



Patron Saints icons of popular devotion in some cantonal markets of Guatemala City (Part IV)

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Presentation

The Center for Folkloric Studies of the University of San Carlos of Guatemala, aware of the need to prolong the investigation of the phenomenon of traditional popular culture referred to Christian-Catholic Saints, who are venerated as patron figures in some cantonal markets of Guatemala City, gives continuity to the publications that preceded it with the same research topic.¹

As noted in these works, it is necessary to make it clear that such formal aspects as the nomenclatures and dates of "official"

foundation and inauguration of the markets addressed are only a referential data, since their origins (mostly) come from older temporalities.

On the other hand, for some decades now, the saintly figures venerated in these commercial spaces have been constituted in one more way (than in the universe of remunerative transactions, in this case through the supply markets where Direct consumer purchases are made through small quantities), which links sellers and buyers. Thus, the patron saint protects all the faithful, suppliers and demanders and they in turn implore him in cases of urgency and need.

From another perspective we can affirm that the importance that the patron saints have in the markets makes it possible for the new generations, -understanding their essence-, to continue the traditional celebrations through the experience of their role in the realization of the celebrations religious events. In this way, the commercial precincts discussed here show the revival of popular traditions that, even in the face of adversity, remain in force.

¹ See: Torres Valenzuela, Artemis. Santos Patronos, Íconos de devoción popular en los mercados del centro histórico de la Nueva Guatemala de la Asunción. Colección Breve, Volumen No. 8 del Centro de Estudios Folklóricos: 2003. Torres Valenzuela, Artemis. Santos Patronos íconos de devoción popular en algunos mercados cantonales de la ciudad de Guatemala (Part II and III), *La Tradición Popular* Nos. 187-188, Centro de Estudios Folklóricos: Years 2009-2010.

Despite the misfortunes and even fatalities of the environment of insecurity and violence that in the country has been experienced for some years, it is urgent to document popular traditions as part of the cultural heritage that promotes identity. This concern is one of the tasks posed by the Center for Folklore Studies, in this regard it is enough to realize the constant theft of images that for some time has been affecting not only churches but also markets, remember the attempted theft at the end of the last century of the sculptures venerated inside the *El Granero* market in *zona cuatro*, these images are located in the area known as *baratillos*, in said market and despite the fact that they suffered visible deterioration, the tenants still follow them venerating the same or more than before.

It is worth noting that, on some occasions, the saints venerated in these small commercial environments are taken from the devotions that are celebrated in adjacent towns, neighborhoods, cantons, etc. as happened in the case of the *La Villa de Guadalupe* market located in the *zona 10 capitalina*.

Finally, the celebrations dedicated to each dedication and described below, represent an extraordinary moment that breaks with everyday life in the purely commercial sphere, each previously thought-out and planned action also entails an incentive and emotional experience of the tenants involved, the promotion of devotion, support, adhesion. social unity and local cultural identity.

La Villa de Guadalupe Market

Located on fourteenth avenue between ten and eight and nineteen streets in *zona diez*, the capital market known as *La Villa* was inaugurated on December 12, 1946, with the *Licenciado* (at that time *bachiller*) being Mayor of Guatemala City Mario Méndez Montenegro ² and President of the Republic of Guatemala, Doctor Juan José Arévalo Bermejo.



Origin of the devotional cult to the Virgin of Guadalupe

Motivated by faith, approximately forty-five years ago, Mrs. Brígida Ajcip Xuyá, originally from San Pedro Sacatepéquez, and Alejandrina Vicente Velásquez, originally from Totonicapán, owner of a dining room (considered the oldest tenants), they began fundraising with

²Licenciado Mario Méndez Montenegro. Titular Mayor of Guatemala City from 01/10/1946 al 12/31/1948. References: Estrada Monroy, Agustín. "*Cronología de los Alcaldes de la Ciudad de Guatemala*". Concludes XII. The Imparcial, May 8, 1974 pp. 9. *Historia del Mercado*. Hojas sueltas de la Administración del mercado de La Villa de Guadalupe.

³Oral information, tenants Venancia Raxón Yapán and María Antonieta Siliezar Velásquez, dining room sector. Guatemala, August 11, 2010.

devotees' tenants to buy an image of the Virgin of Guadalupe, the sculpture occupied a special place and since then it has had its own altar and dressing room.³

The choice of dedication was made out of personal devotion and was strengthened because in that sector he was venerated and worshiped in the Catholic Church popularly known as the Church of Villa de Guadalupe. Initially, when the image arrived at the market, the tenants received it with a party where there was marimba music, fireworks and food.

As time passed, year after year the celebrations continued and new generations were in charge of carrying them out. Thus, (being girls) the current Mrs. María Antonieta Siliezar Velásquez (originally from Quetzaltenango, daughter of Alejandrina Vicente Velásquez and owner of the dining room "La Bendición") along with the tenants, Elvia Aminta Liquen Teo (known as *Doña Chiqui*) and her daughter Cruz Isabel Cardona de Pacheco, owners of the "Doña Chiqui" dining room and Margarita Oscar daughter of the tenants Feliciano Oscar (from the municipality of San Raymundo) and Gregorio Alfonzo Velasco (from Totonicapán) all fruit and vegetable sellers, they organized and gave rise to the religious committee and celebrations of the Virgin of Guadalupe. This new generation of market tenants (and some also residents of the sector) for more than fifty years, has given continuity to the celebration preparations that still arrive today.

Most of the people who gave rise to and continued the tradition of the festivities, with significant exceptions, came and come from the dining sector.

Approximately four years ago, Mrs. Elvia Aminta Liquen Teo (*Doña Chiqui*) fulfilled a promise made to her daughter, Cruz Isabel Cardona de Pacheco, which consisted of purchasing, with the collaboration of some devoted tenants, the image of Juan Diego, which has accompanied the Virgin since then.

Juan Diego was acquired in Tapachula, Mexico, where he was blessed for the first time. The dedication protected by Elvia Aminta Liquen came on a pilgrimage and passed through the Municipality of Santa Catarina Pinula, where it was appreciated by devoted neighbors and tenants of the market of that town, upon reaching the final destination, the La Villa Market, it was blessed again.⁴

Currently on a background adorned with the flag of Mexico, the Virgin is accompanied by plaster sculptures of the Child Jesus, the Sacred Heart of Jesus and the Virgin of Conception, as well as paintings with the faces of the Virgin of the Rosary, Jesus Nazarene of San José, the Buried Lord of Santo Domingo and the Divine Child.

⁴ Oral interview with Elvia Aminta Liquen Teo, Dining Room Sector, La Villa de Guadalupe Market. Guatemala: 08-11-2010.



Entertainment, expression of popular religiosity and tradition

Since the image was acquired, the devotion to the Virgin of Guadalupe made the tenants come together to honor her presence, according to some of the oldest members of the religious and celebration committee, the activities normally begin on the first of December with the prayer of the novena that ends on the ninth.

On the tenth, the image is taken in procession to the Church neighboring to the market, known as the Church of Villa de Guadalupe, there together, the Holy Mass is offered to the two images and at night in the atrium they are serenaded. Musical groups and especially the marimba sing traditional pieces until midnight, delighting the attendees, who also taste popular dishes, generally fruit punch and bread with chicken. There is no shortage of fireworks that announce and invite people to participate in the festivities, giving an atmosphere of joy and happiness.

Arriving on December eleventh (the most important in the market) ⁵, from five at the morning, again to the images located in the Church of *La Villa de Guadalupe* offers

songs sung by mariachis (*las mañanitas*). At seven o'clock the Holy Mass is celebrated and then, in a procession, usually carried by children dressed in indigenous costumes and accompanied by pieces sung by a school band, it moves to the market where it travels through the corridors and surrounding areas. Finally (at approximately eleven o'clock) to be visited, it is placed in the atrium of the church or in the free space in front of the market facilities, there the party continues, lunch is served, which consists of Creole chicken broth or Tamales ⁶.

Gala and pomp

From the beginning the celebration is characterized by generating an atmosphere of joy, the facilities are decorated with brightly colored pennants, made with tissue paper and pine. The days ten, eleven and twelve are enlivened with music from different groups that sing

⁵The eleventh day has become the most important to carry out the celebration in the market since due to the tradition that this dedication has in the Guatemalan religious culture, many of the people, devoted clients, tenants and supporters disciplinedly carry out the day twelve the visit to the Sanctuary of Guadalupe, located in *zona uno* of the center of Guatemala City. Reference: Cruz Isabel Cardona de Pacheco, dining room sector, La Villa de Guadalupe Market. Guatemala. 08-11-2010.

⁶The processional procession has turns of honor, these consist of the entry and exit of both the Church and the market. These special moments are granted to adults who wear indigenous costumes, in some cases the men have dressed in the characteristic costume of Chichicastenango. Reference: Oral interview with Margarita Oscar, fruit and vegetable sector. Market of La Villa de Guadalupe, Guatemala. 08-11-2010.

fashionable melodies, marimba is not lacking (often from the Municipality of Guatemala City), mariachi groups, school bands and previously the accompaniment of the tun, the shawm and the harp was common.

The chapel and the altar of the virgin are decorated with special curtains, decorations with elements typical of the Christmas season, floral arrangements and incense. A special gift to the Virgin and the attendees is the dance offered by the Moors of the Municipality of San Pedro Sacatepéquez.

Gratitude and devotional unity

As some tenants express it, the faith professed to the Virgin of the Villa de Guadalupe market has meant that in difficult moments she provides them with peace, tranquility, resignation, conformity, serenity and wisdom to be able to cope in the best possible way. those problems that worry and disturb their souls ⁷. Realizing the importance of this state of calm, they thank the Virgin, promising, among other actions, to carry out her festival.

Confirming the identity of the market and devotional unity around the image, several various sales outlets have simple altars with small sculptures or pictures of the Virgin of Guadalupe that, brought from the Basilica of Esquipulas, become particular cult objects of faith.

El Guarda Market

Located on third avenue between second and third street in *zona once* of Guatemala City, currently this market also popularly known as *El Guarda*, the old Guarda or the new old Guarda market is managed by Mr. Juan Carlos González ⁸.

In this commercial center two saints are venerated, Mary Help of Christians and the Sacred Heart of Jesus. Collaterally, tenants of various businesses have erected small altars that reaffirm the Catholic liturgy, a singular example is that of the tenant María Teresa Ramírez ⁹, owner of a soft drink shop. With a particular curtain accompanied by fresh flowers, it brings together the images of the Virgin of Guadalupe (a painting) and San Judas Tadeo (small sculpture) and entrusts them with the security and prosperity of the business.

⁷Oral interview with Cruz Isabel Cardona de Pacheco, María Antonieta Siliézar Velásquez, dining sector. La Villa de Guadalupe Market, Guatemala, 08-11-2010.

⁸Taking into consideration the clarification that is raised in the introduction of this work, regarding the details of its inauguration, the interested reader is suggested to consult: "*El mercado del Guarda*", El Imparcial, November 16, 1964, pp. 1, 2, "*Municipalidad inauguró hoy la ampliación del Mercado del Guarda; Q. 105.000 el costo.*" El Imparcial, June 14, 1967, pp. 1, 8.

⁹Oral interview with Mrs.: María Teresa Ramírez, former tenant, supplier of soft drinks. El Guarda Market. Guatemala, August 23, 2010.



Mary Help of Christians

The image of Mary Help of Christians arrived at the market facilities when the new premises had just been inaugurated, according to the oldest tenants, it was a donation -as a deference-, by the then Father of the Church of the *Divina Providencia* made the devout tenants. First the Virgin was in the care of Mrs. Margarita Archila de Callejas, who after a while, asked the devoted Lidia Hernández de Pérez (from the shoe store sector) to continue not only with the custody and care, but also with the celebrations that were held in her honor, for personal reasons, Mrs. Hernández gave the privilege to her goddaughter, Mrs. Blanca Elvira García de Méndez, who since 1991 assumed said responsibility ¹⁰. Other close collaborators were Messrs. Miguel Ajanel (plastics merchant), Ilsi García (clothing) and Adolfo Linares (footwear).

Brief description of the image

For approximately thirty years ago, thanks to the collaboration of the offerings of the

faithful devotees, it was possible to erect an altar made of imperishable materials. The enclosure includes three walls, the back and the collaterals, which are characterized by presenting two large arches, it spaces provides light and promote appreciation of the Virgin from different angles ¹¹.

Renovated in a light blue color, giving a heavenly appearance in its center, there is a dressing room with small arches that combines wood and glass, in the center is placed the sculpture image that measures approximately one meter and ten centimeters (3.60 feet), (including the pedestal and the imperial crown). As is usual in Marian iconography and of Mary Help of Christians in particular, the clothing offers a pink tunic and a light blue mantle, which is completed by jewelry: earrings and an imperial crown, and the scepter carried in the right hand is part of the outfit, on the contrary, in his left hand he carries the Child Jesus; This beautiful representation wears a dress of intense blue fabric that harmonizes with golden edges, finishing with a small imperial crown that matches that of the Virgin Mother. Inside the showcase, the image is accompanied by a card of the Jesus Nazarene of La Merced, accompanies the image. This altar remains decorated

¹⁰ Among the responsibilities (shows of gratitude and faith) is cleaning the image, the dressing room and placing fresh flowers every eight days. Oral interview with Mrs. Blanca Elvira García de Méndez, owner of the "Alex" clothing store. El Guarda Market. Guatemala, August 23, 2010.

¹¹ Oral interview with Blanca Elvira García de Méndez, owner of the "Alex" clothing store. El Guarda Market. Guatemala, August 23, 2010.

throughout the year with curtains and flowers, to which candles and incense are added.



The commemoration

To carry out the celebrations, Mrs. Blanca Elvira García de Méndez all the year⁰⁰⁷³ requests collaboration from the tenants, in this way and according to the dates of the saints, the activities begin on the fourteenth of May and end on the twenty-fourth. of the same month. First, the novena prayer is dedicated to her, which is performed at his altar every day at four in the afternoon. When the twenty-third arrives, the image is taken out of the dressing room and placed on a special altar where it remains for three or four days, being appreciated by vendors and visitors. On the most important day, a holy mass is offered in the morning, then the atmosphere is livened up with the notes of the marimba. to later enjoy a delicious lunch consisting of popular traditional food, which is offered to diners.

All the celebrations are enhanced with the burning of gunpowder (bombs generally offered by Mrs. Anita de García, former

tenant of the market) and a particular ornament consisting of curtains, pine, incense, flowers and candles among others. On the other hand, it is worth noting that on rare occasions the image has been uploaded to platform, as Mrs. Blanca García de Méndez remembers, who expressed in this regard: "the last time the Virgin appeared on procession was to commemorate the tenant's festival (June 6th), this was more or less six years ago, I was in the organization and I remember that men and women carried indifferently, everyone who could and wanted participated, no one was excluded"¹².

Finally, the Virgin is embellished according to the festivities of the Catholic liturgy, another special time is Christmas, in December the altar remains with traditional ornaments, pine, chamomile, Easter, a tree and lights, in addition to the attractive curtains, candles and the aroma of flowers and incense.

The Sacred Heart of Jesus

Currently there are three generations descended from the tenant Victoria Amparo de la Cruz, who for several decades have dedicated themselves to the veneration, care and celebration of the Sacred Heart of Jesus, a sculpture that remains inside the El Guarda market.

¹²Oral interview with Mrs. Blanca Elvira García de Méndez, owner of the "Alex" clothing store. El Guarda Market, Guatemala, August 23, 2010.



As in other markets in the city, the sculpture was a donation from the then first lady of the nation, Mrs. Sara de Méndez Montenegro (wife of the President, Julio César Méndez Montenegro), According to Marvin López a tenant, owner of the *La Fortuna piñatería*, in the past a small effigy of the same dedication was venerated; later, at the request of the tenants, the donation of the first lady took place on June 20, 1967. As he narrates: "my grandmother, Mrs. Victoria Amparo de la Cruz, a neighbor originally from Guatemala City and owner of a *piñateria*, not only received the image, but also took charge of the image, taking care of it, perform the acts of their liturgy and celebrate their festivities." ¹³

With the passage of time and thanks to the work of other vendors in the market, among which stand out the ladies: Regina and Casimira Chacón Guzmán, the

¹³ Oral interview with Mr. Marvin López, owner of the La Fortuna piñatería. El Guarda Market. Guatemala, February 7, 2011.

responsibility for the care of the Sacred Heart of Jesus was transferred to the family of Mrs. Esmeralda Contreras (daughter of Victoria Amparo de la Cruz) and in the last decade to her son Marvin López and his wife Nancy Montenegro.

The entertainment

There are various expressions of devotion, feeling and faith that tenants and numerous visitors to the El Guarda market offer to the Sacred Heart of Jesus. Among the compliments, gifts of flowers, candles and vigil candles, as well as offerings to carry out the special celebration on June 20 of each year.

According to some devout tenants, as part of the June 20 celebrations, approximately fifteen years ago the image was carried in a procession on a twelve-armed platform, traveling through the interior and surroundings of the market. Although this practice disappeared, the tradition continues with the celebration of the customary prayer of the nine days prior to the indicated date, as follows. When the twentieth day arrives, those in charge remove the image from the dressing room, placing it in front, the altar is embellished with natural flowers, candles and special curtains.

¹⁴ Oral interview with tenants: Marvin López, Nancy Montenegro and Casimira Chacón Guzmán. El Guarda Market, Guatemala, February 7, 2011.

¹⁵ Oral interview with Marvin López. El Guarda Market, Guatemala, February 7, 2011.

At ten in the morning the mass is held and at twelve noon a lunch is offered to all attendees ¹⁴.



Picture: tenants Marvin López, Nancy Montenegro (La Fortuna piñatería) and Casimira Chacón Guzmán.

The Sacred Heart of Jesus: image description

Possibly modeled in plaster, the effigy has a height of one meter twelve centimeters (3.67 feet). It is identified by its metallic glow of sparks, the clothing: cream tunic, red cape combined with pink, golden tones (and at the base a globe that writes: VENITE AD ME). According to Marvin López two years ago the image was retouched in order to liven up the colors ¹⁵.

With a height of approximately three meters (9.84 feet), on four pillars, a cast terrace is erected that houses the wood and glass dressing room that protects the image. This chapel was built by the tenant José Catarino de Jesús Contreras Castillo.

When the image arrived at the market, a faithful devotee placed a marble plaque

dated July 7, 1941. It says: "GRATITUDE. TO THE HEART OF JESUS V.R. OF J.R.C.E JULY 7TH, 1941".



La Terminal Market

This market is one of the largest and most popular in Guatemala City, it is located, according to the current nomenclature, on *cero avenida, between séptima y octava calles of the zona cuatro*, it is currently managed by Messrs. Silvestre Cabrera and Mynor Contreras. This venue, which formally dates back to the late 1950s, was initially considered a shopping center built in the place where the urban center was moving, a "first-class" emporium comfortable for the public ¹⁶.

For some decades, the market has had two altars, the first located in the dairy and grocery area where there is a chapel built collectively between the municipal administration, tenants and the particular collaboration of the radio *La Voz* of the Terminal. This building covers an area of approximately three by three meters (9.84 feet). The distribution of the spaces

includes three niches that preserve from left to right the Lord of Esquipulas (known as the small image), the Virgin of Concepción and again the Lord of Esquipulas (called the large image). The lighting highlights the beauty of these dedications and an elegant lamp located in the center embellishes the space.



Being the year 1970, in a special event, the then first lady, Mrs. Sara de la Hoz de Méndez Montenegro, accompanied by special guests, the renowned citizens Luisa de Fuentes Peruccini, Miriam de Castañeda Fernández and the writer Atala Valenzuela, proceeded to the blessing of the lamps and floors of the altar of the Lord of Esquipulas, donated by the President of the Republic, *Licenciado* Julio César Méndez Montenegro. In said speech addressed especially to the attending tenants, among other expressions, the distinguished lady indicated: "We have known each other since the beginning of my husband's presidential campaign. I have always known how to attend to you

been invited. Even though my husband received a government with painful legacies, such as bloodshed and numerous debts, he has tried not to disappoint them and has carried out a democratic government, with a work accomplished that will go down in history as one of the most honorable and with social projections for the people and the nation in general (...) I thank you for the trust and affection that you have always maintained for my husband and me and I ask the same for the Fuentes Pieruccini spouses (sic) when they become government "¹⁷.

Mrs. Zoila de Morales was in charge of the response of gratitude from the tenants. Representing the market conglomerate was the organizing committee made up of the tenants: Olga Avilés, Zoila de Morales, Enma de Cano, Teresa Morales, Marta

¹⁸ "Esquipulas en el mercado de La Terminal" in *El Imparcial*, January 16, 1970, pp. 1, 4.

¹⁹ Oral interview with: Carlos Hernández owner of pork butchery Sandrita. Butcher shop sector, La Terminal Market. Mrs. Petrona Azurdia, tenant and owner of a clothing store. La Terminal Market. Guatemala, August 25, 2010.

²⁰ Oral interview with Mrs. Petrona Azurdia. Tenant in the clothing sector. La Terminal Market. Guatemala, August 25, 2010.

²¹ Petrona Azurdia (Doña Tonita). Former and renowned tenant of the La Terminal market. Originally from the capital city, since she was little she emigrated from the market popularly known as La Placita quemada. Owner of a clothing store. Currently and for several years it has been in charge of watching over, conserving and reproducing the cult of the images that make up the dressing room described above. Oral interview, Mrs. Petrona Azurdia, La Terminal market, Guatemala, August 25, 2010.

¹⁶ "Intereses ciudadanos Terminal de transportes extraurbanos", *El Imparcial* January 22, 1959, pp. 1, 2.

¹⁷ "Esquipulas en el mercado de La Terminal" in *El Imparcial*, January 16, 1970, pp. 1, 4.

de Vallejo, Marta Delfina de Arriaza and María de Solares¹⁸.

Sculpture of the Virgin of Concepción According to the oldest tenants who for many years have dedicated themselves to the care, protection and celebration of the saints, this image is one of the oldest to remain on the market. Donated by a lady (who remained anonymous) who distributed viscera to vendors in the area known as the trace ¹⁹.

The sculpture, approximately one meter and twenty centimeters high (3.92 feet), probably made of wood, is adorned with a beautiful white dress complemented by gold and silver details, a blue belt shapes the waist. The effigy has glass eyes, eyelashes, a cannelloni wig, a ducal crown and earrings. It has the moon as its base and ends with a halo on its head. As is tradition, this image is celebrated on December 8, the celebration includes a mass in the morning, other activities continue in which a musical group is



included. The festivities end approximately at six in the afternoon ²⁰.

The Lord of Esquipulas (large image)

According to one of the oldest tenants of the market, Mrs. Petrona Azurdia²¹, in a similar way to that of the other images, this dedication was a donation from a tenant, who acquired it and moved it from the Municipality of Esquipulas, department from Chiquimula.



²² Enma Castro (Doña Mima). Originally from the capital city and owner of the La Divina Providencia dining room-cafeteria. Like other tenants, she came from the market popularly known as La Placita quemada. According to what he remembers, the celebration of the invocations of San Judas Tadeo and El Señor de Esquipulas took place in said market. For several years, Mrs. Enma has collaborated with the celebrations of the different associations, one of the reasons is to unite the tenants and generate an atmosphere of harmony. Oral interview Mrs. Enma Castro, Mercado La Terminal, Guatemala. August 25, 2010.

²³ Oral interview with the tenants: Carlos Hernández (pork butchery Sandrita), Petrona Azurdia and Enma Castro (La Divina Providencia dining room-cafeteria). La Terminal Market, Guatemala. August 25, 2010.

The image, approximately one meter and fifty centimeters long (4.92 feet), has an elegant cord at the waist. Located in the collateral niche (right side) to the Virgin, it is one of the saints most venerated by tenants and visitors.

The Lord of Esquipulas (small image)

The altar is completed by the image of the Lord of Esquipulas, identified as the small sculpture. With an approximate height of sixty centimeters (1.96 feet) and located in the dressing room, specifically in the niche on the left side, it was donated by the former tenant Enma Castro, who commissioned and bought it in the workshop of Master Julio Dubois ²².

These images are celebrated on the fifteenth of January, as with the Virgin, the activities begin early. As some tenants remember²³ in previous years, the large image was carried in a procession through the surrounding streets and the interiors of the market facilities.

Altar number two: Saint Christopher

Located in sector number six (exterior), the altar that houses the sculpture measures approximately one meter and twenty centimeters (3.93 feet) in front. Saint Christopher, patron saint of drivers, expresses the logic -in this case- of the bus terminal. According to the tenant Enma Castro, the dedication was brought by the pilots who, by tradition, ask for their protection in order to carry out their work.

The sculptural work measures around one meter and seventy centimeters (5.57 feet), and has the iconographic elements that identify it (staff, world and Child God). On the altar and inside the niche there is a small plaque that literally reads:

Obra realizada por:
Administración de Transportes
Extraurbanos zona 4
Admón. ARNOLDO DE PAZ DEL
AGUILA
Colaboradores
MAUCELIO I. MARTINEZ A.
MYNOR E. SANDOVAL C.
TRANSPORTISTAS
Guatemala, Julio de 1999

(Work done by: Extra-urban Transportation Administration, *zona 4*, Admon. Arnold de Paz Del Aguila. Collaborators: Maucelio I. Martinez A.; Mynor E. Sandoval C.; Carriers. Guatemala, July 1999)



For years, as liturgical tradition says, the celebration has taken place on the thirtieth of July. In previous years it began at four thirty in the morning, with the burning of gunpowder and a serenade, followed by a succulent breakfast followed by a musical concert by a band and mariachis. At ten o'clock the Holy Mass was celebrated, the rejoicing continued with the presentation of some marimba that livened up the atmosphere.

At noon, a lunch consisting of *typical* food was offered and finally, the entertainment continued with the marimba. As the tenant Castro expresses it: "the celebrations were with all pomp, unfortunately when the Cenma (wholesale center) arose, many of the buses migrated there, this had the effect that the party diminished to the point of being minimized" ²⁴.

Oral sources

La Villa de Guadalupe Market

Alicia Gomez, Administrator.

María Antonieta Siliezar Velásquez Owner of the dining room, "*La Bendición*". Elvia Aminta Liqueñ Teo (Doña Chiqui) Cruz Isabel Cardona de Pacheco, Owner of the dining room Doña Chiqui Margarita Oscal. Fruit and vegetable sector, Venancia Raxón Yapán, dining rooms sector.

Mercado El Guarda

María Teresa Ramírez (Soft drinks stores). Blanca Elvira García de Méndez (owner of clothing store "Alex"). Lidia Hernández de Pérez (former tenant of the shoe store sector) Marvin López (La Fortuna Piñatería) Nancy Montenegro (La Fortuna Piñatería) Casimira Chacón Guzmán.

Mercado La Terminal

Silvestre Cabrera, Administrator. Mynor Contreras, Deputy administrator. Petrona Azurdia (Responsible for the Altar of the Virgin of Concepción and of the Lord of Esquipulas).

Enma Castro, Owner of the *La Divina Providencia* dining room-cafeteria. Carlos Hernández, owner of the pork butchery.

Style correction

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Guillermo A. Vásquez González and Artemis Torres Valenzuela

Note: for bibliographical, periodical and oral traditions references consult: *Santos Patronos iconos de devoción popular en algunos mercados cantonales de la ciudad de Guatemala (Parte V)*, In *Revista Tradiciones de Guatemala* #76, pp. 71-86.

