



ISSUE #61

JANUARY 2003

*** EL PUENTE BEGINS ITS SEVENTH YEAR! ***

Two Community Meetings, both 7PM at the Community Center:

THURS. JANUARY 23: to develop a vision statement for the Traditional Community Land Use Plan; with David Henkel (UNM) and Beth Mills (Santa Fe County).

WED. JANUARY 29: Road Surfaces (see p.3)

GOATS TO THE RESCUE

In mid December, heralding Capricorn, two hundred goats (all ewes except for one weary ram, and one wether, or gelding) arrived on the east side of the village. They were recruited from the Earth Works Institute's Galisteo Basin herd. Meat goats, milk goats or wool goats, white, brown, black, gray, tan, or exotically marked like African antelopes, their horns of various sizes and rakish twists, they all had one thing in mind: eating their way through the weeds on the strip between the creek and Avenida Vieja. Sweet, quiet, endearing creatures (though they could be

pretty nasty when competing for hay or water in their night quarters in the Kings' corral), they were great fun to have around, and they "worked" hard.

So did the Earth Works folks who accompanied them, led by Randy Pope, rancher and goat guy, and Leslie Barclay, founder of Earth Works, and the faithful border collie Blue (for his one blue eye). They were on the spot all day, every day, through sun and hail and very cold winds. They moved the portable electric fences around every few hours, seeded the pastures with rye grass and alkali sacaton before the goats got at them, watched their charges, fended off dogs, and answered a lot of questions from us locals.

Now, if we only get some good snow or rain in February or early spring... these grasslands should come to life again. Because grazing, the right kind, the right amount, will revive the moribund grasses (those thick gray clumps) found in much of this area. Goats' hooves leave small divots that help aerate the soil and provide pockets in which seeds can germinate. And as they munch and aerate away they deposit organic fertilizer.

(continued p.2) **Chowing Down (Photo: Richard Shuff.)**



They prefer broad leaf plants such as Cholla Cactus, Sagebrush, Russian Olive, Saltbush and Salt Cedar, and in satisfying their appetites they can restore native ecosystems. They are often more effective than poisonous chemicals with long-lasting toxic effects, and a lot more fun to hang out with.

Goats are getting very popular. Lani Lamming, owner of Ewe4ic Ecological Services of Alpine, Wyoming, has pioneered the process with her 2,000 goats for rent. She has contracts with federal, state, county, city, and private groups all over the west. Her smallest job (piece of cake for 30 baby goats) was a 12 x 60' backyard. Her largest was 20,000 acres in Montana. As scourge of weeds and inspiring speaker, Lamming's example led Earth Works to create their own herd. She writes that the benefits of goat grazing are "three-fold: environmental, economic, and social": environmental because you reduce or get rid of chemicals; economic because a lot of people get put to work, including kids (human type) and students; social "because there is nothing like a 1,000 head of goats to draw people to the land to learn about weeds!" That's the way it worked for some of us in Galisteo. We hope the cute, omnivorous, quadrupeds will return.

GHOST HOUSE (PART II)

When Part I of this article came out last month, two people told me that the house reproduced in the picture was the now-vanished Luz and Manuel Chavez home that stood at the corner of Avenida Vieja and La Puente where the Anayas' mobile home and little house are now. They were right; pieces of this house are indeed incorporated with the Ortiz y Pino house (see below).

Frederick Ellis, who as a teenager helped his father tear down the Ortiz y Pino home on Avenida Vieja, decidedly recalls the year being 1940. However, Onesimo Montoya, who moved back to Galisteo in 1937, at the age of 8, and has a terrific memory, remembers that house being gone by then.

This is what makes oral history such frustrating fun. As far as I'm concerned, until I run into a "definitive" document that says otherwise (and they can be wrong too) - everybody's right! Anyway, here's the rest of the story as I've heard it.

The well-known painter Fremont Ellis was born in Virginia City, Montana, in 1897, and studied at the Art Students League in New York. After brief stays elsewhere, in 1918 he was lured by musician friends to Santa Fe for the summer. He rented a studio in Aqua Fria from the Gonzales family, fell in love with their daughter, and in 1919 moved to New Mexico to marry her, remaining until his death in 1985. The couple's first home was on Camino del Monte Sol, a one-room adobe Ellis built himself.

Lorenzita ("Lencha") Gonzales was from an old local ranching and farming family and had relatives in Galisteo. "As a girl, she went to Galisteo on the train with her father to visit relatives. It was the only way women would travel; they seldom went down in buggies." Among the relatives (or friends) were Simona Garcia's maternal grandparents - Refugio and Arapito Sena. Simona recalls that her grandmother suggested the name San Sebastian for the Ellis's new rancho, but Frederick Ellis thinks it was named after the Don Sebastian de Vargas grant.



Bonnie and Fred Ellis at Ortiz y Pino house site, Nov.2002. (photo: Lucy Lippard)

The Ellises and their children, Fred and Bambi, had moved from Santa Fe in 1931 to build a cabin on 400 acres off the old Las Vegas Highway. It was Spartan (or healthy), with a screened sleeping porch, modeled on the Sanitorium in Santa Fe. Since the 1920s, the family had taken moonlight drives to Galisteo for picnics near the old Pedro Ortiz y Pino house, with permission from his brother Don José. When they decided to add to the cabin at San Sebastian, they began by buying the vigas from the Galisteo house, which was in bad shape. The sheep were moved into the corrals for shearing and the big rooms of the house were used for storage. "Dad noticed that the adobes were still intact," says Fred Ellis, "and he bought the place room by room." As an artist, "he liked the way the wood had been softly stained by water coming down from the roof."

They transported the house, viga by viga, adobe brick by adobe brick, along with old hand-planed doors and windows, to the Rancho San Sebastian. There they reconstructed it in somewhat altered form. "Dad was the architect, he drew it out freehand, like his paintings. It's not a replica, but fairly close. It's got a nice feeling of old rooms."

In 1945 (when Fred Ellis was still in the military) his father added a number of elements from the nearby Chavez house, which was in much better condition, although also abandoned, as well as from a third house east of the bridge. (After World War II, Galisteo lost much of its population and there were many empty houses.) Onesimo thinks the portal in the picture last month (the front of the Ellis's house) may have been from the Chavez patio. The Ellises' present patio was taken just as it was from the interior of the Ortiz y Pino home. "The posts are irregular, the way they originally fit into the beams," remembers Fred Ellis, who had to "straighten all the original square nails."

One reason Fremont Ellis added materials from two other houses (and yet another from near Cañoncito, a stage stop on the Santa Fe Trail that belonged to the Blea family) was that in the process of taking the Pedro Ortiz y Pino house apart, he found that several of the walls were stone rather than adobe, and Salvador Gonzales, who drove the truck, refused to take such a heavy load. (It was all dirt road from Galisteo to old Rte. 66.) The stones, along with those of the huge sheep corrals to the north, sharing a wall and a side entrance with the house, were left on site. When Tom Morin was building, a lot of sheep bones were found there.

Frederick Ellis worked with his father from March to August on the Pedro Ortiz y Pino project, which he recalls as "really hard work." Last month, Ellis and his wife Bonita ("Bonnie") walked the foundations at the edge of the Morin/King properties with me, pointing out the depression that marked the internal patio and the *zaguan*, or big hallway. It was a large house, set back from the road, with the entranceway facing west, onto the creek. "You could see the creek water running from in front of the house," recalls Fred Ellis - which means the creek was much more level with the fields then. (He also recalls the *acequia* that ran further up the creek.) A drive curved down from Avenida Vieja on the south side. Between house and creek were farm plots and splendid orchards. Now all that remains are a few dead apple trees and some cherry trees down in one of the gullies.

Fred and Bonnie Ellis moved back to Rancho San Sebastian at his mother's death in 1959. (His parents were divorced and his father lived on Canyon Road.) She had always admonished them, "never sell the ranch." They were kind enough to tell EL PUENTE the history of their home. It remains today in many ways just as Fremont and Lencha Ellis created it, and is a virtual museum of his paintings (one of which depicts "a man from Galisteo who always wore a Spanish hat"). Sadly, all the photographs of the old houses and the moving project were inadvertently discarded, and we have not yet succeeded in matching any of the vintage photos from the Photo Archive at the History Library in Santa Fe with anyone's memories.

The ghosts must still be commuting between Galisteo and San Sebastian.

UPDATE: GRAVEL ROAD SURFACING

Richard Griscom

Woody Gwyn, Richard Shuff, and I have done some research regarding the best product to put on the three gravel roads in the east village (La Puente, Otra Vanda, and Avenida Vieja north of the fire station) where dust is a particular problem. We have driven on several roads where the County has used a 20% lignum sulfite and 80% magnesium chloride solution for dust control, and the results appear good. There is an easy way for anyone interested to observe one of the roads: go to the old FINA station at the intersection of US 285 and Old Las Vegas Highway and drive north toward the foothills on Ellis Ranch Road (County Rd. 46). The road has this mixture applied to it for dust control for the first half mile.

We feel that the next steps in the process of having the County reduce the excessive dust on the above three gravel roads in Galisteo are: 1) to hold a community meeting to present the

research that has been done; 2) have people express their opinions and raise questions at the meeting; 3) vote at the meeting on what we would prefer, and then 4) take the result of the vote to Robert Martinez, County Deputy Director of Public Works. For that purpose a meeting is scheduled for January 29th, 7PM at the Community Center. We hope that everyone who is interested in this subject will attend. If you can't, but are interested in having input or getting additional information, call Richard Griscom at 466-3996. I will try to answer your questions and will pass on your concerns at the meeting.

FOR THE BIRDERS: UNUSUAL SITINGS, GALISTEO

Jan Saunders

On Thanksgiving Day, Kevan and I observed a Lewis's Woodpecker flying from fence post to fence post near the cemeteries above the church. We were so excited that we returned home for binoculars and bird book to confirm the sighting. I've seen Lewis's Woodpeckers before in Los Alamos and near Ocate, but never in the Galisteo area. My field guides tell me that their winter movements are unpredictable. Nesting communally, this handsome greenish-black, rose, red and gray member of the *Picidae* family is unique because it catches flying insects on the wing instead of using its chisel-like bill to dig them out from underneath tree bark. Like other members of their family they do use their bills to excavate tree-nesting cavities and for drumming to establish territory and attract mates.

Toby Herbst reported a Stellar's Jay at his feeder a few weeks ago. This beautiful blue jay with an impressive black crest is usually only seen at higher altitudes. It's also fairly common in the eastern foothills of Santa Fe. More unusual birds at my feeder in November and December were a Sage Thrasher and a Townsend's Solitaire. These are not rare birds, but in my experience they are uncommon in the Galisteo area. Look them up in your field guide and watch for them around your feeder.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Happy New Year. I hope everyone had an eventful one or a quiet one in the comforts of your home. I was in my own home, and it was very quiet until about 12:15, when I started hearing these wild fireworks blasting from the center of the village and could not believe that someone could have such an extensive, expensive display, not to mention so loud.

It wouldn't have bothered me so much if it only had lasted maybe 10 or 15 minutes around midnight. But lo and behold the fireworks were being shot off every ten minutes for about an hour and a half after midnight. I remembered either last year or the year before they did the same thing, but for about *three* hours.

I think this person - a part-time resident - is very inconsiderate of his neighbors and everyone else in the village and just has no concept that some people need to get up early in the morning to go to work or do their business and can't be listening to their fireworks going on all night. They can sleep all day long and then fly back to wherever their other home is, probably in a big city where they can't have their own private

firework show. But they come out here now and then to disturb everyone's peace and possibly endanger the very dry bosque.

Yes, you did disturb my peace and everyone else's in the village. And instead of being an inconsiderate neighbor (who does not associate with anyone here or contribute to any good thing here) you should try to be more considerate and thoughtful, and maybe donate some of that firework money to the community or the Fire Department, or another good cause.

I'm definitely not anonymous and I do let my presence be known. Whatever I believe in or feel is not right, I will let it be known. — **Maria O. Padilla.**

WOOD CHIPPING REPORT

Richard Griscom

On Saturday December 7th, twelve people from the village (plus several County firefighters and two Earth Works reps) participated in the wood-chipping activity sponsored by the County and Galisteo fire departments. Wood was chipped from seven different properties in the village, mostly along the Bosque. Two people who brought in wood took the chips back to use on their properties.

The County's chipping machines consume wood at a *very* fast pace and we had a hard time keeping up with them. If we had had more wood ready, in piles accessible to the machine, or on trucks, we could have accomplished much more that day. As it was, we kept the machine busy less than half a day. We hope to do this again in late winter, but we will need to have much more wood ready to go than we did on December 7th.

There is a large pile of wood just south of the old bridge, gathered from Roman Attenberger's property after the machines had left. People may add wood for chipping to that pile if they wish. This SHOULD NOT include anything but wood, and NO stumps, construction lumber, wood with nails, or wood that may be infested with bark beetle. The diameter should not exceed 8" inches in case we have the smaller machine next time.

Corrections: I'm told that the initials "PP" on the fireplace at the Fields/Tinsley former house stood for Pablita Peña, wife of Ramon Sandoval, who lived there, rather than for Pedro Peña who probably made the fireplace, as reported in the last issue. I also misspelled Earth Works (it's two words).

**EL PUENTE SPONSOR THIS MONTH:
ALICE & JERRY KRUSE**

GALISTEO CLASSIFIED

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

WANTED

Good home for a nice big kid-friendly dog named Satchmo. Call Linda, 466-4658.

SERVICES

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

Call **Beth** for **housesitting/petcare/vet runs/odd jobs/studio assistance/party help/you name it...** in Galisteo, 660-6012.

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

House cleaning: openings for Mon., Tues., Wed., weekly, biweekly, or monthly rates. Call Keri, 466-0144.

Astanga Yoga (a fun and sweaty form of Hatha Yoga) Monday nights at the Galisteo Community Center, 5:45-7:15 PM; call Lee (a.k.a. Yoga Blue Sky) at 660-0611.

I will take **care of your pets.** I can also **watch children** when needed. (I am thirteen years old.) Simone Montoya, at 466-1518

Nizhoni School: High School, grades 9-12, **College of Divinity, Academy of the Media.** Some classes open to public. Info:466-4336 or 466-1975. For **Soul-Centering Clinic:** 466-2316.

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

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

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.

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.

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/decorative art in wood and tin. Barbara & Joe Cooper, El Estudio, 18 the Hill. 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, **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, or call 466-1276. NEXT DEADLINE: February 5**
