

EL PUENTE DE GALISTEO

ISSUE #55

MAY 2002

LAST OF THE BRIDGE SERIES, SUNDAY MAY 19, 7:30PM:

(Note change of program): **ROCK ART OF THE GALISTEO BASIN**, Slide talk by Dennis Slifer, writer, photographer, and guide specializing in prehistoric rock art of the Southwest. Slifer, who holds degrees in geology and geography, is author of four books about rock art (3 of which include the Galisteo Basin), most recently *The Serpent and the Sacred Fire: Fertility Images in Southwest Rock Art*, Museum of N.M. Press, 2000. \$5 suggested donation; refreshments.

COMMUNITY CLEANUP: JUNE 1, beginning with coffee and doughnuts at the Community Center, 9AM.

DON'T FORGET TO VOTE JUNE 4: The primaries are also *FINALS FOR COUNTY COMMISSIONER*, as all candidates are Democrats. Community Center, 7AM-7PM.

EDITORIAL: WATER UPDATE

Presumably no one in Galisteo is unaware of the current water problems and anyone who is wasting water is feeling mighty guilty even though it's legal. The latest report from the experts says that New Mexico can expect a 25% drop in overall precipitation over the next twenty years, caused by something called the Pacific Decadal Oscillation.

"One of my fears," says Charlie Liles, chief meteorologist for the National Weather Service in Albuquerque, "is that a lot of us have come to think that what happened in the late 1970s through the late 1990s in New Mexico is normal, when in fact it's one of the wetter periods in recent history."

And a period, one might add, that coincided neatly with the state's greatest period of dumb growth. Because of the continuing population boom, Liles says, New Mexico is being held up as "the poster child for the challenge that confronts a state when so many complex water-rights issues arise simultaneously."

Although the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation has now given the go-ahead to the San Juan/Chama Diversion project, there is no cause for real optimism. The project will only satisfy our needs through 2010, "if we can get it by then," says the director of the City of Santa Fe's Water Services Division.

Meanwhile, the County has decided not to buy 161 acre-feet from southern New Mexico because of legal questions and transportation difficulties, and is still seeking new water. The Gross Receipts tax hike approved last month will help fund such

purchases. And the County is heeding the State Engineer's warning that domestic well use must be limited.

In the 1950s (when there were some serious droughts but much less population), state law decreed that everyone could automatically receive a permit for domestic and livestock uses.

This still makes sense in some areas, but around here, where well density and water vulnerability are combined, it's a recipe for depletion of the resource. Domestic wells are now having cumulative impacts no one anticipated

As of August 2000 there were approximately 137,000 domestic wells in New Mexico, drawing out c. 48,000 acre-feet annually. Some 4500-6000 new applications come in each year. So far, these thousands of domestic well owners (myself and many of us in Galisteo among them) are immune from Santa Fe's Stage 3 restrictions, but a new County ordinance is being drafted to cite well owners for "drastic water violations such as letting irrigation water run off their property." How this would be monitored in a place like Galisteo is a mystery. As of now, the honor system is the only system.

The County does have a voluntary water conservation plan. You can pick up a copy at the Land Use Dept. in the County Courthouse on Grant Ave, or call County Hydrologist Katherine Yuhas at 986-6212.

EXTREME FIRE DANGER!

**NO FIREWORKS, NO SMOKING, NO OPEN FIRES
FOR INFORMATION CALL 992-3070**



Have you met this neighbor? It's a Barred Tiger Salamander (Photo: Richard Shuff) Richard found the 9" long, black/brown and yellow salamander at the intersection of La Vega and La Puente. Tiger Salamanders are the largest land-dwelling salamander in the world and this is a big one. They eat (*cont. p.2*)

insects, earthworms, small mice and other amphibians. They are eaten by snakes, turtles, herons and fish. They spend most of their time in underground burrows or thick vegetation near water, leading a nocturnal and secretive lifestyle. They breed in late winter and the female attaches egg masses to underwater debris in temporary pools. Tiger Salamanders also have an unusual life process in which some never "metamorphose" from larva to lizard. In inhospitable circumstances they remain immature looking and live underwater, although they can still mate and reproduce. Some can change form on demand.

LOCAL ARTIST MAKES GOOD

Harmony Hammond

Driving into Taos, I pass the Sagebrush Inn, its sign proclaiming HAPPY BIRTHDAY AGNES MARTIN. On March 22, UNM's Harwood Museum of Art celebrated the artist (and former Galisteña, from 1978-1992) on her 90th birthday with a dinner, symposium, and exhibition. The mayor of Taos named the last week in March Agnes Martin Week.

Half of the approximately 400 people at the Friday night dinner who came to honor Agnes, one of the world's most renowned living painters, were local Taoseños, who were thanking her for all she has given to the town. Rumor has it that her generous "anonymous" donations are helping to save the hot springs, build a youth center, and open a new community swimming pool. (In her youth, Agnes was a champion swimmer.)

On Saturday, the Taos Center for the Arts hosted an all-day seminar where five artists and scholars presented papers on Agnes's work - paintings based on delicate penciled lines and thin washes of blue, orange or gray acrylic paint. While some historians want to claim her as the mother of Minimalism, Agnes insists she is an Abstract Expressionist, because her work is about light and emotion. Especially notable were presentations by artist friends Richard Tuttle (who once lived in Galisteo) and Ann Wilson. Both have known Agnes since the late 1950s, when they were part of a small group of artists working on Coenties Slip in lower Manhattan.

Saturday evening, the Harwood Museum opened an exhibition of Agnes's new work - ten paintings completed in Taos in 2001 and one new one, finished just the week before the opening. On Sunday her 1976 film *Gabriel* was screened, and the Taos Chamber Music Group dedicated a concert to her.

Galisteans spotted at the weekend festivities included Mike and Dora Anaya, Romona Scholder, Priscilla Hoback, Denise Lynch, and former Galisteian David McIntosh.

Agnes has a long relationship to the Harwood. Born in 1912 in Saskatchewan, Canada, she moved to the U.S. in 1931 (becoming a citizen in 1950), and enrolled at UNM, where she taught art in 1947-48. In 1947 she attended the UNM Summer Field School of Art, quartered at the Harwood, where her work was included in a student exhibition. It is believed that the Harwood was the first museum ever to exhibit Martin's work. Later she had a studio next door.

In 1957 Agnes was encouraged by the Betty Parsons Gallery to move to New York and she had her first solo show there in 1958. In 1967 she abruptly left New York, wandered the country in her camper, and eventually settled on a remote mesa in Cuba, N.M., where she built an adobe house and studio. In 1978 she

moved to Galisteo, where she lived at first in her adobe-covered camper at the northeast end of town. Onesimo Montoya built her adobe studio and Donald Woodman later built her rammed-earth house. The current owner is Deirdre Morgan.

Soon after moving to Taos in 1992, Agnes became friends with Bob Ellis, then Director of the Harwood, and he arranged for an exhibition in 1994. When the show came down, she donated seven paintings, now on permanent display in the octagonal, chapel-like Agnes Martin Gallery.

Agnes attended all of the weekend's events except the opening. (She said she had already seen those paintings.) She now lives at the Plaza de Retiro and paints daily a few blocks away at her studio on Camino de la Placita. Charles Lovell, current Harwood Director, said when he got the job he was told to have lunch with Agnes every week, as Ellis had done. "Knowing her international reputation," he recalls, "I was a bit intimidated. "But I have found her to be an incredible person—humble and unassuming, generous to the arts and other charitable institutions in Taos. Her love in life is her painting, and the rest of her life she simplifies." Happy Birthday, Agnes!

TRIPLE-WHAMMY: TANKER ACCIDENT ON NM 41

Sections of NM 41 around Galisteo were closed on April 11 due to a terrible accident around 8PM on April 10, at the foot of Clark Hill, about 10 miles south of the village. Johnny L. Harrison, the driver of a gasoline tanker truck, died at University Hospital in Albuquerque from severe second and third-degree burns over most of his body. Ten Galisteo Volunteer Fire & Rescue EMTs and firefighters were first on the scene, backed up by Eldorado, Stanley, Hondo, Edgewood and Glorieta in Mutual Aid. The day after, they also helped with cleanup. Those GVFR members involved attended a Critical Incident Stress Debriefing afterwards, as well as an action evaluation with County Fire Marshall Hank Blackwell.

The accident was a triple-whammy, involving a medical emergency, a 9,000-gallon toxic spill, and ensuing brush fire. The clean-up of the spill was completed in two seven-day work weeks - emergency treatment, since it might have affected stock tanks nearby.

PEDAZITOS/BITS AND PIECES

After many productive years here, **Melanie Monsour and Marghreta Cordero** are leaving Galisteo for Pecos with deep regrets. They have been outstanding community members. We will really miss them, their music, and all the marvelous events they have created, especially the Saturday morning coffee shop. (Heirs Cindy and Frank Lux are meeting this week with the GCA Board to decide its future.)

For fans, here are this summer's gigs: **Nacha Mendez** will be playing at La Posada in Santa Fe every Saturday in June at 8PM; at El Meson/Chispa Bar June 13, 27, July 11, 25, and Aug. 25; at Spanish Market on the Plaza, July 27, 3-5PM and at the Adobe Bar Taos Inn, June 2, July 7, Aug. 4.

The April 14th Bridge Series was a great success and was previewed on the front page of *The New Mexican's* Eldorado edition (April 10) with a fine picture of **Onesimo Montoya** and his grandchildren practicing for the event. In the article Onesimo

recalled that long before there was a Community Center, children met by the old bridge to play music and have a good time.

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"The town of **Cerrillos** is in dire straits," says the vice-president of El Vadito de los Cerrillos Water Association. "It seems like everyone's well is going dry." El Vadito serves the 120 metered homes in Cerrillos plus 40 families in the surrounding area who have water-hauling privileges. "There's been water in this dam for more than 120 years," says Richard Crombie, former El Vadito president. "I figure we've got about 3 months left." (Reported in *The New Mexican*, May 3.)

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Wells in the area around **Ojo de la Vaca** (aka Cow Spring), directly east of Galisteo on Glorieta Mesa, are also going dry. Some residents are resisting variances for a local family to split a lot and build houses because of water and historic sites that might be disturbed, especially a cemetery dating back to 1805 and the ruins of an old schoolhouse and church.

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Priscilla Hoback was featured in *The Magazine's* issue on how local artists deal with stress. "For me," she says, "the best remedy is just a short mile down the road at the Vista Clara Spa," getting a Native Glow treatment, a long soak in the outdoor tub, and dinner - "a long, lazy, and refreshing day. This is one of the best ways that I know to charge my battery so I can get back to work."

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Last month, touting all the Galisteños featured in one issue of *WWW Magazine*, I missed one. Clad all in black and sporting a satin scarf was the new owner of the Cook Ranch, **Tom Ford**. He's sure going to up the fashion ante at local parties.

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Woody Gwyn's exhibition, "Solitary Places," will open at the Gerald Peters Gallery in Santa Fe on June 14, including "vast landscape horizons, idyllic, grassy fields, and lone highway niches." Art historian Sharon Udall has written of Gwyn's paintings, "These landscapes, studied slowly, invite us to consider anew the absences and presences within the land...Like the roadcuts his brush interrogates, they slice into the western landscape with an acute visual clarity."

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Jean Moya is featured in "Santeras y Santeros" at Good Hands Gallery in Santa Fe, opening May 24, 2-4pm

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Almost daily, a pair of **scaled quail** strut across my patio. With their feather crests and matronly physiques, they exude a sense of supreme satisfaction in the season that is downright contagious.

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MAY 19th:
BE CAREFUL DRIVING
ON ROUTES 41, 42.
CENTURY BIKE RACE ALL DAY.

TO THE EDITOR: HELPFUL HINTS FROM KEVAN AND BETH

Kevan Saunders sends "Some Helpful Information" on conserving water and reducing stress on trees and plants. Kevan says: "This past week I visited Santa Fe Greenhouses and found them most friendly and helpful. The buyer, Shirley Stookey, recommended a product called P4 Water Storing Granules, said to 'reduce the relative amount of water loss by evaporation and drainage.' You put these nontoxic and pH-balanced granules into the soil around the roots. They expand and hold water until the roots need it. Santa Fe Greenhouses recently donated a large amount of P4 to the Historic Santa Fe Foundation to protect some very old, large and wonderful trees against the threat of loss due to drought.

"Please stop by and visit with Shirley and her coworkers for more information. I personally am using Superthrive and SeaCom-PGR organic seaweed concentrate for roots and stress protection and am in the process of putting P4 into the soil."

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And Beth Foote suggests a novel new trapless mousetrap. Put out a small amount of water in a bucket or a watering can that can't be climbed out of; the rodents will climb in attracted by the water and peacefully drown. In one attempt, she caught 22 mice! With this hot, dry weather and no end in sight, rodents can be a real danger. Try it!

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An impressive sounding gray-water system called Multi-Flo requires little upkeep, conserves water, and is ideal for sub-irrigation. It's available from a local company: Call John VanDamme, 471-1831, for information.

FROM THE MINUTES: GCA BOARD MEETING

At the April 3rd meeting, the Board made a list of their interests/agenda for the coming year:

* Another **fund drive** to defray expenses as treasury is low and building rentals are down; * **community planning** with the County; * ways to **improve the election process** at the annual GCA meeting; * town **clean-up day** [June 1]; * ways to encourage **more use of the Community Center**, reminding residents of book and video libraries, perhaps asking for volunteers to keep the building open more often. (Center rental for village residents needs to be raised from \$35 to \$50.)

A letter from Rod Hall, President of the Water Board, asked the GCA's permission to drill a **new community well** on the land the village owns south of Electrical Concepts. After lengthy discussion, it was agreed that this request should be done legally and procedurally with the cooperation of a lawyer. As the GCA and the Water Board are two separate entities, this project must be undertaken carefully and legally to protect all village residents, many of whom are not on the water system. A joint meeting of the GCA Board and the Water Board was proposed to discuss the matter.

Jean Moya has contributed a photo of her father, Joe Anaya, to the GCA; it was voted to hang it in the meeting room. (Cont.p.4)

Tom Morin agreed to be the liaison between the GCA Board and non Board members interested in organizing a Community Land Use Plan.

There has been no word from Robert Martinez about the road surfaces. Chris Koch has agreed to serve on the Road Advisory Committee.

As discussed at length last winter, the Board feels it is necessary to purchase liability insurance for board members. With increased usage of the building and playground, this is an absolute necessity to protect the board. Suzi Calhoun said this would cost \$800-900 annually. (She will get exact cost.) Insurance on the building and playground also need to be renewed. It was voted to accept a 10-15% increase on these premiums. Also we need a lot of new sand beneath the playground equipment.

Thanks to Barbara Cooper, Secretary, Galisteo Community Association. Minutes of GCA meetings will be posted on the playground bulletin board and at the Community Center. Anyone interested in a personal copy, call Barbara at 466-3827.

BURMESE MONK TO VISIT GALISTEO

Lorraine Weiss

Gayuna Cealo, widely revered in Japan and Burma for his advanced spiritual state, will be staying at a home in Galisteo in mid-May. He will appear at the Unity Church in Santa Fe on May 15th (7-9 PM) and on May 16th there will be a gathering open to the public at the Linda Durham Gallery in Galisteo, 7-9PM (suggested donation: \$11; all proceeds go to Cealo's many charitable works through a 501(C)3 non profit organization.)

He will also be available for individual healing/consultations in Galisteo May 16th-20th. Cealo's insights in private sessions are profound and unique, addressing spiritual, psychological, and physical states. For information and to schedule a private healing session, call Jen Pratt at 983-5705.

**EL PUENTE SPONSOR THIS MONTH:
TOM MORIN AND
ISABELLA GONZALES
OF CONTEXT DESIGN**

GALISTEO CLASSIFIED

ADS ARE FREE, AND FOR GALISTEO RESIDENTS ONLY. Contact: Box 77 (Rte. 41at Avenida Vieja) or call 466-1276 by **June 5** for next issue.

WANTED

Someone to do a little ironing once a week. Call Vicki Snyder, 466-4799.

FOR RENT/SALE

Galisteo Guest House for rent. 1500 sq. ft. Large studio/living room, 1BR, 1Bath, \$1500 per month, all utilities included. Available 6/1. Call Romona, 466-1697.

"Blue Silence," a new healing and meditation CD by Melanie Monsour and Marghreta Cordero, now available at the Galisteo Inn. 45 minutes of relaxation music.

SERVICES

Galisteo Woodworks: for your custom woodworking needs. Furniture and furniture repair. Antonio Chavez, 466-3601.

Galisteo Caretaking Services: For the Chores You Ignore! short notice, small jobs, housesit, have truck. Richard, 466-7723.

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

Native Bloom, Landscape design/maintenance. Linda, 466-4658.

Home and Garden Services, Marghreta, 466-6696.

Gypsy Doodle, call Beth for **housesitting and petcare** in Galisteo. 660-6012.

Computer trouble-shooting and upgrades, software installation, tutoring. Database specialist with 19 years experience. PCs only. \$35/ hr. Johnny, 466-0392.

Restore your old photo: We copy, repair, and reprint your favorite damaged or fading photos. Richard/Cara 466-7723.

Private exercise and Yoga Training with Ron Helman. 34 yrs. experience. All levels and conditions welcome. 466-1919.

Linda Vista Stables: Beginner western riding for children and adults; 1-2 hr. trail rides; short-term boarding. 466-8930.

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

Common sense, gentle dog-training: house manners, management problem-solving at your home; also limited boarding. Twenty years experience. Call Evelyn, 466-1875.

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

Galisteo Dream Group: presented by Ann Yeomans, M.A. Join us for a weekly Jungian/ archetypal approach to dream work, beginning Tues. Nov. 20 from 6-8 PM, Call 466-6070.

Nizhoni School: High School, grades 9-12, **College of Divinity, Academy of the Media.** Some classes will be open to the public. Information: 466-4336 or 466-1975.

Acupuncture, herbal medicine, feng shui, nutritional counseling, massage. Connie Fisher, Doctor of Oriental Medicine, 470-9314.

Athan Merrick (15 yrs old): occasional **babysitting** weekends and some evenings; 466-9040.

Passive Solar Builders: Locally owned general contractor since 1980. Quality home construction, renovations: Charlie, 466-2118.

One of a kind sterling silver jewelry, made by ancient lost wax process, and 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. 466- 2118.

+++ EL PUENTE DE GALISTEO+++

Editor: Lucy R. Lippard. **Contributing Editors:** Anna Cardenas, Barbara Cooper, Joe Cooper, Ron Helman.

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NEXT DEADLINE: June 5. SPONSORS STILL NEEDED: \$75 to GCA "for EL Puente" Thanks!