, 1936-38

Key: Name, date of degree, place of degree; societies; permanent address; activities.

##### *Faculty*

- Bliss, Wesley; B.A., Colorado State Teachers College; M.S., University of New Mexico; Research associate; M.A.N.; at present heading an expedition in Canada, with a grant from the American Philosophical Society.
- Brand, Donald D.; B.A., Ph.D., University of California; Head of Department; M.A.N.; Valley Center, California; will be at San Diego State College, San Diego, Calif., during June and July, Chaco Canyon in August; attended National meeting of the A.A.A.S. in Denver, 1937, was chairman Social Sciences Section of the Southwestern Division A.A.A.S., 1938.
- \*Fisher, Reginald; B.S., M.A., University of New Mexico; Ph.D., University of Southern California; 705 E. Palace, Santa Fe, New Mexico. Assistant Director of the Museum of New Mexico.

15. White, Leslie, *The Acoma Indians*, B.A.E. Report 47.

16. *Ibid.*

17. *Ibid.*

18. Parsons, Elsie Clews, *Social Organization of the Tewa*, A.A.A. Mem. 136.

\*Resigned January 31, 1938.