



ISSUE #32

FEBRUARY 2000

**GCA ELECTIONS 2000: MARCH 15
7 PM at the COMMUNITY CENTER**

* The GCA Board met on Jan. 24 and discussed new directions. Please come to this annual meeting and have your say. A big turnout will prove we care what happens next in Galisteo. All input welcomed. Next OPEN FORUM is Feb. 15, 7PM.

**COUNTY ROAD 42 HAS BEEN RENAMED
CAMINO LOS ABUELOS**

Below: Old Felipa Lucero House, 1977. (Photo: Bob Christensen). The building once served as Galisteo firehouse. "Galisteo's Trash and Treasures — Buy Sell Trade" was an ongoing village garage sale. (See story p.2)



THREE GALISTEO FIRE DEPARTMENTS

The picture on page one, graciously donated to EL PUENTE and the Community Center Archives by photographer Bob Christensen, appeared in *New Mexico Magazine* in January, captioned: "Built for a horse-drawn fire wagon, the refurbished firehouse now enjoys a second life as a private residence."

In fact, it was only a firehouse for a few months in the 1970s, and, at the time the picture was taken, was a village warehouse for tradeable goods run by Jose Ortiz y Pino IV. (Even "picturesque" Galisteo had discovered the horseless wagon by the 1970s.) The photograph piqued our curiosity about Galisteo's volunteer fire departments. EL PUENTE interviewed Charlie Holloway, who has been a member of all three of them, and checked with Jose Ortiz y Pino III, who offered use of the building for the first effort. (The house — at the intersection of Via La Puente and La Vega — now has a wall around it and is owned by the Lannan Foundation.)

In the fall of 1974, a truck was commandeered from the County and a man named Rosie Rosenberg, who lived in the now-Galisteo Inn, spearheaded the organization. Roman Attenberger and Charlie were among the members. Meetings were held at private houses and the endeavor lasted only a few months, given the tenor of the times ("the hippie days"), and the amount of organizational requirements — petitioning, meetings, trainings, etc., that are necessary to start and maintain a volunteer fire department. "We put out one brush fire," recalls Holloway, "with a decidedly vintage truck from the '50s. I don't remember going to any trainings."

The second effort was ten years later. In 1984 a couple who were "house parents" at Girls Ranch organized the Galisteo Basin Fire Brigade, covering Lamy and Galisteo. By this time the Lucero house was a private residence. A second ancient fire engine was kept at Mike Levis' brewery north of town. The Brigade also lasted only a few months, until the organizers left the area, interest dwindled, and there weren't enough people to keep a fire department going.

Finally, around 1992, the third, current, and by far the most successful venture was sparked by John Benjamin, the first Fire Chief. Our streamlined new engine was preceded by another aging truck from the early '70s which was in good condition because it had been parked most of the time at an airport on the Navajo reservation. Community work parties helped build the present firehouse. This one is permanent.

EL PUENTE welcomes corrections and additions to this brief history of the GVFR, which we'll publish in later issues.

FIRE DEPARTMENT NEWS

Oscar Mendoza is the newest member of the GVFR and is training as a firefighter. Jean Moya has earned her Fire Cause and Arson and Explosive Investigation certificate. She and Linda Anaya have received their Advanced Vehicle Extrication I & II certificates. The Fire Department office wall now boasts an impressive array of these certificates for all the members. Each one represents many course hours (ranging from 8 to 40), exams and training. None of this can be taken for granted. Since we are a volunteer fire department the certificates also represent a real sacrifice for community good, on the part of people who are

already working, raising families.... and trying to have a little fun on the side!

Michael Datoli, the mainstay of the Ways and Means Committee, has had to move into Santa Fe but will continue to serve the Fire Department as Treasurer and fundraiser. This too is well beyond the call of duty and our gratitude is his only reward.

Galisteo's fire department is in the Eastern County Region along with Hondo, Glorieta and Eldorado. The regional goal is to become united as "one big department" through more emphasis on mutual aid. One new aspect of this structure is "Med 80" which has a County paramedic on each shift, 7 days a week, 24 hours a day, to aid local EMTs and First Responders.

The Galisteo Phone Directory, by the way, which none of us could live without, is a gift from the GVFR. But some strings are attached. Putting it together is a lot of work each year, always on a volunteer basis. Please try to remember that when you need extra copies or find an error. Without continued support, there will have to be a charge next year. TAX-DEDUCTIBLE DONATIONS TO THE GVFRD ARE WELCOME AND NECESSARY! Send to 31 Avenida Vieja (or HC 75 Box 97) Galisteo NM 87540. Tuesday night GVFR business meetings (7:30) are open to all interested in joining as firefighters, medics, or auxiliary members.

GALISTEO HISTORIC DISTRICT MEETING

On January 13, a public meeting was held at the Community Center to inform residents about the nomination for the Galisteo Historic District on the State Register of Cultural Properties. Thirty years after the District was first listed (in 1969), the survey and revised boundaries have been completed, paving the way for the final designation.

Dr. David Kammer, the historian who wrote the report, gave a slide talk and answered questions, along with Galisteo Dorothy Victor and James Hewat, both of the State Historic Preservation Division (HPD). They brought a fascinating display of Galisteo photographs taken in 1969-70, and distributed copies of the nomination and map.

A number of Galisteo houses are considered "contributing properties" in the historic district. Others, equally old and important to the village, are not included because the architectural footprint has been changed too much. The district's creation does not affect private property. U.S. Land Use laws are slanted toward owners' rights, except when government funds are utilized. There are no restrictions unless the owner is applying for tax credits and state or federal funds for restoration. The only "punishment" for drastic changes is loss of "contributing" status.

The advantage to the village as a whole is that highway planners have to consult HPD. For instance, if a four-lane highway were planned for Rte. 41, HPD could determine that it would have an adverse affect on the historic district, which could in turn affect federal funding. (For instance, HPD has reviewed the drainage on Rte. 42 near the church. They can recommend minimal road grade changes, widening, or straightening.)

The contributing historical period (now 1795-1941) can be changed if it better "tells the story of Galisteo." As Dorothy Victor explained, the historic district is a resource for the village, acknowledgement of pride and recognition of what is here.

HPD will also help homeowners prepare applications for State Rehabilitation Property Tax programs. You can deduct from your state income tax one half of the cost of restoration or preservation (up to \$25,000 credit, which can be spread out over years). Small grants are available for oral histories and walking tour plans.

Ted Fleming asked if there was funding that the village as a whole might apply for. The answer was "not for construction, but possibly for planning." A good case could also be made for Galisteo's eligibility for the National Register if anyone wanted to follow up on the State nomination.

The final meeting on the nomination will be held February 18, 1PM, at the HPD offices in the Villa Rivera Building (228 East Palace). This is the last review of the nomination. We are all welcome to attend (call 827-6320 for information.)

ELEGY FOR A HIT-AND-RUN VICTIM

by Valentine Riddell

Reepy-Cheep was a funny kitten — small and orange and fierce, which is why we named him after the brave little mouse in the *Narnia Chronicles*. The first time I saw him he was devouring leftover food in one of the bowls I'd fixed for the outdoor cats, growling and chewing and occasionally shooting me a ferocious look as if to say, "Don't you dare try to take this away from me!"

Most likely he belonged to a neighbor, like almost all of the "outdoor cats." So Reepy-Cheep, and eventually his two brothers, Tigre and Prince Caspian (another Narnia character) became ours.

Tomboy, whom we'd adopted the year before, seemed to like the little guys. He was very gentle with them, playing *pater familias* as though he'd been born to the role. In time, the youngsters were joined by a young female, so flirtatious that we called her Lolita. Much too young to have kittens, I thought... Her litter of five arrived in time for the rainy season.

Well, Lolita made quick work of the young toms. She chased them out of the cardboard box they called home under our patio table and moved her kittens in. At first the boys were bewildered, but soon they accepted their fate and watched as the kittens grew fatter and more active, until one day I saw Reepy playing with one of them while Lolita chaperoned. He was incredibly gentle with the kitten, just touching its head lightly with his paw, inviting it to tap back, then playing a game of "pat-a-paw" with it until it tired and retreated to Mom's soft fur and lunch.

Over the summer and autumn the kittens grew, and so did the young toms, until one day I noticed that the babies were nearly as large as their mother and Reepy-Cheep and his brothers were Huge. And soft, like large stuffed pillows. Not at all like Tomboy, who had developed the flat head, large jowls, powerful shoulders and lean flanks of a true tomcat. I expected him to start hassling the boys, trying to drive them out, but he never forgot his original role, and all through the winter the entire little pride slept on a bed of straw just outside my bedroom window, a cluster of cats, purring and kneading through the cold, dry nights.

Things seemed calm and peaceful, the family complete. Only lately Lolita seems to be coming into season again, and for the last week everyone's been acting a bit strange. Tomboy is still patient and only chases off stranger tomcats — he's left the boys

alone, and of course the kittens are still too young to count. In fact, he'd been showing special attention to Reepy-Cheep, going out of his way to clean his fur and curl up beside him for naps.

Until tonight (1/27). Around 6:30PM, a neighbor left a message on my voicemail that there was an orange cat lying very still on the road in front of my house. I rushed out with a flashlight. We have three orange cats and I had no idea which one it might be.

It was Reepy, his beautiful pale gold fur dampened with blood, one side of his head crushed. He was mercifully already gone. I couldn't have borne watching him suffer — that gentle creature, who never as long as I knew him hurt so much as a bird.

We brought him inside the gate and placed him on a bit of tarp, while Lewis dug a grave. The other cats were pacing around, occasionally sniffing the body, then running to the hole to see what was happening there. Finally the digging was done. I wrapped Reepy-Cheep in a piece of silk my mother had given me — fit for a prince — and laid him to rest. I burned some sage while the cats watched, threw in a few handfuls of dirt, said a prayer, and shoveled in the rest of the dirt.

It all happened so fast. I found myself wondering what took place just before he was hit. Was he coming from the field? Was he playing with one of the other cats at the side of the road? Was he on his way home for supper? Did he know, when he awoke this morning, that this was the last day? I certainly didn't, as I gazed at him sleeping peacefully on my computer chair. I pray every day for the safety of my loved ones, which includes my animals. It's hard to understand when the prayers don't "reach."

Reepy-Cheep was a cat, a beautiful cat — only a cat, some might say, and there are too many of them around anyway. But for some of us, whose children are grown up and gone, our animals are all we have left. And the loss of someone you love, be it two-legged or four-legged, is a hard thing to endure.

PEDAZITOS /BITS AND PIECES

Woody Gwyn is having a show of his paintings in New York consisting of three very different series: the hyperrealist landscape closeups for which he is best known, large male nudes bordered by aphorisms, and small egg tempera canvases featuring facsimiles of old postcards in provocative juxtapositions.

Mezzo Soprano Janice Felty performed with pianist Landon Young at the Santuario de Guadalupe on January 28. A picture in *Pasatiempo* showed Janice swinging (literally) in her Galisteo yard and noted her musical "taste and intelligence." Music critic Craig Smith added, "At home in opera, concert and chamber music, Felty is widely known for her work with such American composers as Philip Glass, John Harbison, and John Adams, and film director Peter Sellars."

Our steadfast postmistress, Carmen McGuinnis of Lamy, was featured in the January 19th issue of the *New Mexican*. Her mother, Dolores (Lola) Valencia was born in Galisteo in 1905 and raised here. Her father, Jusebio Muller, came from the Gallegos Ranch near Edgewood. He worked for the railroad, as did her husband, Edward Leo McGuinnis. Carmen reminisced about the days (1920s to 1940s) when Lamy was a thriving ranch and railroad town with two grocery stores and (later) the Pink

Garter Saloon (aka the late Legal Tender) where she once worked as a waitress. Carmen recalled the day in 1948 when her family's home burned down while her mother was at the hospital having a baby. There was no local fire department and neighbors worked with buckets and shovels until firemen came from Santa Fe.

Former Galisteo photographer **Ray Belcher** was featured in *New Mexico Magazine* in November with a portfolio of lovely Galisteo landscapes including the cemetery and the movie set.

The Board of County Commissioners confirmed the suspension of Richard Cook's **Cerrillos gravel mine**. The Rural Conservation Alliance asked that the permit be revoked permanently, but a few residents noted it provided jobs and necessary materials. Commissioner Javier Gonzales made it clear that "the mining isn't going to stop. All we can do is ensure that whoever is mining complies with the permit."

Our **other gravel mine**, the one on the Thornton Ranch, just opposite the Lamy road on 285, was subject of a CDRC hearing on Jan. 27. A representative of the Sema (not Sena as reported in the last issue) Construction Co. answered questions about the trucks already in full operation. Complaints were voiced about the lack of tarps required to keep the dust down. A Lamy neighbor asked about the project's duration and was told it would end in late September 2000. The CDRC passed the permit.

WANTED: DONATIONS OF MATERIALS FOR A COMMUNITY CHILDREN'S ART DAY (Date to be announced): Cardboard boxes (the bigger the better), non-toxic paints, "good junk" (pvc pipes, colored papers, wires, you name it...) Call Linda 466-4658.

CHANGING FACE (AND FATE) OF NM 285

Meetings are being held to plan the U.S. 285 South Highway Corridor, which "stretches 1,000 feet on both sides of the highway from the intersection at the Old Las Vegas Highway down to just past the Lamy turnoff." Zoning, commercial development, setbacks, architectural standards, traffic, and landscaping will be discussed. Recommendations will go to the County Commission. Placement of commercial ventures and lighting will be big issues. Jack Kolkmeier, director of the County Planning Division, warned that now is the time to make your opinions heard. Otherwise, "everyone waits until someone has a commercial development idea and then there's a big fight."

The 285 subdivisions each have a representative to the U.S. 285 Coalition. Galisteo is not directly involved, but whatever happens will greatly affect our pleasant isolation. (Already there seems to be renewed activity at the "Haciendas Tranquilas" development just north of Goose Downs.) Ten years ago the approach to Galisteo from I-25 was primarily open ranchland. Eldorado was virtually invisible from 285 before the advent of the Agora, the Chevron station, and the sprawl that now extends almost to Lamy. When the 4-lane highway is in, we will be perilously close to impending "civilization." We would be well-advised as a community to contribute to the dialogue.

For more information, call Jack Kolkmeier, 995-2711 or Rosemarie Bagioni, 466-0755.

**EL PUENTE SPONSOR OF THE MONTH
ALISON TINSLEY AND CHRIS FIELDS**

CORRECTION: The holiday party photographs in the January issue were by "staff photographer" Richard Shuff.

GALISTEO CLASSIFIED

ADS ARE FREE AND FOR GALISTEO RESIDENTS ONLY. Put your ads in Box 77 (Rte 41 south) or call 466-1276 by March 7 for next issue. Please call to have ads continue.

SKILLS NEEDED

Who is into **alternative healing** in this community? Please call Valentine, 466-0791, who is putting together a mini directory of these services in Galisteo.

Galisteo craftpersons 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.

FOR SALE

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

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.

Private Exercise Training in the village with Ron Helman. Thirty years experience. All levels and conditions. 466-1919.

Custom decorative paintings for homes: a new old look in furniture, murals, architectural accents. 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 Landscape Design and Maintenance, 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.

+++ EL PUENTE DE GALISTEO+++

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