

# EL PUENTE DE GALISTEO

ISSUE #28

OCTOBER 1999



Sheriff Jesus Baca at the 1933 Corrida. (photo: T. Harmon Parkhurst, courtesy of the Museum of New Mexico Photo Archive.) Neg. No. 9322.

## AQUI ANTES: OCTOBERS PAST

October 22 is the annual feast day of Nuestra Señora de los Remedios. Until 1876, the accompanying fiesta in Galisteo (identified in an early account as “a quaint Spanish village” and “the center of the sheep industry in Santa Fe County”) featured a *Corrida de Gallo* (Rooster Pull). The event was revived for a few years beginning in 1933.

An anonymous writer described it as “a very lively and spirited contest in which two competing bands of horsemen take part. A live rooster, buried in the sand with only his head and neck showing, is the prize for which the two groups compete. The riders take turns in swooping down on the buried bird, leaning perilously from the backs of their speeding mounts as they endeavor to snatch him from his sandy prison in passing.

“When, after several trials, one of the riders is successful in seizing the rooster, he makes off with it, with the rest of the horsemen in furious pursuit. The fortunate fellow’s teammates

surround him, fending off the opposing team’s efforts to secure the hapless rooster. The rooster is freely used as a weapon to belabor any one who rides in close and tries to seize him. The object of the chase is to see which team still has possession of the rooster at the end of a stated period, usually sunset.”

An article on the *Corrida* by Mary W. Coan appeared in *New Mexico Magazine* (December 1933). She wrote that the organizer of the revived fiesta was “Miss Concha Ortiz y Pino” and it was held to raise money for a “vocational unit” in Galisteo to revive the old Spanish handicrafts of weaving, spinning, dyeing and leather work. (More on this in a later *EL PUENTE*.)

A week was spent practicing for the Rooster Pull “scheduled with the Santo Domingo and San Felipe

Indians for the day of the fiesta, and in making the plaza ready for the festivities.” (This was before Route 41 broke through the center of town, destroying the plaza; the original main road was Avenida Vieja, over La Puente.)

“Of course,” wrote Coan, “the preparation for the *Corrida* in this modern day naturally revived a folk tale about the one in ‘78 [1878, that is] when Don Ambrosio Pino staked his entire fortune, consisting of large bands of sheep and herds of cattle, against that of Don Santiago de Baca of Pecos, wagering that his team from Galisteo could win. And, lo, it did....as recounted in song by Estevan Encinas, who vividly recalled this memorable day. Doña Josefa Ortiz de Davis, lovingly called ‘Ma Fita,’ now in her seventies and sightless, sighed as she thought of that day and proudly recollected that it was her late husband’s horse, Chiquito, that saved the day, being ridden to victory by one Marcelino Barros, who was also famed as the best village fiddler.”

Back to 1933. First there was a parade around the village and the church. The real excitement began with the *Corrida*. “Time after time the riders from each side would swoop down upon the live rooster buried in the sand, but as the horses’ hoofs

pounced upon him, he gamely moved aside, and foiled those who would grab him to a merciless death. For about an hour and a half with incidental tumbles, hair-breadth escapes, and much good horsemanship, finally Miguel Anaya of Galisteo made a successful grab. With a merry shout he was off in a cloud of dust hotly pursued round and round the village by the Indians, whooping it up. After a time the Indians succeeded in taking the rooster, now a very much plucked and lifeless bird, from Anaya. However, a *compañero*, José Maria Leyba, retrieved the *gallo*, and victory was declared for the Galisteo team by picturesque Sheriff Jesus Baca, dressed in a green shirt and other fancy cowboy raiment and riding his beautiful pinto horse. Sheriff Baca, whose ancestor had taken an important role in the *corrida* of '76, acted as referee and awarded the prizes for this event."

Afterwards the Ortiz y Pinos "threw open their hacienda for visitors" with music and bonfires. A *rosario* was held in the church. There were two *gran bailes*, the one in the "town hall" (St. Joseph's Hall) drawing the greater crowd. The "dance of the broom" was featured, along with *La Varsoviana*, a schottische.

In attendance was James R. Cox, inspector for the Federal Board for Vocational Education from Washington. "Just such a spirit as shown here today will assure the success of the venture to revive the old Spanish handicrafts," said he, adding that the project "would be very beneficial to the people of Galisteo as it would give them an additional means of earning a livelihood as well as utilizing one of the raw materials of the county. It is felt that after the work with the sheep is finished, many of these people have much leisure on their hands [!] which might be turned to profit if they were versed in the old handicrafts for which so many of them are naturally gifted."

Today we have the Studio Tour, distant heir to the handicraft revival. There is no longer a mass held on October 22. And someday maybe the *Corrida* will be resurrected (with a rubber chicken).

### GALISTEO RIVER PARK HIGH ON LIST

A 1999 poll shows that 88% of Americans are concerned that many of the country's special places may be lost unless action is taken now to protect them. And contrary to popular opinion, the Mountain/West region (often perceived as the turf of anti-environmental curmudgeons and Sagebrush Rebels) firmly supported the creation of new parks. Over 85 % of all Americans agree that parks and open spaces contribute to property values and economic stability.

The Galisteo Basin is something of a priority area in Santa Fe County, since for all its beauty, there is no accessible open space here. On September 11, the subcommittee of COLTPAC (County Open Lands and Trails Planning and Advisory Committee) charged with evaluating and recommending land acquisitions to the County Commissioners, visited the proposed "Galisteo River Park." It would be the 355-acre strip of the Cook Ranch lying west of (not adjacent to) NM 41, north of the Creek and south of the village on the Hill, extending along the river past Camino de los Angelitos, and ensuring a permanent green belt rather than the 3/4 acre lot development permitted in the bounds of the traditional village.

After the visit, the committee rated the Galisteo River Park proposal third out of 18 applications. Pretty good, considering that we began the lengthy application process convinced that

our chances were slim. What we had going for us: the land is beautiful; it is historical (the parcel includes the entire Galisteo Grant); it provides a buffer of open space for the traditional village; and almost 2 miles of the river and its riparian environment would be protected. A front-page picture and story in the Sunday *New Mexican* (Oct. 3) did no harm.

A percentage of the \$12 million bond approved by voters in November 1998 must be spent by the end of this year. The La Cieneguilla and Cerrillos Hills projects have been approved by the commissioners. COLTPAC has recommended that the Galisteo parcel be acquired in the next 6-12 months. Negotiations have not yet begun with owner Bill Cook, although the land has been for sale for years. The Trust for Public Land is acting as a third party.

All of this does not guarantee acquisition but is a very encouraging step in a long process that has involved highly detailed applications and public presentations. On **OCTOBER 19TH, AT 6-8PM** in the Chambers at the County Courthouse on Grant Street, the Board of County Commissioners will hear from COLTPAC, the County planners, and the public on the Galisteo River Park and other proposals. **IT WOULD BE WONDERFUL IF THE GALISTEO COMMUNITY WERE WELL REPRESENTED TO SHOW SUPPORT.** Lucy Lippard, who has taken the application through the system until now, can't attend because of a previous professional commitment out of state. She has spoken to and met with several of the commissioners to be sure there are no unanswered questions, but community backing is crucial. Nothing fancy, just a couple of sentences of support, especially from those whose property abuts or overlooks the Cook Ranch.

If you don't recall the details of the proposal, see EL PUENTE, May 1999. Letters of support have been received by the County from the GCA Board, the Ranchitos Water Board, Kaye Sandford of Vista Clara Ranch, the Galisteo Watershed Restoration Association, and a number of local residents. Many thanks to all who have helped. Wish us luck.

### ANNIE (OR ANDY...) GET YOUR GUN

by Susie Radcliffe

The "15th Annual Lamy/Galisteo Challenge" started at 2 somethin' pm on Sunday October 3rd at Walt Pilnock's shooting range in Lamy. It was a beautiful day for the shoot-out: "Pistols at 25 paces. Rifles at 100 paces...Spectators Welcome..."

The turnout was small, but the event was a friendly and healthy competition. The Galisteo contingent (Charlie Holloway, Susie Radcliffe, and, later, Richard Shuff) was smaller than Lamy's, so Galisteo adopted Bob, a visitor from Maryland. He happened to have on hand, and in hand, a Colt 45 from 1901.

The crown of the event was shooting at (and hitting) a silver dollar placed on the bull's eye of a target. Lamy's Walt Pilnock made this winning shot.

There is a wooden trophy (shaped like a bullet) with metal plaques naming all the winners over all those years. It used to be kept at the Legal Tender. Now it should be displayed in the winning town each year, like the America's Cup in sailing (sort of). Last year Galisteo won, thanks to Charlie Holloway's championship. This year the trophy returned to Lamy, thanks to Mark Lee, who has won many times in the past. Lee got the best score in both categories, using "the same ol' tried-and-true

weapons" — a 232 Luger pistol and a 22 Remington rifle.

Next year let's get the bullet back to Galisteo, okay? The shootout is great fun and will always provide great camaraderie. Let's *show up* next year and hit the bullseye.



Our own Annie Oakley. Susie Radcliffe takes aim for Galisteo. (Photo: Richard Shuff)

### ROAD TO HELL IS PAVED WITH GRAVEL

Gravel is a grating part of our lives these days. Española gravel king Richard Cook's Cerrillos gravel pit, which began expanding in 1995 and hasn't stopped yet, is now affecting Galisteo. Humungous subcontracted gravel trucks rolling to and from the Cerrillos pit are threatening the village's old buildings (Romona Scholder's is the latest to show damage), not to mention all the other safety issues (see September EL PUENTE).

Bobbie Hilliard, who lives off County Rd. 42 beyond Ranchitos, hired a lawyer and spoke to many officials, including engineer Ted Barber and County Manager for Roads Robert Martinez (who has Galisteo family connections). It seems there is nothing that can be done until the San Marcos Bridge on Highway 14 is fixed. (It was the closing of this bridge to heavy trucks that inspired the detour through Galisteo.) Martinez said the NM 14 situation would be remedied, but not right away. No weight limit can be put on Rte. 42 because the County's trucks are as heavy as Cook's. Legally, we have no respite but to call the Sheriff's office when we catch the drivers speeding. (They do. A resident on Rte. 42 has clocked them at 60 mph.)

In northern communities, especially El Gique and Velarde, Vecinos del Rio has been fighting Cook for years. In 1997 the County struck a deal with Cook despite the fact that a judge found him guilty of violating County Code. This past August a citizen's petition began circulating in Cerrillos asking that Cerrillos Gravel Products be denied the right to mine an additional three-acre plot. Environmental lawyer Grove Burnett (Galisteo's attorney in the Lamy Well lawsuit) was quoted in the *Reporter*: "Most of the time Cook can out-do a citizen's group. He's really hard to pin down in court because he has an army of lawyers and incredible resources and he's persistent."

The State Highway Department may lift the 15-ton weight limit on the San Marcos bridge, which wouldn't solve the problem but would be good news for Galisteo. District 5 engineer Mike Manning said that the bridge is *close to* being able to handle the trucks in its present state. Sounds like another disaster waiting to happen whether the trucks are on 14 or 42.

And then there is the gravel mine on the Thornton Ranch west of Rte. 285 at Lamy, set up over residents' protests for the endless four-lane highway construction between Lamy and Eldorado. Route 285 is supposedly being improved (for the second time in 5 years) because of increased local traffic. This looks like a red herring. The only heavy traffic is at rush hours, concentrated in the tiny stretch between I-25 and Eldorado. The real problems arrived with construction. Now we can routinely "expect 5-minute delays." A more likely reason for all this activity is that 285 is a WIPP hazardous waste route. What do you bet more construction looms further down the road?

### PEDAZITOS/BITS AND PIECES

Galisteans in London (England) will find a little bit of home in a trendy new restaurant called Santa Fe. The menu includes a dish called Galisteo Chicken, and if you qualify for a visit to the men's room, you will find a mural of NM 41 near Galisteo. Water streams down a pane of glass whenever the toilet flushes, giving the impression of driving home through a rainstorm (and the illusion that it rains all the time). The Santa Fe is one of a chain specializing in southwestern cuisine. Executive chef Rocky Durham is a New Mexico native. His mother, Galisteo gallerist Linda Durham, just climbed (all the way up) Mt. Kilimanjaro in Africa.

SoGal (South Galisteo) is abuilding. Architect Ted Fleming is constructing a studio for his sculpture and Catharine's ceramic work. Its exotic roofline will be a new landmark. Across from the Community Center, also on Avenida Vieja, Beverly Spear is the architect for Tom Morin's large new compound. He is the graphic designer for Linda Durham's Galisteo Press, and comes to us from Connecticut.

Unknown litterers are wreaking havoc under the bridge. Residents can't keep up with the cleanup. What kind of people would do this to such a lovely local landmark? Could it be transient workers who don't give a damn? One resident suggests that the GCA could put a garbage can down there, or at least a sign asking people to take their trash with them.

### GCA REPORT

from minutes by Barbara Cooper, Secretary

Richard Shuff photographed the Philip Watts III playground behind the church when it was flooded after a storm. The Board discussed this problem at length and the need to make County officials aware of how flooding will be greatly exacerbated by the new road.

Jan Saunders has resigned from the Board citing professional commitments. Richard Shuff, elected as alternate, has become a voting member of the Board.

Florence Sohn and Wendy Monroe have offered to paint the sign for the Community Center rather than pay the \$800 commercial bid. The Board has asked Onesimo Montoya to bid

on building the sign. The back of the building also needs repair.

Maria Padilla suggested that we close the weed dump next to the bridge and ask Jim Sloan to push back the accumulation.

Lucy Lippard came to the September 23rd public forum to suggest that we hold a community evening to inaugurate the newly completed McKee Archive Room. Residents could be encouraged to bring old photographs to be scanned into a computer on the spot for the archive; a communal map-making project could show how the village used to look.

**Next Board meeting plus Open Forum: Oct. 19, 6:30PM.**

*"Me entristece ver que no se hace mas esfuerzo para rescatar la cultura hispana de nuestros viejitos. Una vez ellos fallezcan, no habra manera de rescatarla."*

— **Nasario Garcia**, NM folklorist.

## **GVFRD WAS THERE WHEN IT HIT THE FAN**

The Galisteo Fire Department was on hand on Sept. 18th, soon after an Amtrak train travelling south at 79 mph hit a truck from L&L Portables (toilets, that is) on the Route 42 track. Remember Steve Monroe's piece in EL PUENTE last spring warning that an accident was waiting to happen there? Luckily it was the back of the truck that got hit. Blue goo spewed in all directions but the driver was not seriously injured.

Notices will be going out soon for any changes for the year 2000 *Galisteo Directory*. Call Mike Datoli (466-1771) to make additions, corrections, deletions.

## **STUDIO TOUR: GROWING SPURT AT AGE 12**

The 12th annual Galisteo Studio Tour will include an unprecedented number of participants, which should attract crowds if the splendid weather holds. The offerings range grandly from food (Spanish, Thai, frito pies, baked goods, etc.) to custom clothing to pottery, retablos, embroidery, jewelry, cards, all kinds of crafts, photography, prints, painting and sculpture.

Each participant gives a percentage of their earnings to cover expenses. Mainstays of organizing over the years, still on the job, include Barbara Holloway, Janie Katz, Barbara and Joe Cooper.

The *Santa Fe Reporter's Fall Guide*, in its blurb on the Studio Tour, says "the village of Galisteo is home to both centuries-old Hispanic families and eccentric artsy newcomers." Anybody feel left out?

## **GALISTEO CLASSIFIED**

**ADS ARE FREE AND FOR GALISTEO RESIDENTS ONLY.**  
*Put your ads in Box 77 (Rte 41 south) or call 466-1276 by Nov. 10 for next issue. Please call to have ads continue.*

### **FOR SALE**

**Pine log bed headboard and footboard**, queensize, donated to benefit Galisteo Community Association, \$350 OBO. Call Maria 466-8930.

### **FOUND**

**Sweet black puppy** with four white feet and stripe on nose, wandering on Via La Puente Oct. 6. Call 466-2111.

### **WANTED**

English family on La Vega seek **simple accomodations for Grannie** for one month, now to Jan. 1. Tim or Hania, 466-1558.

**Galisteo craftspersons and artists!** Vista Clara Ranch is opening its retail store and since this is home to so many creative people, we would like to showcase your work. Christy Thiel, 466-4772.

## **SERVICES**

**Electrical Concepts:** Residential/Commercial/Industrial. Hansi Mohn and Michael Anaya. 988-8853.

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

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

**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.

**Native Bloom Landscaping,** drip systems, call Linda, 466-4658.

**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.

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

**One-of-a-kind sterling silver jewelry,** decorative art, the Coopers, El Estudio, #18 the Hill. Call 466-3827 or 466-0133.

**Barbara Holloway Fine Handweaving** of luxurious chenille. Please call 466-2118 before visiting.

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

**Reiki Sessions and trainings** by master V. Riddell, 466-0791.

**Ron's Fitness Studio:** Movement, Strength, Rhythm: 466-1919.

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

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## **EL PUENTE SPONSOR OF THE MONTH**

### **Goose Downs Farm**



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**VISTA CLARA'S ANNUAL COMMUNITY HALLOWEEN PARTY, SUNDAY, OCT. 31, 6-10 PM. FOOD, DRINK & DANCING. COSTUME THEME: TV AND MOVIES, but all costumes welcome. PRIZES for adults and children.**