Spectacular ceremonial dances take place throughout the year at all the Indian Pueblos of the Rio Grande Valley, realistically representing nature and animals in dance and costume.

Indian Life in Albuquerque

AWCI’s Annual Convention Site Possesses Some Outstanding Pueblo Indian Relics and Sites

For those in the wall and ceiling industry who intend to be at AWCI’s 65th Annual Convention and Exposition in Albuquerque, N.M., from March 29 to April 3, 1982, there is a special attraction for those with an interest in early American Indian life.

This is the world famous Indian Pueblo Cultural Center, owned and operated by the Indians of New Mexico’s 19 Pueblos, descendants of the first peoples in the American Southwest.

The traditions and ways of the Indians of New Mexico’s 19 Pueblos have changed little through the centuries, and the three-level structure, is architecturally designed to emulate Pueblo Bonito, a famous pueblo ruin in northwestern New Mexico. It features five different areas of activity: the museum with exhibits that emphasize the creative adaptation responsible for the survival, diversity and unique achievements of the Pueblos from pre-history to present; the arts and crafts market where authentic handcrafted items are available; the living arts program which complements the museum program of dance, film and drama; the education program that sponsors traveling exhibits and coordinates special projects for schools; and the restaurant which serves typical Pueblo food.

The center opened in 1976 and is decorated with murals by contemporary Pueblo Indian artists. The packed-dirt dance area within the center of the complex is often the site of many ceremonial dances performed by Indians from the nearby Pueblos.

Also, the Pueblo of Kuana (koo WHAA Wha) has been preserved as Coronada State Monument 18 miles northeast of Albuquerque. It was established by Tiwa-speaking Indians shortly before 1300—150 years before the birth of Columbus—as one of between 12 and 15 pueblos strung along the Rio Grande between Albuquerque and the Coronado monument site that made up the Tiguez Province.

A peaceful people, the Indians of the provide lived an agrarian existence with men harvesting corn, squash and beans from the fertile Rio Grande Valley, and raising turkey within the Pueblo, or hunting deer, rabbits and buffalo.

In 1540 Francisco Vasquez de Coronada and his 300-soldier army arrived, occupying one of the pueblos during the winters of 1541 and 1542 as a base camp while probing the Great Plains as far as Kansas for the mythical “Seven Cities of Gold.”

By 1600 Kuana was abandoned.