



ISSUE #23

MARCH 1999

### EDITORIAL: WAKEUP CALL

Suddenly there are a lot of people concerned about saving the Galisteo Basin from the kind of sprawl that has made many parts of the state unrecognizable as the "Land of Enchantment." Rumors from responsible sources of a huge development on the Cook Ranch and a smaller one southeast of Cerro Pelon on King land are not yet confirmed (no record at the County Land Use office). But we know for sure that 285 will become a four-lane highway from I-25 to 41; that County Rd. 42 will soon be paved at our end; and who knows what else is in the works. As roads improve, more people are willing to live further from town. The isolation that has forged the character of Galisteo for almost 400 years may be at an end.

The County Open Lands and Trails Committee is making an inventory of cultural, natural, historical, archaeological resources around the County with an eye to maintaining some open spaces for and around existing traditional communities. (See report p.3.) The State Historical Preservation Department has finally commissioned the historical narrative for the Galisteo Historical District — recorded in 1969. And a group of concerned archaeologists and organizations has initiated potential federal legislation to protect 24 major sites in and near the Galisteo Basin, to be sponsored by Senator Jeff Bingamen..

These are all separate endeavors, coincidentally coming together at the same time. Most are only in the planning stages. But this is an important moment, perhaps a turning point for the Galisteo Basin.

**Most important to many residents: None of these initiatives threaten property rights. Input will be solicited from local residents and property owners. Cooperative agreements, including conservation and cultural property easements, will be sought to protect our traditional village, water resources, open rangelands, pueblo ruins and rock art sites from destruction by vandals and bulldozers, and to make trails and open spaces available. But all participation will be voluntary.**

This will be a long haul. It behooves residents of Galisteo in particular to keep our eyes and ears open and to think out how we would like our world to look, rather than having it just change before our eyes, over our heads, and out of our control.

### GCA OFFICERS, MARCH 1999 TO MARCH 2000: ELECTED AT ANNUAL GCA MEETING MARCH 1

President: **Maria Padilla** (one more year)

Vice President: **Wendy Monroe** (re-elected to two-year term)

Secretary: **Barbara Cooper** (re-elected to two-year term)

Co-Secretary: **Valentine Riddell** (elected to two-year term)  
("What does the co-secretary do?" "What I don't do," says Barbara Cooper.)

Treasurer: **Suzi Calhoun** (one more year)

Board Members: **Woody Gwyn** (one more year); **Florence Sohn** and **Mela Montoya** (re-elected for two-year terms); **Jan Saunders** (elected for two-year term); Alternate: **Richard Shuff** (elected for two year-term). SEE GCA MEETING, page 2.



Everybody enjoys Galisteo's Trails. (photo: Richard Shuff)



## FIFTY ATTEND GCA ANNUAL MEETING

The Annual meeting of the Galisteo Community Association on March first was well attended (around 50 people). Madam President Maria Padilla opened the formalities with expert gavel pounding and reported on the year's completed projects — a long list included below (with information brought out in the question and answer period).

\* The **Open Forums** were praised for their progressive nature.

\* The **Flea Market** was resurrected. It had been canceled by the Board because of little profit last year (in part because the Eldorado paper published the wrong information). Richard Shuff offered to run it again as a relatively informal event, noting that he and Cara had done well selling there last year. It was agreed that there would be no Community Table this time because, as Maria put it, "everybody brought their junk down and then we had to get a truck to haul it away."

\* **County Road 42** is being prepared for paving from highway 41 to the railroad tracks. Completion is projected for early May. Construction Foreman Lawrence Imprescia would like to hear from property owners with driveways onto the road, to deal with final details. (Call 690-2943 or leave messages at 424-2000.)

\* The Board was requested to write a letter to the County to be sure that they would restore **the mess made in the Bosque** by the new water system, near the wooden bridge. Reseeding and perhaps rebuilding the banks will be necessary. Those with small children were warned that a big temporary culvert in the stream was dangerous.

It was reported that a **pressure-boosting valve had been omitted** from the water system because it cost \$2400, although it was in the engineer's plan. There may not be enough pressure to get water to the east side of the river. This will be looked into, as it sounds dangerous for eastsiders.

Another note on the construction scene is that Rhonda King is introducing a bill in the legislature for \$300,000 to put a **10' box culvert in the Arroyo de los Angeles** near the Merricks'. For the time being, the pavement will just stop some distance on either side, leaving a dirt channel for the flash floods. (This is an old problem; in the 17th century that wash was called *Arroyo del Infierno*.)

Nancy Holt noted that **potholes in front of the mailboxes** next to the church had on occasion deterred mail delivery. It was suggested that they might be filled in by Jim Sloan from the pile of dirt (and brush) nearby.

\* **Improvements:** Some of the Philip McKee Memorial account was used for new heavy screen doors and 8 new tables for the Community Center. Some of the Robert E. McKee Foundation funds were used for the handsome new **archive cabinets** built by Onesimo Montoya. Now, says Florence, let's fill them up with old photographs and information on village history.

\* Historian David Kammer is still completing his **survey of historic buildings and boundaries** of Galisteo; his report will include a long narrative on the area's history.

\* The GCA received an additional \$5,000 from the **Robert E. McKee Foundation** this year (we had asked for almost

\$13,000) to work on phase two (landscaping) for the Community Center.

\*

Galisteo Volunteer Fire and Rescue Captain Charlie Holloway introduced a **video on the Urban-Wildlands Interface, and how to protect our homes from wildland fires**. As more and more people are living in America's wildlands (like our grasslands), firefighters have to sacrifice control of wildfire to defend buildings. Although the video was made in California, where landscape and architecture were different from ours, the message was clear. Take precautions ahead of time.

Most important is to **maintain a 30-foot safety zone around your house** — more if you're up a hill, since fire goes faster up slopes. Or make a **firebreak** with fire-resistant plants. This setback should be free of fuel for fires such as grass, trees, shrubs, woodpile and stuff lying around, to reduce the amount of fuel in the whole area. **Screen chimneys and overhangs** with metal (not plastic or nylon) screening to keep sparks from flying out. **Firewood** should be stacked well away from the house. **Roofs and gutters** should be clear of debris. **Don't burn trash**; keep **fire extinguisher charged** and ready and a **100' hose** near your outdoor spigots. They also recommend home fire drills!

Charlie reminded us that our **prevailing winds come from the west**. Those on the bosque should be particularly cautious. If you have a fire, **CALL 911 FIRST**. Don't try to fight fires by yourself. Once you have called, wet down the area around the house with your garden hose ("and hope it's not frozen," added Scott Diffrient).

\*

Unfinished business included the **lawsuit over ownership of the Bosque** by the bridge on the accessible east side of the river. Richard Griscom claims the land to the center of the river as part of his adjacent property. According to Moira Walden: the original Spanish title to the property said the line went only "to the arroyo," but in the English translation it became "to the river." The Senas, who originally owned the Griscom house, never claimed the Bosque because it was understood as community property. The village has been ready to go to court since last fall, but Petra Maes was assigned to be our judge and she was running for Supreme Court Justice. She won. Another judge was appointed, and we are still waiting for the case to be scheduled.

\*

New Business: Shaun Gilmore announced that the Y2K group was exploring the need for a **backup generator** for the water system and the establishment of several small **community gardens** in Galisteo, which could perhaps be developed into a local farmers' market, totally aside from possible Y2K emergencies. Sites offered: at the Gwyn's, at the Merricks', east of the Moyas' where the Riddells rent; behind the church playground; and maybe Vista Clara. Seeds and manure are needed.

The Board announced that they need to plan ahead with fundraising — "to get away from the bake sale mentality where you put in 200 hours and make \$93." Barbara Cooper is working on a letter for an **annual fund drive** "so we will have a track to run on, every April." Janey Katz received a round of applause for her impassioned statement about how blessed she felt to live in Galisteo. She promised \$500 to the new fund. At the meeting's end, elections were held. (See page 1 for results).

**Next Open Forum at GCA Board Meeting: March 15 at 6:30. Water Association Meeting on March 8 will be covered in the April issue of El Puente.**

## BITS AND PIECES

**WANTED: Galisteo's dashing vaqueros.** A recent ad called for "Hispanic men who are expert riders and between the ages of 18 and 55 to play *vaqueros*, *campesinos* and *Federales*" in a Billy Bob Thornton adaptation of Cormac McCarthy's best-selling novel *All the Pretty Horses*. Local filming starts in April. Applicants should be able to provide their own horses and 1940s-style tack. Send photos with phone numbers, height, and weight to Rainbow Casting Service, 160 Washington SE, #119, Albuquerque NM 87108. There will also be open calls for extras.

We've been told that the **Cook Ranch movie set** is being rebuilt — in Idaho. It will be shipped down here, meaning few jobs for local workers.

From the February issue of the *Eldorado Sun*: "**Drought** conditions in the Santa Fe water basin are already in place and will become quite evident in the spring and summer. With diminished water flows in the Santa Fe River and Galisteo Creek, surface water supplies will be hit hard with little spring runoff. Our **Lamy well in the Galisteo aquifer**, which provides 30% of Eldorado water, will again be impacted."

## HAPPY TRAILS?

by Lucy R. Lippard

There is a good deal of concern among those who ride and hike Galisteo's diminishing trails. When our side of County Rd. 42 is paved, a major local "trail" will become dangerous and unpleasant for all but automotive use. If it's built like the now-paved Highway 14 side, there will not even be safe shoulders on which to walk and ride. Highway 41 has good broad shoulders, but roaring trucks and increasing traffic make it less than relaxing too.

At the same time, Ranchitos continues to be built up, and more property owners are discouraging trail users. Erosion is another serious problem. When a trail gets even slightly worn down, it becomes a channel for water (just in case we ever see any water again) and then, with floods, it becomes an arroyo — another gully tearing into land already ravaged by overuse.

This is land we all love in our own ways. Our urge to be out in it — as workers, walkers, hikers, bikers, or horseriders — shouldn't be its death knell. A step down the trail of good intentions has been made by the formation of a Galisteo Trails Committee (Antonio Chavez, Rudy Sena, Bebe Givaudam, Priscilla Hoback, and me). Mapping the existing trails has begun and all input is welcome.

From the County Open Lands and Trails Planning and Advisory Committee (COLTPAC), I can only report that it has now met twice, in late January and late February. This is a large and rather unwieldy committee — 30 people, from all over the County, each with her or his own philosophy and agenda ... you can imagine. An inordinate amount of time has had to be spent on getting the rules set and the process under way, and it's still not entirely clear how effective such a committee can be, though

it is an impressive and generally well-qualified group, including, among others, some former political office holders, representatives of old Hispano communities, cultural historians, environmentalists, and property rights advocates.

Our job is first to create a map identifying historical, natural, agricultural, archaeological, recreational and visual resources; and, second, to develop criteria by which proposed projects can be prioritized. These will then be recommended as part of an open land and trails plan which will in turn lead to County acquisition of selected parcels and/or easements, as mandated by the Land Bond which got around 70% of the vote in November.

As a member of this committee, I have signed up for the COLTPAC subcommittees on Trails and on Cultural/Historical resources. The two might merge in a proposal to trace and encourage access easements to the historical Indian and Spanish trails through the Galisteo Basin — particularly linked trails from Lamy (or Pecos) to Galisteo to Cerrillos (or on to Madrid).

My participation does not mean, alas, that the Galisteo Basin will turn out to be a priority for the larger group, although there is no public open space in this area. At the least, our needs will be heard. Immediately endangered sites like the farmland behind the Santuario at Chimayo and the magnificent rock art in La Cienega and La Cieneguilla, historical mining sites, churches, moradas, parks all over the County will be vying for the relatively meager funds at hand (only \$12 million! Doesn't go far for land in New Mexico these days.)

The COLTPAC Trails subcommittee (which has yet to meet for the first time, as of this writing) must not be confused with our local Galisteo Trails Committee. When I answered a question about this at the GCA meeting, there was probably some confusion between the two.

## THE TRAP

by S. Monroe

It was an ordinary Sunday. I loaded my dogs in my Trooper and headed for a place where we'd walked dozens of times before. About a hundred yards into the trail I let them off their leashes so they could run free. Suddenly the wolf dog poked her nose up in the air and took off running. In seconds she and the little dog, Arthur, were out of sight. I sensed we were in for trouble and struggled down the trail after them, stumbling over ruts and slogging through the soft sand of a big arroyo. Then I heard something that made my blood run cold — a scream of pain that sounded almost human, followed by whimpers that squeezed my heart until I wanted to cry myself. I flung myself through a rickety barbed wire fence and careened up the dry wash in the direction of the cries.

I found them under an old cottonwood. The wolf dog was quiet now, but quivering and occasionally nipping at her forefoot, which was firmly locked in the steel jaws of a coyote trap. Her eyes were glazed over and I was afraid she might go into shock. I strained to pry open the jaws of the trap with my fingers, but the springs were too strong. She tore at my hands with her teeth as I struggled, slashing them until they bled. She was crazy with pain and I did not blame her. I looked around. The trap was secured with a chain bolted to a stake driven into the ground. I



pulled at it, hoping to uproot it, but the stake wouldn't budge. How was I going to get her out of this? I needed tools.

Telling Arthur to stay with her, I reluctantly started back down the arroyo and up the trail for the truck. Arthur began following me — so much for the wolf-dog's loyal companion. It seemed to take forever to get to the trailhead. I would jog for a way, then stop and listen for her to cry out, or worse, for the sound of the rancher's truck coming down the two-track next to the trap. He'd shoot her for sure. She was on his land even though the trap was only about 25 yards from his fence line.

I don't think I've ever driven the Trooper so fast over the dirt road back to Galisteo. We were swaying and lurching.

Thankfully we encountered no other vehicles. I ran into the house and called to my wife, Wendy, to get the wolf-dog's muzzle while I got some tools. I told her what had happened as we sped back to the trailhead.

There was a cable across the entrance to the service road which led to the trail. I jammed the Trooper in four-wheel drive and went around it through the loose gravel of the railroad track. We bumped and bashed through the ruts, Wendy and Arthur hanging on for dear life. Finally we skidded to a stop in the bottom of the arroyo and ran headlong to the cottonwood. The wolf-dog was still there, still alive, but very quiet. Her foot was bloody where she had chewed on it, but unlike the coyotes, she had apparently decided not to chew it off.

Wendy gently slid the muzzle over her nose and secured it. I went to work with pry bars on the jaws of the trap. Despite the muzzle the wolf-dog managed to bite through the gloves into my hands some more. I tried to steady the trap so as to slip the pry bars into the narrow slot between the jaws. At last I got them in and pried. Her foot fell free. Wendy held the wolf-dog in her arms. Her muzzle was drenched with saliva, her tongue seemed swollen and the pupils of her eyes were dilated to jet black. She was trembling too, so I put my jacket over her while Wendy continued to hold her tight.

We must have stayed there under the cottonwood for over an hour. All was quiet, the dry leaves rustled in the branches overhead. The dog was breathing evenly now with her eyes closed. Arthur slept nearby. It was going to be all right. I could see that her foot wasn't mangled. It would be sore and she would get arthritis in her toes, but she would be OK.

We went home. I unbolted the trap and took it with me. It hangs on the fence outside her pen. Once I offered it to her to smell. She took one whiff and turned her head away.

**EL PUENTE SPONSOR OF THE MONTH:  
JOSEPH AND DEBBIE MANNIS**



## GALISTEO CLASSIFIED

**ADS ARE FREE AND FOR GALISTEO RESIDENTS ONLY.**

*Put your ads in Box 77 (Rte 41 south of village) or call 466-1276 by April 10 for next issue. Please call to have ads continue..*

**FREE SHETLAND PONY** to be given to family with children. If interested call the Light Institute, 466-1975.

**WANTED: Rides to and from Santa Fe a few days a week, mornings and/or evenings** for David Padilla ("Surfer Dave") and sometimes son Nicholas. Have gas money. Call 466-4413.

### SERVICES

**Custom decorative paintings for your home:** furniture with a new old look; murals on walls; accents on arches and doorways. Call Munson 466-4760.

**Airport transportation, Galisteo to Albuquerque;** pick up or drop off. Richard, 466-7723 or e-mail rshuff @ yahoo.com.

**Beth is available for housesitting and pet care** in Galisteo, also errands, odd jobs, party help, studio assistant, etc. 660-6012.

**After-school/weekend work.** 15-year-old will do just about anything - window cleaning, firewood, animals, paint, yardwork. Messages for Nicholas Padilla, Quatermill Farm, 466-4413.

**Galisteo Caretaking Services for your property or animals.** For the Chores You Ignore! Short notice, small jobs OK. Will housesit, have truck. Call Richard, 466-7723.

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

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

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

**The Art of Massage:** Nurturing, therapeutic massage. House calls or visit downtown SF office. Katrina Howarth, 466-3932.

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**+++ EL PUENTE DE GALISTEO+++**

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