



# EL PUENTE DE GALISTEO

ISSUE #100

DECEMBER 2006

**1000**

**One hundredth issue**

**10**

**Tenth anniversary**

**1**

**Still number one in Galisteo**



## BAD TO THE BONE

Jan Saunders

Like scary stories? Well, if you are a hardworking little songbird and lay your eggs in an exposed open cup nest within a fragmented forest – like our bosque—here's a story that will keep you awake at night. It's guaranteed to scare you right off your perch.

Enter the Brown-headed Cowbird. That beautiful shiny, blue-black bird with the coffee brown head whose melodiously gurgling voice celebrates spring in Galisteo is a songbird's worst nightmare. Absolutely sinister in their use of stealth to hijack a nest, Cowbirds lay their eggs, never look back, and fly away "free as a bird" leaving another mother to feed their brood.

Scandalous! In their defense, evolution handed down this technique to cowbirds eons ago as they followed the bison, camels, and horses on the Great Plains. The birds evolved feeding on the insects rustled up as the great herds grazed their way across time. Leaving eggs behind in a carefully chosen victim's nest gave the Cowbird the freedom to follow the herds at will. Who wants to take care of babies when the herd is moving on?

Over the last five hundred or so years, the demise of the forests to create room for grazing and agriculture increased the Cowbird's feeding area and rewarded their despicable habits. To make matters worse, the female cowbird is an egg-laying machine. One female can produce up to 40 eggs in a season, all without having to invest the energy to incubate and feed her hungry chicks. She is smart, sneaky, and sly, as she searches out nests to pirate. She will lay her eggs in a hijacked nest only after the real owner has laid at least one of her own eggs. She sneaks in, eats, or kicks out the owner's eggs, and replaces them with her own much larger ones. Apparently some birds, like Orioles, Robins, and Catbirds, can detect the intrusion right away and throw the bogus eggs overboard. Sadly, other neo-tropical songbirds will expend all their energy feeding a Baby Huey of a Cowbird chick which is often three times the size of the poor overworked parent.

Where forests are fragmented, Cowbirds easily penetrate and do their dirty work. Songbirds need food, water and protective cover to reproduce successfully. Restoring large tracts of our forests is critical to maintaining the health of many neo-tropical migrants. There are more than fifty million Brown-headed Cowbirds in the United States today.

Resource: *Living on the Wind* by Scott Weidensaul.

## PEDACITOS/BITS AND PIECES

Another hearing is set (this one should happen on schedule) for **Peirce Clayton's bosque land case** on Dec. 21st, 11AM at Judge Hall's hearing room at the Herrera Court House on Grant St. Clayton (still without a lawyer) has gathered some documentation to support his claims. Morgan Gafford's appeal of his case's dismissal does not seem to have survived the legal process.

Our birds-and-beyond columnist **Jan Saunders**, author of El Puente Press's *Bird Notes from the Galisteo Basin*, has been asked to write a booklet on the birds of the Valles Caldera. Remember, she started here!

*The New Mexican* (Nov. 29) published a feature article on **Catherine Ferguson** and **Denise Lynch's** friendship, collaborations, and poetry readings at Las Chivas. "Our conversations," said Ferguson, "are deep and wonderful and help us to realize how glad we are to be alive."

The Lamy **Railroad Museum** in the old Legal Tender, which just re-opened, was closed down Nov. 21<sup>st</sup> by the Santa Fe County Fire Marshal. The **Lamy Station Café** -- housed in a 1950s silver Talladega dining car -- is open Wed.-Sat., 7:30AM-3PM and Sun., 10-3.

GVFR firefighters **Miguel and Estevan Padilla** were pictured in *The New Mexican* Nov. 12th at the wet down of the new Hondo Fire Station; a previous picture, mentioned in the last issue, was GVFR's **Barbara and Wayne King**.

*3:10 to Yuma*, starring Russell Crowe, is filming in a huge way (three-peaked tent, klieg lights at night, massive traffic) at the **Silverado set** south of town on the Cerro Pelon Ranch.

**Kristen Siemon** has joined the Capital Campaign Committee for the Farmers Market Institute to raise money for the new building in the Santa Fe Railyard.

**Frank and Cynthia Lux** participated in the NM Potters and Clay Artists Annual Fall exhibition at the Santa Fe Woman's Club in November.

Quatermill Farm (**Priscilla Hoback, Denise Lynch, and Sean Sohn**) threw a Halloween party at Priscilla's studio for all the children of Galisteo.

The late **Bill Isaacs**, "outstanding mycologist, teacher, and naturalist" of Galisteo, was mentioned in the paper recently. The writer hoped Bill was "finding beautiful fields of boletes in the Happy Hunting Grounds."

## GCA REPORT

Linda Braun, Secretary

The GCA Board met November 16<sup>th</sup>. Ana and Freddie Cárdenas have been working hard to improve the plumbing at the Community Center. All in all, the GCA has spent \$2,500 to replace fixtures damaged by sand and gravel in the lines, as well as the excavation/replacement of lines outside the building and the installation of a filter. It may become necessary to make a further investment to repair/replace pipes.

A holiday farolito/caroling event has been proposed by **Jean Moya, Shira Schwille and Barbara Pfeiffer**. At press time there were no details to report (See also November EL PUENTE) and check for updates on the bulletin board.

## HAPPY HOLIDAYS



The steering committee of the **Galisteo Studio Tour** would like once again to thank the community for their support and tolerance of the tour. This year's was maybe the best ever. The weather gods cooperated and many people came and enjoyed Galisteo's autumn glory. Next year will be the 20<sup>th</sup> tour. We are already at work on ideas to make it very special and possibly THE BEST EVER! Stay tuned and thank you.

## FROM THE PLANNING COMMITTEE

A Community Meeting will be held soon to report on the progress of the Galisteo Community Planning Committee's work toward a Community Plan. Boundaries, commercial zoning and roads will be on the agenda.

The hearing for the Commonweal Conservancy's Village at the Galisteo Basin Preserve has been postponed yet again as water regulations continue to be discussed. (We hope those of you who were interested caught the notice on the mailboxes bulletin board about the postponement.)

## THANKS BUT NO THANKS

On behalf of the members of the Galisteo Volunteer Fire & Rescue, we would like to thank the individual or individuals who are responsible for defacing the plaque in front of the fire station, on or about August 21<sup>st</sup>. If anyone knows who committed this act, please take a moment to stop and say thanks for spending your heartfelt donation.

The next time you as a citizen need a well-trained Firefighter or Emergency Medical Technician, just remember this person who put you at risk. The funding to repair or replace this item could have gone toward training or certification. But we do believe that heritage is important, so this symbol must be replaced or repaired. – **Members of the GVFR**

## FIRE DEPARTMENT NEWS

Mark Russell became a full member of the Galisteo FVFR, having previously worked with Eldorado. He lives at Goose Downs. Dean Jones, from Turquoise Trail, has also joined the Department.

## INDIAN WARS IN GALISTEO

After the 1680 Pueblo Revolt, led in part by the Tanos (Southern Tewa) of the Galisteo Basin, and after the Spanish had resettled in New Mexico, conquerors and conquered were forced to work together to defend themselves against raiding Plains Indians. The balance of the former raid-and-trade customs with Apaches and Navajos crumbled and from around 1735, the fearsome Comanches held a particular grudge against Galisteo Pueblo and Pecos because of previous alliances with Apaches.

The Galisteo Pueblo Tanos were very vulnerable, virtually alone in the Basin, placed there by the Spanish in 1706 to provide a buffer between the nomadic raiders and Santa Fe. There is no solid evidence of Spanish resettlement in the Basin until the end of the 18<sup>th</sup> century.

Finally, plagued by Comanche raids, a drought-sparked famine, and smallpox epidemics, the remaining Tanos at Galisteo Pueblo had had enough. Around 1782 they fled down the Rio Galisteo to Santo Domingo Pueblo, probably without the "permission" of the Spanish government.

In 1814-16, when the village of Galisteo was formally founded, the brave souls who received grants to settle here were constantly plagued by Indians who stole their stock and attacked their homes. Some sources say that the village was abandoned at least once, perhaps resettled around 1821. The raids continued sporadically until after the Civil War. As historian

David Brugge points out, the Civil War distracted U.S. troops and New Mexicans took advantage of the situation to step up slave-raiding, exacerbating warfare with Navajo who were desperate to regain their stolen children. As intermarriages with Pueblo people continued and captives were taken on both sides, the populations were increasingly mixed.

In a court hearing in 1915 Anastacio Sandoval testified that at the village's founding, there were "no houses at the bottom of the Canada running east west (e.g. the Galisteo Creek at the south)...the first settlers who went to Galisteo went there on the 14<sup>th</sup> year of the last century" and petitioned for agricultural land. Each got 100 *varas* and "decided to build their houses on top of a hill which is north of the first donation and the population of the first 18 settlers having increased...Don Ignacio Chavez petitioned the Cadial [agricultural land to the east] for them" around 1840. They stayed in the "little town they had settled" because there was good drinking water and "the Indians at that time were threatening to fight against the settlers and that was the reason they stayed all together at the time, and that is the reason the town [of Galisteo] stands there today."

Another witness, Librado Valencia, told how the settlers built their houses on a hill and a church in the middle so as to be protected from the Indians. Anastacio Sandoval added, "They were afraid of the Navajos, the Apaches, Mescaleros, afraid of the Comanches, afraid of the Cayguas [Kiowas]...and the Apaches that lived close to Picuris who were living all around and Galisteo at that time was nothing but a desert. Further I have had knowledge enough when a man died a natural death there were ten to twelve that were killed by the Indians that had to be buried."

On January 13, 1855, nine Mescalero Apache rustlers stole some of Ethan Eaton's cattle from the San Cristobal Ranch. They killed one man, kidnapped a dozen women, and ran off seventy mules. Some Indians were killed and four were wounded. Word was sent to Fort Marcy in Santa Fe and Lt. Sturgis of the First Dragoons was sent in pursuit, along with some citizens of Galisteo who were in the militia, one of whom was wounded by an arrow, but recovered. On the third day out, they found the offending Indians 160 miles from Galisteo. Three soldiers were wounded and one died as a result.

In a letter dated Nov. 4, 1860, one J. Kingsbury reported another encounter: "The Navajoes are becoming very bold and have nearly got possession of the whole Territory. The fact is they go just where they please, killing and robbing all the while. We have had much excitement here with them this week. They first killed a herder near rock corral [a stage stop near present day Lamy], cry of Indians soon filled the town, several Americans who started out that way on their regular business were turned back by the reports of Mexicans. There was no mounted troops here. The Col. finally sent out all he had here which was only a small detachment here in charge of Gov't property, about 15 strong and they went out against the foe in two wagons. Of course they saw no Indians, reports continuing to come in, and the dead bodies of three herders. [Miguel] Pino of Delgado & Sandoval, also having arrived, created much excitement. Finally Simon Delgado applied to the Governor for arms, and got up a party of mounted Mexicans about 45 strong, (cont. p.4)



and started out. Found the Indians concentrated near Galisteo, a large number some say 40 others as high as 60. Any rate the Indians were strong and bold enough to stand in the open plain and did fight from Eleven A.M. until 3PM. Jesus Baca, Miguel Pino and other good fighting men were of the party. They lost three men killed on the ground and 5 wounded, two of which have died since. They all report having killed 13 Indians and wounding many more. The Mexicans also lost about half their horses, two or 3 shot but the balance run off by the Indians. My boy Talisforo went and was in the fight. From him I learn that only about half the men went into the fight...the others were about 2 miles behind, staid there looking on and left the foremost party to fight it out alone. They were in too tight place to run and had to stand and fight it out.... both Mexicans and Indians were glad to quit."

Clarita Anaya recalls her mother, Carmelita, telling stories about raiding Indians. Once her grandmother was making *sopapillas* in the fireplace and when she turned around, they were gone. Puzzled, she replaced them, and they disappeared again. She realized that Indians on the roof were stealing them with a long pointed stick. She then burned hot chile in the fireplace to produce a choking smoke and drove them away.

Thanks to Tom Morin for the cover design.

It would be very exciting if we could celebrate our 10TH ANNIVERSARY by getting 10 sponsors this month, to cover the whole 11<sup>th</sup> year of publication. Then we could relax....

## EL PUENTE SPONSOR: TOM MORIN & ISABELLA GONZALES

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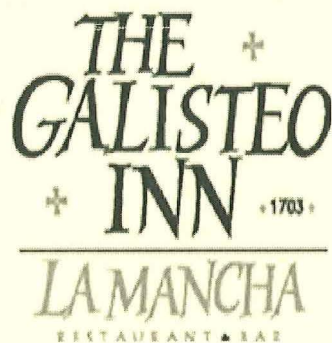
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El Puente de Galisteo  
14 Avenida Vieja  
Galisteo NM 87540





*"Merry Christmas  
&  
A Happy New Year!"*  
from



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The Galisteo Inn will be closed on Saturday December 16<sup>th</sup> for a private event.