

# Jarabe Tapatío



When Cheryl and Madge offered to learn the Mexican Hat Dance for the Lionel S. Dinklaker Memorial High School senior talent show, they thought they'd be performing the traditional *jarabe tapatío*, the ancient national dance of the Aztecs. However the dance that student body president Lemuel Beezer had in mind employed hats that were like no sombrero they'd ever seen. They were big and heavy and tended to fall down over their faces so they couldn't see in front of them. Still, in the pantheon of extracurricular activity participants at Dinklaker, Cheryl and Madge were troupers. So by the night of the show, they thought they had figured out a workaround for the flamboyantly up-tempo "taco hacienda" part of the dance, when they had to slide under their partners' legs. At first, all went well. Cheryl and Madge were "wooded" by the two men with their *zapateado* and *machismo* while the band played the familiar Mexican Hat Dance melody in an assortment of regrettably unrelated keys. Then it was time for the exciting *taco hacienda* climax. The two gauchos kicked up their heels high, but, alas, not high enough. As Cheryl and Madge commenced their slide, the tops of the cumbersome hats clouted their partners' private parts. Their yelps of agony eclipsed even Rudy's shrill trumpet solo. Worse, Madge's hat then somehow spontaneously combusted. Further tragedy was fortunately averted when she alertly pushed it into the giant inflatable wading pool that was to accommodate the next act, the Synchronized Dinklaker Swimming Harridans. Cheryl, who was still stuck halfway inside her hat, nevertheless managed to blurt a triumphant *olé!*