



Alura Flores de Angeles

(Photo left: Alura Flores de Angeles. Photo by Ace Smith)

One of the Stockton Folk Dance Camp experiences this year was the Mexican dance class under the leadership of the charming lady, ALURA FLORES de ANGELES. This was Alura's third year on the Stockton faculty. With the help of two of her fine students, MARGARITA RAMIREZ and DANIEL CORONA, she presented four exciting Mexican dances.

Alura was born in Cuernavaca, Mexico of an American mother and a Mexican father. Her world has always been filled with music (her mother was a concert pianist and singer and her father was a singer) and she was given the gift of dance. The Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México graduated Alura in Physical education, and she has been reasearching, dancing, teaching and choreographing Mexican dances since the late 20s. In 1928 she started collecting unrecorded dances by going into remote villages as a member of a government-sponsored cultural mission.

For the last 20 years Alura has taught for 3 weeks each year at the University of Mexico's affiliate campus in San Antonio, as well as San Antonio College. She has also been a visiting professor of dance at various schools and folk dance camps in the United States, including Stockton. Some of the most outstanding folk dancers and teachers have been students of or affiliated with Alura, including Nelda Drury, Buzz Glass, and several other Federation presidents.

Mrs. de Angeles coached women's basketball and volleyball teams for 25 years. Representing Mexico City, her volleyball team won 6 national championships, and 3 of her players were on

the Mexico team in the 1968 Olympics. Her government asked her to act as a cultural representative at the Olympic Games in Rome (1960), Tokyo (1964), Mexico (1968), and Munich (1972). As busy as she was in athletics, however, she always had time for dancing.

Currently, Alura is head of the Department of dance of the Temporary Courses division of the Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México in Mexico City. She is also director of the Festivales Folclóricos Internacionales, a folk dance camp held twice yearly in the Centro Vacacional of Oaxtepec, Morelos, now in its 6th year.*

Alura is also choreographer and director of an exhibition group called "Yolo Xochitl", made up of students from the University. According to legend, Yolo Xochitl was a boy born into an Indian village who was very dear to his mother. She watched over and protected him carefully, and as he grew to be a man he became very wise and wealthy and his village prospered. Yolo Xochitl, meaning "The Flower of the Heart", came to represent the spirit of prosperity. Alura used the name as an inspiration to both herself and the group. They have recently performed at 3 state-wide folk dances in California.

Alura Flores de Angeles has contributed much to the world of folk dancing, and she has presented and choreographed many dances that we do today, such as Santa Rita (see dance description, page 18.).

(*For registration and information about the Mexico International Folclore Festival, contact:

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Editor's Note: The information in this article was obtained partially through an interview with Alura herself, and partially from bits of information from the daily newsletter at Stockton Folk Dance Camp, FOOTNOTES. Our thanks to June McKay for her permission to use FOOTNOTES, and to Alura for her time!)

