

ISSUE #82

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### EDITORIAL: GOODBYE FUNKY MAILBOXES?

By now some of us (but for some reason not all of us) have received notice from the US Postal Service that they “are preparing to install Cluster Box Units” – those steel banks of locked compartments - - to replace our mailboxes in Galisteo. If we “feel this type of unit is not an effective benefit,” they want to hear from us. Call the Coronado Station Manager at 438-1540, or write to him at 2071 Pacheco St., Santa Fe, 87505.

Are we just being nostalgic, or are those straggling lines of often decorated and individualized mailboxes in no imaginable order a major part of Galisteo’s character and landscape? On the bright side, armored and locked boxes will deter those insidious anonymous messages, and discourage mailbox thieves. Several checks were stolen (and cashed) from mailboxes in mid-January.

But there is another disturbing factor. Locked boxes will preclude the casual delivery of all village business – GCA flyers, other informal communications, and ....the newsletter.

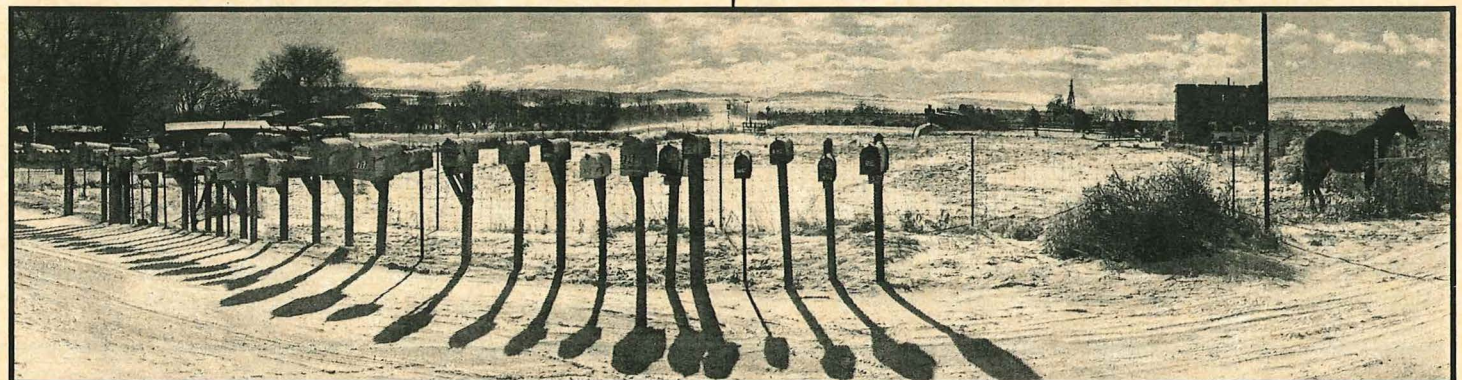
Vince Roybal, our long-time sweetheart of a postman, may retire in July and warns us that even without new boxes his successor might not be as tolerant as he has been.

This leaves EL PUENTE in a dilemma. If we have a “free box” by the church, we are afraid people won’t bother to pick up a paper. There is also the danger of vandalism. The current system, (though it might be called “forced feeding”) means that the whole community sees every issue. Providing such a broad forum is the point of publishing EL PUENTE in the first place.

Any bright ideas out there? Can we keep our mailboxes up?

**WE FORGOT TO ANNOUNCE THAT EL PUENTE JUST BEGAN ITS NINTH YEAR OF PUBLICATION!!**

Photo below: Richard Shuff



### GALISTEO COMMUNITY ELECTIONS

Very important elections will be held at the GCA Annual Meeting (Thursday March 3, 7PM. Community Center). There are *six openings on the Board*, including Vice President and Secretary. Now is your chance to be a real part of the community and to participate in decisions that can deeply affect our place.

Current Board members willing to run again are Anna Cárdenas, Ted Fleming, and Richard Shuff. Secretary Barbara Cooper and Vice President Barbara Holloway, who have served long and well, are citing the need for “new blood.” Longtime member Mela Montoya is also resigning. Those members still in office are President Tom Morin, Treasurer Frank Hirsch, Kathleen Murphy, and Linda Braun.

Last year there was some confusion about who can vote and who can run for office, so here are the By-laws: “Membership in the GCA shall be automatic for all residents of the Galisteo area. Members 18 years and older and residents who have lived here for at least six consecutive months are eligible to vote [and to run for office].”

Under Article IV, General Meeting and Board Procedures: “A quorum shall consist of 30 members, and no business shall be conducted without a quorum present at the meeting. All members in attendance shall be entitled to vote at the meeting. In the event that a member cannot be present, a petition to vote as an absentee may be considered by the Board. Each absentee must petition individually.”

**On the Quit Claim Saga:** The County Assessor found an August 13, 1907 Quit Claim Deed from Benjamin Pankey (then owner of the San Cristobal Grant) to Thomas Catron, reserving the 250-acre “exception” outside the ranch’s barbed wire fence “for the use and benefit” of “settlers at Galisteo.”

## GOOD WATER IDEAS AT WORK IN RANCHITOS

Muriel Fariello

With the support of the residents of Ranchitos, its Water Board took the necessary steps to conserve water during these drought conditions. Effective January 2004, each home was fitted with its own water cut-off and meter. Meters are read each month giving the Water Board an opportunity to quickly determine if a homeowner has a leak. The Water Board was able to isolate and repair leaks quickly without shutting the entire system down. Through these efforts the community saved over 700,000 gallons of water during 2004. Effective January 2005, there is a charge for water usage by homeowners in Ranchitos.

While working with the County, it became clear that all households within village systems will soon require meters. Conservation is an individual effort and remains the only reliable method to insure less water is consumed. Household meters, accompanied by an effective rate structure, encourage individual users to conserve water.

*Fariello is former Secretary Treasurer of the Ranchitos de Galisteo Water Users' Association.*

## A TIDAL WAVE OF SUPPORT FROM GALISTEO

Liz Rose's and David Burk's friend Rohan Fernando, working in the Tsunami-devastated area of Sri Lanka, writes: "I am humbled by the amazing response that came from you and your friends in Galisteo. We have bought equipment and other necessities to start the project... We will be using the Methodist Church in Tangalle as our base initially. The church had offered lodging for all the volunteers of RTT for any length of time. A target of 5 water wells per day to be cleaned, restored, and water tested for consumption is set starting from Tangalle to Hambantota. When the east coast is cleared by health and defense officials, Ampara and Batticaloa districts are also in our agenda."

In a later communication, the organization wrote that they are recruiting volunteers only on weekends (because of work and other commitments) and are employing workers from the relief camps, affording those suffering from major loss "a chance to be useful and earning... a return to normalcy in their lives." They are inundated with weekend volunteers, who sleep on the floor of an open-walled shed with dust and mosquitoes, displacing a Montessori school. They are looking for other quarters.

"It is heartrending to see the gratitude of villagers when the RTT team go to their villages. They offer tea, biscuits and food... But in some places they seem indifferent, dazed, and even indignant. People have their own ways and levels of coping with their losses. So volunteers/workers are cautioned to relate to these people with sensitivity."

## PEDACITOS/BITS AND PIECES

Isabella Gonzales is showing at the LewAllen Gallery in Santa Fe in the FOCA (Friends of Contemporary Art) annual juried exhibition. Her intricate ceramic piece won one of five

Honorary Mentions. She and Liz Rose also collaborated on a submission to the memorial for Flight 93 (which went down in Pennsylvania on September 11).

**Jan and Kevan Saunders** gave a very well-received slide presentation at Travel Bug on Jan. 29 about sea kayaking the Baja Peninsula with great whales. This weekend they leave to do just that again. They would be willing to replay the slide show at the Community Center in the summer. Rumor has it that the slides are stunning.

**Sina Brush** wrote a letter to the paper bemoaning plans to tack a commercial building onto the lot next to the Loretto Chapel. "People come with their own idea of what Santa Fe is and proceed to turn it into that very thing – a far cry from the simple, understated and humble buildings of the very recent past."

**Amber Haskell** of Ranchitos has joined the Vista Grande Public Library Board.

**Munson Hunt's** exhibition of sculpture and video, from Feb.18-April 9 at the Las Cruces Fine Arts Museum, is called "Natural Displacements." It focuses on "our disconnections." Two more solo shows are coming up in Santa Fe and Scottsdale.

**Henry B. Chavez**, son of Luis Chavez (not our current resident) and Adelia Baros, nephew of **Simona Garcia**, died on Feb. 2 at his home in Santa Fe. He never forgot his roots in Galisteo, and was related to many people here.

Galisteño **Dr. David Snyder**, president of the New Mexico Cancer Care Associates, has charged St Vincent Hospital with interfering with the private practice of medicine by entering into an exclusive contract with United Health Care, depriving patients of choosing their own doctors. (It is being re-negotiated.)

**Minnie Murray**, who lives near Eldorado and has friends in Galisteo (and subscribes to EL PUENTE), has issued a new CD including her song "Church in Galisteo" (a picture of which graces the cover). It goes, in part: "You see the little church as thru the village you go, on the way to somewhere else or the Rodeo..."

**Christine Mackenzie**, who bought Ann Yeomans' house, was pictured in the *New Mexican* as a client for Feldenkreis practitioner Marilyn Hardy in Eldorado.

As part of a *New Mexican* series on the Santa Fe art economy, there was a feature on abstract expressionist painter **Dan McBride**, who recently moved from Dixon to Galisteo.

The Board of County Commissioners has approved acquisition of a conservation easement on 168 acres of the **Thornton Ranch**. Future plans, according to the *New Mexican*, include "building several parking lots and trail heads on the land that will allow travel to other land already owned by the County" – presumably along CR 42. The easement will cost about \$400,000, to come from the two general-obligation bonds approved by voters several years ago for acquiring open space.

## INTO THE PAST

Early in the morning of Feb. 5<sup>th</sup> I had to rub my eyes when I spotted an old-fashioned locomotive on a flatbed moving slowly by my house on Rte 41. Then it crept up the winding road to the movie set on Cerro Pelon Ranch where a "railroad" is being constructed. (Coincidentally, the old New Mexico Central, aka the Chili and Bean Line, used to run right by there.)

The Ford Ranch set has been crawling with activity in the last few weeks, as a TV series called "Into the West" is being filmed there and at the San Cristobal Ranch, where tipis could be seen from US285. (Another blast from the past, since Apaches and other Plains Indians used to camp in that area when they were trading with or raiding the pueblos and then the village, well into the 19<sup>th</sup> century.)

Ford had claimed he would allow no more filming on his ranch, but maybe the turn around has something to do with his own film directing aspirations. The six-night "Into the West" from TNT is produced by DreamWorks Television's Steven Spielberg. Each night is directed by a different man (no women). The casts are star-studded. (See the CHUD.COM Message Board for the endless lists.) At least one Galisteño is getting a job out of the extravaganza, but not, as far as I know, on screen.

The "12-hour epic" is billed as a "Dramatic Saga of the Opening of the American West," and "the most ambitious original production TNT has ever undertaken." The story involves two multi-generational families, one of settlers and the other of Lakotas. It's being shot in New Mexico and Calgary and will premier this summer. Hang onto your cowboy hats and war bonnets!

## FIRE DEPARTMENT NEWS

**Some stats on the current Galisteo Volunteer Fire and Rescue:** We have a 1995 Engine, a 1997 Tanker, a 2003 Brush Truck, and a 1991 Ambulance. We can store 30,000 gallons in our catchment cistern (an innovation introduced by John Benjamin, who founded the present department). There are 6 hydrants fed by the Galisteo Community Water Association and 4 hydrants fed by the Ranchitos de Galisteo Water Association.

There are 17 members of the Fire Department: 11 Firefighter I, 6 EMTs, one First Responder, 12 certified to fight Wildland fires, and 4 Swiftwater Techs. Two are cadets and one is probationary. (These numbers don't add up because one person can fit several of these categories.) There are also a few active Auxiliary members.

More volunteers in any of these categories would be very welcome. Among the perks are occupational training opportunities, complimentary access to a fitness facility, paid continuing education through seminars and workshops, paid travel, lodging and meals for out-of-town training, and best of all -- the camaraderie and respect you gain by serving your community.

Burn Permits are now available. *Once you have your permit* you can burn from 6AM to 2PM any day of the week. Get your permit from the Galisteo Fire Department (466-1396); when you do burn, you must call the County Dispatch (428-3700) before starting so that the smoke will be recognized as a permitted burn. Winds and gusts can't be over 10 mph and no distress can be caused neighbors or public driving surfaces. You need a permit for all kinds of fires, including irrigation and drainage ditch cleaning, crop or fallow field maintenance, slash pile, ceremonial/sweat lodge, open pit/bbq, and so forth. You cannot leave the burn area or leave it unattended until you achieve a cold-ash condition on the site. See other rules on the permit.

A Good Time was had by all at the wine bar opening at the Galisteo Inn on Jan. 20th. Thanks from the community. The bar is now open 5-9 PM, Wed. thru Sat.

## LOVE BIRDS

Jan Saunders

We humans LOVE birds! According to E.O. Wilson, the Harvard evolutionary biologist, our history of evolving in a natural world makes biophiliacs of us all. We have a hardwired affinity for all things wild. Because we crave contact with nature, birding is a multimillion-dollar industry. We spend money on bird seed, bird feeders, bird houses, bird baths, bird watching trips, bird books, binoculars and landscaping for the birds.

New research reveals that nature freely and abundantly returns our investment to us. Hiking, gardening, watching birds or simply gazing out of a window into your backyard all have therapeutic health benefits. Experiencing the natural world calms and soothes us. The latest bird research has direct human health applications. Studies on Emperor Penguins provide information about heart disease. The migration habits of Swainson's Thrushes offer insight into sleep disorders, and valuable information on human hearing loss has come to us through studies of chickens, quail and starlings.

Yes, we love birds. But sometimes we love them to death. Here a few suggestions to make us mindful of how our daily lives impact birds:

- The picture windows we install to give us a better view of the birds can kill birds on impact. Solution? Put up hawk silhouettes, spider web stickers (available from the Bosque Nature Store) or even bits of ribbons to warn birds of an unseen obstruction.

- Floodlights or any exterior lights left on at night adversely affect nocturnal migratory bird patterns. Dark skies not only allow humans to enjoy the night sky, but allow birds to migrate more safely.

- That pesticide we use on the rose bush is a hazard to Orioles and Hummingbirds that eat insects and feed them to their nestlings. Use a spray of water from the hose, a mixture of garlic or soapy water in a spray bottle, or consult your local nursery about non-toxic ways to control pests. Similarly the poison we put out for mice, gophers, ground squirrels and other pesky rodents can find its way to the owl and hawk population.

- Jelly on Oriole feeders can grow harmful bacteria; they should be placed in the shade and scrubbed clean after two days. I stopped putting out jelly the day I found an entire hummingbird tail stuck to the feeder.

- Moldy, dirty birdseed feeders can spread diseases that sicken and weaken birds. Clean your feeders with a mild Clorox and water solution. De-icers, weed killers and anti-freeze spills should be avoided.

Of course there are many more widespread examples of how we unknowingly place wildlife in danger. These are just a few of the obvious hazards we can correct in our own backyards. So remember to treat all nature with gratitude, love, and kindness. Love the birds and have a Happy Valentine's Day.

## HOW WE MET (HAPPY VALENTINE'S DAY!)

**Barbara and Joe Cooper:** "We were born together and will die the same. What can I tell you!... We grew up together in Syracuse, N.Y. and have been best friends forever." (They've been married 48 years.)

**Muriel Fariello and Barbara Seiler:** "Friends introduced us at a party in New York. That was 16 years ago. We started dating and never stopped."

**Liz Rose and David Burk:** "We met at the Galisteo Rodeo in 1984. We were introduced by Romona Scholder, who told David 'Be nice to my English friend.'"

**Carla and Rod Hall:** "We met in Galisteo 32 years ago. Both of our children were born here."

**CORRECTION:** Abject apologies to Jan Saunders for having added a line about Whooping Cranes to her last column. Thankfully she has forgiven El Puente for this blow to her reputation and will continue to contribute.

## EL PUENTE SPONSOR: ANONYMOUS

El Puente is a really good thing for the community.  
It's about time we contributed to it."

### GALISTEO CLASSIFIED

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

#### WANTED

**Part-time Dishwasher:** Fri. and Sat. nights, Sun. days: Eddie, Galisteo Inn, 466-3663 or stop by after Jan. 18, Wed.-Sat. 4-5PM. Couple living in Santa Fe looking for 2-4 BR house to rent in Galisteo. Local references. Peggy and Arthur, 471-0224.

#### FOR SALE

**Fresh Eggs,** \$2.50 a dozen. Kathleen Murphy, 466-2659.  
**Futon couch, chest of drawers and other furniture.** Donna, 466-9296.

#### FOR RENT

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

#### SERVICES

**Looking for a new car or used vehicle?** Our own Galisteo Native Adan Cárdenas is now a Sales Rep for Santa Fe Mazda Volvo Suzuki. Call him 471-6700 or at home at 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.

**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.

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

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

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

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

**I will take care of your pets or watch children,** Simone Montoya, 466-1518

**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.

**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 **Video 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.

**Nick's Landscaping, Brush Removal, and Garbage Collection.** Call 466-0530 or 470-5973.

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

**Editor:** Lucy R. Lippard. **Contributing Editors:** Barbara Cooper, Isabella Gonzales, Richard Griscom, Jan Saunders.

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### BULLETINS FROM THE RED AND THE BLUE

"To announce that there must be no criticism of the President, or that we are to stand by the President, right or wrong, is not only unpatriotic and servile, but is morally treasonable to the American public."—**Theodore Roosevelt, Republican.**

\*

1. Open a new file on your computer. 2. Name is 'George W. Bush.' 3. Send it to the trash. 4. Empty the trash. 5. Your PC will ask you: 'Do you really want to get rid of George W. Bush?' 6. Click 'Yes.' 7. Feel better. — **An Internet Democrat.**