



ISSUE #45

MAY 2001

## EDITORIAL

I (your editor) received a rather ominous block-lettered note in my mailbox concerning my letter to the *New Mexican* about the Alma Lopez work at the Museum of International Folk Art. The anonymous sender demanded that I “walk the walk” and “Print this in your rag!!” I didn’t, because it had nothing directly to do with Galisteo and everything to do with my professional concerns about censorship, as a writer on contemporary multicultural art. I signed my letter to the editor and would have liked my critic to do the same. If you have something to say about EL PUENTE, please address your comments in a letter to the editor and tell me if you don’t want it printed.

## NOTICES

### THE VISTA GRANDE LIBRARY IS NOW OPEN!

Hours are: Tues. 1-7PM; Wed.-Thurs. 1-6PM; Fri. 1-5PM; Sat. 11AM-4PM. Closed Sun.-Mon. For information, call librarian Jeannette Woodward at 466-READ.

**SATURDAY, MAY 19: LIBRARY’S GRAND OPENING, 1:00 PM, with food and music. GET YOUR LIBRARY CARD NOW! This is not Eldorado’s library but belongs to all of us in the region; two Galisteans (Diane Wilson and Victoria Prewitt) have been instrumental in its success.**

\*

THE GCA is soliciting contributions to help install better lighting at the Community Center, partly for the art to be hung there, but also to enhance all events. Checks should be made out to the Galisteo Community Association and sent to Suzi Calhoun, Treasurer.

## COFFEE SHOP MARKS ONE-YEAR ANNIVERSARY

by Melanie and Margarita

Last year at this time we were anticipating the opening of the Galisteo Coffee Shop. We prepared to drive to Santa Fe to buy the supplies, but when we stopped at the church and looked north at the billowing gray smoke from the Cerro Grande fire, we turned and did our shopping in Moriarty instead.

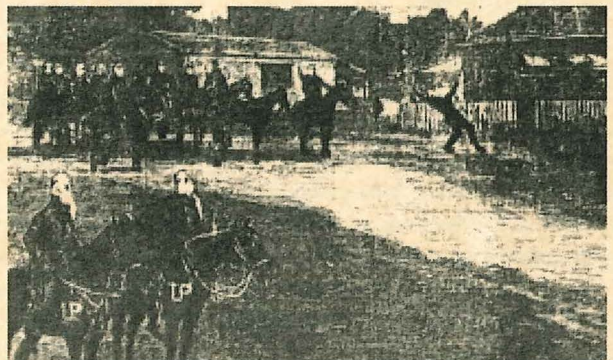
Even with this rather ominous beginning, the Coffee Shop has survived and thrived for a year. With donations of an espresso machine, hand-made ceramic cups, a crock pot, and some financial support from the Community Association, Saturday mornings at the Community Center have been enjoyed with style, quality, and an abundance of friends.

Many mornings began with Indian ragas on a borrowed CD player, followed by favorite Cuban classics, Latin jazz, or live versions of New Mexico favorites played by Tacho, Libby and Melanie. Every week was different. The gossip changed with the variety of pastries and the regulars delightedly welcomed the new faces as they sipped their bottomless cup of the House Special—Café Bustelo.

Folks regularly shared stories about lost pets, wayward horses, home repairs or broken water lines. Some would come to trade videos, find a good book, network, or discuss the latest developments in Ranchitos.

We are now looking forward to another year. Of course we would like more people to attend, especially some of our senior citizens, to whom we offer free coffee and pastries. We would also like to coordinate the coffee shop with some special events – perhaps for the youth. Remember, we have a ping pong table stored at the Fire Department.

Finally, we will need help running the shop some Saturdays this summer as we are in our busy season as touring musicians and need to be away quite a bit. Please call us at 466-8319 or come to the Community Center Saturdays from 8:30 to 12:00 with any ideas. The Community Center belongs to everyone. Let’s all enjoy it!



Las Gorras Blancas, c. 1891 (From *La Herencia*, Summer 1996), see p. 3.



## WATER BOARD'S ANNUAL MEETING

by Joe Cooper

The Annual General Meeting of the Galisteo Mutual Domestic Water Consumers Association was held on Thursday April 5 at the Community Center. A quorum was present and last year's minutes and the Treasurer's Report were approved.

The by-laws were amended formally to make delinquent members whose water is shut off responsible for the cost of shutting it off and turning it back on again.

Possible improvements to the system were discussed: another well, technical improvements near the Community Center, and replacing the current 3" line with a 6" line on the Hill loop. The Board will pursue these and get bids as appropriate.

Steve Moya will advise the community when ISO ratings improve, as this should reduce insurance rates. He also noted that this summer will be another difficult fire season. The following Board members were re-elected for two-year terms: Scott Diffrient (Vice President), Moira Walden (Secretary), Roman Attenberger (Foreman) and Steve Moya (Board member). Dick Griscom was elected Treasurer to replace David Burk. Rod Hall remains President.

## FIRE DEPARTMENT NEWS

We can burn now, but the authorities are watching the weather and conditions. Burn permits are being made more consistent around the County, and Fire Chief Steve Moya will announce any restrictions as they occur.

A hazardous materials training for the area's firefighters will be held here, at the Rodeo Grounds or the Cook Ranch Movie Set. Our firefighters will also receive training from the Sheriff's Department in how to handle weapons and/or drugs involved in fire and medical calls.

The new flags and flagpole in front of the fire station will be in place soon, lit at night (with low wattage, according to County rules to preserve the clarity of the night sky).

Plans are already being made for the annual Fiesta at Vista Clara, which will be held on August 18.

## PEDACITOS/BITS AND PIECES

Dave Montoya has closed his auto repair business to pursue other endeavors. He has several times come to the aid of your editor's beloved 16-year old Terrel and will be sorely missed.

A picture of Galisteans (including a kid and a dog) doing **Qui Gong** in the Community Center appeared in the *New Mexican* on April 18.

John Masee is featured in a three-artist show entitled "Post Etruscan" at Shidoni on Bishop's Lodge Road in Tesuque.

Congratulations to **Margarita Cordero (aka Nacha Mendez)**. As noted in El Mitote (under the heading "Nacha Suprema"), a bit of her song *Llegar a ti* from her CD *Bodega de Amor* was broadcast nationwide last year on CBS during the First Annual Latin Grammy Awards and she is now "headed east to play concerts in New York and Massachusetts."

The County has provided copies of the **traditional community plans** from Tesuque, Madrid, and La Cienega for our perusal. If you want to see them, call Florence Sohn, 466-2135.

Pamela Markoya led a family workshop on May 12 at the O'Keeffe Museum on how artists have drawn the world around them and how works of art can create social change.

On May 20 Galisteo will be flooded with bikers from around the world (some 2000 last year) when the 16<sup>th</sup> **Santa Fe Century bike ride** comes through town, with a rest stop by the hacienda. The main event involves 100 miles of pedaling, but alternative 25 and 75-mile courses are also offered, as well as a 50-mile course on dirt roads and trails for mountain bikers.

From "100 years ago" in the *New Mexican*, March 31: "H.R. Hoyt, a New York millionaire and society man who is president of the **Galisteo Mining Co.**, operating extensively upon the Ortiz grant in this county and which gave the Edison process of reclaiming from the placers in that section such a trial, was the guest of W.H. Pope Esq. last week."

A recent item from a British tabloid reported breathlessly that Jeffrey Epstein (lord of the ridge-top manor at **Zorro Ranch** south of Galisteo and "immensely wealthy financier and property developer") was hunting at Sandringham in the English countryside with his "constant companion" Ghislaine Maxwell. Noted among his holdings (along with a 21,000 sq-ft New York home) was "a \$3 million, 26,700-sq-ft fortress-like hilltop mansion in New Mexico, fitted with \$600 bedsheets. One local said: 'They think he's flown in from Mars down here.'"

## WITH A GRAIN OF SALT...

New Mexico historian Marc Simmons, who lives in Cerrillos, wrote in his "Trail Dust" column in the *New Mexican* on March 24 about the salt collecting expeditions that took place in the Spanish colonial days to the saline lakes and ponds in the southern Estancia Basin.

When the time came for the yearly harvest, the royal governor would announce through town criers the departure of a caravan of carts that "always assembled at the village of Galisteo." Soldiers, sometimes armed with a small cannon, went along to protect the expedition from the Apaches. "As many families as possible sent at least one representative to join the workers so they could receive a share of the harvest. Range sheep required about a quarter ounce of salt per day, so ranchers with large flocks needed huge quantities...Leaving Galisteo, often after a wild fandango the night before, the throng of salt gatherers was in a festive mood."

The caravan was gone for several weeks and the salt sold for \$1 per bushel in towns along the Rio Grande. In 1854 a territorial law decreed that all citizens could freely collect salt at the lakes.

Dry salt, says Simmons, was used as a preservative, rubbed into beaver pelts and buffalo hides and used for salt brine to preserve food, some of which, such as buffalo tongues, was exported down the Camino Real.

A small bowl of salt, he writes, was often kept on a shelf above the fireplace; a pinch thrown into the embers at bedtime was believed to prevent flying witches from coming down the chimney. When a storm threatened, some would toss a handful of salt in the air in the form of a cross, asking Santa Barbara to save them from lightning.

Years ago an older resident of Galisteo told Simmons how her grandfather had been conned into buying the lakes for a princely sum. "'That was not uncommon,' she said with a chuckle. 'In those days, purchasing the New Mexican salt lakes was equivalent to a New York visitor buying the Brooklyn Bridge.'"

## Desorden de Día, Desorden de la Noche

"Confusion by Day, Confusion by Night"

From Galisteo, N.M., 31 Agosto 1891\*

**De noche Gorras Blancas** (By night, White Caps)

**De día! qué primor!** (By day, what skill!

**!Caballeros de Labor!** (Knights of Labor!

**Los hechos tendrán color.** (Events begin to shape up.

**Gorras Blancas de noche** (White Caps by night)

**Y de día! qué valor!** (And by day, what courage!

**!Caballeros de Labor!** (Knights of Labor!

**Paseandose en jaque y en coche...** (Passing through all dressed up, in a coach

**Y difundiendo terror** (And spreading terror.

**De noche Gorras Blancas** (By night, White Caps)

**De día con una flor...** (By day, with a flower

**!Caballeros de Labor!** (Knights of Labor!

**Y ocultas las cachiporras?** (And hiding the truncheons?

**Ahora sí estamos mejor.** (Now we're better.

**De noche causando ruinas** (By night causing ruin)

**Y de día a lo señor...** (And by day acting like gentlemen...

**!Caballeros de Labor!** (Knights of Labor!

**Paseandose en las cantinas...** (Strolling through the cantinas

**!Y contra el gobernador!** (And against the rulers!

**Y codiciando oficinas...** (Coveting offices...

**Ahora, sí que estamos peor.** (Now we're worse off.

In 1890, Las Vegas was the largest city in New Mexico, and Native Hispanos comprised close to 80% of the state's population. Land grant issues were a deep concern, as Anglo lawyers and land speculators (some of them Hispano), ignoring the protection supposedly provided by the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo, positioned themselves and their clients to take over vast tracts of land. *Ejid*os, or common lands, were appropriated and fenced off by unscrupulous individuals, depriving local people of the grass, wood, and water guaranteed them by the Treaty.

The *Gorras Blancas* (White Caps, or white hoods) were a group of guerrilla raiders formed in 1889 in response to this situation. They were organized by local brothers Juan José, Pablo and Nicanor Herrera, who also helped create *El Movimiento del Pueblo*. Anselmo F. Arellano calls them "probably the most secretive and closely-knit association of men ever to exist in the Territory of New Mexico." Apparently modeled on the White Caps of Illinois, the *Gorras Blancas* in action must have eerily resembled the Ku Klux Klan, with white hoods hiding their identities as they destroyed fences that restricted access to communal grazing and water on the land grant, as well as barns and other property of those (both Hispano and Anglo) who were

profiting from the land grant grabs. They began in the settlements on the Las Vegas Land Grant, but many other communities eventually joined them. Galisteo was involved, although this cryptic poem seems to have been written by an opponent of the resisters rather than by a supporter.

The Herrera brothers also organized in other poor communities in New Mexico and southern Colorado and joined ranks with the national populist labor party, the Knights of Labor (*Caballeros de Labor*). When Governor Bradford Prince investigated, he found that a good half of Las Vegas, including prominent citizens, were sympathetic to the fence-cutting.

Another organization derived from the same principles was *El Partido del Pueblo Unido*, propagated by the newspaper *La Voz del Pueblo*, edited by Felix Martinez, a member of the NM Legislature in 1893 and founder of New Mexico Highlands University. Huge public demonstrations with flags and banners were held, sometimes at night, to the light of burning torches. Representing "the working classes, laborers, farmers, mechanics and ranchmen," *El Partido* won the elections and held power in San Miguel County for many years.

In 1891, the *Gorras Blancas* claimed 1,500 members "and growing." Speaking for the poor and the workers, they demanded fair prices for lumber and railroad ties, destroying railroad bridges and tracks. No one was ever convicted of the *Gorras Blancas'* alleged crimes.

Arellano ends his article: "The White Caps subsided as an organized movement by the end of 1891." (Congress had created the U.S. Court of Private Land Claims for former Mexican territories.) "It is important to note, however, that the occupants of the land grant had risen in a collective effort to address their many concerns and especially to protect the vast land grant which had brought them to colonize that area many years earlier. Today, the land grant issue is being rekindled by land grant activists, many of whom participated in the land grant struggle of the late 1960s as young adults. It is their intent and hope that the United States Congress might once again review the blatant abuse and disregard of people's land rights that occurred during the 1800s and early 1900s."

\*Poem (translation by editor) originally printed in *El Nuevo Mexicano*, quoted in "The Never-Ending Land Grant Struggle," by Anselmo F. Arellano, *La Herencia del Norte*, summer 1996, p.16-17, from which the above is drawn.

## LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Personally, I think the first attempt at a "Gossip" column is in poor taste. Why highlight one person's opinion of what they feel is the bad stuff? Knocking people about anything is way below what Galisteo is about. Doesn't this anonymous person get enough negativity and pointing of fingers watching nightly television news?

I think everyone in Galisteo, whether they are conscious of it or not, is closer to living in a state of Grace than many places. Why don't we have stories emphasizing that? Have a gossip column with uplifting gossip written by a person who is not afraid to sign their name. — **Patricia Heller.**

P.S. I wasn't the one who wore a fur coat to a community meeting — I only wear mine to friends' homes I know aren't judgmental.



## JUST TALK

by Ron Helman

Recently during a session, a client sat down and began to talk about a frustrating business situation he was going through. Some time had passed and the little voice in my head asked, what was the purpose of exercise training? I was just listening and letting him hear himself. I knew better than to give him advice. What was more valuable, a sit-up or the release of his anger? I chose the latter.

We know that stress is one of the major causes of heart disease. We also know that this pent-up anger can be suppressed by overeating. To some degree, we all experience this dilemma. Find someone to talk to who will just listen. You'll feel better and will be taking a step in the right direction in staying healthy.

**EL PUENTE SPONSOR OF THE MONTH:  
Frank & Cynthia Lux & Marilyn Forbes**

### GALISTEO CLASSIFIED

**ADS ARE FREE, AND FOR GALISTEO RESIDENTS ONLY.** Put in Box 77 (South on Rte. 41 at Avenida Vieja) or call 466-1276 by June 5 for next issue. Please advise for reprinting.

#### WANTED

I need an **intermediate (4.0) tennis-playing man** for occasional mixed doubles game. Call Patricia Heller at 466-1414.

**Small house or trailer for rent**, Linda, 466-8557.

**Summer housesit**, flexible dates, will pay some, but can do chores. Call Priscilla Barton, 520-896-3315 in Oracle, AZ.

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#### FOR FREE /FOR RENT

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#### FOR SALE

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**Galisteo Gold: House on hill**, gateway to Galisteo, 4 acres, 3 BR, 2BA, 2-car garage. \$269,500. Tell your friends! Ann Yeomans, 466-6070.

Kids selling **fresh eggs** to raise money for children in Mozambique. \$2.50 a dozen; will deliver. Kathleen, 466-2659.

**Sony VAIO laptop computer DVD, CD burner**, free training, \$1400, Call Richard 466-7723.

**Mussoni rug 7x 9'** orig. \$2800, now \$695; **Kilim rug, 5 x 8'**, orig. \$1200, now \$495. Call Ron- 466-1919.

**Toyota camper shell**, gray, for a small Toyota truck; also **tires and rims**. Call Brian 466-1544.

#### SERVICES

**Galisteo Woodworks:** for your custom wordworking needs.

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Gold and silver jewelry with stones. **in Galisteo village, Silvio Mazzaresse. Call 490-2062 for directions.**

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

**Editor:** Lucy R. Lippard. **Contributing Editors:** Anna Cardenas, Barbara Cooper, Joe Cooper. **Production:** Insty-Prints, Santa Fe. **Staff photographer:** Richard Shuff.

**El Puente logo** by Cara Lee. **Please send letters, comments, suggestions, contributions to EL PUENTE, 14 Avenida Vieja, Galisteo NM 87540, or call 466-1276. (Make out checks to GCA, "for newsletter.") NEXT DEADLINE: June 5.**