



ISSUE #78

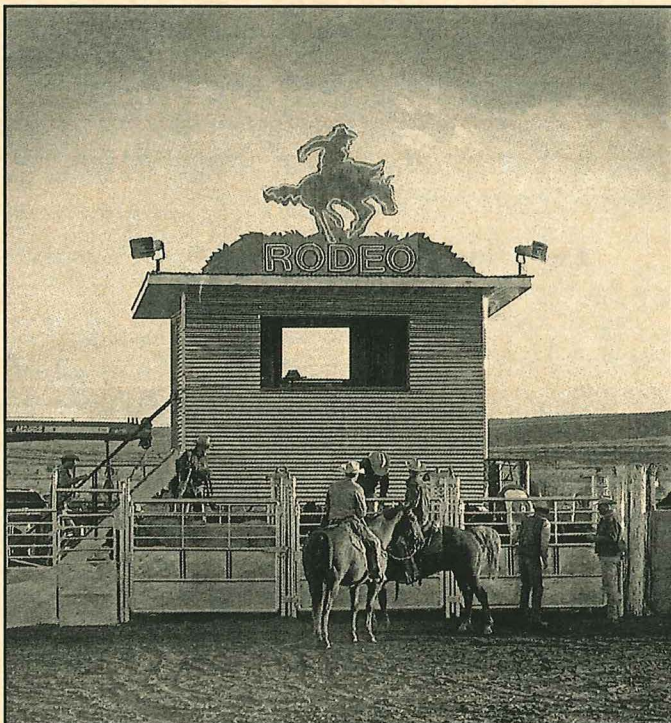
OCTOBER 2004

!!VOTE!!

It's a privilege and it's the least you can do! Too late to register now, but if you registered, please **BE SURE TO VOTE** at the Community Center on November 2, 7AM-7PM.

STUDIO TOUR

Saturday and Sunday, OCT. 16-17, 9-6. ART AND FOOD AND GOLDEN COTTONWOODS. What could be better for the soul? Everybody on the tour hopes their neighbors will come and see their wares. Some participants will be making special pieces on the theme of "Corazón de Galisteo." The tour was written up at length in the Eldorado edition of the *New Mexican*, and *New Mexico Magazine* ran an article called "Falling for Glorious Galisteo: Artists Revel in Autumn's Splendor," rampant but accurate lyricism about Galisteo as a hotbed of creativity.



Mythical Marlboro Men (Photo:Richard Shuff)

SPONSOR A NEWSLETTER

EL PUENTE needs sponsors. We will publish your business card or a small ad. If you enjoy the newsletter (or even if it makes you mad sometimes!) please send a check for around \$75 made out to the GCA and marked "newsletter" to **EL PUENTE**, 14 Avenida Vieja. **THANKS!**

We are trying to establish whether or not there is a need or interest in bringing the **MEALS ON WHEELS** Program to Galisteo. It provides hot lunch for the elderly and currently services Eldorado. If you are interested in learning more about the program, please contact Isabella Gonzales at 466-2218.

GALISTEO AS MARLBORO COUNTRY

El Rodeo de Galisteo rode again a couple of weeks ago when a whole new Marlboro cigarette campaign was born at the Rodeo Grounds. A crew of 30 or 40 people was here for a week and held a real rodeo for the commercial photo shoot.

"It was a very fancy rodeo," reports Bébé Givaudan. "There were five Marlboro guys, one older. They always use the same. They all know how to ride! They rode broncos and there was bulldogging, all at night. It was surreal, because there was no sound, no people."

GRAND GIFT

\$110,000 was raised on Sept. 24th for John Kerry's and John Edwards' Democratic presidential campaign at "Deal Me In" -- a silent art auction and fundraiser party organized by the Galisteo Poker Club at Priscilla Hoback's. Joe Hoback was Master of Ceremonies and Linda Durham the obviously effective auctioneer.

Contributing artists/poker players were P. Hoback, Bruce Nauman, Bernard Pomerance, Susan Rothenberg, Fritz Scholder (courtesy of Romona Scholder), and Judy Tuwaletsiwa.

The fundraiser was attended by several local politicians: Lieutenant Governor Diane Denish, Santa Fe City Councillor Patti Bushee, and County Commissioner Mike Anaya.

TIGER OF THE SKIES

Jan Saunders

The Great Horned Owl is an awesome sight. If you are a small rodent, rabbit, skunk, or even a house cat unfortunate enough to be caught in this nocturnal predator's eyesight, and located by its acute sense of hearing, beware an unseen attack and instant death. After locating its prey from a perch, the Great Horned Owl swoops down on silent wings as it drops from the night sky to clasp its prey in powerful feet and sharp talons.

Although a beautiful harvest moon may help reveal the presence of this top-level predator to the evening birdwatcher, owls with their very keen eyesight don't need moonlight to locate their prey. The most abundant of our North American owl species, the Great Horned is perfectly equipped for successful nighttime hunting. Because owls hunt on wings with serrated front edges of the first primary feathers, their wing beats produce no warning sound.

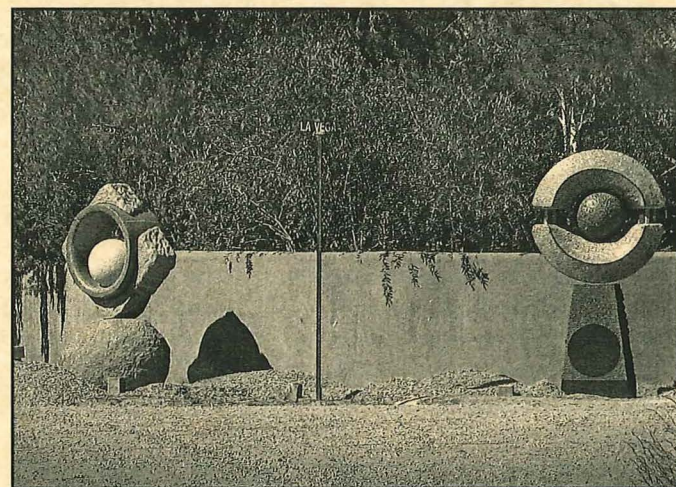
Needless to say, the Great Horned Owl does mankind a service as it dines on pesky rodents. A healthy owl population keeps unwanted varmints in check.

We are fortunate to have at least one resident nesting pair here in the Galisteo Bosque. The call, a deep, muffled *Who! whoo-who-who!* *Who!* Is frequently heard over the Basin. Owls respond to human imitations of their call. Why don't you try it. You might just get an answer. Happy Halloween!

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Thanks to Candace Garret for artistically improving the east side neighborhood. Looks great!* -Barbara Holloway

*Those monumental stone sculptures at the intersection of La Vega/La Puente are Candace Garret's. She has lived in Galisteo off and on for a few years and is now a permanent resident, having bought the house in the triangle facing the bridge. With Ted Fleming, she is co-organizer of the upcoming (this year or next) Stone Sculpture Symposium. (Photo: Richard Shuff)



NEW ORGANIZATION WILL FOCUS ON GALISTEO BASIN CONSERVATION

A meeting on Sept. 23rd at the National Park Service headquarters in Santa Fe brought together a broad alliance of people concerned with the Galisteo Watershed. The main topic of discussion was the formation of a coalition (as yet unnamed) to continue the work initiated by the Earth Works Institute over the last few years, such as the Galisteo Bosque erosion control and monitoring programs, ongoing here in the village.

An impressive institutional presence boded well for the future. Representatives attended from the BLM, the National Park Service, County Planning and Open Space, Santa Fe Conservation Trust, Earth Works, 285 Corridor Plan, Forest Service, and others (including Galisteo's Community Land Use Plan Steering Committee).

The Watershed takes in some 750 square miles, from the Galisteo Creek's source on Thompson Peak in the Sangre de Cristos to the Rio Grande near Santo Domingo Pueblo. An overview of current conservation efforts included:

Wetland restoration with the State Environmental Dept., Federal protection for and State research on archaeological sites, bosque restoration at Santo Domingo, conservation easements of thousands of acres, endangered species, new open space proposals in the Cerrillos Hills, the possibility of a State Archeological Park, the rock art survey (see p.3), managed grazing, and fire protection.

This list may seem long, but it could be longer, serving to remind us of the interconnections between every inhabitant and every site in the Galisteo Basin.

That means us too. Galisteo is an important component. Of the \$20 million in bonds received by the County Open Lands and Trails Committee (COLTPAC), a lion's share has been spent in the Galisteo Basin. We are lucky to be at the hub of this exciting work and, in turn, our support is crucial.

PEDACITOS/BITS AND PIECES

In the wildly welcome early October rains, **Arroyo de los Angeles** lived up to its other name - **Arroyo del Infierno**. At least one truck got stuck and had to be towed out.

*

Evelyn Gregory was the subject of a Denise Kusel column in the *New Mexican* Sept. 19th. "The first time I met Evelyn Gregory, a noted dog behavior expert," she wrote. "She told me to sit, and I did."

*

We forgot to announce **Woody Gwyn's** show at the Gerald Peters Gallery. Over now, alas, it included some haunting skeletal reliefs and paintings of nude men and women balancing on tightropes, illuminating "the raw existential isolation at the very core of the human condition."

*

The **Galisteo Inn** received a glowing 2-page review in *Pasatiempo* in September. So did **Patrick McFarlin's** show at Linda Durham's. The Inn, by the way, this month only, has a **Tuesday night two-for-one special for locals**.

CALL FOR ROCK ART VOLUNTEERS

J.J. Brody

The Rock Art Field School (RAFS) of the Archaeological Society of New Mexico records descriptive inventories of rock art sites in New Mexico for the use of researchers and to provide landowners with site management information. It is now beginning a new project along the Galisteo Dike (Hogback).

With cooperation and permission of all landowners, the volunteer organization recently completed an inventory on private and public land along the four-mile-long southern Creston (Comanche Gap) about seven miles south of Galisteo. Labor-intensive, time-consuming inventories of this sort can only be done by unpaid volunteers.

A training program for new recorders will be held early in 2005 at a time and place to be announced. Volunteers will be taught to systematically record all human-made marks that they see on the rocks, including graffiti, bullet scars and other vandalism as well as the ancient petroglyphs and pictographs. Volunteers are also needed to enter field records into an electronic data base.

This cooperative project is a collaboration with the NM Office of Archaeological Services and Friends of Archaeology (Museum of New Mexico Foundation). For more information contact Jean or J.J. Brody [author and retired art history professor at UNM] at 505-281-3579 (jjbrody@unm.edu), Maynard Merkt at 505-771-0815 (mmerk@comcast.net) or see the website of the Albuquerque Archaeological Society (www/albarsoc.org).

VILLAGE LAND MEETING

On October 12th, County Assessor Benito Martinez, his deputy Brian Baca, and map specialist Shawn Thornton addressed some 40 members of the community on the tangled history of Galisteo land titles, concentrating on the 250-acre "exception" on the San Cristobal Grant which covers much of the Galisteo town site east of NM 41, including the bosque. The meeting was called by the Community Land Use Plan Steering Committee, which has not yet met to discuss these issues.

Thornton said that these problems arise in part because surveyors' plats in this area, when digitally mapped, often do not match the drawn boundaries. "Assessors' maps cannot be deemed accurate," added Martinez. Morgan Gafford, longtime Galisteo resident, has for years been identifying unclaimed Galisteo land in the County records. He has acquired quit-claims to 4.5 acres of apparently unclaimed gaps between properties along the bosque north of the old bridge, as well as to a 4.1 acre plot bordered by Otra Vanda, Avenida Vieja, Singleton Ranch, Light Institute, and Peña properties. He is also exploring other "gaps" south of the bridge.

His three quit claims are signed by "Buddy" Branum of Midland, Texas, former owner of the San Cristobal Ranch. We were told that anyone can quitclaim anything anywhere, but it is usually up to a judge to decide whether these claims have any merit. (In fact many of the currently owned lands in the problem area were acquired through quitclaim.) Martinez made it very clear that the County does not have the power to decide whether these quitclaims are valid. They were meeting with us "to answer questions, dispel rumors. We are the custodians of public

records and not here to take sides." They were also interested in straightening out the tax maps of Galisteo, a project initiated in 1985, but not yet completed.

Clearly, the situation is so complex that not even the assessors have all the answers, although their information and advice was invaluable. Thornton had done an extensive search, starting with the original grant in 1827 to Domingo Fernandez and others, some of whose descendents may still live in Galisteo. A deed to Thomas Catron in the early 1900s did not mention the "exception." Going backwards to the 1930s, Thornton lost the thread when he ran into a division of the grant into 12ths (!) and realized that his goal -- to find the moment when this 250-acre "exception" was established -- was beyond his time limits. Curiously, there is no title abstract for this giant 81,000-acre grant/ranch and it would cost a fortune to assemble one now.

However, Thornton did discover that Branum, when he sold to Singleton in 1986, had signed over a separate quit claim for this 250 acres, although apparently he had never received this plot in his original purchase. He quitclaimed it a second time to give to Gafford, whose claims therefore appear to be preceded by Singleton's, if Branum ever actually owned the 250 acres.

This does not mean that Gafford cannot go ahead with his plans to develop the 4.1 acre lot and acquire land along the bosque through which to run a pipe for water. But if he is challenged he will have to go to court. An attorney in the audience working for Chris Fields and Allison Tinsley (whose clear title to the house they are selling is threatened by Gafford's actions) contended, "This guy can't prove this stuff. He's just holding you up. You've got to sue the clown." (Morgan did not attend the meeting and at the last moment canceled an interview with EL PUENTE, so his intentions remain a mystery.)

"You're not alone," Martinez assured us. "This is happening everywhere in the County. It's the nature of our land grants.... When Rio Arriba was re-mapped they ended up ten miles into Colorado." One man has successfully claimed the entire town of Golden and is selling land back to those who thought they already owned it. "He's sitting on his porch with a shotgun."

Rumors have also been flying in the village that Gafford or a friend plans to claim the old bridge and County Road 33A crossing it. James Lujan of County Public Works has been consulted and says this would be extremely difficult, especially since the County has maintained bridge and road for so long that it is eminent domain.

To further complicate matters, Antonio Chavez has long had grazing rights on the 4-acre plot, and Morgan had at one point given that land to Richard Shuff, who has been paying taxes on it ever since, in the hopes of settling permanently in Galisteo. But Morgan then changed his mind, gave it to someone else, and padlocked the gate, which has led to this lot being nicknamed "the OK Corral." Richard said at the meeting that he now realizes that the document he was given was invalid and only wants out of the mess.

This raised the question of whether the community could quitclaim the bosque path and preserve it for public use, protecting its fragile ecology. Jan Willem Jansens of the Earth Works Institute, which is associated with the Santa Fe Conservation Trust, was also invited to the meeting, and said they would work with us. Florence Sohn said that as a GCA board member, she

had suggested researching unclaimed lands years ago. (The GCA also has an agreement with Richard Griscom concerning public use of the bosque he owns below his home.) Mike Anaya has committed his support, but the Board of County Commissioners is not the final arbiter. Any challenge to Gafford's claims must be handled in Civil Court.

How can we keep this from happening again and again? Consensus was that the best course to take was for the community to step in. **The public forum session of the next GCA Board meeting is WEDNESDAY OCTOBER 20TH at 7PM. Everyone is encouraged to come and ask the Board to explore the possibilities of the village acquiring unclaimed land, especially along the bosque, perhaps with the help of an easement through the Santa Fe Conservation Trust.**

The meeting ended with Mr. Martinez, who will be "termed out" in 2006, asking us all to vote for Brian Baca as his successor, in which case he will become the deputy and be able to continue a job he loves.

More on this in the December issue of EL PUENTE.

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GALISTEO CLASSIFIED

ADS ARE FREE, AND FOR GALISTEO RESIDENTS ONLY. Contact: Box 77 (Rte. 41 at Avenida Vieja) or call 466-1276 by Nov. 1st. for next issue. *PLEASE CALL TO CONTINUE OR TAKE OUT ADS.*

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"First Saturday" monthly all-day **workshop** at Light Institute w. lunch at Galisteo Inn. Call 466-1975 or 466-1458 for information on this and other events.

+++ EL PUENTE DE GALISTEO+++

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