Most of the annual Kam festivals and celebrations in Xiangye had long since disappeared. Those remaining in the 1930s and 1940s included Eating Sweet Glutinous Rice Cakes, Eating New Rice, Eating Bianmi, Mid-Autumn Festival and Kam New Year. The Sweeping the Graves Festival (cf. Chapter 25) was originally a Han festival borrowed by the Kam people.

Except for Kam New Year, which was celebrated by everyone, these festivals were only celebrated by certain families. In the past, the Eating Bull Intestines Festival had been a grand occasion, celebrated by everyone.

*Eating Sweet Glutinous Rice Cakes*. For several days, beginning on the third day of the third month of the lunar calendar, women from some families went to the mountains to collect a sweet vine. This vine was first pounded in the foot-operated tilt-hammer and left for a few hours, before the vine juice was filtered and used for soaking glutinous rice. Together with some more vine juice the glutinous rice was then pounded with a pestle and became ground rice. Finally it was fried in a wok to make sweet glutinous rice cakes. According to tradition, these cakes were eaten on the same day as the vines were collected. Otherwise those days resembled any other days, with no other special activity.

*Eating New Rice*. By the sixth day of the sixth lunar month, ears of rice had begun to emerge. Children went to the paddy fields, broke off ears of rice and ate the tender grains inside. This was called ‘tasting the new’. On that day, prosperous families killed a duck and ate duck-meat. Poorer families did not have any such special way of marking the day, so its special significance as a festival day diminished.
Killing a bull with an axe-head, at the Eating Bull Intestines Festival.