



Issue #2

February 1997

♦ EDITORIAL

Welcome, all over again, to EL Puente. As you see, we've bowed to popular opinion and restored EL PUENTE to proper Spanish, despite our street sign (which was manufactured in Santa Fe) and the dictionary claiming *la puente* was true New Mexican Spanish. We have also made the type larger and tried to "lighten up" a little, as requested. (Next month we hope to have a cartoon.)

Since the first issue came out, we've gotten a lot of compliments, a few corrections and criticisms, but no letters to the editor yet. Do we have to do something awful before you'll take pen/typewriter/computer in hand? As we've said and will say again, EL PUENTE will only be lively if various opinions are expressed. We come from no single position and the newsletter should reflect our diversity. Deadlines are the tenth of each month, but we're happy to have too much (as we did this time) to carry over for the next month.

Since the trail to the history of the "middle church" (the one that was on the Hill) is turning out to be more labyrinthine than expected, Part II of the church series will come out next month.

In the meantime, a few words on another local history project: We plan to produce a picture map of Galisteo that includes new, old, and no-longer-here buildings, identifying the ruins and hearing from the elders what used to be where. This will be a long-term project and will dovetail with the GCA's archives. We hope everybody will take part and let us know what they remember or have heard about. Family genealogies will also be an important link.

CORRECTIONS TO THE FIRST ISSUE: In the road report, we followed the County's inaccurate designation of the arroyo by Merrick's; it is not Canada de los Alamos but Canada de los Angeles. In the retyping process, the founding of the Fire & Rescue Department and building of the firehouse were left out of Barbara Cooper's list of village accomplishments. Since it's clearly one of the most important, please note that both auxiliary members and future firefighters and medics are welcome and needed. Business meetings are usually the first Tuesday of each month at the firehouse, and trainings are Wednesdays. Call chiefs Steve and Jean Moya for further information (466-0396).

THE LAMY "MEGAWELL" CASE

It Just Keeps Going and Going...

Like the Energizer Bunny, the lawsuit over the Lamy "Megawell" seems to go on forever. But the well isn't fuzzy or lovable. In fact, it could do major damage to the entire Galisteo community and may have already done so.

The well is owned by El Dorado Utilities, Inc. (EUI), a subsidiary of Amrep Corporation, which developed the Eldorado subdivision and Rio Rancho near Albuquerque. EUI has expanded beyond Eldorado and now serves over 2000 homes and businesses along Route 285; it is committed to serve 1600 more. The "Megawell" is located beneath a sand-colored tank north on Route 285 between the railroad tracks and the road to Lamy.

In New Mexico, water rights are overseen by the State Engineer. He must permit all wells before they can be used legally. The water used throughout the Galisteo Basin, whether we are on a community system or have our own well, comes from underground pools and from aquifers, which are underground streams. Water seeps slowly downstream through them, its level going up and down depending

on how quickly the water pumped out^{*} is recharged by rainfall and snowmelt. The "Megawell" is upstream from Galisteo and so draws water which could otherwise supply us. It is a huge well, having pumped enough water in 1995 to supply 30-40% of EUI's total needs.

The "Megawell" case started in the early 1980's when EUI illegally altered the well. When people in Galisteo realized what harm this could do to our water supply and property values, they brought suit to have the State Engineer shut it down. At first, all legal costs were paid by several people. Since 1987, many more have contributed through the Galisteo Community Association.

Our attorneys won the case in district court and in the New Mexico Court of Appeals and Supreme Court. This took years, partly because EUI dragged the case out, perhaps hoping the Galisteo community would lose interest and no longer support it.

In September 1993, the State Engineer decided that the "Megawell" was illegal and ordered that it stop (*continued on p.2*)

THE LAMY "MEGAWELL" CASE, cont'd:

pumping. EUI appealed that decision and kept on pumping. As EUI has expanded its service area, it has had trouble furnishing enough water to the residents of Eldorado. In April 1996, the County Commissioners declared a water emergency there and placed further development on hold, pending assurance that there was enough water to meet current and future needs.

At that time, EUI also announced that they had pumped the "Megawell" dry...the water level had fallen below the pump. But EUI seems to change their tune as it suits them. The "emergency" they claimed last Easter was quickly replaced by reports that the problem had gone away. Eldorado residents, worried that the bad publicity was lowering their property values, began to make their concerns public.

We are now waiting for a judge to hear our motion to dismiss EUI's appeal of the State Engineer's decision to shut down the "Megawell" once and for all. That hearing should happen later this year.

It may seem that a case which has lasted over 12 years and cost us more than \$45,000 is over, because the "Megawell" is not being used. There are two major problems with that view.

The first is that, as things stand now, if the "Megawell" recharged, EUI could resume pumping it anytime they choose. With this year's good rains and snowfall, the water level might rise enough to make that worthwhile. Until we have a court order preventing EUI's ever pumping it again, all our efforts up to now are wasted.

The second is that the damage may have already been done. Because the water in aquifers flows slowly, it is very possible that we haven't yet felt the harm done by EUI's pumping the "Megawell" so hard. It might not impair us for a year or more, but if we back away now, we are giving up our equity in protecting our rights and, possibly, in being compensated for any shortage in the future.

Since the case affects all Galisteo Basin property owners, whether we have private wells or not, we should realize that falling aquifers can reduce everyone's property values. By contributing a very small percentage of our investment here, we can continue a battle which some of us have supported for the past twelve years. It's like fire insurance; no one can say we will have a problem, but absolutely no one can say we won't, either.

Right now we need contributions of about \$5000 to meet our current bill. More will be needed as we go forward. Although our attorneys only bill us at 60% of their usual rate, our costs mount as time passes.

If you recognize the problem and want to continue the fight, please make the check payable to the Galisteo Community Association, noting that it's for the "Megawell" case. Send it to Joette Trofimuk, HC75, Box 75, Galisteo, NM 87540. She will send you a receipt for tax purposes. If you have questions or want more information, please call Rod Hall (466-3375), Ralph Tingle (466-1880), or Joe Cooper (466-3827).

Note: This article was not the work of any one person. Without the support of so many in the community over the years, it could not have been written.

◆ BULLETIN!!

G.A.G.A./GALA was a great success and netted around \$7500 for the Fire Department. Special thanks to all the artists and to Michael Datoli and Shaun Gilmore, co-chairs.

◆ MILESTONES

BILL ISAACS, 1938 - 1997

by Catherine Ferguson

Bill Isaacs died in his home in Galisteo on January 21, 1997 at 2:12PM. He was buried by his loved ones in his own garden just at sunset, beneath a round moon. That day was fragrant with spring, unusual for January. The yard was full of red-winged blackbirds flying up in loud whooshes, piercing whistles, then hushed silence. Bulbs peered through frozen perennials, snow melted beneath a warm wind, mud churned beneath our shoes; the earth was alive.

Bill loved the earth like no other human being I have ever met. His passion -- his genius -- was for living things. He was a natural teacher, infecting students with his enthusiasm for geological formations, flora, fauna, weather patterns, regional diversity. His approach continually revealed the interconnectedness of all phenomena.

When he moved to Galisteo in 1987, Bill indulged his passion for gardening, creating a magnificent "specimen" collection of rare and unusual plants. He identified 187 bird species in the area and loved the infinite beauty of Galisteo's creek and spacious landscape.

Born in Medford, Oregon in 1938, Bill was educated as a botanist at Southern Oregon College, the University of Washington, and the University of Michigan. He moved to Santa Fe with his wife and daughter in 1966 to purchase a silk screening business. He was also studying mushrooms and worked for the State Natural Resources Department, helping to set up the original Heritage program database of New Mexico's biological resources. From 1970 on, he taught courses in natural history at the College of Santa Fe and the Community College. He worked with Citizens for Clean Air and Water and served as president of the Audubon Society. Associated with the Santa Fe Botanical Garden since its founding, he was a consultant to the Santa Fe Conservation Trust and instigated the donation of 1350 acres by LAM Minerals to the Botanical Garden. (He was instrumental in beginning to reclaim the gold mine scar there, visible from Galisteo.) Bill's concern for the environment was as celebrated as his work as teacher and guide. As staff botanist at Payne's Nursery, he was resident expert on identifying plants and was involved in research, production and the introduction of species to the marketplace. In 1992 Bill was honored as a Living Treasure.

The root of the name Isaac is laughter, or God is laughing, or God makes me laugh. Bill was blessed with an amazing sense of humor bordering sometimes on the ridiculous, and he kept us all chuckling, or moaning, with his puns. Until almost the last day of his life he found a way to say how beautiful the day was. Bill stood out in peoples's lives like a flowering tree in a forest.

Bill Isaacs is survived by his mother Thelma, his daughter Susana, his two cats Pax and Clementine, and his companion, Catherine.

Editor's Note: Bill wanted to write a naturalist's column in EL PUENTE, but as his strength ebbed, he was unable to do so. His desire to participate meant a great deal to us.

◆ Creating Harmony in Your Life

through Gardening by Suzanne Chavez

Native peoples all over the world have known for centuries how to come into harmony with their environment. Planting, growing, harvesting have always been done with prayer and ritual to insure proper use of the land and to attract beneficial spiritual energies for abundance and good luck.

All of us who have been bitten by the "gardening bug" have tapped into this knowledge to some degree. It could have come as an overwhelmingly peaceful feeling while gardening, a complete failure to notice the passage of time, a deeper connection to your spiritual center...all of these things are like little miracles and happen frequently to those in balance with the sacredness of nature.

You can create this environment right outside your door by coming into harmony with the land you inhabit. Starting this process begins with noticing what Nature has already given you to work with. Gentle slopes, native plants, large stones, are in your garden for a reason. Emphasizing the beauty that already exists is effortless and rewarding.

The winter months are a wonderful time for dreaming and planning. Walk your sacred garden area and visualize the beauty that can manifest with your help. Prepare the soil, clearing weeds and debris, and enrich the ground with nutrients and mulch. Create planting beds with stones, logs, and natural slopes. Envision how your perfect garden environment will evolve to nurture you and your family and be in total harmony with nature.

◆ REMEMBERING CARMELITA ANAYA

I was talking to Clarita and Manuel Anaya and having heard of Clarita's mother, Carmelita Anaya, who died at the age of 96 in 1981, We thought we would start our Remembering Series with her. We will continue with memories of Felipe Chavez when Remedios Chavez has fully recovered from her recent surgery. (Our best wishes to her and Luis.) Please let me know if you would like to contribute to this series or have EL PUENTE write up a member of your family. -- L. R. L.

Carmelita Chavez Anaya was born in Galisteo in 1885, the oldest of 12 children of Jacinta and Pedro Chavez. She attended school through the second grade in Galisteo (it was behind the church where Nick and Corinne Anaya's house is now.) She recalled that whenever Indians came through town, the children were hidden away in the back room. (Her grandmother had told her the story of Indians standing on the roof with sticks and stealing her sopapillas as she cooked them in the fireplace; Carmelita also said that her mother made her own wool.) School was taught in Spanish; she never learned English. As a child she promised her grandfather she would never cut her hair, and she never did.

In 1905, Carmelita Chavez married Serapio Anaya. There was no bridge across the river then and the bride was taken to the church by the groom's father, who forded the river in his wagon. Carmelita and Serapio had eleven children, seven of whom survived. They lived on the Hill and had a rancho of some 300 acres behind Cerro Pelon on the way to Cerrillos, which was sold before 1935. Carmelita was the only partera (midwife) in the village; there were no doctors. She delivered many Galisteo babies as well as mending broken bones and other injuries. (Yet later on, when she was old, she would not see anyone but "a real doctor".) Clarita remembers her mother cooking large numbers of pies and loaves of bread in the big outdoor horno. Water had to be carried from the river below, and

Serapio was often away from home working as a shepherd. In 1942 he was taken ill while herding in Alamosa, and died suddenly in a Trinidad hospital. Carmelita then worked for a while as a cook at the schoolhouse (now the Trofimuk house), retiring from this and from midwifery at the age of 65.

Carmelita is remembered for her wonderful spirit, her hard work, and her religious devotion. At her death she had 41 grandchildren, 105 great-grandchildren, and four great-great-grandchildren. She and Serapio are both buried in the north-side Galisteo cemetery. (Thanks to Clara and Manuel Anaya for their help and for giving me an interview with Carmelita Anaya, by Mildred Beach, published in the Cerrillos Rustler, March 8, 1979.)

◆ EL RINCONCITO/Dichos y Cuentos

from Anna Cardenas

◆ A buena hambre no hay pan duro.

No bread is stale when one is really hungry.

◆ El pan partido dios lo aumenta.

Bread that is shared goes far.

◆ Panza llena, corazón contento.

A full stomach, a happy heart.

◆ No hay mejor salsa que un buen apetito.

There is no better sauce than a good appetite.

◆ No hay a quién no le gusta un caldito de cebolla.

There is no one that doesn't like a little onion soup.

◆ Lo mismo es chile aue aguja, todo pica.

It's all the same, the chile and the needle--they both sting.

◆ Habiendo carne y cueva, aunque llueva.

As long as one has food and shelter, the rest is not important.

◆ La que come manzana se cria sana.

An apple a day keeps the doctor away.

◆ La carne pegada al hueso es las mas sabrosa.

The meat next to the bone has the best taste.

◆ La mejor salsa es el hambre.

Hunger is the best sauce.

◆ En boca cerrada no entra mosca.

If you keep your mouth shut you won't get a fly in it.

◆ Lo que el corazón piensa, la boca lo dice.

What the heart thinks, the mouth says.

◆ Caras vemos, corazones no sabemos.

We see faces, but we know nothing about the heart.

Si tienen mas dichos manden los a:

Anna Cardenas, HC75, Box 70, Galisteo

◆ FROM THE KIDS by Tana Cardenas



◆ Doggone Pearls *by Nelson Bloncourt*

Sadie received three pearl necklaces as a gift from Paul, a suitor to the Bloncourt residence. She wore one at a time except for special occasions when she wore all three and was then known as Lady Sarah.

The first disappeared one night, when before retiring she went on her evening constitutional. She returned pearl-less and was sporting a familiar acrid scent. After a leisurely tomato juice bath she confided that she had had a run in with the local female skunk and that after a brief skirmish, the victor had taken off with the pearls, having sprayed Sadie a good one in the face.

The next strand vanished a week later. Sadie had been forbidden to stroll out on Route 41 after I had caught her munching away on a jack rabbit that had been plowed down by a semi. I am certain that the raccoon I saw leaving my land the day of the disappearance was flaunting a shiny white necklace. Sadie has confessed since that she traded the necklace for a doorfront delivery of the next roadkill.

The last and most elaborate necklace was lost without a trace on another of Sadie's evening promenades. This time the pearls were just gone. With snow too deep to search, we decided that Sadie's pearl days were over.

A few weeks ago, reading EL PUENTE, I noticed that a necklace had been found on Avenida Vieja. A call confirmed that one of Sadie's necklaces had been uncovered. Pleased to have her pearls back, Sadie would like to thank the person who returned them and asks that the community keep its eyes peeled for a thievin', sprayin', pearl-sportin' skunk.

CREENCIAS *from Maria Padilla*

◆ *Si tienes calor en el oído, es señal de que alguien está hablando de uno.*

When your ears feel warm, it is a sign that someone is talking about you.

◆ *Cuando sueña con un ratón, se va casar uno de la familia.*

When you dream of a mouse, someone in the family is going to get married.

◆ Out of Town Neighbors

by Barbara Cooper

Living among us are an increasing number of people who own homes in Galisteo but can only spend part of their time due to career obligations elsewhere. From time to time we will "introduce" them to you here.

Vicki and David Snyder from Midland, Texas own the house just to the northeast of the Coopers. It was formerly the home of Bertha Dutton when she was working on archaeological projects in the area. (Subsequently, it was the first Galisteo home of David and Chris Irving.) Vicki is a potter, currently taking a workshop in Nepal. David is an oncologist, an avid skier, fly-fisherman, and writer. The Snyders have three children in college.

We look forward to meeting and knowing these part-time neighbors better, and we encourage them to take part in village activities.

THANKS to the new contributors and especially to Ken Kubne who has offered the use of his copier to EL PUENTE.

◆ GALISTEO CLASSIFIEDS ◆

CLASSIFIED ADS ARE WORKING! They are FREE and can include things WANTED, FOR SALE OR EXCHANGE, SERVICES AVAILABLE, REAL ESTATE if being sold by the owner. Newcomers to the area do not know what services are available right here in the village. If you want to publish a classified, call Linda Rice at 466-4658 or put them in Lucy's box 77-south of the village (with the Holloway's, Nelson's and Antonio's boxes.)

◆ SERVICES

CAR AND TRUCK DETAILING - will clean and vacuum the inside of your vehicle and do the windows. Call Miguel Padilla: 466-8930.

NIZHONI SCHOOL FOR GLOBAL CONSCIOUSNESS: Little Beings School, ages 5-8, Middle School, ages 9-13. Fall, 1997: High School enrollment currently accepted. 466-4336 or 466-1975.

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PASSIVE SOLAR BUILDERS Locally owned general contractor serving the greater Galisteo area residents since 1980 with quality home construction, renovations and additions. Call Charlie, 466-2118, for your design, consultation and construction needs.

AVON REPRESENTATIVE in Galisteo. For free brochure and information, call Maria 466-8930.

I WILL TUTOR YOUR CHILD grades 1-4. Basic reading, spelling, and math. Call Maria 466-8930.

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PAINTING, SCULPTURE, PHOTOGRAPHY at Linda Durham Contemporary Art, Route 41, Galisteo, 466-6600.

◆ FOR SALE

SQUARE OAK TABLE with round carved legs, and one-foot leaf, approximately 48" long. Call 466-8930.

OLD MEXICAN FURNITURE - call 466-2311 Nelson.

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BARBARA HOLLOWAY - Fine Handweaving. Scarves, shawls, vests, jackets, even coats handwoven of luxurious chenille. Please call 466-2118 before stopping by to see these creations in progress.

MARTIN GUITAR - 3/4 3/4 size, 1949 vintage, mahogany. \$500. Call Linda 466-4658

◆ WANTED

AFFORDABLE HOUSING TO RENT IN GALISTEO. I am 27, female, non-smoker, no pets, & employed at the Galisteo Inn. Need housing from May 1 to October 31, 1997. Please call (505)466-4000 & leave a message for Tina.

DOES ANYONE in GALISTEO HAVE a GUESTHOUSE or ROOM & BATH they'd be willing to rent reasonably 3-4 nights the first week of April to my son, daughter-in-law, and (well, yes) their not-quite-two-year-old son? Basically for sleeping, they'll be gone most days and evenings. Call Lucy: 466-1276.

◆ EL PUENTE DE GALISTEO

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- Please put your letters, comments, or suggestions to EL PUENTE in Box 77, Galisteo, NM 87540. -