
ARIZONA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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PC 272

**Dick Frontain's Yaqui Photos
1965 - 1996**

DESCRIPTION

This collection consists of photographs taken by Dick Frontain of Yaqui ceremonies and events from 1965 to 1996. Images depict the seasonal rituals and festival period in-and-around Ash Wednesday, Good Friday, and the Easter Sunday of the calendar year. Photographs depict the Deer Dancer, Way of the Cross, the Good and Evil People representatives, and the burning of the Straw Judas who appears to lead the attacks on the church followers. Images include black/white, color, and slides. An article in folder 22 by Dick Frontain provides historical understanding for the rituals and events depicted.

3 Boxes, 2.25 linear ft.

HISTORICAL NOTE

Dick Frontain was a bullfighting enthusiast, writer and photographer; he authored several books about bullfighting and other topics and documented Yaqui Indian ceremonies between 1965 and 1996.

Yaqui Indians have only received recognition as a tribal nation since the administration of President Jimmy Carter although they have been in the Southwest for hundreds of years. The Yaqui cultural beliefs became blended with teachings from Jesuit missionaries of the Catholic Church with the resulting spiritual prayers and rituals practices today. The climax of the Yaqui year is Lenten-Easter rites when the Good People defeat the Evil Ones and their faith is saved for another year. The Good People include the maestro, the singers, the Matachin Society of men, young children and many adults. The Evil Forces are the Fariseos, Caballeros, Foot Soldiers and costumed Chapayekas. The Deer Dancer and the Pascolas dance for the Good People. Holy Week Rituals of the Yaquis are open to the public but photographs are generally not permitted except by special permission.

ACQUISITION

Donated by Felicia Frontain in 2008.

ACCESS

There are no restrictions on access to this collection.

COPYRIGHT

Requests for permission to publish material from this collection should be addressed to the Arizona Historical Society, Tucson, Archives Department.

PROCESSING

The collection was processed by Dave Tackenberg in March 2009.

Box and Folder Listing

Box 1

Folder 1 Yaqui Festivals	1955/1966
f.2-7 Yaqui Festival (Folder #7 Color)	1967
f.8 Yaqui Festival	1968
f.9 Yaqui Festival	1970
f.10-11 Yaqui Festivals	1971/1972
f.12 Yaqui Festivals	1975/1976
f.13 Yaqui Festival	1978
f.14 Yaqui Festivals	1978/1979
f.15-16 Yaqui Festival (Color Photos)	1990

Box 2

f.17 Yaqui Children's Deer Dance	1994
f.18(A) Yaqui Children Dance Group	1995
f.18 Yaqui Christmas Event (Color Photos)	1996
f.19-20 Yaqui Festival	No Date
f.21 Yaqui Easter Rites (People-Thursday-Friday-Saturday-Sunday)	1971/1972
f.22 Yaqui Articles by Dick Frontain	1995

Box 3

Oversized Images	
Folder #1: Yaqui Festival (Color Photos)	1967
Folder #2: Yaqui Festival	1967