



\*\*\* **HAPPY HOLIDAYS** \*\*\*

7PM: Xmas Eve Mass at Nuestra Señora de los Remedios.



Painting by Catherine Ferguson (Photo: Richard Shuff)

**RAVENS, CROWS AND OTHER CORVIDS**

Jan Saunders

The amazing intelligence of these raucous birds inspired the Reverend Henry Ward Beecher to write, "If men had wings and bore black feathers, few of them would be clever enough to be crows."

All members of the Corvidae family (Jays, Magpies, Rooks, Jackdaws, Ravens and Crows) are recognized for their brainpower. The Raven has been praised in both science and literature for his "quick study" mentality. Myths, fables, and scientific studies celebrating the raven abound and make for delightful winter-time reading.

Ravens are clever and cunning and are called thieves and jokesters. They are bright, daring, wary, and shameless. At their own peril, they tease coyotes and wolves, steal food from under the dog's nose and eat songbirds' eggs right out of the nest. They

perform aerial aerobatics, slide in the snow, and invent games to play with their food just for the sheer pleasure it brings.

Ravens mate for life and may live for more than 40 years. Courting pairs often fly with their wing tips touching. They deliberately attract our attention to their antics and whereabouts with their hoarse 'croak-croak.' They will cock their heads, regard us with one mocking bright black eye, and answer our imitation of their calls with unapologetic arrogance. Ravens always keep a safe distance from humans, who are known to shoot their kind for fun. Both Ravens and Crows are useful scavengers, making up for any crops they may steal by devouring large numbers of insects and mice and cleaning up road kill. Crows have even been known to use sticks as tools.

How to tell the difference between Ravens and Crows? Easy. Ravens are big and black and Crows are small and black. Just kidding. Ravens *are* larger, with shaggy throat feathers, long thick bills and a wedge-shaped tail, visible when they fly overhead. Ravens often soar; Crows always flap their wings. The Raven's voice is usually deeper and more varied than the Crow's. Ravens fly along, in pairs, or in small groups. Crows flock.

Here in Galisteo we have the Common Raven, the Chihuahuan Raven, and the American Crow. The Chihuahuan (cont.p.2)





Raven is the smaller one. The throat feathers have snow white bases, only visible when he is preening or when the wind ruffles his feathers just right. I was lucky enough to get a positive ID on a Chihuahuan Raven one windy day at Goose Downs.

All members of the Corvidae family are quick-witted, charming rascals. Just think about the antics of the Grey Jay, commonly known as the Camp Robber, as he manages to scarf your scrambled eggs right off your plate just as you're reaching for your early morning campfire coffee. The Scrub and the Piñon Jay can break into almost any bird feeder man can design. The saucy black and white Magpie is featured in fine and folk art.

All Corvidae cousins around the world are equally imitated, persecuted and celebrated. My own clear favorite is the high soaring, glossy black Common Raven. Both mystical and magical, the Raven is the voice of the Galisteo Basin.

**Suggested reading: *Bird Brains* by Candace Savage, *Ravens in Winter*, by Bernd Heinrich, *King Solomon's Ring* by Conrad Lorenz, and *Raven Song* by Catherine F. Elston.**

\*Our own (far from) Bird Brain can be reached at [Jan@KevanSaunders.com](mailto:Jan@KevanSaunders.com).

## PICTURESQUE GALISTEO, 1912

The following is an excerpt from "Camp Life in New Mexico," by Ethelyn G. Nelson, published in *El Palacio* around 1916. She was newly married to now-famed archeologist Nels Nelson, known for the earliest thorough excavations of the Tano pueblo ruins in the Galisteo Basin. They arrived in July, 1912.

My first summer of camp life in New Mexico began in the vicinity of the picturesque village of Galisteo. I well remember my introduction to it. After a walk of some three miles from the desolate little railroad station [Kennedy], whose newly appointed agent seemed scarcely aware of the existence of the near town, we came suddenly to the edge of a rise of ground and looked over on what appeared as an oasis in the desert. A little white church stood in the midst of a group of adobe houses, while apple orchards and great cottonwoods shaded the whole. Just beyond, the new bridge spanned the stream that winds its way through the town. We hastened on our way and were soon resting in a room in the cool depths of the rambling adobe structure where Señora Davis, mother-in-law of the only English-speaking resident of the place, the merchant [José Ortiz y Pino I], puts up chance wayfarers. From this vantage point we began to explore the surrounding country for ruins, being ably assisted by a Mexican driver whose name [was] Anaya....

Mrs. Davis's hospitable adobe was soon afterward exchanged for the open-air existence which was followed until the snows fell... The first summer the work of the expedition was carried on along lines that necessitated camps of a more or less permanent nature... The rock-shelter kitchen at San Cristobal - which Senator Pankey, the owner of the '81,000-acre ranch' on which it was situated, persisted ....in dubbing 'Honeymoon Camp' - became quite like home.... Our workmen, all Mexicans [as New Mexican *Hispanos* were called at the time], soon became old friends and we found them waiting for our return the next season to resume work for us. Most of them spoke no English and were a happy-go-lucky set, being quite content apparently

with today's frijoles and black coffee.... They, no doubt, had their opinion of folks who would spend so much time and money digging holes in the ground and collecting worthless bits of bone and pottery, but they were polite enough to keep it to themselves. Old 'Socrates' was so named ....because of his great knowledge of everything on earth or in the heavens above. No question could be put to him that he was not prepared to answer, and he had a name and a use for every plant that grew in the vicinity. All this past summer we drank a wild tea recommended by him and found it good. He had stories of buried treasure, supposed to be well guarded by the Indians; and he wanted a chance to dig in the old church ruin at San Marcos....

## PEDACITOS/BITS AND PIECES

**Connie Fisher**, who lost her brother in the 9/11/01 attack, was quoted in *The Turning Tide*, from the New Mexico Coalition to Repeal the Death Penalty: "The horror of murder isn't healed by another murder. Terror can't end terror. What we want can come from the power of reconciliation, not from the force of retaliation. What we want is peace."

If you enjoy New Mexico history and want a good exciting read that includes a **Galisteo battle scene**, check out Pam Christie's *The King's Lizard*, published locally and available at bookstores for \$13.95. Christie, who now lives in Eldorado, has been in New Mexico for 34 years. "You go a lot of places in America and everything is glossy and superficial. Here, you are right in the middle of everything..." This is her first book, but probably not her last. "The story just rushed into my hands," she says.

**Rudy Sena** and a couple of cowboy pals are pictured in an ad for the Copa de Oro at the Agora Center: "Three Critics agree.... 'Pretty Good Grub.'"

**Munson Hunt** was one of three artists singled out for special attention in an article in *Pasatiempo* (Nov. 19) about a large group show at **Linda Durham's** Santa Fe gallery. About her "human scale" wood sculpture, *Inhale*, she said: "I'm a woman who uses a chain saw, and I make 400-pound sculpture... We're all mighty.... I know where all the wood I use comes from... The piece of wood in *Inhale* is from the Baca Ranch. I'm only interested in local wood and wood that comes to me in a natural way, whether the trees are killed by fire or are windblown.... I love the changes that wood will go through. I love the cracks, and I love that I cannot control it. It's like the wind... It smells good. All the senses are involved in working with it."

**Patricia Heller** read at Collected Works in Santa Fe on Dec. 11<sup>th</sup> from her new book, *If You Hear the Message Three Times, Listen* - a "riveting memoir... a journey of self-discovery, self-healing, and enlightenment."

The NM 41 **speeding** issue (see last El P) was a featured article in the Eldorado section of the *New Mexican* Nov. 10<sup>th</sup>. **Bebe Givaudan**, her dog Wyoming and her late horse Canelle were pictured along with the responses of DOT traffic engineer

David Martinez on the process of changing the speed limit: an engineering study must be done (30-45 days); traffic speed, the road's geography (slope, number of driveways opening onto the road, etc.), and crash history are all examined.

Martinez felt that Galisteo's speed problems were due mainly to the fact that drivers don't obey the posted speed. He said most people drive 10-12 miles over the limit. "If people were to drive the posted speed limit, I think it would be safe in that community," he told reporter Phaedra Haywood. "But people don't do that and that is something we can't change. I wish we could get stiffer fines for speeding, to be honest with you. ... I think what we really need is more enforcement."

Neither the police department nor the Sheriff's office returned the reporter's calls.

**An addendum to this story:** We are seeing an increase in fuel trucks come through on NM 41 because there is now a gas refinery in Moriarty. (Gas is being piped from the San Juan/Four Corners area.) Since it is a private business, there is apparently no hope of re-routing these trucks.

Galisteo was the subject of Paul Weideman's "Neighborhoods" column in *The New Mexican Real Estate Guide*, Dec. 2004. There were pictures of the church, the cemetery, **Priscilla Hoback's** porch swing, **Wayne and Barbara King's** cow skull gate, and a historic photograph of **Lusiano Chavez's** funeral, July 22, 1909, along with historical data from **Maria Ortiz y Pino** and **John Benjamin**. Maria, whose family used to own the hacienda (**Woody and Dianna Gwyn's** house), recalled when it was "a store and a museum and a bar and then their restaurant, La Mancha, was a short walk away along a lighted path [now **Linda Durham's**]. The restaurant was going from 1960 to 1972 and if I had the energy I would have kept it going."

There were some interesting historical tidbits from Benjamin's research on the hacienda, which he bought in 1987 and sold to the Gwyns in 1998, keeping what may be a 1790 barracks and the orchard for his own home:

Archbishop Lamy, who had the current Galisteo church built, "had apples brought from France to plant in Massachusetts and then brought seeds from those and other fruits to plant in Santa Fe and Galisteo." John thinks one of the apple trees in his orchard is a good 200 years old, given its girth, and there are 15 others that are 120 years old. "When I got the property," he recalled, "this was called the 'Forbidden Orchard,' and I heard stories that there was broken glass on top of the wall to keep bums out in the '30s. Guadalupe Chavez, the guy who put in my septic system, is from la Cienega, but he grew up here and had never been in the orchard.

"You can tell in Woody's house that all the window frames were made by the same man because they're all held in place by three square nails put in at the exact same angles, and I think Woody's house has the vigas from the old church [on the Hill, torn down by the WPA in the 1930s or early '40s].

".... The huge room in front [of the hacienda] was built as a commissary in 1850. This was a 'foraging station,' an outpost. They cut grass for the horses in the Galisteo Basin and, according to the records, during Kearny's visit here [in 1846], the grass grew eight feet tall."

In the same article, County planner **Beth Mills** was quoted as saying that "Galisteo will be the focus of the County's community planning process, possibly beginning in late 2005."

The same *Real Estate Guide* featured the **Santa Fe Conservation Trust's** work in the **Galisteo Basin**, where they have already preserved 1000 acres through conservation easements. According to the reporter, Paul Weideman, "the legislature recently allocated \$50,000 for Galisteo Watershed preservation and improvements, and the Santa Fe Community Foundation gave SFCT \$20,000 for archaeology and wetlands-resources mapping."

## FIRE DEPARTMENT NEWS

Steve Moya has decided to step down from his post as Galisteo's Fire Chief, fearing the possibility of conflict of interest with his new administrative job at the County Fire Department. He will remain an active member of the GVFR. Steve has been an outstanding Fire Chief and was President of the County Chiefs' Association for three years. We are immensely grateful for his long-time commitment.

New officers were elected at the Dec. 7 business meeting: **Chief is Jean Moya**, and **Assistant Chief, Linda Anaya**, making the only all-female top team in the County. **Charlie Holloway is Medical Officer; Brian Moya is Captain; Nick Contreras is Safety; Miguel Padilla is Lieutenant and Fire Prevention; Shira Schwillie is Lieutenant; Frank Lux is Treasurer and Melissa Ortiz is Secretary.** Congratulations and thanks for the huge amount of work done by the whole GVFR.

On Nov. 14<sup>th</sup>, a fuel tanker crashed and burned on NM 41 at the foot of the hill entering the Galisteo Basin at the south, at the same place where another driver lost his life only a year or so ago. This driver had forgotten to fasten his seat belt; ironically, it saved his life He was able to jump out and run away from the crash before it exploded. Members of the GVFR were on the scene. The highway was closed for a day.

Esteban Padilla and Melissa Ortiz were certified for Firefighter One. Congratulations! \* Land has been donated on the Old Denver Highway for a new firehouse at La Joya. \*A new program offers volunteer firefighters financial help on new homes.

The 2005 Galisteo directories will be in your mailboxes soon, courtesy of the GVFR and producers Frank and Cindy Lux. If you find a mistake in your entry, it's not their fault. Everyone was given a form to fill out and few people returned them. Merry Xmas and Happy New Year anyway! And a Yuletide of THANKS for your end-of-the-year donations to the GVFR. For those who haven't contributed yet, the end is not yet here....





## GCA MEETING: NOV. 17<sup>th</sup>

Barbara Cooper

Shaun Sohn attended the November meeting of the GCA Board to express his interest in representing Galisteo's youth on the Board. He hopes to form a youth committee and bring more unity to the young people of the village. We voted unanimously to make Sean the Youth Representative to the Board -- without voting rights until he is 18, according to our by-laws.

Ted Fleming and Mike Anaya met to discuss our need for new lighting at the Community Center. They felt that 7 tracks of 6 lights each would be adequate. This could be done for an estimated cost of \$5,000, which will be on our wish list for the 2005 fund drive, to be held early in the next year.

The Board voted unanimously against having a community Christmas party this year. Instead, we will plan an event early in the year. Next meeting is Dec. 15<sup>th</sup>.

**Corrections:** It was not Senator Bingaman's wife, but his sister, who accompanied him to the Studio Tour. And it was 105 not 94 people who signed the speeding petition (I missed a page).

### EL PUENTE SPONSOR:

## CINDY AND FRANK LUX

To check out our pottery, go to [claystudiotour.com](http://claystudiotour.com)  
and click on our names to see  
what we've been up to!

### GALISTEO CLASSIFIED

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

#### WANTED

**Gopher Hunter Wanted!** Call Suzie, 466-1412.  
Couple living in Santa Fe **looking for 2-4 BR house to rent** in Galisteo. Local references. Peggy and Arthur, 471-0224.  
**Good homes for 5 lovely (neutered) cats.** Call Sina, 577-4045.

#### FOR SALE

**Fresh Eggs**, \$2.50 a dozen. Kathleen Murphy, 466-2659.  
**Futon couch, chest of drawers and other furniture.** Donna, 466-9296.  
**Digital camera**, Canon, 5 megapixels, \$250. **HP Laptop computer**, \$650, Richard, 466-7723.  
**Computer scanner**, good condition, Call Liz, 466-6003.

#### FOR RENT

**One bedroom adobe apartment**, 2 fireplaces. \$700 incl. utilities. Steve, 466-1544.

#### SERVICES

**Firewood-Piñon.** Buy from two guys in Galisteo. \$150 cord, split, delivered, stacked. Mark & Frank, 466-1267. Order Today.  
**Order your "Galisteo Gingerbread" House or Tee-pee** for the Holiday now. Dejon, 466-1267.  
**For baby-sitting, petsitting and animal care**, call Mercedes, 466-7285.

**Need a permit? Computer Aided Drafting Support:** for architects., Engineers, Contractors and Homeowners. 4 yrs. experience/local references. Call Adan Cárdenas, 466-8967.

**Reliable Handyman**, Call Kevin, 466-3559.

**Tree Cutting & Trimming Service, Fence Building, Odd Jobs; E-Bay too!** Call Mark, 466-1267.

Call **Beth** for **housesitting/ petcare/vet runs/odd jobs/studio assistance/party help/you name it...** in Galisteo, 470-7606.

**Galisteo Caretaking Services:** For the Chores You Ignore! short notice, small jobs, housesit, have truck. Richard, 466-7723.  
**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 refs. Free estimates. David Montoya, 466-2097.

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

**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. Simone Montoya, at 466-1518

**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, 466-7723.

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

**Carpentry:** Custom closets, hand-carved tables, benches, gates, doors, 35 yrs. experience, local refs. Onesimo, 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: 466-2118.

**One of a kind sterling silver jewelry/ decorative art, wood/tin.** Barbara & Joe Cooper, El Estudio, 466-0133.

**Barbara Holloway Fine Handweaving:** scarves, shawls, vests, jackets, handwoven of luxurious chenille. 466-2118.

**Private Exercise Training with Ron Helman**, 35 yrs. exp. ALL levels welcome. Also **V ideo Services/Professional Shooting and Editing;** output to DVD; download samples and information on exercise at [www.ronhelman.com](http://www.ronhelman.com); 466-1919.

"First Saturday" monthly all-day **workshop** at Light Institute; lunch at Inn. 466-1975 or 466-1458.

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

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