

# EL PUENTE DE GALISTEO

Issue #4

April 1997

## ♦ EDITORIAL SAYS WHO?

In the last few months, two anonymous flyers have appeared in Galisteo's mailboxes. The first appeared to be complaining about money spent on the addition to the community center (though the funds were donated for that purpose.) The second, under the guise of humor, maliciously attacked a village family active in volunteer community affairs.

There are two reasons this practice should be condemned. First, if you have something to say that you perceive to be in the public good, please have the guts to sign your name. Anonymous attacks are acts of cowardice. Such messages cannot be taken seriously, but they do tend to provoke rumors and sow dissension in a village as small as ours.

Second, this is an abuse of the postal system and actually illegal. Official village business such as notices of meetings and this newsletter are locally tolerated, but no other items should be filling up the mailboxes. The postman has complained; if it keeps up we will lose the privilege of communicating legitimate village matters in this cheap, quick, and convenient manner.

The "training for politics" flyer was delivered under the the cloak of darkness; finding something like this in one's mailbox leaves a bad taste in the mouth. It is unlikely that the persons who sent those two flyers will stand up and acknowledge their authorship. But we hope from now on they will express their concerns through the newsletter, or post them on the bulletin board on the playground. Better yet, bring your gripes to a meeting, so the people being attacked can respond directly.

EL PUENTE will not publish anything that arrives with no name attached. If you feel there is good reason for publishing something anonymously, please discuss it with one of the editors.

- Lucy Lippard with Judith Masin

**CORRECTIONS:** In the GCA report, we forgot to mention Joette Trofimuk being re-elected treasurer. Sorry! Such longstanding good work shouldn't be taken for granted. And Fire Department t-shirts - the last word in Galisteo fashion statements - are grey and black (not navy). If you're wondering why all these corrections, it's because we'd like EL PUENTE to be an accurate record of what's happening in Galisteo at this moment in time.

*Cara Lee will not be able to do the computer design/layout after the June issue. EL PUENTE will take a July and August vacation (unless someone wants to take it on for the summer). We'll need a new computer expert in September. Call Lucy 466-1276. I hope you're out there!*

## ♦ LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

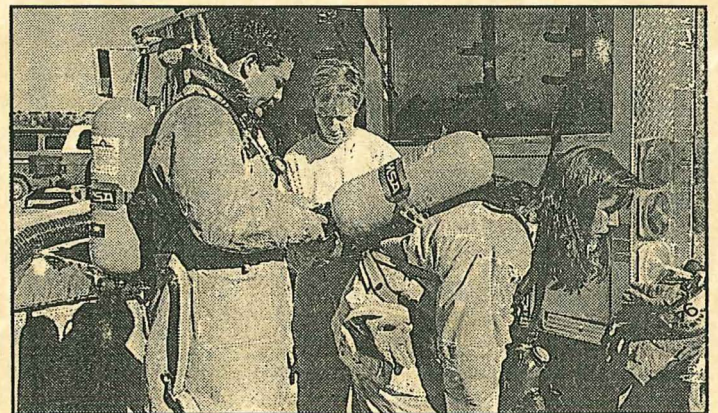
In response to the letter concerning the name for our newsletter.

There seems to be some misunderstanding on the translation of the name El Puente. It means "The Bridge". Where as Via La Puente means Way of the Bridge or Road to the Bridge. La Puente is not grammatically correct. According to most Spanish or Castilian dictionaries the rule follows: *The names of inanimate objects, or of things ending in a, ad, ion, are for the most part feminine; and those terminating in e, i, o, or us, are generally masculine. Example: the door would be la puerta, the church would be la capilla, the table would be la mesa. But, the car would be el carro, the shoe would be el zapato, the bridge would be el puente.*

If we want to name our newsletter Road to the Bridge or Way to the Bridge then let's name it "Via la Puente". But if we want The Bridge then it should be named "El Puente". That's how Galisteo has always said the bridge.

It's like the saying: "If you're going to do something right, do it right." ¿Que no?

- Anna Cardenas, Galisteo



GFRD Firefighters Nick Contreras, Susan Crocker, and Linda Anaya prepare for action at Nizhoni test burn. (See "BURN, BABY, BURN" on p. 2.) Chris Griscom's school has just acquired County approval to go ahead with its plans for building an array of structures there. Among the stipulations are that that the pond be kept at a 60,000 gallon level for fire prevention. With natural evaporation and always-possible drought, will this require a large amount of pumping, and wasted water?



## WELCOME KAYE - by Barbara Cooper

Those of us who attended the Great Array of Galisteo Artists on February 15 had the opportunity to meet Kaye Sandford, the new owner of the Vista Clara Spa, who was kind enough to offer her "kiva" and kitchen for the art auction. We were interested in Kaye's background and in her plans for Vista Clara.

"The chance to own a spa of my own is a dream I have had for the past ten years," she says. Indeed, she has worked hard and planned carefully for this chapter in her life. As a juvenile diabetic, Kaye had visited many spas seeking treatments for her disease and hoping to reduce the amount of insulin she had to take. She was impressed by a wide array of alternative remedies and began to feel better, in spite of medical reports that nothing could be done.

A native of Seattle and graduate of the University of California at Berkeley, Kaye has worked in marketing and executive gift shops. After attending the famous Hotel School at Cornell University in Ithaca, N.Y., she became one of two people in the country to achieve a master's degree in spa development.

Kaye learned the business as a consultant to developing spas, and five years ago discovered Vista Clara in Galisteo. Falling in love with the land and the village, she began a long process of trying to purchase the spa from Chris Partridge. Her first offers were rejected, but she stayed in touch, and last summer, when it was announced that Vista Clara would be sold at auction, Kaye was there.

Much to her surprise and delight, she was the highest bidder. Her dream of owning Vista Clara had come true.

Kaye's vision for her spa is that it be environmentally sensitive, a true and active part of Galisteo, and, ultimately, a "green resort," conserving water (and gray water) in the most advanced ways and considering the impact on the environment of all facets of its operation. She is exploring the newest technologies for intelligent water use and hopes soon to replace the grass at Vista Clara with drought-tolerant native trees and plants. While many of her plans and dreams must await appropriate permits, she is determined that each project will be well-researched and appropriate to the area. At this time, there are no "green" hotels or resorts in New Mexico, so Kaye's may be a first.

The new spa will cater to the needs of those with diabetes, multiple sclerosis, and other diseases that respond well to alternative therapies. It will also be a haven of peace and quiet for those who need rest and relaxation, offering cooking classes, lectures on local history and native cultures, an art gallery featuring local artists, and a variety of sports and therapeutic activities.

For many years, Kaye has done volunteer work for the Juvenile Diabetes Foundation, which spends millions of research dollars annually in seeking a cure for the disease. She is working to organize a New Mexico division of the foundation in Albuquerque and would like to make the 1998 grand opening of her spa a fundraiser for the organization.

We welcome Kaye and her children, Stephanie (14) and Brian (10) to Galisteo and look forward to future developments at Vista Clara. Kaye would be delighted to discuss her plans with anyone in the community.

A BIG THANK YOU to Jim Sloan and his crew for pushing the brush into the pit next to the bridge and adding dirt. This makes it a natural compost pile. Let's keep it that way. If you have extra dirt, please dump it there, but ONLY DIRT AND BRUSH. DO NOT THROW GARBAGE, BUILDING MATERIALS, CONCRETE, ETC. next to the bridge.

## BURN, BABY, BURN

On Sunday morning, March 9, the Galisteo Volunteer Fire and Rescue Department helped County Fire Marshall Roger Siqueira conduct a test burn for the projected concrete and straw bale dormitories at the Nizhoni School on the other side of the Galisteo hogback. The technique has only recently become common enough to be approved for insurance and financing, and this was only the third such test in the world, and second in the U.S. (both in New Mexico). Architect Erem Birkan, who has been working with Chris Griscom since last summer, and mechanical engineer Robert West, from El Rito, set it up and monitored the process.

The igloo-like dorms will have round concrete roofs, round, porthole-windows edged in ceramic, and walls of straw bale, rebar, and concrete columns; they will use no wood at all. These structures were simulated in a small circular test building made up of ten panels--three sheet rock and wood, five straw bale with plaster or concrete in order to compare their strengths.

The most important factor in fire transmission is the fire spread ratio, and straw is more than twice as resistant as frame, with a 48 "R factor," as opposed to frame's 19-20 R factor. Half an inch of plaster proved much more efficient than half an inch of sheetrock, and the concrete/straw combination was better than both.

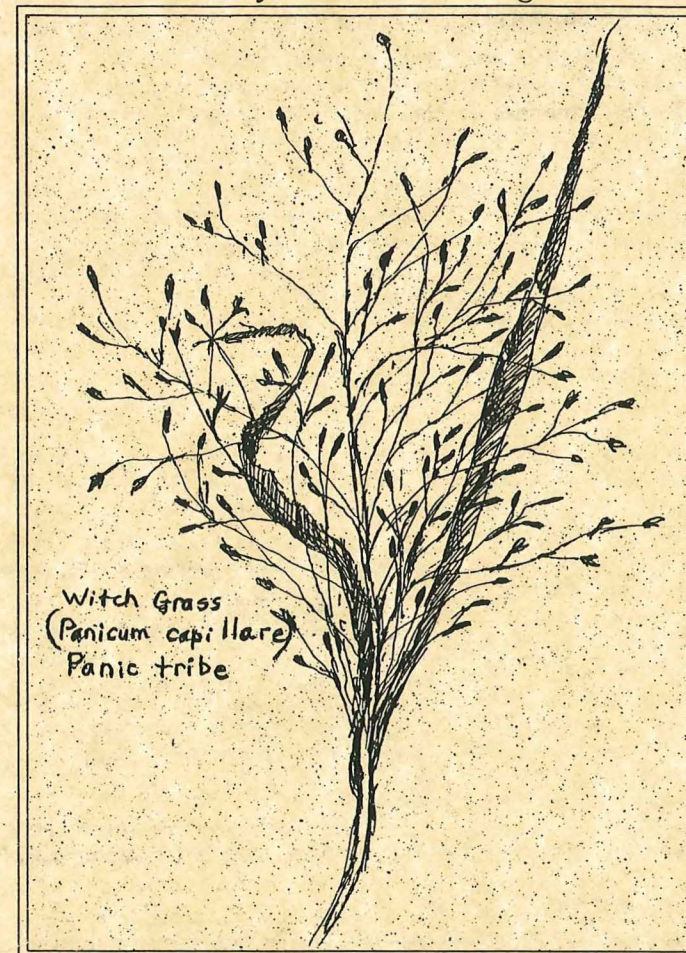
The GFRD set up its folding rubber water tank, filled it from the old tanker, laid hoses around the test structure, provided drinks, fruit (and even homemade banana bread) for rehabilitation. In their bright yellow gear, they were an impressive sight as they dealt efficiently with the detail and complexity of the massive equipment. Present were: Chiefs Steve and Jean Moya, Captain Charlie Holloway, Lieutenants Mike Anaya, Linda Anaya, Chris Watts, Socorro Contreras, Mark Anaya, Nick Contreras, and Susan Crocker. (I represented the GFRD Auxiliary and played Girl Reporter and photographer.)

Siqueira set the fire with kerosene inside the test structure and everyone stood by in case the surrounding brush caught. Thermometers were embedded in the straw. The goal was to have the interior heat reach 1500 degrees Fahrenheit, but at the beginning it was only 150 degrees. It took some time, more wood, a fan, and a hole in the roof to get it up there. (Finally it got so hot that the plastic trim on Jean Moya's sleeve melted). At one point the interior registered 2000 degrees and the exterior was only 45 degrees. Under sufficient heat, everything will burn, but the straw/plaster combination, even with internal combustion, smolders first, giving occupants plenty of time to get out and to call for help. (It made me wish my house was built that way.)

Birkan is a passionate advocate of the environmentally friendly straw bale construction. He says that over two million bales of straw go to waste each year. When used as building materials, they are available locally, instead of being shipped, like wood, from Washington state, or wherever.

After the building had burned for a while, the GFRD put out the soaring flames and plumes of smoke. (From a hill above, it looked like a war zone.) Two test holes were made in the walls with an axe and fine cracks were examined: the internal straw was like new. Notes were taken. Siqueira completed his video of the whole process. The test was proclaimed a success, and the GFRD was pleased to have had the training, although it might not have been the ideal way to spend a beautiful Sunday morning. They still had to pack up all the gear, drain the tank, go fill up the tanker, put the gear away in the firehouse. Then they went back four times to check the smoldering fire. You have to see them in action to appreciate the dedication involved. --LRL

## GRASSES - by Catherine Ferguson



Last October I asked Bill to read out loud to me from the grass book. "*Panicum capillare*, Witch Grass," I heard, "grows beside streams, in wayward places, is a native... when the dew is caught on the tumbleweed inflorescences they glisten in the sun... you can see it waving in the wind..." Something about the poetry of his words made me look up. He had his eyes closed, his head tilted back, and was reciting fondly his memory of this beautiful grass. That is one of the things I have learned from him--that if I take the time to look, grasses are exquisite in their simplicity and variation of form.

Looking through my notebooks, I concentrate on native grasses that are found right here in Galisteo. Spike Burr Grass in the Grama grass family is a small annual with spikes of layered seeds. My favorite grass, *Bouteloua gracilis*, or Blue Grama Grass, is also in that tribe. The seed heads curve to form a circle or half circle, making a textured embroidery against the New Mexico light. Side Oats Grama, coarser textured and taller, has seeds borne in small "flags" in two parallel rows on one side of the flowering stalks. Black Grama, or "Hairy Foot," makes runners and is found along the dirt roads here in Galisteo. *Bouteloua barbatus*, or Six Weeks Grama, is an annual that, of course, only lives six weeks. Its small purple "flags" point upward.

I have seen Windmill Grass, or *Chloris verticillata*, along the highway to Moriarty. It is related to Bermuda grass. In Kit Blackwood's yard there is a stand of Burro Grass, *Scleropogon breviflorus*, which makes a nice lawn; it also grows across from the church. The attractive Three Acorn Grass in the *Aristida* tribe grows along the Galisteo dam.


Our front yard used to be full of tall bunches of *Sacaton* Grass, also called Sand Dropseed, in the *Sporobolus* tribe. I see the tall

*Sacaton* out in San Cristobal with the Blue Grama, reminding us of what the original grassland was like.

Another common grass is *Muhlenbergia Montana*, a delicate pink wispy muhly, with closed small panicles. It grows in shady spots on granite soil. Turkey Foot Grass, or *Andropogon gerardii*, grows on San Cristobal. It is an escapee from the midwest and was heavily used by buffalo as forage. And it does resemble a turkey foot!

Silver Beard Grass and Cotton Grass are other Bluestem, or *Andropogon* grasses to be found in our area. Vine Mesquite in the *Panicum* tribe grows in wet spots. It has fat round seed heads. (*Panicum*, or panic grass, is named for *panis*, or bread, because the seeds of this grass can be milled and eaten.)

*Cenchrus parviflorus*, or little flower, is a sand bur with dangerous stickers that grows along the Galisteo river. On the south Galisteo hogback I have seen *Trisetum spicatum* or Spike Trisetum, in the Oat family. Not to mention Squirrel Tail and Foxtail grasses in the wheat tribe, gorgeous plumes shining against the sun in late summer.

 COMMUNITY CLEAN-UP: APRIL 26TH.  
Please meet at Community Center at 8:30AM.

## ◆ EL RINCONCITO/Dichos y Cuentos

from Anna Cardenas

*Dime con quien andas y te dire quien eres.*

Tell me who your friends are and I'll tell you who you are.

*No hay mal que por bien no venga.*

Every cloud has a silver lining.

*No hagas cosas buenas que parezcan malas. Ni malas que parezcan buenas.*

Don't do good deeds that seem bad nor bad ones that seem good.

*Fue por lana y lo tresquilaron.*

He went for wool and came back shorn.

*El que todo lo quiere, todo lo pierde.*

He that wants everything will lose everything.

*Amor, salud y pesetas y tiempo para gozarlos.*

Love, health and wealth and time to enjoy them.

## ◆ FROM THE KIDS by Tana Cardenas

*The Magic Kite*

One March day I went outside to fly my kite. It went up high into the sky. I saw my kite turn into a frog, an iguana, butterfly, and a ladybug! It was cool!

Every time I flew my kite it turned into all kinds of different things.



## GALISTEO MON AMOUR

by Holger Schmidt

94 first time USA

Galisteo Venture Nizhoni

The Land and the Hogbacks

the sky and the view endless

Very open space--new insights

Colors everywhere

reflecting Light Institutions as the church

Sun mix Gold and Blue

Memories of painted bones and flowers

I fall in Love

Looking back in Germany

to the freedom of emptiness

the freedom of Let's go

96 second arrival

Studying Consciousness

Behind me green forests and grey skies

In Galisteo the sun again

A way down a mud road

people passing by smiling and waving their Hellos

making friends

From The New York Times - March 28, 1997:

### AN OPEN LETTER TO THE AUSTRIAN GOVERNMENT

On August 18, 1996, a gorgeous summer morning in Chicago, Liz Langer jumped to her death from the fire escape of her twelfth floor apartment.

Lost, was a loving wife and companion of 36 years, and a devoted mother of three children. Although she was an incredibly gifted and creative abstract artist, her greatest joy and achievement in life was giving birth to and raising, her children, Lotti, Lilli, and Adam.

Her problems in life began when she was born into an aristocratic, Viennese Jewish family in December of 1934. By 1938 the Nazis had arrested her physician father and imprisoned him in a Concentration Camp. She, her 25 year old mother, and infant sister, escaped to England.

The air raids, the sirens, the fires, the nights spent in subway tunnels, the devastation and violence of her childhood, left their mark on her psyche until her death. Her bouts with depression were unbearable and although treated by the finest of psychiatrists and psychopharmacologists, there was no relief from the pain until her final violent moment.

Following her death, the Austrian Government had decided to pay reparations to those Austrian citizens that were brutalized under the regime of Fascism and Anti-Semitism. We completed and submitted all of the forms required by the Austrian Government. They substantiated her tortured existence during her formative years and provided documentation from her doctors confirming the basis of her psychiatric scars.

About two months following her suicide a letter arrived from the Austrian Government addressed to 'Frau Langer', awarding her, as reparations, 70,000 Austrian shillings (approximately \$6500.)

As a husband who mourns her loss and grieves over her tortured life and death, I would like to ask the Austrian Government how they arrived at this figure? What data was applied to the formula? What was factored into the equation to permit the Austrian Government to determine that this was their response to the 'Final Solution'? Why, in their letter confirming reparations, was there no expression of remorse or a simple apology?

I, and my family would like an answer.

Thank you.

Alan Langer, Galisteo, New Mexico

PLEASE WRITE TO: The Honorable Ambassador Tuerk, Austrian Embassy, 3534 International Ct., NW, Washington, DC 20008

## CALENDAR

The Fire Department needs firefighters, Emergency Medical Technicians, CPR trainees, and Auxiliary members. Equipment and training paid for by the department. Business meetings: **FIRST TUESDAY OF EACH MONTH** and trainings **EVERY TUESDAY**, weekly. Call Michael Datoli (466-1771) if you have not gotten your GFRD 1997 directory.

## GALISTEO CLASSIFIEDS

**CLASSIFIED ADS ARE WORKING!** They are FREE to Galisteo residents and can include **THINGS WANTED, FOR SALE OR EXCHANGE, SERVICES** or **REAL ESTATE** (if for sale by the owner). Please include at least a first name. Newcomers to the area are unaware of services available right here in the village. Take advantage of this free service from **EL PUENTE**; call Linda Rice at 466-4658 or put ads in Lucy's **BOX 77**, south of the village (with Holloway's, Antonio's, Nelson's). **PLEASE** call Cara 466-7723 if you do **NOT** want your ad repeated.

### 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.

**SACRED SCAPES**, fine landscaping, design and creative restoration. Call us for all your landscape or caretaking needs. Web Site design: Establish a presence on the World Wide Web. From home pages to distinctive business presentations. Call now for **FREE** consultation. sacred@roadrunner.com Suzanne and Ashanu at 466-1960.

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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.

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**NEED SOMEONE TO TAKE CARE of your GARDEN THIS YEAR?** Call me, I do maintenance and installation. The flowering season approaches! Linda 466-4658.

**ELECTRICAL CONCEPTS**: Residential/Commercial/Industrial. Hansi Mohn and Michael Anaya: 988-8853 or 986-2946 (mobile)

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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.

**1988 RED FORD CONVERSION VAN**. Fully loaded, AC, PW, PB, PS, dual tanks and batteries. Two sets of new tires. Ready for a road trip! Call 466-1960. Only \$5900 or trade plus cash.

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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.

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### FOR RENT

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## EL PUENTE DE GALISTEO

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