

EL PUENTE DE GALISTEO

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LINDA TINDLE McKEE PACK (1950-2003)



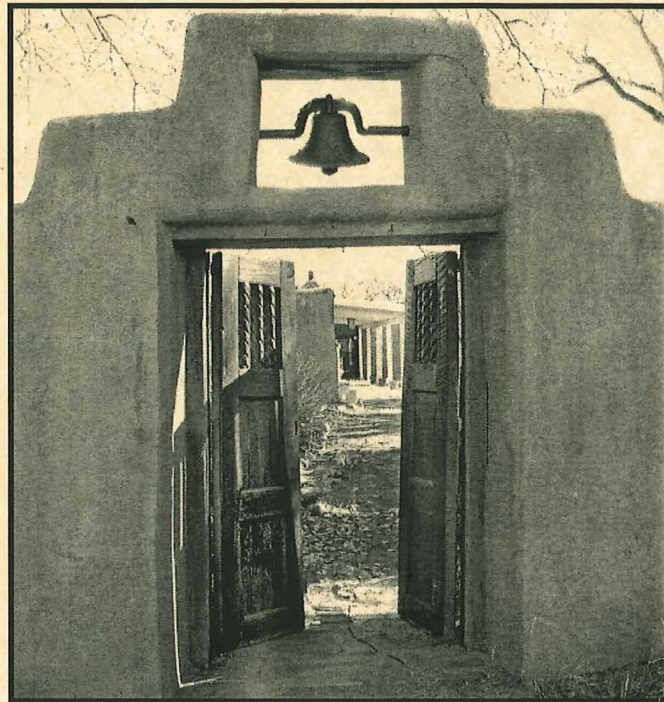
Linda McKee Pack died after a fall in mid-November in her home on McKee Road, known by the neighbors as "The Ranch." She was buried at the National Cemetery on November 26th, followed by a reception at the Galisteo Community Center. Both were attended by friends and relatives from all parts of her life. The words most used in remembering Linda were "loving," "caring," "generous," and "good neighbor." Her dry humor and love of animals, including many dogs, cats, and "Baby Bull," were fondly mentioned.

Linda was born in Clovis, N.M., to Alex and Gladys Tindle. An enrolled member of the Cherokee Nation, she grew up in Melrose, NM, graduating in 1968 from Melrose High. After attending UNM, she received a nursing degree from the College of Santa Fe. Her nursing career included hospice, personal home health, critical care at St. Vincent's, and the Public Health Services hospitals in Santa Fe.

In 1979 she became Philip McKee's wife and they settled on the McKee Ranch (now Cerro Pelon, owned by Tom Ford). Around 1981 they sold most of the ranch (and Ranchitos de Galisteo was born), building a new house on the northern portion of the remaining property. Philip died suddenly on July 4th, 1996 (See EL PUENTE #1). Linda had considered writing a memoir of their life on the ranch.

In Galisteo, Linda was active as a member of the (cont.p.2)

** MERRY CHRISTMAS AND HAPPY NEW YEAR **



Through the gate to the Ortiz y Pino home (Photo: R. Shuff)

HOUSE FULL OF HISTORY

A wooden door sill in the secluded home of José and Yolanda Ortiz y Pino is worn way down, testifying to its age. According to José, the house was built around 1830 by the well-known historical figure Nicolas Pino (c.1817-1896), who had a flour mill in Galisteo, was briefly jailed in 1846 for his suspected role in an anti-American rebellion, then fought with the Americans during the Taos rebellion. (Called "the best looking man in New Mexico" by one historian, he also had an affair with the notorious gambler Doña Tules).

Pino and his wife Juana Rascon, daughter of the Vicar General, lived here with their family. Nicolas's father, the legendary Pedro Bautista Pino (1752-1829), Nuevo Mexico's envoy to the Spanish Court in Cadiz in 1812, lived across the creek (and in Santa Fe). José is determined to prove that he is buried here. The Pinos had a huge amount of land. "In those days people just came in. You took what you wanted." (cont.p.2)

(MCKEE) Board of the GCA and made handsome wreaths of dried flowers and grasses for Studio Tours. She helped get a handsome grant from the McKee Foundation to build the "Archive Room" at the Community Center. She was also primarily responsible for a grant for improvements to the Melrose Senior Center, and supported KUNM, the progressive public radio station in Albuquerque.

In 1999 Linda married her childhood friend Johnny Pack, from Socorro -- a computer consultant and sometime rancher, retired from the New Mexico Institute of Mining and Technology. They lived primarily in Galisteo.

At the memorial and Community Center reception, Linda's sister Sue Zahn, her close friend Lodema Thomas, her nephew Sunil Sethi and nieces Suresha Sethi, Meredith Ingram and Laura Tiffin, as well as Galisteo neighbors, spoke movingly of her support. (Sunil, who lived with Linda for a period as a teenager, said simply, "She saved my life.")

Everyone who has lived here for very long has a story about Linda's widespread generosity. One person said, "I wouldn't even be living in Galisteo if she hadn't saved my ass twice. She never hesitated." As editor, I have my own story: One day about 3 years ago, she called me out of the blue and offered to let me go through the abstracts of the McKee Ranch, several cartons full of important historical materials on some 20,000 acres in the Galisteo Basin, which made a great difference in my research into regional history.

Linda will be greatly missed by all the communities whose hearts she touched.

"The family of Linda McKee would like to thank all those in the community who helped support us through these difficult times. The fine meal prepared after Linda's service by Mela Montoya was appreciated by all. I would especially like to thank Evelyn Gregory, Nancy Helle, and Judith Masin for putting it all together. Thanks so much, Johnny Pack."

A GREAT ESCAPE

Jan Saunders

It was the absolute last of this year's glorious fall days, and I attended an all-day seminar in Albuquerque. I hung in there for the keynote speaker and then beat a hasty retreat to the Rio Grande Nature Center State Park. (Follow the signs from Rio Grande N to Candelaria road NW). The loud quacking and calling of ducks, geese and Sandhill Cranes met me at the entrance. As I gathered my binoculars, bird book, and water from the car, I saw several flights of Sandhills in their "V" patterns headed south along the Rio Grande. A sharp-shinned Hawk flew between the golden leaves of a huge cottonwood, and a male Belted Kingfisher winged his way across the duck pond filled with water fowl of all shapes, sizes and colors. The windows of the observation blind are the perfect place to prop your elbows while looking through binoculars at the brilliant colors of Wood Ducks, Mallards, American Wigeons, Gadwalls, Ring-neckeds, Pied-billed Grebes and Canada Geese.

But I was on a mission, determined to seek out the *little gray birds* deep in the bush and high in the trees between the Visitors' Center and the Rio Grande. I knew that since (Cont. to right)

(HOUSE) Nicolas and Juana are buried in the Oratorio at the old cemetery on the hill. Their daughter Concepción (who died in 1934) married Juan Ortiz (1861-1929) -- "a love story over the wall" -- as he lived next door, at what is now the Inn. It was "built by his father, 'Juan Grande,' [c.1818-1865], in the early 1800s," says José, "but not in its present form until 1865 when Juan II turned it into a store".

The Nicolas Pino house was also not as large as it is now. It was originally 3-4 rooms, with polished dirt floors and many fireplaces. "In the old days they slept around the fires, even the *ricos*." Like most of the old buildings in Galisteo, it was built in pieces, with rooms added as children were born and married. A separate row of rooms sharing a wall with the Inn was a servants' quarters, housing mostly women and children. There were probably no high walls to the South. The east wing has been entirely redone.

Juan and Concepción Ortiz left the house to Mary, the daughter of Pino Villanueva, a loyal worker who was half Indian. Mabel Hart and Henry Wicks bought it in 1950. They were very interested in its history and began to research and restore the house and surrounding ruins. Their friend, painter Fremont Ellis, painted some of the doors (one from 1954 depicting Mabel Wicks as the Virgin and Henry as Joseph). After Mabel died, Henry (Hank) married Virginia, who was a schoolteacher here.

In December 1960, the house returned to family. José and Yolanda moved there from the ranch house that is now part of Vista Clara. They continued with the restoration (while raising their children, José and Maria), filling it with historical family portraits and memorabilia, as well as artifacts from Galisteo's heyday as a movie location, such as the bandanna placed by John Wayne around the neck of a trophy deer. Some of the furniture dates back to Nicolas's day. The imposing *sala* (once a ruin) and a beautiful old bedroom take visitors back to the past. An Edmund Landseer print once hung in the Ortiz y Pino's bar next to Priscilla Hoback's house. A portrait of Concepción eerily changes when the lights are out.

José Ortiz y Pino III has two trunks full of documents, but he adamantly stands by oral histories. He has written his own family's in his 1981 book *Don José, The Last Patron*, about his grandfather, who amassed a sheep ranching empire in and beyond the Galisteo Basin.

(Thanks to José for the information and quotations above.)

the fall migrants were gone, I would be looking for a limited number of winter birds (less chance for error!) As I headed down the trail, a beautiful pair of White-breasted Nuthatches flew right in front of me. The rest would not be this easy. All around me, I could hear the tweets, chirps and calls of many unseen species. With my tin ear, I could only recognize a few of the sounds. As always, I would have to work hard to ID visually what was here.

At the sound of scratching in the leaf litter, I focused my binoculars under the bushes about 25 feet off the trail. It was the distinctive call of the Spotted Towhee -- one I do recognize. This beautiful black, white and orange bird prefers to stay out of sight in low bushes near the ground. It's amazing that such a brilliantly colored bird can often be heard but seldom seen. They are actually quite common in the Galisteo Bosque as well as higher up around Ranchitos. Not a small bird, the Spotted Towhee is almost as big as a Robin, but slimmer. (cont. p.3)

Further down the trail I spotted Mountain and Black-capped Chickadees. After two hours hiking, looking, and listening, I had compiled a list of the following: White-crowned Sparrow, White-breasted Nuthatch, House Finch, Bewick's Wren, Dark-eyed Junco, American Robin, two species of Chickadee, and the Towhee. I also saw a Mourning Dove and a Northern Flicker, but they hardly qualify as *little gray birds*. Next year I plan to be here earlier in order to catch the migrating *lbgs* like the Warblers. Now that will be work!

LABORS OF LOVE

We would like to thank the past priests and all the parishioners of the Galisteo Church (Nuestra Señora de los Remedios) for the love, dedication, and hard work over the past 43 years, for keeping up with repairs on our church.

During this time the church was stuccoed twice, a new roof, new doors, new electric wiring, carpet, plastic exterior window covers to preserve the beautiful stained glass windows, a bathroom, support columns in the interior church, kneeling pads, church rail on the steps, two new heaters, exterior trim paint, and many other needed repairs.

We thank the families that volunteer to clean the church and teach religious classes. Thanks also to Rev. Fr. Jerome Martinez and Deacon Tom Baca for leading the parish families to raise money to continue repairs and upkeep on the church. Saint Joseph Society and Sacred Heart Society have also been willing to donate time and money. It's a small parish, but everyone knows everyone and you can feel the spirit of love and friendship, especially during our beautiful Christmas mass.

A special thanks in loving memory to Roman Attenberger and Joe M. Anaya. Happy Holidays.

Mary Ann Anaya and Family

CHURCH CALENDAR

Mass is now at 11:30 AM Sunday mornings.

December 12: Our Lady of Guadalupe

December 14, Third Sunday of Advent

December 21, Fourth Sunday of Advent

December 24, Christmas Eve Mass, 7PM. Fr. Jim Wolff will be officiating. Prior to the mass, at 6:30, there will be Christmas Caroling with the children and the lighting of the luminarias.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

CHILD LEASH LAW?

Is there a leash law in our community against our children? It seems they are not allowed to play or enjoy themselves here. This is in response to the letter on the paintball game played in the river.

If research were done on the damage done by playing paintball, you would have found that paintball is one of the most environmentally friendly activities around. Unlike other activities such as football, soccer and baseball fields, there is no need for land clearing. The trees and undergrowth are natural props for the players in the course of the game.

The paintballs themselves are 100% biodegradable (in a matter of days, given typical environmental conditions), non-toxic, and contain vegetable dye in a gelatin coating. The gun is

powered by compressed air or carbon dioxide, which poses no environmental threat.

Are our children just to sit inside and play video games and not enjoy fresh air and the beauty of our village? We do not find that playing paintball, riding horses or any other outside activity in the village is destroying our way of living. This village is not just a retirement community. Don't you remember being a kid and running and playing in the fresh air? Kids in the community have a right to play and not be reprimanded every time they leave their yard. They have a right to enjoy the open space just like the adults. LET OUR KIDS BE KIDS! --The Moya Family

JOIN UP!

I am writing this as a concerned citizen of Galisteo who has thought long and hard about this village for almost seventeen years. A lot has changed since I moved here, much of it for the good. Change is a natural progression of life.

Recent village concerns -- the efforts to create a town plan, dig a second well, improve the annual Studio Tour, maintain and up-date the Community Center, react creatively to proposed changes such as Vista Clara's expansion and the location of a community on the Thornton Ranch -- have dictated that more people in the village need to become involved in these matters. Whether your reaction to change is positive or negative, we need to hear your voices.

There seems now to be a belief that certain few individuals run most of the committees and organizations in the village. Those who complain of the "exclusivity" are perhaps the very ones whose personal involvement could result in new visions for the future. I rue the fact that the issues become blurred as we sometimes react negatively to individuals rather than positively to making sense of the business at hand.

Strong individuals are, to me, what Galisteo is all about. We attract, encourage, and cherish different viewpoints and respect our diversity. We are all strong in our own way, and more of us should be heard publicly, for everyone's opinion counts.

I encourage every single one of you to pay attention to the happenings in this small, vibrant place. You can be as much a part of our common future as you would like to be. Go to the steering committee meetings on land use planning, bring your concerns to the board of the GCA, read *El Puente*, write to *El Puente*, react to village notices and be more aware of what is going on.

I pray that we can join together as caring friends and neighbors to protect and preserve this wonderful village. The issues that face us are important, and we need the combined strength of our many differing personalities and persuasions to confront them.

Barbara Cooper

NOTICE: *Pedacitos/Bits and Pieces* will catch up in January.

**EL PUENTE SPONSOR OF THE MONTH:
BETH FOOTE
THANK YOU, GALISTEO!**

CORRECTION: The Vista Clara Expansion will *not* have to go before the Board of County Commissioners. In this case the final decision is designated to the CDRC, now awaiting word from the State Engineer. For the record, EL PUENTE's November interview was tape-recorded at Vista Clara, and we made innumerable phone calls all over the County about this issue. The question of how many, if any, acre-feet of water rights will be donated to the village is a separate and future case altogether (according to the State Engineer's office). It is entirely up to Kaye Sandford's generosity, which is well known.

FROM THE GCA BOARD

The Community Association will not be having a pancake breakfast this December as travel plans and other engagements precluded the Board's ability to find a suitable date and people to plan the event. We hope to have an all-community party early in the New Year.

The Board has spent the past year considering new developments in the village, providing stewardship for the Community Center and its archives collection, fighting for the reconstruction of the bridge, and in general, addressing the needs of the village.

We hope to remain a group that addresses the issues we all face collectively. We hope to be responsive to your concerns and to be approachable by anyone who needs a listening ear.

Our annual meeting will be in early March. Several elected positions on the Board will be open and anyone interested in running for election is encouraged to do so.

May your holidays be happy and may 2004 be a rich and fulfilling year for us all.

Summary from the GCA Minutes (Nov.12th meeting).

** It was decided not to proceed at the moment on new bathrooms at the Community Center for financial reasons.*

** Research has confirmed that there is no way to reduce our insurance premiums (\$225,000 on the building; \$13,500 on contents,\$500 deductible; liability for \$1 million per occasion and \$2 million on the building and playground, plus \$1 million Board liability insurance.)*

Several of the locked cabinets in the Archive room at the Center have been damaged. There were no signs of a break-in. Presumably it happened during an event at the Center. We will change the locks, clean up, and dispose of excess books and magazines.

GALISTEO CLASSIFIED

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

FOR RENT

New house, 2 bedroom, 2 bath, walled yard, dogs ok: \$1100 per mo. + utilities; furnished. Priscilla, 466-2255.

Fully furnished house and/or guest apartment, 3 months, flexible dates between January and April '04. Call 466-6003.

FOR SALE

First annual Galisteo Chili Challenge t-shirts – red and green, great holiday gifts: M, L, XL. Call Tom Morin, 466-2218.

SERVICES

Nick's Landscaping, Brush Removal, and Garbage Collection.

Call 466-0530 or 470-5973.

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

.B. Lejo/Sina Brush is taking special orders for original antique Mexican furniture. Call 577-4045.

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, 470-7606.

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

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. Public meditations Sun., 5PM, Light Institute, Weds. 5PM, Nizhoni School. **Soul-Centering Clinic:** 466-4336.

Professional Housesitter, Long term/short term. Respectful care for your home and pets. Britt Lee, 466-3096.

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

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

Restore your old photo: We copy, repair, and reprint your favorite damaged or fading photos. Richard/Cara 820-3616.

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.

Acupuncture, herbal medicine, feng shui, nutritional counseling, massage. Dr. Connie Fisher, 470-9314.

Ben Merrick (16 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, wood/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:** Barbara Cooper, Isabella Gonzales, Jan Saunders. **Production:** Insty-Prints, Santa Fe. **Photographer:** Richard Shuff. **EL PUENTE logo** by Cara Lee. **Please send letters, comments, suggestions, contributions to EL PUENTE, 14 Avenida Vieja, 466-1276.** **NEXT DEADLINE: JAN. 5th.**

