

Egg-Breaking Easter Custom In New Mexico

By TONY HILBERMAN
Santa Fe New Mexican
SANTA FE, N. M., April 20 (AP) — An almost forgotten Spanish colonial custom — which once made aristocratic New Mexico belles delighted to have eggs broken over them — is being enthusiastically revived by Santa Fe's younger set for the Easter season.

They will use hollow eggs filled with multicolored confetti. Two hundred years ago, the custom was similar but somewhat more dignified, perhaps because it was restricted to the aristocratic families and to the formal pre-Lenten ball, held the Tuesday before Ash Wednesday.

To these very fashionable events, the eligible young bachelors would bring "cascarones" — hollowed eggs filled with perfume, cologne or perhaps dried rose petals.

At the climax of the "balle," they would crush the cascarones in their hands over the heads of the señoritas they best loved, and, as a member of the Sociedad Folklorica puts it, "the one with the most eggs crushed over her was considered the most popular belle of the ball."

The Sociedad Folklorica, which devotes itself to preserving the historic customs of the original colonists, revived the old custom in 1949 as part of its post-Easter ball, adding a touch by giving the egg "cascarones" fancy paint jobs and fancy costumes.

Just three years ago, the idea hit students at St. Francis School. How hard the idea hit is best illustrated by the fact that sixth and seventh graders have stockpiled about 12,000 of the fancy "cascarones" for their annual spring school carnival set for the Thursday after Easter.

Japanese Girl Weds Brando In New Movie

By JAMES BACON
HOLLYWOOD, April 20 (AP) — A Young Nisei girl, playing Marlon Brando's Japanese sweetheart in her acting debut, is lovely proof that great actresses are born, not made.

with Brando in "Sayonara," Miiko Taka, 24, is co-starred James Mitchener's tender love story of a U.S. Air Force major who marries a Japanese girl.

It's quite a jump-in a few months—from a job as a \$60-a-week travel agency clerk to co-starring with the man most critics label as the world's greatest living actor.

But Miiko is more than an Oriental Cinderella. Her acting is so sensitive that even calloused crewman interrupt their gin rummy games to watch her and Brando smote. It's the kind of tribute usually reserved for a Katherine Hepburn or a Garbo.

Her sole dramatic training has come during the picture. Brando, who can teach what he practices, has been helping her as has director Josh Logan.

"Great Sensitivity"

"She is an actress of great sensitivity—a natural, inborn talent. She reads and works with other players extremely well," Brando says, adding: "It's a shame that there can't be a wider use of this girl's talent." He considers her an amazing talent find.

A worldwide search had been conducted for the important role which required a beautiful Japanese girl who could speak English. Brando auditioned in Japan where he found many of the native girls fine in the beauty department but failing in the English language requirement.

The studio had just about settled on Shirley Yamaguchi, one of Japan's top actresses, when a talent director spotted Miiko dancing in Los Angeles' annual Nisei carnival.

Solly Blanz, the Warner's casting director, told her to drop by the studio, but she pook-pooked it and never showed up. Seattle-born and a graduate of Los Angeles High School, she was biased to what she thought was the old "I'll get you in pictures" approach.

But after several weeks, her friends convinced her the offer was legitimate. She dropped by the studio, read a scene for Brando.

In two minutes time, the actor said: "She's the girl."

Keaton's Favorite Comics

HOLLYWOOD (AP)—It's always interesting when one of the screen's great comics, like Buster Keaton, lists his favorite comics. Here's his list:

All-time favorites—Harry Langdon, W. C. Fields and Charlie Chaplin.

Current favorites—Jerry Lewis, Red Skelton and Lou Costello.

This trio also is his choice in the "nut comic" category.

All-time comedienne — Marie Dressler and Lucille Ball.

Light comics—Bob Hope, Walter C. Kelly—who has a famous niece by the name of Grace—Jack Benny and Mickey Rooney.

Blackface—Bert Williams, Moran and Mack and Lew Dockstader.

Dialect — Irish — Roger Imhoff, Jewish—Joe Walsh, Eugene Howard and Smith and Dale.

School Bonds Rejected

HERMISTON, April 20 (AP) — Voters here have rejected by a vote of 516 to 497 a 100,000 bond issue that would have been used to construct additional facilities at a new \$500,000 elementary school here.

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