

EL PUENTE DE GALISTEO

ISSUE #9

November 1997

EDITORIAL

At the last meeting of the Board of the Galisteo Community Association, it was suggested that EL PUENTE be funded by local businesses. Scott Diffrient and Mike Anaya stepped right up to underwrite the November and December issues at \$75 each. (Prices vary according to the number of photographs and graphics, but any extra money will go to future issues.) It would be great to get funding set up now through next September so we don't have to scramble for money monthly, on top of trying to get the paper out. You don't have to be a business. Please call me or a GCA Board member if you can support one month, beginning in January. We can print the underwriter's business card or ad if they choose. Doesn't that sound tempting?

MANY THANKS TO SCOTT AND MIKE FOR GETTING THE BALL ROLLING

PLEASE be sure you are giving EL PUENTE the correct dates and information. All the mistakes might as well be mine. And here's one: Apologies to Maria Padilla for printing the wrong date of the cemetery cleaning; in the end it was changed to Nov. 1 — appropriately the eve of El Dia de los Muertos. A good time was had by all, and you can really tell the difference in the areas of the campo santo where the stubborn "chamisas" have been laboriously uprooted and the grass mowed. There are still stones to be righted. Work will resume in the spring.

CALL FOR HOLIDAY PICTURES AND STORIES

We would like to devote the December issue to Galisteo holidays of the past. Let me know if you can lend us family photographs, photos of Galisteo in winter, church fiestas, Christmas lights, wild parties, Los Pastores, and reminiscences or stories passed down about local traditions, the holidays, blizzards, whatever. Pictures collected can be copied for the community archives.

LAST CALL FOR CHANGES IN THE GALISTEO PHONE DIRECTORY. Everything must be in Box 97 next to the church by FRIDAY NOVEMBER 21. And it's time to rev up for the CHRISTMAS LIGHTING CONTEST. Notices coming soon.



La Tienda Anaya by Tana Cardenas

GALISTEO, NOVEMBER 1958

by S. Monroe

The smoke was blue in the pearlescent light. It rose from the kitchen stovepipe of the little house where Antonio lived. A *gallo* announced the coming of the light just as the fire of the sun burned through the rim of the mesa to the east. Suddenly the low hills and the old cottonwoods by the river and Cerro Pelon and the mountains beyond were fused with the color of blood for a full two minutes. The sun climbed higher, washing the adobe walls of the houses in yellow warmth.

Antonio burst out of the blue doorway and ran to the outhouse by the fence. As he passed the cage of rabbits he heard them stirring in the sun's growing heat. It was, his mother had told him once, important never to give names to the rabbits. That was after he had named a beautiful black one "Joso." The night soon came when Joso arrived at the supper table, roasted like a chicken.

Back in the kitchen the heat from the iron cookstove soaked into his bones as his mother put a dish of blue corn *chequehue* before him. He poured the syrup from the Karo bottle and made a deep lake in the blue mountain while his mother talked about how his father would have to cut more piñon at La Mesita on San Cristobal tomorrow: "Your Papa's gone all week and he just gets home only to go out again to work."

That made Antonio start thinking about Tio Miliano and riding down to the river bottom with him in his wagon to get water for the village on Saturdays. The wagon with the water barrels straddled the water flowing cold and clear over the red gravel. Antonio and his friend Eddie would fill the buckets and hand them up to Miliano. Water flew everywhere in the dusky light of the bosque. Their clothes would soon get wet and their bare feet so cold it felt like their toes were going to drop off.

Now it was time to leave for school. He put on his jacket and took his lunch pail with an apple and a bologna sandwich in it and headed for *el puente* which carried the highway as it wound through the village and past the old hacienda. He dragged the lunch pail against the railings of the bridge, listening to the thumps echo in the *bosque*. Then down the dirt *cordillera* to the plaza in front of Nuestra Senora de los Remedios and up the winding road to the school on top of the hill.

This would be the last year for the school. Next year he would be bused to Lamy. Antonio looked back over the village from the hill top: blue smoke rose from only a few chimneys. Most of the houses were empty; so many families had moved to Santa Fe in order to work now that the sheep were gone. His father had also been a *pastore*, before Antonio was born.

A train whistled in the clear morning air as it went through Kennedy, up the road. The sound made him think of his father who worked for the railroad now. He was gone all week in places like Waldo and Bernalillo, which were very far away. Tonight his father would be home and his mother would roast a chicken for dinner with their beans and *papas* as a special treat.

Before he went into the school he took one last look at the village sleeping in the bare trees by the river. Antonio already knew in his heart that he loved this place. Soon new people would come to Galisteo from places beyond the mountains, bringing with them another kind of life. Perhaps they, too, would learn to love this place with the morning smoke rising to the sky. (*Any resemblance to persons living or dead is purely coincidental.*)

BITS AND PIECES

STUDIO TOUR CELEBRATES 10TH BIRTHDAY

The Galisteo Studio Tour is a wonderful mirror of our village, including as it does everything from high-priced paintings and sculptures to retablos to hand-embroidered aprons to high fashion to **Mela Montoya's** great food to dried floral wreaths, jewelry, handsome note cards, glorious chenille coats, Elvis pillows, clay murals, and the GVFR's slammin' green chile cheeseburgers. This year **Barbara Holloway** was *Pasatiempo's* feature artist. The weather was lovely and the crowds were well nourished with big doses of beauty on all sides.

MARVELOUS MOYAS

Jean Moya won third place in the "folk art, mixed media" category of the Hispanic Art Show at the State Fair this fall for her retablos *La Natividad and San Jose con Niño*. Craig Moya has made the Northern New Mexico Junior Olympic Team. Congratulations to both.

GALISTEO DOGS HAVE THEIR DAY

Echo, Susan Crocker's Red Australian Cattle Dog (aka Heeler), was Best of Breed in the Santa Fe Dog Show, the second year in a row. Echo also attained her Herding Started (HS) AKC title on cattle and her Companion Dog title for obedience. Echo is accredited for herding sheep, which Susan keeps specifically for training her dogs.

Cracker, Evelyn Gregory's many-titled champion Bassett Hound, has appeared in a Pillsbury Dough Boy commercial and in a Japanese advertisement. Any more famous canines out there?

THE NATURE OF GALISTEO

The Eurasian **Tamarisk** (aka saltcedar) tree that is creeping into the bosque is an unwelcome addition, its pretty pinkish blossoms notwithstanding. Western settlers introduced it in the 1800s for shade, erosion, and wood, and it now infests about 1 million acres. In the arid southwest Tamarisk guzzles 5 million acre-feet of water a year. It also excretes salt from its leaf glands, making the soil around it hostile to native plants. Ecologists recommend: 1) keeping cattle away because they eat the native vegetation rather than Tamarisk; 2) restoring natural floods that uproot the tree, and 3) mechanical and chemical removal. (*Nature Conservancy*, Nov.-Dec. 1996)

TRAIL REPAIRS

Susan Crocker has been taking a day now and then to repair the riding trails near her house. The arroyos get eroded and dangerous; thorny Russian Olive branches need trimming, etc. Since a lot of people use these trails, maybe everyone could be responsible for bad spots in their own area. "Just go out now and then with a shovel, and clippers," she suggests.

OUR ARTS

Catherine Ferguson's hand-colored line drawings are featured in the Museum of New Mexico Foundation's book *New World Saints* by Donna Pierce, which won a Western States Book award and was described as "extraordinary" by the *Denver Post*. (They are available for a mere \$700 from the Press of the Palace of the Governors, 827-6477.) **Linda Durham** is starting the Galisteo Press, specializing in limited edition fine art books. The Nov. 7 *Pasatiempo* ran a profile on **Nancy Holt**, who gave a lecture on her internationally acclaimed earth works and public sculpture at the Museum of Fine Arts. **Janice Felty**, a well-known mezzo soprano as well as an auxiliary member of the GVFR, is performing with *Musica Viva* in Boston and at several universities on the west coast, after which she returns to Boston to sing with *Collage*, a new music group.

IN THE NEWS

Bill Isaacs was remembered by Richard McCord in a recent *New Mexican* not only as "a gentle lover of the outdoors, a teacher and tender of flora and fauna," but also as "a fighter — battling to keep Tesuque Elementary School from shutting down in the early 1970s." **Emily Adele Ley**, Manager of Goose Downs Farms, was married in August to David John Moore. The couple is living at Goose Downs.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Dear Editor,

Kudos for your timely letter on WIPP and community ennui last month!

The first time I actually came face to face with the grim spectre of nuclear disaster was when my younger daughter, then in second grade, came home with a big grin: "Hey, Mom. Guess what you do if there's a nuclear explosion!"

"What, honey?"

"Bend over, grab your ankles, 'n' kiss your butt g'bye!"

We may not have many more options today, but at least we can stay informed. Knowledge is power, of a sort.

Yes, the WIPP trucks are running "to get the community used to the idea," we are told. Are they loaded? They say no. Will we know when they are? Maybe.

A few months ago GVFR volunteers attended a HAZMAT training at the Eldorado Fire Department. It consisted mostly of disclaimers from a representative of the New Mexico Department of Public Safety, a staggering stack of handouts, the dubious privilege of meeting two WIPP truck drivers (a highly paid and not greatly sought-after position), and a tour of the truck itself, which boasts, among other state-of-the-art fittings, an "escape hatch" for the drivers — accessible only from inside the cab.

What would they be running from? The same thing we'd be running from, except there's no place to run.

In talking about this with Galisteo residents, I have encountered limited support for (and a surprising amount of resistance to) the idea of providing the community with continuing education on nuclear issues. It reminds me of the attitude in the southern town where I grew up: "Don't bother us, we're living the life our forefathers lived in the town they founded and we don't care about the future."

Like it or not, this is 1997 and the future is here. It's come to my old hometown, and it's come to Galisteo. Contrary to what our forefathers believed, there is no "benevolent government" in Washington taking care of us. Our government's bottom line is money, and WIPP is only one of the many money-making scams it's running these days.

Those of us who live in Galisteo cannot afford to be too tired, too busy, too complacent, or too bored to learn more about WIPP and its effect on our community. Because no matter what happens, it *will* affect our community. We must insist on being kept fully informed at all times of the projected routes, activities, and loads of the WIPP trucks. Only with this information will we be able to protect our homes, our families, and our land from a fate undreamed-of in our history.

Orenda Healing International will do its best to provide updated information on WIPP activity. If you have questions or would like to volunteer to help keep your neighbors informed, please call us at 466-0791.

Valentine McKay-Riddell

LIGHTS, CAMERA, ACTION: There's still a lot of action at the Silverado movie set on the Cook Ranch, but nothing like the Klieg lights that blasted into south-facing village windows a couple of nights last month. Rumor has it that the film being made is "Hi-Lo" starring Woody Harrelson.

A Thanksgiving poem from Anna Cárdenas:

EL MAÍZ DE LAS AMERICAS
by Lautaro Vergara M.D.

La mano derecha de Dios
planto en el suelo de las Americas
una planta de Maíz.
En ese día divino,
durmieron los ángeles
en la fatiga azul del universo.

Fue en ese día de sol,
bajo el reflejo de oro y púrpura
de las montañas cordilleranas,
cuando nació la perla terrestre
VESTIDA DE ORO Y PORCELANA:
FRUTA DEL MAÍZ.

Su cuerpo delicado
con sus ramas de interrogación
al cielo, nunca echó su sombra
sobre los caimanas
las anacondas
o en el yermo de estas tierras.

Fue el grano de Dios
que sostuvo la existencia
de las tribus de las Americas.

Hay Recuerdos
que matan el pasado
y hay también algunos
que refrescan la memoria
saltando por los años ya gastados.

Si bien recuerdo
fue una tarde de verano — cuando era niño—
yo miraba las praderas exuberantes de Lima y del Callao.

Un viejo Indio
se me acerco y me digo:
— Que miráis en la distancia, hijo mio?
— Miro los maizales con sus penachos de bronce y rojo.
— Quien hizo el MAÍZ que nunca muere?
— Tal vez el sol, o la mano de Dios.

ESTE MAÍZ FUÉ Y SERA
UN REGALO DEL UNIVERSO
PARA UNIR LAS GENTES
DE LAS AMERICAS

* FELIZ DE GRACIA *
(translation available from Anna Cárdenas)

GETTING READY FOR EL NIÑO: COLD WEATHER TIPS FROM THE GVFR THAT COULD SAVE YOUR LIFE!

What with all the hoopla about El Niño, and predictions of a cold, wet winter, here are some tips for safe travel in the chilly months to come.

- ◆ **IF YOU GET STRANDED, STAY WITH YOUR VEHICLE.** It's much easier to spot a large car than a small person in a snowstorm, and the vehicle will provide some shelter.
- ◆ Keep your gas tank topped off or carry extra gas with you in a safe container. If you're taking regular medication, carry a 2-3 day supply with you — even in *good* weather.
- ◆ Do not use alcohol or drugs to stay warm. Contrary to popular belief, they can depress the nervous and circulatory system, increasing the danger of hypothermia.
- ◆ Remember that snow followed by sun followed by freezing temperatures equals **BLACK ICE**. Additional snow on top of that makes it even more slippery. Plan your driving around the midday warming trend and get home before dark.

*

Even for short trips, we strongly recommend that you be prepared and **carry the following items in your car** at all times, in case you get stranded:

- ◆ Heavy duty flashlight with extra batteries.
- ◆ Box of large wooden matches and kindling.
- ◆ Swiss army knife or equivalent.
- ◆ Non-perishable foods (canned, dried, bottled) and something to open them with!
- ◆ One gallon of water per passenger.
- ◆ Warm woolen blankets or "space blankets" and a complete change of warm clothing for each passenger; extra wool sweaters, wool socks; warm boots; hats, gloves, coats (even if it's sunny; the weather can change in a flash!).
- ◆ Spare tire in good condition; tire jack and sturdy lug wrench; tire chains.
- ◆ Shovel.
- ◆ Flares.
- ◆ 2 bags of sand and wooden shims for traction on ice.
- ◆ Fully-equipped First Aid kit (call 466-0791 for recommended contents).

Finally, if you don't have to drive in bad weather, stay home. That way we won't have to worry about you.

ORTIZ MOUNTAIN HEALTH CENTER

Stephany Burrowes, administrator of the Ortiz Health Center in Cerrillos, wants to extend a special welcome to Galisteans since we are part of their official service district. The clinic is now open five days a week and offers full primary health care services. They accept Medicaid and Medicare as well as private insurance, and charge on a sliding fee scale. They will also assist people in finding financial resources for medical care if they qualify.

Burrowes especially wanted to call our attention to "a wonderful program" — the Healthier Kids Fund — supported by the state, for children who do not qualify for Medicaid but have no insurance or insurance with a high deductible. There

is no financial means test. If a child is sick s/he can be signed up that day and that visit will be covered.

The Ortiz Mountain Health Center is located right off Route 14 (across County Road 42 from us), on the left as you turn right into Cerrillos. It is open Mon/Thurs./Fri. 8-5; Tues. 10-7; Wed. 8-noon. Call for an appointment, even the same day. They will make every effort to work walkins into the schedule, but can't guarantee it. Call 471-6266.



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EL PUENTE BUSINESS OF THE MONTH

GALISTEO CLASSIFIEDS

Put your ads in Box 77 (Rte.41 and Avenida Vieja) or call 466-1276 by Dec.10 for next issue. Please call to have all ads continue or not.

FOR SALE

1979 VW Convertible. New 2-tone paint, canvas top, windshield, carpet, tires. Great looking and running. \$7500 O.B.O. Also **Camera Equipment:** 466-1771.

Cafe table, formica with steel leg, 36" square, \$25. Call Lucy, 466-1276.

Video rentals, edible flowers, Nizhoni School, 466-1975 or 466-4336.

LIVING SPACES

Sublet January thru March: cozy one-person studio apartment in 200 yr old adobe; \$500 per month. Call Melanie, 466-8319.

15-year Galisteo resident looking for a sweet long-term rental. Can trade partial rent for professional landscaping, flagstone, rockwork and/or any caretaking needs. Excellent references. please call Suzanne (aka "Angelo's Mom") 466-1960.

SERVICES

Avon Representative in Galisteo. For free brochure, call Maria 466-8930.

Car and Truck Detailing. Will clean and vacuum the inside of your vehicle and do the windows. Call Miguel Padilla, 466-8930.

Passive Solar Builders Locally owned general contractor since 1980: quality home, construction, renovations and additions. Call Charlie, 466-2118.

Sacred Scapes, fine landscaping, design and creative restoration. Landscaping, caretaking, also Web Site design, free consultation: Suzanne and Ashanu at 466-1960, sacred @ roadrunner.com.

Photo portraits on location, or events and celebrations. Richard, 466-7723.

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

Nizhoni School for Global Consciousness: Little Beings. Middle School, High School, 466-4336 or 466-1975.

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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).