

**EDITORIAL: NO THANKS?**

On Thanksgiving this year, Galisteans might devote a few moments of gratitude to our many volunteers, who keep the village running and make it such a great place to live. The disturbing report on the Water Association meeting below suggests that too many of us take for granted the time and energy that goes into water, fire, and other community business.

We don't have our priorities straight when people just don't have time to support those who provide our services. In Galisteo there is an (almost) free lunch. But it's offered in exchange for mutual communal responsibility. Everybody takes their turn or we all starve.

*El Puente* is looking for PHOTOS and MEMORIES OF CHRISTMAS IN GALISTEO for the December issue. Please get them to the editor by Dec. 5, or I'll have to come banging on your doors again. Contributions to cover 1999 issues have begun to come in, but more would be very welcome!

Hope you didn't get lost in the Fall double issue; a printer's error messed up the page order.

**\* Have a Happy (and thoughtful) Thanksgiving \***

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Halloween at Vista Clara: Guess Who! (Photos: Richard Shuff)

**GOOD TO THE LAST DROP? WATER ASSOCIATION TRIES TO MEET**

On October 12, the Galisteo Mutual Domestic Water Consumers Association met at the Community Center but did not reach a quorum of 15 (1/4 of the 57 members) despite some frantic phone calls. One response was "I don't have time." The by-laws cannot be changed to require a smaller quorum unless the current quorum can be gathered for the vote, which amounts to a frustrating vicious circle.

Neither retiring secretary Gary Grimm nor interim treasurer Joette Trofimuk attended. (Longtime treasurer Moira Walden resigned a few months ago.) So there were no minutes of the previous meeting and no treasurer's report. Alternate Board members Theresa Montoya and Corinne Anaya were also absent. An exasperated President Steve Moya said maybe the water should just be shut off until March when the next meeting will be held. If people don't care about having water, let them go without. Meetings are announced ten days ahead of time. Do people forget? Should another notice be sent closer to the date?

At \$15 per month, Galisteo has probably the cheapest water in the state and it's clean water. If the water system goes into County hands, we'll get chlorine in the tanks, fees will be MUCH higher (something like \$45 for a vacant house and \$70-80 for household use), and users will most certainly miss local responsibility — the kind of immediate care given the system by Roman and others. An independent manager would cost some \$30,000 a year, and people would have to pay for their own meters, which is not cheap (around \$500).

Making the best of a bad moment, the Board (Scott Diffrient, Lisa Griego, Roman Attenberger, and Steve Moya) went ahead to inform the 13 members present.

**New Water System in the Works**

Jim Sloan reported on the new water system. There have been some "bureaucratic delays" which are getting ironed out. His crew has to work between the existing water line and the fragile fiber optic line, which is very tricky. The old water line is also very fragile; now and then in the past weeks, water has been cut off. It costs \$10,000 a minute if the fiber optic breaks. "If that happens," said Jim wryly, "we'll just leave the keys in the machine and start walking to Amarillo."

Only the main 4" line is being replaced by an 8" line. Eventually the old 3" line for hookups should also be brought

up to date. The new system will bring increased volume, but not increased pressure; hopefully the remaining old lines won't get too stressed.

The County does not recognize the autonomy of the village systems, which makes it difficult for volunteer associations like ours. (Plans called for 200-pound manhole covers for Roman to lift, which had to be changed.) We are leasing the new lines from the County (an agreement, no money changes hands) but we maintain them. Once the system is in, we're on our own.

Traffic control — also very expensive — is handled by the County. A crew comes up from Albuquerque twice a day to put up the barrels and lights and then to take them down. And there are near crises. A hundred-foot semi went to work at Nick Merrick's, came back after nine when the road was torn up and made it back over the Hill!

(Jim's crew really came through on Studio Tour weekend. Everything was cleaned up and welcoming.)

#### Easement Granted

Patricia Hover, who owns the blue doublewide across from the old cemetery, asked the Board to approve a five-foot electric easement to run an overground line from an existing pole just north of the water tank. The home is occupied by her daughter and son-in-law (Susan Reynolds and Kevin Long). Roman okayed it. The family is putting another trailer on the site. They were reminded that the existing hookup is for one home only.

#### Help Needed: Please Apply

Steve made a plea for someone to volunteer to collect the fees and water taxes, without which the Association can hardly continue. It is already two months behind in state payments. One possibility is to get these jobs done like a draft: when your number comes up, you do it. Moya already spends an immense amount of time working for the village and when his presidential term is up, he says, "I ain't doing it again."

Scott stepped up to be secretary until the March elections. Romona Scholder will be bookkeeper. WATER PAYMENTS SHOULD BE SENT TO HER (Box 43) or put in the NEW WATER ASSOCIATION PADLOCKED DROP BOX in front of her house. Foreman Roman Attenberger will pick up contents every day. To arrange for cash payments, call Romona at 466-0697.

The fate of the Galisteo Water Association seems to be hanging in the balance. "From now on," said Moya, "if you don't pay your bill, your water is off. There's no interest in the village about water any more. What's going on? Water is life."

## THE OLD RAILROAD HOUSE

by Marie Ferneau

"Recycled" was not a word in common usage when we came to New Mexico 23 years ago. However we both have a legacy from families who revered Nature as a part of God. We've known all our lives that humans must stop abusing the Earth.

After having bought our land and living in rental property while deciding what we were going to do next, I was looking for space to store our belongings. I fortuitously came upon the old railway station in Lamy. It was not for rent, but for sale. The idea was born: why not recycle this fine-structured wood building?

And what great wood! The station was solid as the Rock of Gibraltar, with the tensile strength of Noah's Ark. The vision was born, and became a cause. It seemed the building could be moved from Lamy to Galisteo.

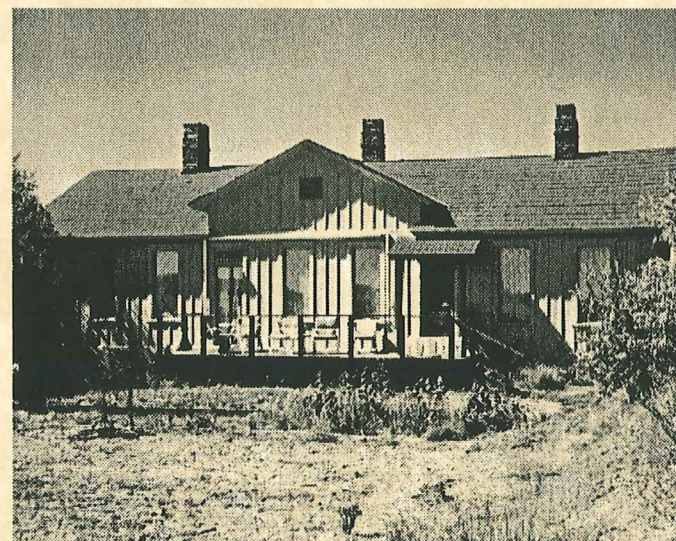
People have been curious about how much we paid for it and we don't mind saying. We paid \$2,500 for the building and it cost \$2,500 to move it, proving that a lot can be done with a little money. However, we were to discover that the "sweat equity" was considerable. In retrospect we consider it cost about 12 billion dollars.

On the day the building was moved, I climbed the ridge on the north edge of Galisteo to watch it come, expecting the truck — already standing on the viaduct on 285 — to travel about five miles an hour. With binoculars I could see that the movers were jacking the building higher off the pallet, for it was wider than the highway; the sides of the building had to pass over the guard rails. It was lowered again and rounded the corner onto Highway 41 in seconds. I clambered off the cliff and ran to my car to go meet it.

All too soon I was face to face with this building flying down the highway. I pulled off to get out of the way. Following it back to Galisteo I had to drive 60 miles an hour to keep up. I stopped trembling only after I watched it lowered, exactly, precisely, on the foundation we had waiting for it.

This rugged old relic had been moved once about sixty years before, to make room for the "modern" station we have now. It was standing on a residential street in Lamy when we found it, and had been divided first into a duplex and later into smaller rooms, closets, entryways, cupboards, endless cubbyholes, nooks and crannies. These rooms were used as overnight housing for railroad workers who were up this way from Albuquerque. Their wives sometimes came up and took care of the housekeeping chores; thus the place became known affectionately as a home away from home for these families.

Our first task was to tear out all those added walls and doorways, to put the space back into a semblance of its original space, which was more amenable to becoming a house.



The Old Railroad House, south of the Village. (Marie Ferneau would like to see old pictures of the house anyone might have)

During those early days of destruction before construction, on three different occasions we met retired railway workers who, driving by, were baffled to see "their" old Lamy station sitting alongside Highway 41. Their curiosity overcame their shyness and they stopped in. We welcomed them into whatever rubble we were standing in at the moment. From these gracious people we learned some of the history they had been told.

The station was built in the early 1880s. As the largest non-religious public building in the Territory, it was used as a community center as well as a station. It was a gathering place for picnics, dances, ice cream socials, music fests and all-around neighboring and fun. People came in wagons, buggies, on horseback, on foot, or hitching rides — however they could get there — for these events, which often lasted several days. They camped around the station, children sleeping in the wagons while their parents danced and whooped it up in the waiting room (now our living-dining room). The men telling us these stories guessed that perhaps things got a little wild at times.

Often I sit in the evening and remember the many things that have happened in the space that is our home. I marvel that so much could have gone on here. It is a small house. I think of the many many lives that have passed through: the travellers on the rails, the workmen, the merrymakers who were the brave settlers of the time. I think of the music that joyfully replaced, for a little while, their hardships and tragedies so they could return, strengthened, to their labors of making this forbidding and glorious land hospitable for the future. I am blest.

And what is an old-house story without a ghost in it? One day in the early stages of renovation, I was alone, patching a hole in an outside wall big enough to toss a basketball through. I was directing mean thoughts at the inefficacy of the patching material and the fact that it was burning my hands unmercifully. The wind blowing through open doors was rattling things everywhere when I felt a presence behind me. Assuming that my husband Elmer had come in without my having heard him, I turned around.

A shadow was there. A shadow, nothing more, existing in space. It was not fearsome. An instant of rapport passed between us, then the shadow moved to a wall that had been removed, was cast flat for a moment as if the wall were still there. In that split second the outline was clear. It was the image of a man, square-built, a dome-shaped hat or helmet, knee-length coat, and spindly pants. Then it disappeared. I don't know, of course, whether he came with the building or was simply an "inspector" passing through. Or whatever. Nor do I know if he is still here or if he moved on. If he is still here, he resides peacefully. So do we.

I am proud of the fact that, by rubbing together two earth-saving principles — recycling and sweat equity — we sparked a third accomplishment. We saved a piece of the heritage that might otherwise have been carried away piece by piece or crumbled into the ground. Our vision and hard work have earned us keys to the Kingdom of New Mexico.

**EL PUENTE SPONSORS OF THE MONTH:  
FRANK AND LYNN HIRSCH**

## HOW GALISTEO VOTED

On November 3, 107 Galisteans and neighbors turned out to vote at the Community Center. The four poll sitters included our own Mary Alice Anaya and Mela Montoya. Statewide, voter turnout was low; only 54% of registered voters cast ballots, and only 39.5% of the voting age population (registered or not).

We were not entirely in step with the state as a whole. 30 voted the straight Democratic ticket and 4 voted straight Republican. The rest apparently thought carefully about their choices and split their votes into many parts. For U.S. Representative, 17 voted for loser Bill Redmond and 80 won with Tom Udall. Green Party Carol Miller got 5 votes. 29 chose winner Gary Johnson for Governor and 75 chose Martin Chavez.

A majority of us voted for winners. In the State Senator race, Rhonda King, almost a local, beat out Roger X. Lenard, 81 to 19. Jerome Block (Public Regulation Commissioner) was preferred to Green Party candidate Cliff Bain, 66 to 28; Patricia Madrid (Attorney General) to David Iglesias, 77 to 26; and Daniel Sanchez to Glenn Ellington (District Judge), 67 to 23. Sam Hitt, losing Green candidate for Public Land Commissioner, garnered 21 of our votes while winner Ray Powell got 69 and Republican Maurice McDonald got 4. We varied a good deal on the four non-partisan judges, with votes ranging from 31-4 to 20-10.

On the Constitutional Amendments: we favored giving the Legislature latitude to set limitations on annual increases in valuation of residential property (47-35). We were evenly divided over adding two members to the judicial standards committee (38-38). We favored ending prohibition against second-term county officials running again in two years (50-32). We felt strongly about protecting public employees' retirement funds from legislative raids (59-17) and about property tax exemptions for certain disabled veterans (53-23).

On the Bond Issues we were in favor of funding senior-citizen facilities (44-33) and rare-animal habitat (48-25), and favored but were more divided on funding state schools and colleges (43-35), El Camino Real International Heritage Center (36-38) and updated police radio-communications (47-28).

Last, but certainly not least, we voted on the Santa Fe County Open Space "General Obligation Bond" to protect crucial land tracts from development and provide public trails. This was very hard to find on the ballot, since it was tucked away below the non-partisan judges rather than being included with the other bond issues. Galisteo voted 40 for and 18 against. The bond won county-wide with a 7-3 margin. Spaces to be preserved will be selected by a 25-member advisory commission. The Open Space in the Galisteo Basin is strictly visual. It would be nice if we got a piece of this pie so we could walk into our views.

What does it all mean? What does this tell us about Galisteo's politics? *El Puente* would love to hear your analysis of these thought-provoking results.

Thanks to Barbara Holloway for retrieving the official election results report.

## BITS AND PIECES

The **Studio Tour Raffle** took in \$1,243. Thanks to: all those who contributed the 45 artworks and services; to Diana Gwyn, Mark and Donnan Sutherland, Michael Villeux, Evelyn Gregory, and Maria Padilla, who humanned the raffle table; and to Roman Attenberger, who framed the Church posters. A marvelous new feature of the Tour was the re-opening of **Saint Joseph's Hall** and the dance held there Saturday night.

If you noticed a twin-engine **airplane flying low** over Galisteo recently, you may have been buzzed by the U.S. Geological Survey, a division of the Department of the Interior, collecting data for a survey on the region's groundwater resources, and looking for the kinds of rocks lying below the ground, faults in the rock layers and other features that affect groundwater.

**Onesimo Montoya** has begun work on the Archive Cabinet for the Community Center. Next come the contents. Do you have photographs, books, information, about Galisteo you would like to contribute? Call Florence Sohn (466-2135).

**Andri and Nati Ulrich**, two students from the **Nizhoni School** in Galisteo, go to India this month on a team that represents the USA at Quanta '98, an international competition in science, math, astronomy, computer science and dance. They will participate in the BEAM (Biology, Electronics, Aesthetics, Mechanics) Games. (Four Pojoaque High School students took second place last year). Donations to support their trip are welcome. Call 466-7630.

Sculptor **Munson Hunt** (also a member of the GCA Board) was given a \$250 Award of Merit by Stephen Fleming of Roswell, juror for this year's College of Santa Fe Sculpture Project. Her work *Circe*, pine poles wrapped with rope, was described as a "gigantic jack" (as in the game) by Hollis Walker in *Pasatiempo*.

**Johnny Anaya** is periodically renting pasturage for his horses on Route 41 across from the church, on land owned by the Village of Galisteo..

A good time was had by all on a rainy **Halloween**, indoors at **Vista Clara**. The Spa threw a community witching hour (or hours, "from dusk to dawn"), that is becoming an annual event. Among the winners of the costume contest (emceed by **Ken Kuhne**) were **Mike Datoli**, scariest; **Kasey Malley**, funniest; **Nilo and Sonia Lucas**, best in character; **Sheldon Allen**, best kid's costume (all the other kids got prizes too); and **Jean Moya** best allround. (See picture on page 1.)

An **Anonymous Donor** has given \$500 toward completion of the Community Center playground and **David Montoya** contributed his time to do the grading.

If you happen to be awake from 1-2 AM till dawn on **November 17th or 18th, LOOK UP and LOOK EAST!** The Leonid meteor shower may be just 20-30 shooting stars per hour or it could be a meteor storm and really spectacular, as in 1966.

Historian **David Kammer** is wrapping up his research and has found Galisteo residents very helpful. He is putting together a cohesive and detailed narrative of the village that a lot of us have known only in pieces. We look forward to the final report with great excitement. It will be a significant contribution to the Galisteo historical achieve coming soon to the Community Center.

**COMMUNITY CHRISTMAS PARTY December 19th at the Community Center: Potluck supper, bonfire, caroling and tree decorating are planned.** The GCA is also considering the idea of an "Eternal Christmas Tree" and is seeking input and donations as to the type of tree and where it should be planted.

## FIRE DEPARTMENT NEWS

Jean Moya, Valentine Riddell, and Charlie Holloway completed the Pre-Hospital Trauma Life Support Course for the National Association of EMTs and received their certificates. Charlie also attended an EMT conference in Socorro. We need more qualified medical personnel. Anyone interested in the First Responder course (40 hours) or the EMT basic class (160 hours)? If so, please call Steve and Jean Moya: 466-1544. Both courses will be offered in mid January.

## GALISTEO CLASSIFIED

**ADS ARE FREE AND FOR GALISTEO RESIDENTS ONLY.** Put your ads in Box 77 (Rte 41 at very south of village) or call 466-1276 by December 10 for next issue. Please call to have ads continue or not.

**FOR FREE** from the Community Center, a non-functioning large chest freezer; you take it away. **FOR SALE** from the Community Center: 6 used plywood folding tables, 36 x 96", \$20 or OBO. Call Mela Montoya (466-1430) or Maria Padilla (466-8930).

**Sublet Dec. 1-March 15:** In the village, 1 or 2 bedrooms, 1200 sq.ft. with studio space, wood heat, washer, semi-furnished, \$500-700 per month plus utilities. Call Margaret, 466-1196.

**Wanted:** Does anyone in the area teach Q-gong classes? Call Marie, 466-2358.

### SERVICES

**Caretaking for your property or animals**, also chores, light truck hauling, yard work. Call Richard 466-7723.

**Beth is available for housesitting and pet care** in Galisteo, also errands, odd jobs, help with parties, studio assistant, etc. Local refs. 466-1966.

**Dave's Auto Repair:** tune-ups, oil change, minor repairs, auto restoring, painting. Local references. Free estimates. David Montoya, 466-2097.

**Native Bloom Landscaping** Call Linda, 466-4658.

**International Travel**, call Shaun Merrick, independent agent, 466-9040.

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

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

**Avon Representative** in Galisteo, free brochure. Call Maria, 466-8930

**Nizhoni School for Global Consciousness** on the new campus in Galisteo! Call 466-4336 or 466-1975.

**Reiki Sessions and trainings** by master Valentine Riddell, call 466-1791.

**Passive solar builders:** Quality home construction, renovations, and additions. Call Charlie, 466-2118.

**One of a kind sterling silver jewelry**, decorative art in wood and tin. Barbara and Joe Cooper, El Estudio, #18 the Hill. Call 466-3827 or 466-0133.

**Barbara Holloway Fine Handweaving:** scarves, shawls, vests, jackets, coats, handwoven of luxurious chenille. Please call 466-2118 before visiting.

## +++ EL PUENTE DE GALISTEO+++

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