

The Coronado Cuarto Centennial (1940)

In 1940, The Coronado Cuarto Centennial was celebrated all over the State of New Mexico. Dora was in her 3rd year teaching at Canon de Jemez. The C. De Bacas had a huge red barn close to their home. It was a 2-story thing. The upper part was used to store hay and grains. The lower part was for buggies, wagons and part stable for horses and cows. Dora remembers one time that her younger sister pushed her through the hole that they dropped the hay to the stable below. She fell in the hay where the animals ate.

It was in this red barn that Manuel, Dora's father invited old men to come and play their fiddles and accordions. Some of the older women taught the young people all the old dances such as: "La Varsoviana", "La Raspa", "La Camila", "old wedding marches", "polkas", "cuadrillas", Etc. They were doing all this to celebrate the Coronado Cuarto Centennial.

Dora, her mom and her dad decorated the upper part of the barn beautifully. Her Dad made benches for all around and also a place for the orchestra. Corn stalks were placed in different parts of the barn. It was a very nice and inviting place. There wasn't a thing that Dora's mother and Dad wouldn't do for her. Dora saw this as an opportunity or way of preserving her culture.(remembering all her ancestors dances, music, songs) Also, for learning in school as much history as possible. Also for the children to have pride in their ancestors that went through so many hardships to discover our country. Also that their ancestors had contributed to developing our country. There was also the social aspect. (having something to do in a rural community). The best part was the fun that they had all year long. The Coronado Cuarto Centennial offered tremendous educational opportunities. Opportunities that teachers are always looking for.

Dora's mother, Maria, Made beautiful costumes for Dora and her older brother Michael. Maria was a wonderful seamstress. Dora and her partner, Phil Martinez from Jemez Springs had been chosen to go and compete in Santa Fe for best dancers.