



ISSUE #8

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EDITORIAL

Galisteans should be following closely the debates around WIPP (the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant for nuclear waste in Carlsbad NM) and whenever possible participating in them. Despite protests and lawsuits, and major doubts in many informed quarters about its safety, plans for the plant seem to be going ahead. Waste will be (and already has been) transported by truck from Los Alamos through Santa Fe and south on Route 285 with little or no warning. The Department of Energy (DOE) expects to open WIPP by next May, although it still awaits full approval from the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP).

If the trucks make it past St. Francis Drive (where the promised four-lane Relief Route has yet to be built), they will be passing within a few miles of Galisteo. Until the plant is formally opened, the waste to be transported through the area would be "contact-handled" rather than "remote-handled" (the really evil stuff). But in the worst-case scenario, WIPP would become the sole national dump site (Yucca Mountain in Nevada is years off track and reportedly even more dangerous). It is already scheduled to take hazardous waste from Hanford, Washington, Rocky Flats, Colorado, Oak Ridge, Tennessee, and other infamous sites all over the U.S.

A major accident with a load of the hottest types of radioactive waste allowed would contaminate the land for miles around. It could even make Galisteo uninhabitable.

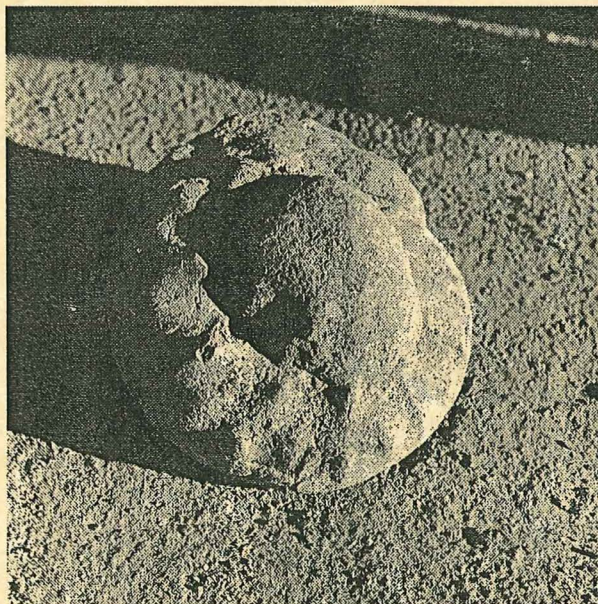
At the very least, people on or near the WIPP route must be informed about scheduled shipments and local fire departments must have access to the special equipment necessary for HAZMAT (hazardous materials) teams. For a couple of years now, members of the Galisteo Volunteer Fire and Rescue have been attending special training sessions at Eldorado to learn how to cope with the potentially disastrous problems that might arise around the WIPP shipments. No one without the very expensive protective clothing and equipment will be allowed anywhere near an accident site. (But what if you live there?)

Whenever I drive to town, and see the Lucy Tafoya memorial stone at the roadside where route 41 meets 285, I wonder what would have happened if she had met a sleepy nuke-truck driver, or if that driver met a drunk or

For more information on both sides of the debate, contact Concerned Citizens for Nuclear Safety (CCNS, 107 Cienega, Santa Fe; 87501; call 986-1973) or U.S. Department of Energy WIPP Information Center, 1-800-336-9477.



NEXT CEMETERY CLEANUP: MORNING OF OCTOBER 27.



The fossil Ammonoid we mentioned in the last issue was found on Romona Scholder's property. Oddly enough Alvaro Lopez-Waterman also called to say he had found an ammonoid in his yard next door around the same time. Both are over a foot in diameter. These cephalopod shells date from 65- 100 million years ago, when there was a vast shallow sea from the Gulf of Mexico to Canada. Its western shoreline ran through New Mexico and the later Cretaceous shoreline shifted back and forth across the state. The Galisteo Basin has a major outcrop of Cretaceous rock. More on our local geology in future El Puentes. (photo: Susan Crocker).

photo by OYPS

OUR ARTS

The New Mexican's Pasatiempo on Oct. 3 was full of Galisteo, including a picture and writeup on John Masee's huge sculpture Foot Store, on exhibition at the College of Santa Fe's "Sculpture Project" through October, as is Richard Shuff's work. Ken Kuhne was cited for the "creative idea" of showing art in his spec house in Ranchitos.

Also mentioned was the upcoming exhibition by Galisteo artists Shaun Gilmore and Munson Hunt which will inaugurate the new commercial space behind 2nd Street Studios in Santa Fe — Astilli Archival Care, Storage, and Related Services. Munson is a mixed-media sculptor who studied at Parsons School of Design in New York and Shaun is a painter who studied at the Art Institute of Chicago. Both have also worked with Galisteo Susan Rothenberg at the Santa Fe Art Institute.

Shaun's and Munson's opening — with food, music, drink — is NOV. 7, 8-12 PM. ALL ARE INVITED.

The 10th Annual Galisteo Studio Tour is taking place after EL PUENTE goes to press and will be covered in the November issue.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Dear "Galisteo Chamber of Commerce,"

It was disheartening, to say the least, to have you call the Spanish people of Galisteo "poor." What we lack in materialistic possessions cannot be weighed against the rich history and culture we possess. Something you obviously lack. For someone who calls this village home, and your neighbors friends, you have no right nor the roots to pretend to represent the people of Galisteo. Insulting people only shows you lack courtesy and respect toward the village of Galisteo. That's poor!

Anna and Freddie Cardenas

EDITOR'S NOTE: Apologies. I have to take responsibility for not giving Moira time to make changes in her 1988 letter. But I understood the word "poor" (not applied to the whole community) as economically but certainly not culturally stressed. (I'm speaking for her now because Moira is out of town as this issue goes to press.)

I'm also grateful for Anna's and Freddie's letter, since EL PUENTE exists so that such controversies can be out in the open.

Join Galisteo Volunteer Fire & Rescue

by Bobbi Anaya

The seasons are changing and so is your local fire department. We are continuing to train and accept new members. Please feel free to join us on a Tuesday evening for our regular trainings.

It has been brought to our attention that many people in the village do not realize how much work goes into being a member of a volunteer organization. So I felt obliged to tell you and let you all in on the best kept secrets in Galisteo.

Well, the biggest step to joining any volunteer organization is the commitment you make to yourself to help those in need.

Second is the one that you make to that individual organization. Third is to become the best volunteer that you possibly can.

That all sounds very simple doesn't it? Well, that's what fools everyone. Just ask any of the long-time members, and they'll tell you it takes huge amounts of time and energy.

Let me mention a few things just off the top of my head:

1. General Business Meeting 2.5 hrs each month.
2. 3 Trainings a month (2-3 hrs each).
3. 48 hrs. to become a First Responder.
4. 160 hrs to become an EMT.
5. 8 hrs continuing education credits for First Responder.
6. 48 hrs per year for CEs for EMTs (not including 20 hrs. of refresher courses).
7. 3 days for licensing boards for EMTs.
8. Approximately 15 days of conferences to attend in a year (unpaid time off regular work schedule to attend).
9. Special Events/Fund Raising (time frame varies from hours to weeks).
10. Officer Training (60 hrs).
11. Truck maintenance (2-3 hrs a week).
12. The growing number of calls (mainly in the middle of the night).
13. 100 hrs to train as fire fighter.
14. AED (Automatic Electrical Defibrillator) training 10 hrs.
15. CPR certification 4-8 hrs.
16. Mutual Aid Trainings 20-30 hrs.
17. Building Station (several years so far).

These are only a few things I could think of. As you can see, if you added the hours and days you could do this full time and still not have enough time for routines that we have, much less all the calls.

Let it be known that the "Simple" task of being a volunteer is a "full time commitment."

This may sound as if it is too much to handle aside from our busy personal lives, but the department is a very worthy cause and it fulfills many people's needs. Many volunteer members go on to professional careers after being on a small department like ours.

We all started off slowly and would love for new people to join us. We'll gladly start you off at a pace you are comfortable doing. I'm sure that the members of the department will think of several other things we do all year that I just didn't think of mentioning. So keep in mind there is quite a bit to what we do for you.

In addition, our Chief Steve Moya is happy to say that our new tanker and the water project he's working on will pay off for all of us. The ISO rating on your house insurance scheduled in Nov. 1997 will be dropping soon. A great big thanks to Steve Moya.

Doesn't it make you feel safe to know that a handful of people in your village have gone to these great lengths to provide fire and rescue protection for you and your families?

Won't you join us in this constant effort for your own peace of mind?

WELL REMEMBERED

by Joe Cooper

Retiring from 30 years in corporate life was a cinch. I signed some papers, cleared out my office, and on June 1, 1987, we were in Galisteo for good. Barbara and I wanted to do new and different things, both with our hands and with our minds. We wanted to be involved in the community and do things that would help it.

Early on, I heard about the Lamy Mega-well case, which had begun a few years before. Some of the key people who had started and mostly paid for it were moving on and the case needed support to close this huge illegal well which threatened the water supply of all of us downstream.

I wasn't the only one who saw the danger, and soon a group of us formed to do the jobs that would keep it going: attending meetings, keeping the community informed, and, mostly, raising money to pay our lawyer's fees.

Even though our attorney, Grove Burnett, discounted his usual fees by 40%, the case still took a lot of money. Our opponents were bent on dragging it out to wear us down. At first, raising money was fairly easy. The case was still fresh, our fund-raisers were working, and new people moving into the area did their part.

Although we weren't always able to pay our bills on time, the enthusiasm and energy of Grove and his associates never wavered. They won the case all the way to the New Mexico Supreme Court and finally got the matter sent back to the State Engineer to decide on the Mega-well's legality.

All of this took years because El Dorado Utilities believed it was cheaper for them to keep the case in the courts than to invest in new sources of water to support the development all along Route 285. Some of our original contributors began to feel they were bearing too much of the burden while some people were talking down the case and discouraging others from supporting it. I regret that we didn't find a way to convince them, or at least make them neutral. All the while, we never published the names of the contributors, in order to protect everyone's privacy.

Sometimes we even got discouraged and thought about dropping the case, but since we were winning, that would have betrayed those who had already invested and would have publicly branded Galisteo as a community that would back away rather than fight to protect its rights.

From time to time, some of us took time off the case to do other things. Others resigned or pulled out, but somehow enough of us were always there when needed. We pressed on and continued to prevail. In March 1997, the State Engineer declared the well illegal and the District Court upheld the decision. The well was ordered to shut down. (See EL PUENTE April 1997).

Our victory also helped force Santa Fe County to consider future development in terms of water availability and to impose a building moratorium. Had we lost, the Mega-well would still be a constant threat to our water supply and development along Route 285 would be even more dense.

So our attorneys have done what we hired them to do. As a community, we have raised well over \$50,000, but we are still

\$5,000 short. And the group that helped to make all this happen has narrowed down to one "designated fund raiser" — me.

I'm sorry to say that after 10 years, I can't bear that responsibility any longer. I have run out of energy and will write no more, say no more, and raise no more funds. My watch is over and I'm retiring for good.

Some may raise the question of liability. Who is responsible for our debt to our attorney? We could leave that to be decided by the courts, but experience should teach us that the legal process could quickly cost more than the amount of the debt itself and still leave us liable.

The more honorable, cheaper, quicker way is for us each to realize that since the victory helped us all, we are all responsible for part of its cost. We should chip in and pay it off, promptly and in full. We can then go on to other projects with the pride of a community that stands tall, fights for its rights, and pays its debts.

I don't know how the various organizations in Galisteo and in Lamy, including those that have been parties to the suit, will react. But I believe that if enough individuals want something to be done, it will be done. That's where I stand, and I've just sent in my contribution. I hope you will too, so my second retirement can be more peaceful than the first.

EDITOR'S NOTE: Moira Walden has graciously agreed as an individual to serve as the collection point for contributions. Please make checks payable to WESTERN ENVIRONMENTAL LAW CENTER, noting that they are for the Lamy Mega-well case. The address is: **Moira Walden, HC 75, Box 10, Galisteo NM 87540.**

If contributions exceed the amount of our bill, the additional funds will be equally divided between Galisteo Fire and Rescue and the Galisteo Community Association, the two organizations which serve the entire Galisteo community. If you have other ideas, please share them in a Letter to the Editor or with Moira. **AND THANKS TO JOE COOPER FOR HIS YEARS OF DEDICATION TO THIS ISSUE.**

GALISTEO-BASED GROUP AIDS YOUTH

by Valentine Riddell

Here in our village we are blessed with friendly neighbors, a strong sense of community, and young people who are learning to respond to this positive atmosphere by stepping forward to offer help where it's needed, following a long tradition of community support. Santa Fe is not so fortunate. Gang warfare, homelessness, and a growing rate of high school dropouts and teenage pregnancies mar the lives of many of Santa Fe's young people.

They may not be "our kids," but many of our kids attend school in Santa Fe and will probably work there when they grow older. And to the extent that this is a very small world, all children are "our kids."

Orenda Healing International is a non-profit based in Galisteo and founded in 1992 by Valentine and Lewis Riddell as "Orenda Center for the Arts in Vibrational Healing." In 1995, Orenda changed its name, expanded its mission to

include community healing projects, and welcomed two new board members from Stockholm — Robert and Madeleine Benfield-White — providing it with a European office and international scope. While opening a West Coast office in Nevada City, California, during the summer of 1996, the Riddells conceived the YouthSpace project as a community-mentored arts and technology training program for at-risk youth.

YouthSpace Santa Fe will provide Distance Education (computer connections for people in remote sites) and training in the visual, literary, and performing arts and in communications technology to the youth population in the Santa Fe Detention Center.

Why? Because children don't belong behind bars.

If we can help these young people to realize that their community appreciates them, cares about their experience of life, and wants to help them realize their highest potential, we will have gone a long way towards contributing something of value to their future and our own.

Through this focused and carefully supervised training program, and a sturdy "safety net" of mentors from the business, arts, and youth communities, these young people will benefit from the one-on-one support of adults and age peers from the moment they enter the judicial system. This support will not end when they re-emerge into society, but will continue until they are well-established in school or their chosen profession, as appropriate to their age.

A number of individuals and groups have already offered their support: Nizhoni School of Global Consciousness; David Lesch of Outside In; Carol Hempfling of Banana Republic; David Brownlow of Studio X; and Ron West of Farmington Boys and Girls Club.

Others have offered monitoring, financial contributions, and equipment. We are also seeking major funding from national corporations and juvenile justice and arts funding programs. If you have something to offer these young people — be it your skills in the arts or technology, unused computer equipment, art supplies or musical instruments, or just a warm heart and a sympathetic ear, please contact us. Our world needs its young people, and they need you.

Valentine Riddell is Executive Director of Orenda Healing International and can be reached at 466-0791 or HC 75 Box 141, Galisteo N.M. 87540.

DICHOS

from Anna Cardenas

◆ **Quien ignora el pasado, no construira nada nuevo y permanente.**

A person who does not know the past, cannot build anything new and permanent.

◆ **Vale mas un mal arreglo que un buen pleito.**

A bad settlement is better than a good lawsuit.

◆ **Arroz que no se menea se quema.**

Rice that is not stirred will burn.

◆ **Cuando esta uno de mala suerte hasta los burros lo tumban.**

When one is having bad luck even the burros knock you down.

MILESTONES

Remedios and Luis Chavez celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on Oct 18. Both were born and raised in Galisteo — Remie in the house where they live now and Luis on the hill where Moira Walden lives.

YO! EL PUENTE NEEDS STUFF FOR KIDS' COLUMNS: SEND IN YOUR ART WORK, CARTOONS, STORIES, REPORTS...WHATEVER. IT'S ALL YOURS!

GALISTEO CLASSIFIEDS

To place an ad (they're free, to Galisteo residents only) call Lucy at 466-1276 or leave in Box 77, south of the creek at intersection of Avenida Vieja and Route 41.

SERVICES

Housekeeping or deep cleaning/organization of home or office, Also **Art lessons for children.** Call Karyn, 466-2765.
Car and Truck Detailing — will clean and vacuum the inside of your vehicle and do the windows. Call Miguel Padilla, 466-8930.

Carpentry: Closets, hand-carved dining-room tables, furniture, patio benches, custom gates, doors, etc. 35 years experience. Local references. Onesimo Montoya, 466-1430.

Trash Hauling and yard maintenance: We will pick up your trash bags once a week, and deliver them to the dump for a low fee of \$2 a bag. Also do yard cleaning. Call for estimates. Michael Anaya, 466-6840 (after 6 PM).

Dave's Auto Repair: Tune-ups, Oil change. Minor repairs, auto restoring, painting. Local references. Free estimates. David Montoya 466-2097

Avon representative in Galisteo: for free brochure and information, call Maria, 466-8930.

Sacred Scapes: fine landscaping, design and creative restoration; also Web site design. Call for free consultation, Suzanne and Ashanu, 466-1960.

FOR RENT

Art Studio, 400+ square feet, with North light and double sink, a work table and shelving; private entrance, access to telephone. \$400 per month. Call Alan at 466-3010.

FOR SALE

1963 Chevy Fleetside Pickup. Body restored & painted. New wheels, tires, battery. 6 cyl. 292/4 speed. \$2,900 OBO. Also **1979 VW Convertible.** New 2-tone paint, canvas top, windshield, carpet, tires. Great looking and running. \$7,500 OBO. And **Camera Equipment,** some new, some used. 35mm to 4 x 5. Bodies, lenses, flashes, tripods, etc. Call Michael, 466-1771.

EL PUENTE DE GALISTEO

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Please send letters, comments, suggestions, contributions to EL PUENTE, HC 75 Box 77, Galisteo NM 87540, or call 466-1276 (no machine; mornings best).