

EL PUENTE DE GALISTEO

ISSUE #101

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REMEDIOS CHAVEZ 1918-2006

Remedios Chavez was born in Galisteo on March 23, 1918, one of eight children of Julianita and Tomas Peña. She attended school here and in 1947 married Luis Chavez, who passed away in 2005.

Before Remie was of age, she managed to become the Galisteo Postmaster for several years. Although the family lived briefly in Cerrillos, Waldo, and Rivera, she insisted on returning to Galisteo. She loved the community and told wonderful stories about its past. The family recalls, "Her kitchen door was open to all, and something delicious was always cooking on the stove. She welcomed old friends and neighbors as well as newcomers with love and gracious hospitality."

Remie joined Luis on December 6th. She is survived by sons Louie Chavez and his wife Sylvia, Antonio Chavez and Denice Pruett, two sisters, grandchildren Angelica, Angelo, and Raphael.

Following is the text of the eulogy given by Mary Alice Anaya at the funeral mass on December 12th at Remie's namesake church, Nuestra Señora de los Remedios.

EULOGY

I'm going to talk about a wife, mother, sister, grandmother and my friend, Remie. You cannot talk about Remie alone. You have to mention Luis. They were married for 58 years and were always together.

She would go to town with me and we would laugh and talk the whole way. We would go to parties together. The Mr. would drive going and I would drive coming back. For one thing and another she would get angry at me. We would argue and then one or the other would put our arms around each other and apologize and laugh.

Remie was a smart lady. She knew a lot about the Bible and would tell us stories. She told us about Purgatory and Hell. And how we had to go through the process to get to Heaven. I would tell her I was not going to Purgatory or Hell and she would say, you have to. I would insist I wasn't. I will bypass all that and go straight to Heaven. And Luis would say, "Well, if Mary Alice is going to bypass Purgatory and Hell, I will too!" Remie would make us the sign of the cross and say we were both crazy.

She knew everyone in the village. She would visit Moira, Clarita and me. We always joked and laughed. We ate together a lot. She would go to Albuquerque with me and we would always lose the car. We would never come out to the same parking lot. She would tell me off for losing the car.

We would make *empanaditas* together. She would come to my house to make mine and I would go to her house to make hers.

She would always tell me to stop buying clothes and save my money. I would say, "No, I can't take it with me." We would clean houses together. I hated dusting and she hated vacuuming. So we would exchange.

Well, *mi amiga*, I will see you in Heaven.



Christmas Eve on Avenida Vieja.(Photo: Bill Mitchell)

SNOW JOBS

Wow! This is not news by now, but Galisteo got some three feet of snow. It was supposedly the biggest storm in 50 years.

WILDLY ENTHUSIASTIC THANKS are due to those who helped us out of the various drifts, especially the GVFR and Cerro Pelon Ranch.

The Fire Department answered medical calls in the direst circumstances. One night the GVFR responded to a medical call on Frank Anaya Ranch Road that turned out to be carbon monoxide poisoning. After a breakdown, Steve Moya hiked a mile through the snow before the paramedics arrived via Snow Cat, thanks to Steve Valencia, La Cienega's Chief. Two lives were saved.

Chief Jean Moya and son Craig walked into Vista Clara with food. (This is why firefighters have to pass all those fitness tests.) A GVFR crew evacuated a village man with a back injury out to the highway by Stokes Litter (a little sled pulled up with ropes) because his road was impassable. Bill McSweeney from County Fire Administration went all around the district plowing out the various fire stations, over and over again.

There were two wrecks on NM 41 when 40 San Cristobal cattle walked out over the snow-filled cattle-guard on Anaya Ranch Road. They were black and night was coming on. Two cars hit them (one hit three cows). Five of the animals were put down but the humans survived.

Assistant County Fire Chief Steve Moya was shown on TV in the County "war room," dealing with it all. The GVFR wants to thank Eldorado and Med 80 for mutual aid and Steve Gomez, who helped with a rescue on his Snowmobile.

The other heroes were Steve Tremper, Mike Nichols, and Amy Tremper of Cerro Pelon Ranch, who worked for days to plow out dozens of our driveways around the village and in Ranchitos. Cowboys from San Cristobal were also around helping out, despite the fact that they had starving cattle demanding their attention. Will Mares and others also helped with their tractors. Maria Ortiz y Pino was instrumental in mobilizing the ranches.

And these are only some of the stories.

In Ranchitos the heroes were Muriel Fariello, John Masseur and Deborah Durham, who struggled through the drifts to brush the snow off the solar panels that run Ranchitos' water supply. Not to mention the innumerable neighbors who pulled, pushed and dug out stranded cars, shopped and ran errands, delivered medications, and were just plain there for each other. Galisteo is a good place to be in an emergency.

THANK YOU THANK YOU ONE AND ALL.

And then comes mud season....

CLAYTON CLAIM DISMISSED

On January 2nd, District Judge Jim Hall dismissed Peirce Clayton's land claim to two tracts of land in the bosque. A summary judgment was granted the defendants, which included the whole village, via the GCA. Hall dismissed as obvious the claim against County Road 33A and the old bridge. (Clayton declared he would have been glad to give the bridge to the County.) Then Hall ruled that there was no chain of title and the deed Clayton and Morgan Gafford proffered had "no value"

in regard to the property. "Frankly, sir, the valid claim just isn't there."

Like Gafford before him, Clayton announced that he was "dumbfounded." When it was noted he had cost the village a great deal of money, he said "It's a little hurtful. They could just have called me!" The judge reminded him that it was not about a phone call, it was a legal matter.

Clayton testified that he had bought the land from Gafford (on the basis of Gafford's all-purpose deed), had a "good strong healthy claim," and "I can build on it or sell it today." His argument was based on a bizarre group of historical documents, especially a 1907 Catron deed in which the infamous "250-acre exception" gave the land to Galisteo's "settlers," among whom Clayton apparently counts himself.

At the previous hearing Hall strongly advised Clayton to get a lawyer; he had not done so, though he consulted someone (who appears to have given him pretty bad advice). The judge also informed him, as he had at the last hearing, that "a Quiet Title Action means establishing good title -- not just something with your name on it." GCA's lawyer, T. Patrick Whelan, asked for a copy of the movement in order to discourage anyone else coming up with another demented claim.

But it's not over yet. The lawyers for Carolyn Singleton, the GCA, Harmony Hammond (and Richard Griscom and Matthew McQueen, both lawyers, defending themselves) are filing counterclaims of "slander of title" and "malicious abuse of process," to recover legal expenses. They are asking to have the Gafford and Clayton cases "consolidated" so there will be only one trial. Clayton was to get back to the judge if he approved consolidation; or maybe he intends to make us pay for two trials.

The New Mexican not only covered the hearing but printed an editorial on Jan. 5th recommending "property protection" to deter "claim-jumpers": "the State Legislature should draft some language to the effect that quiet-title plaintiffs, if they lose, must pay not just court costs, but reasonable attorney fees incurred by the defendants."

In the meantime, more donations are needed to cover those costs. At least one of the trials may take place January 30th. Let's hope that's when the fat lady finally sings.

FIRE DEPARTMENT ELECTIONS

The following officers of the GVFR were elected on Jan. 2nd: Chief: *Jean Moya*; Assistant Chief: *Linda Anaya*; Fire Captain and Training Officer: *Ken Spicocchi*; EMS Captain: *Miguel Padilla*; EMS Lieutenant: *Mark Russell*; Fire Lieutenant: *Frank Croft*; Fire Prevention Officer: *Estevan Padilla*; Secretary: *John Fitch*; Treasurer: *Frank Lux*.

JANUARY 18th, 4PM, at the County Courthouse on Grant Street, the CDRC will consider two developments crucial to Galisteo's future: the long-awaited Commonwealth project (the Village at the Galisteo Basin Preserve) and a development plan for the Cerro Pelon Ranch that will expand the movie set by 75% to 30,000 sq.ft. on five acres. (Times are prone to change, so check before you go, but DO ATTEND!)



Shaun Gilmore Merrick writes: Ben and Cole Merrick accomplished the unthinkable by skiing the Hogback behind their home on Camino Los Abuelos. In their own words, "It was the most awesome 'pow' ever!" The ridge will now be christened "Mt. Hogback." What a beautiful, strange, memorable, and historic Holiday Season this has been in our sweet corner of the world.

PEDACITOS/BITS AND PIECES

Ken Kuhne's buildings were featured in *Santa Fe Trend* (Winter/Spring '06) as "Homes With Heart," a beautifully illustrated 7-page article emphasizing his ongoing relationships with his clients and the homes he builds them. A work by **Isabella Gonzales** was mentioned as a "favorite" of collectors Steve Buck and Kristin Lora, also in *Santa Fe Trend*.

Frank Croft's painting exhibition at Owings-Dewey Gallery in Santa Fe is up until Feb. 10th.

Jean Anaya Moya won the Boeckman Award for New Directions for a straw appliqué work at Winter Spanish Market.

The New Mexican (Dec. 20) published two articles on Galisteo's "Hacienda Tradition" featuring the **Ortiz y Pino family**. Recalling her family's La Mancha restaurant, located in the Antonio Ortiz house (later Linda Durham's and now Sheri Kerstetter's), Maria said: "I remember always feeling proud and excited as I watched so many people enter our restaurant and bar, enjoy a good meal, share their stories and then take a small piece of Galisteo with them." The restaurant's name has now passed on to the Galisteo Inn across the road. Yolanda Ortiz y Pino's 1993 book, *Original Native New Mexican Cooking*, is still in print, as is José Ortiz y Pino's *Don José: The Last Patron* (both from Sunstone Press).

Priscilla Hoback was also featured as daughter of Rosalea Murphy of Pink Adobe fame, and as past owner of Maria's Mexican Kitchen.

El Puente's 10th anniversary was mentioned in *La Jicarita News*, a marvelous little monthly publication out of El Valle about water, forests, grazing, and other pressing social issues for Northern New Mexico. (You can subscribe to it for \$15 sent to Box 6 El Valle Route, Chamisal, NM 87521; or see www.lajicarita.org.)

Judge Reinhold was pictured in the St. Vincent's Foundation newsletter at a recent benefit, auctioning off a pumpkin in shades.

A GOOD TIME WAS HAD BY ALL...

Especially by El Puente at the December 14th Holiday Party to celebrate the 100th issue and tenth full year of the newsletter. Every past issue was garlanded across the wall, replicas of the first issue of "La Puente" were handed out, a cake was decorated with the (edible) logo. Your editor was lit up with Xmas lights, given flowers, a guest book, and a handsome portfolio. Looking ecstatic and befuddled, trying not to be as sentimental as she felt, she managed to thank the following:

The Galisteo Community Association for its ongoing support, all of the individual sponsors over the years (including Mike Anaya, first to step up, who suggested the sponsorship as president of the GCA Board), co-founders Richard Shuff and Cara Lee, who just missed the big event, and Joe and Barbara Cooper -- sole survivors of the original editorial group, who observed this must be the world's first trans-gendered newsletter.

Thanks to all the contributors (among them the only regular columnist -- Jan Saunders), Isabella Gonzales, who has taken over Richard's jobs, and our faithful printer and typesetter, Vic Perry and Freda Martinez at Allegra, who have made it happen since the very beginning.

Thanks as well to the seven people who sent in sponsorships for the coming year. And here we are on the 101st. Onwards and upwards...



GCA Board member Ana Cárdenas with editor Lucy Lippard and 10 years of EL PUENTE. (Photo: Rob Civitello)

ROADS COMMITTEE REPORT

An extensive report was delivered to the Galisteo Community Planning Committee (GCPC) on December 11th by the diligent and vigilant Galisteo Roads Committee, associated with both the GCPC and the GCA. Wendy Chase, Denice Pruett and Amy Tremper have accomplished an amazing amount of research and meetings. Among their findings:

Mike Anaya says County Road 42 is an arterial connection between two highways, but there is a chance it can be renamed as "rural." The County is obligated to reseed the edges after paving is completed. (Cont. p.4)

NM Dept. of Transportation (NMDOT) has federal funding for three State Transportation Improvement Projects (STIPS) on NM 41: 1) Widening the road south to Clark Hill, now scheduled for 2011. 2) Replacing the San Cristobal Arroyo bridge, in 2009, and 3) the Galisteo Creek Bridge—"replacement and rehabilitation" process to begin *this month*, although actual construction will not start until 2009.

The options for the Galisteo Creek Bridge are: 1) Take out the old bridge and build a new one that looks like the old one but with weight limit increased from 15 to 20 tons. 2) Build a new stronger bridge *parallel* to the old "historic" one which would remain for pedestrians; DOT would have to purchase new land. 3) Build nothing. 4) Find a route around Galisteo.

The Roads Committee is recommending *No Build* and will present legislation to re-designate our bridges as "restricted weight." They are meeting with Mike Anaya and Rhonda King on Jan. 23rd. The State Historical Preservation Department and Earth Works Institute will advise. Protection of the wetlands along the creek and under the bridge are of the utmost environmental importance.

The Committee also met with the Holly Corporation plant manager about the big gas trucks going through the village. None of these trucks belong to the fueling station in Moriarty but use it as a giant gas station along with hundreds of other trucks from NM, Colorado and Utah. Some do not even stop again in New Mexico. When loaded, 92% of them carry as much as 83,000 pounds of fuel (over 40 tons).

(To obtain a copy of the whole report from Amy, call: 466-9866.)

BULLETIN: NMDOT will meet with the Roads Committee and all interested Galisteans **at the Community Center on Jan, 30 at 6:30.**

EL PUENTE SPONSOR: SHIRA SCHWILLE

GALISTEO CLASSIFIED

ADS ARE FREE, AND FOR GALISTEO RESIDENTS ONLY. Contact: 14 Avenida Vieja or call 466-1276 by Feb. 5th for next issue. PLEASE CALL TO CONTINUE ADS.

FREE

Horse manure from Linda Vista Stables. Call Maria, 466-8930.

FOR RENT

House on bosque (1000 sq.ft) and casita (300') 2BR, 1B, heat by wood-burning stove, unfurnished, \$1,250 per mo. Call 466-8985.

SERVICES

Saturday Art Classes for children and adults, Retablos and watercolors. 10-12AM or 2-4PM, weekdays or weekends, \$150 for 6 weeks. Catherine Ferguson. 466-2765.

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

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.

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

Passive Solar Builders: Locally owned general contractor since 1980. Quality home construction, renovations: 466-2118.

Ron Helman, Life Coach: see www.ronhelman.com; 466-1919.

Like things done right? Welding, flagstone, moss rock, fountains, plumbing, sprinkler, and drip systems plus Gopher Control. David Maestas, cell 670-8608 or 660-9715.

Baby-sitting, petsitting and animal care, 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.

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

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

Carpentry: Custom closets, hand-carved tables, benches, gates, doors, 35 yrs. experience, local refs. Onesimo, 466-1430.

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

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

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

One Room at a Time, Organize, Clear Clutter. Redecorate, Archive Memorabilia. Call Pamela Markoya, 466-9191.

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

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

+++ EL PUENTE DE GALISTEO+++

Editor: Lucy R. Lippard. **Contributing Editors:** Linda Braun, Isabella Gonzales, Richard Griscom, Jan Saunders. **EL PUENTE logo** by Cara Lee. **Printer:** Allegra. **Send letters, comments, suggestions, contributions to EL PUENTE, 14 Avenida Vieja, 466-1276. NEXT DEADLINE: FEB. 5. TO BE A SPONSOR: make out check to GCA for \$75, note "for newsletter;" and send to address above.**

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