

Old Missions of California

Franciscan Fathers of California

133 Golden Gate Avenue

San Francisco, Calif. 94102

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

SAN MIGUEL, CALIF. - The drums of Apache, Navajo, Papago and Pima Indian dancers will break the traditional quiet of the old Mission San Miguel, on Friday, July 8, when the tribal performers will start a five-day ceremonial at the Franciscan Mission.

The tribal dancers will perform daily, free to the public, through July 12.

The performers, all full-blooded Indians, are students at St. John's Indian School, Laveen, Arizona. They will present their authentic tribal ritual dances at five performances daily.

The Indian dancers, arrayed in costumes of brilliant red, blue and yellow, will move through the seldom-seen, spectacular dances to drum-beat accompaniment. The display, replete with war whoops, spear-waving, chanting and color, will duplicate the Indian ceremonials, just as they were done before the Spanish came to the old southwest.

Like a huge constantly-moving pinwheel, spinning in and out of small sections and splashes of color, the Indians unfold the unique Apache Warrior Dance; then the intricate Hoop Dance, celebrated for its difficult patterns. Hardly pausing in the smooth transition of their dance, the famed Indians glide into the Eagle Dance, complete with the flapping of the mighty bird's wings, and swiftly shift into the eye-catching and pulsating Devil, Horsetail, Snake, and Rain Dances. Other dances are the Buffalo, Feather, Mountain Spirit, Victory,

Applauded in the past by thousands at the famed Sardinia,

-- MORE --



Santa Barbara
Founded 1786



San Luis Rey
Founded 1798



San Miguel
Founded 1797



San Antonio
Jolon, Calif.
Founded 1771

EDITOR'S NOTE:

Please see
attached
Fact Sheet.

INDIAN DANCERS at OLD MISSION SAN MIGUEL (cont)

Italy Festival, cheered by hugh crowds in many capitols of Europe, and at numerous festivals and rodeos in the United States, the dazzling performers will spell-bind audiences at Mission San Miguel. Photographers are permitted to take pictures.

The Indian dancers will perform five times daily, July 8 through July 12, at 10:30 a.m., 12 noon; 1:30 p.m; 3:00 p.m. and 4:00 p.m. The public is cordially invited to attend this unusual spectacle. There is no admission charge.

The Old Mission is located on Highway 101, in the town of San Miguel, seven miles north of Paso Robles.

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FACT SHEET

ST. JOHN MISSION INDIAN DANCERS

The Indian Dancers appearing at the Old Missions of California are full blooded Indians of the Apache, Pima, Navajo and Papago tribes, and are students at St. John's Indian School, Lav-
een, Arizona. They perform authentic dances of their tribal an-
cestors, and groups have appeared at festivals, rodeos, etc.,
for about twenty years, the period during which they have been
organized.

There are about 400 Indians, boy and girls, who call St. John's
Mission their home. School is kept going by donations of people
who feel that "charity begins at home" by helping the first
American to find his place in our modern world.

The dancers make their own strikingly attractive costumes out
of buckskin, wild turkey and eagle feathers. The tom-tom, or
drum, is made of deerskin. These Indian boys, patient by nat-
ure, spend many hours in doing the beautiful and fine beadwork
for headbands, belts and moccasins.

Six boys make up the travelling group, and tour the Old Calif-
ornia Missions each year. They also dance at other California
festivals, and before such clubs as the Lion and Rotary Club.
They danced at the Republican National Convention in San Fran-
cisco. They have been applauded by thousands at the famed Sar-
dinia, Italy Festival; cheered by hugh crowds in many capitols
of Europe; entertained the U.S. Armed Forces in Europe; danced
before the late beloved Pope John at the Vatican. Last year, they
performed before hugh crowds at the New York World's Fair, and
also toured the New England States dancing at various summer
festivals.

There has been tremendous demand for them on television, and
they have appeared on numerous stations in the west; also have
been televised on various stations throughout the nation.

Some of the dances they perform are Eagle, Feather, War and
Shield, Snake, Mountain Spirit, Wild Game, Round, Horsetail,
Buffalo, Hoop.

Wherever the Indians have gone, thousands have approved most
enthusiastically of the American Indians spreading good will.

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