

# EL PUENTE DE GALISTEO

ISSUE #103

MARCH 2007

\*\*\* THURSDAY, APRIL 19<sup>th</sup> 7PM \*\*\*  
 Community Center  
 ANNUAL COMMUNITY MEETING  
 GCA BOARD ELECTIONS  
 (See article on page 2)

FIRST GCA-SPONSORED SATURDAY COFFEE, 9-11AM,  
 at the Community Center, Sponsored by Ana and Freddie  
 Cárdenas, will feature **HOMEMADE APPLE PIE** and a  
**BOOK EXCHANGE!** Bring a book and take one home.

**FREE** (but donations welcome...)

This event is being tried out monthly. Who wants to sponsor  
 the one on May 12<sup>th</sup>? GCA provides coffee, you bring goodies.  
 Call Freddie and Ana at 466-8967.



Paulita and Mae Peña (photo: Courtesy Antonio Chavez)

## THE OLD DAYS, ACCORDING TO PAULITA PEÑA

*In 1999, an unnamed oral historian published this wonderful account of a very different life in the early 1900s by former Galisteo resident Paulita Peña Chavez, sister of the late Remedios Chavez, who gave it to El Puente before her death.*

"My name is Paulita Peña de Chavez. I was born in Galisteo, New Mexico on January 25, 1905. I was born on the day of the conversion of Saint Paul and I lived in Galisteo until 1945. My parents were Tomas Peña and Julianita Chavez. My paternal grandparents were Pedro Peña and Francisca Chavez. My maternal grandparents were José Silva and Julianita Chavez. There were ten brothers and sisters in our family. The five sisters were named Sara, Paulita, Anne, Remedios, and Magdalena and my brothers were Pedro, José, Gavino, Leopoldo, and Juanito. I was the only one in my family who graduated from the ninth

grade; the rest only went to the first grade. (Remie?)

"My father was a carpenter and earned one dollar a day in wages. He also planted a vegetable garden on land belonging to my uncle Apolonio Chavez. He planted beans, corn, squash, pumpkins, and melons. There was no water on the land; it was all dry-land farming. This place was known as El Cadillal. Mr. José Ortiz y Pino [I] was the owner of the largest parcels of land, and he never got along with people. He made the poor people miserable. His vast land holdings and the countless number of livestock he owned were taken care of by his laborers.

"Our closest neighbors were my uncle Apolonio Chavez and my cousin Anselmo Chavez. My father used a plow pulled by a team of horses to turn the soil to plant. We, the sisters, were the oldest in the family, so it was our duty to plant and hoe the garden in the summer and harvest in the fall. We would get up very early to work on the garden, then we would go home to get ready for school. After school we would tend to the garden some more.

"When I lived with my parents we were 12 in the family... The house where we lived was constructed of adobes and lumber. It was a four-room house and a kitchen. The neighborhood was small and we all knew each other very well. For entertainment we would play ball, marbles, churches and other games. We would also tell stories, sayings and riddles, and listened to the hand-wound phonographs.

"In our community there was a large public school where elementary through high school classes were taught. In those days very little English was spoken. For example, one time we were going to Galisteo by bus and Mrs. Matilde Varos [Baros, mother of Simona Garcia] was also a passenger. The driver was not familiar with the bus route and he missed the Galisteo exit. Mrs. Varos yelled at him and told him, "Me no going to Las (Cont. p.2)



Vegas, me going to Galisteo," and by using hand signs she made the bus driver understand what he had done so he turned the bus around and took the Galisteo exit.

"My favorite teachers were Elena Dominguez and Magdalena Dominguez. [Paulita includes a sweet handwritten "Dear Pupil" letter she received in 1922 from "Madeline" Dominguez.] We were not allowed to speak Spanish, only English. We saluted the flag and prayed before our classes started. Education has changed so much that Spanish is now part of the curriculum....

"My husband's name was Felipe P. Chavez. We were married November 5, 1930, in our Lady of Los Remedios Catholic Church in Galisteo, New Mexico. Both my husband and I were 24. We were blessed with nine children. Our son's names were Leopoldo, Victor, and Jimmy. Our daughters were named Maria Gracia Consuelo, Julianita, Isabelita, Mercedes, Susana and Margarita Viviana.

[The manuscript includes the letter to her parents from his parents asking for her hand, and their wedding invitation, as well as letters inviting sponsors for baptism.]

"There were times when couples would wait several months after the marriage proposal was accepted to exchange wedding vows. In some cases the groom would leave the community to work elsewhere in order to save money to pay the wedding costs. Nowadays, some couples live together for years without exchanging vows. And if they do get married, some do not stay married for long.

"For baptisms the sponsors would take the babies to the nearest church. There, the priest would perform the sacrament of baptism. The baby boys were always given the name of "José" as their primary name, and the baby girls' first given name was always "Maria." In both cases, the names chosen by the sponsors followed. After the church service, a fiestecita would follow at the home of the godchild's parents. Baptisms and weddings were celebrated in the same manner, with church services and fiestas, excepting that wedding receptions were followed by an evening dance in the community hall [the Sala de San José across from the church].

"While living in Galisteo, we bought our groceries in Lamy at Henry Pick's Market. We also bought the meat there; often we would cut it into small, thin pieces and hang it outdoors to dry into jerky. We would also clean out the inside of ripe pumpkins, cut them into small pieces, and hang them to dry. In the wintertime we used the dry pumpkins to make pies. We also bought fabric at Mr. Pick's store to make clothes. Our shoes also came from his store. We also traded at Juan Ortiz's store in Galisteo.

"We cooked on wood stoves and washed clothes in wash tubs. The clothes were cleaned by rubbing on washboards with soap. Then the clothes were hung outdoors on wire lines to dry. The water used for washing was heated outdoors in large utensils. We would bake bread outside in the adobe horno [using 8-10 pounds of flour with yeast, kneaded and given an hour to rise before going into the horno, where pies and chicos were also baked]. The stoves made out of iron burned wood and were used both for cooking and heating the house. Some of the foods we processed were cheese and cottage cheese [made from cow's or goat's milk]....

"My father taught us to read Spanish and to pray the rosary every night. The priest would travel from Pecos to our community

to teach us to sing hymns in Latin. My mother taught us to sew, cook, and knit. String was used for knitting.

"Times were better then, although we did not have the conveniences of today. We lived happily, families were closer and attended church services together. Wages were very low but everything was cheaper then. For example, we paid eighteen cents for a dozen eggs and twenty-five cents for a loaf of bread. The people in our community knew each other well; now we don't even know our relatives.

"Whenever a member of the community died, a wake was held at the home of the deceased. After one or two days, the body was taken to the church where a funeral mass was held. Following church services, the body was taken in a horse-drawn wagon to the community cemetery for burial. Our daughter, Maria Gracia Consuelo, passed away in 1945, and she was buried in Galisteo."

[In 1945 the Chavezes moved to Santa Fe. Felipe Chavez died in 1980 and Paulita passed away on December 14, 2000.]

### COMMUNITY IS NO SHOW AT ANNUAL MEETING

Although the full nine-member Board of the GCA filled the stage at the Community Center on March 8th for the annual meeting and GCA elections, the membership was pretty much in absentia. After the current board introduced itself and announcements were made that Ted Fleming, Maria Ortiz y Pino and Secretary Linda Braun were resigning (and Barbara King's term is up), the by-laws were consulted and it was determined that a quorum -- thirty community members -- must be present for voting. The nine community members present were thanked, and the meeting was rescheduled for April 19th.

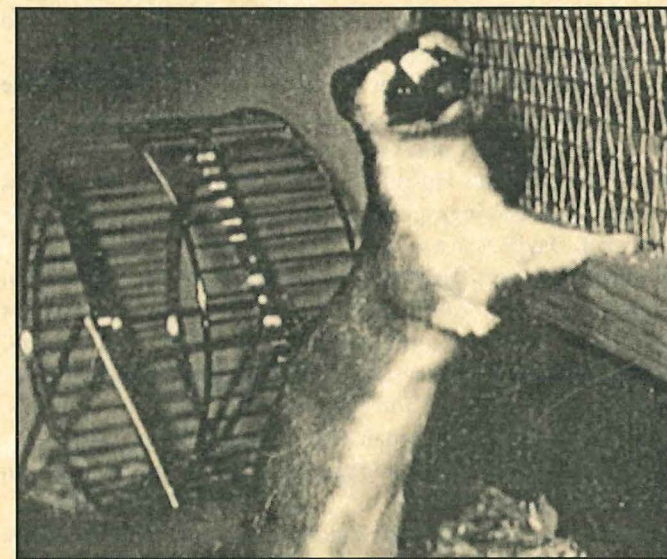
What does this mean for us as a community? The GCA Board has been very active this past year and each member spoke about how much fun and how satisfying it was to be part of the community, to meet new people, to take some responsibility for the village's benefit. It was hoped that new members would then rise up and volunteer or be nominated and life would go on.

Perhaps the mixup in dates is to blame. (The March 15th date was changed to the 8th after El Puente came out last month, because of the CDRC hearing on the afternoon of March 15th.) Or perhaps it was because there have been too many meetings recently, but in a village our size that cares about what happens to it, this is inevitable. Or perhaps you think issues like the roads, speed limits, the bridges, the protection of open space, the community archives, etc. will just happen without you? Not!

Are you a Galistean? Or are you just living here? If you have never participated, please join up on April 19th, or at the very least, show up and vote for your representatives on the Board. You'll find it very rewarding.

### FIRE DEPARTMENT NEWS

**Galisteo Residents with Gated Driveways: In case of an emergency, the GVFR needs current information for accessing your property. If you have not been called for verification of existing information or are new to the village and have a locked gate, please call Barbara King, 466-3219. Thank you.** If you want another phone directory, pick it up any Tuesday night at the Fire Station, from 6:30 on.



### WHO WAS THAT MASKED MAMMAL?

Jan Saunders

Just after the Great Galisteo Snow Storm, word reached me through the *chisme* vine that our ever-observant El Puente editor had seen a strange, masked, weasel-like mammal under her bird feeder catching mice. My "monkey mind" swung into action and chattered its way to the conclusion that she had seen the elusive, highly endangered, rarest mammal in North America -- the Black-footed Ferret!

One glance at my copy of *The Audubon Field Guide to North American Mammals* confirmed my suspicion. I could hardly contain my excitement as I dialed several members of the New Mexico Department of Game and Fish and left messages for at least four unavailable agents. In no time my phone was ringing in return with calls from very interested and very informative wild life biologists. One in particular, Jim Stuart, explained that a New Mexico species (not shown in my mammal guide) of the Long-tailed Weasel has a black mask and is often confused with the much sought-after Black-footed Ferret. To help confirm the sighting, he e-mailed me the ID Poster pictured here. I rushed the poster down to Lucy and she agreed that a ferret it wasn't but a weasel it was. (It had no black tip on the end of its tail and the ferret is twice its size, among other differences.)

Shucks! Were we disappointed? Yes, but we were also excited to have seen this very common but seldom seen little weasel. As for the ferrets, our Galisteo Bosque would offer them a fine habitat, complete with prairie dogs to satisfy their carnivorous cravings. Keep your eyes open and report possible sightings to NM Dept. of Game and Fish at 476-8101. You never know.



### PEDACITOS/BITS AND PIECES

"Maria" Walden (aka Moira) wrote a letter to the editor of the *New Mexican* last month in favor of a commuter train from Lamy with a Park-n-Ride that would "help revive Lamy's economy and bring back the old Legal Tender Restaurant .... There'd be more parking in Santa Fe, a blessing to us all."

Speaking of which, now that the Railrunner has definitely been routed parallel to I-25 between Albuquerque and Santa Fe, there is another transportation alternative from our side of the County. On March 19th at the ECIA Railroad building at Eldorado, there will be a second public meeting about the **bus line running from Eldorado to Santa Fe** (The G-Line) which begins its trial run from the Agora on April 2nd. Each ride is \$1.00. The six-month pilot project will determine whether there is local support for the service. If there are enough riders, All Aboard America Transportation Service (AAATS) will continue, funded by RTD (Regional Transit District), the County, and NMDOT. As planned at the moment, the ride would leave at 6 and 7AM and would connect with Los Alamos buses. Return trips begin 4 and 5PM. Public input on scheduling to meet your needs is welcomed; call AAATS at 424-1110. For more information, call 438-3257.

Kristen Siemon reports that **Mr. Merry Christmas**, the Mountain Chickadee she wrote about in the February issue, was not returned to Galisteo because there were no others in her yard. So he was released in the north, where he found good company.

Isabella Gonzales took part in an exhibition at Victoria Price Gallery in Santa Fe with a ceramic piece contrasting what women worried about then and now: Glass Slipper/ Glass ceiling, Supermarket/Stock Market, Wifely Duty/Active Duty, Going out/Coming out. Her work is also shown at *Broken and Repaired*, a juried show at the Rift Gallery in Rinconada, March 3-April 15.

Harmony Hammond just returned from Los Angeles, where she attended the opening of *WACK! Art and the Feminist Revolution*, an international exhibition in which her work was shown (and featured in the *LA Times*). In January, she also had a one woman show at Lake Forest College in Illinois, entitled *Erasing Censorship*.

Chris Griscom has reprinted her book, *Ocean Born: Birth as Initiation*. According to the publicity, "The first woman to ever give birth in the sea, Chris relates her story through a breathtaking photographic journey" about the birth of "her youngest son Bapu in the sea of the Bahamian Islands.... Her words take the reader into the heart of this sacred act, expressing what it means to give life with global purpose. *Ocean Born* has been a guide for thousands bringing life to this planet."

Joe Cooper's picture was in the *New Mexican's* Sunday Magazine (2/11-17) with his mouth wide open at the dentist's... not screaming with pain, just "relaxing."



## GCA REPORT

Linda Braun, Secretary

At the February 15<sup>th</sup> meeting, the board reviewed all of the community work being done to preserve Galisteo's roads and bridges. We discussed options to keep the bridges we have and divert big tanker trucks away from traveling on highway 41.

The Board is looking forward to meeting with Amy Tremper who has agreed to come and talk with us about fundraising tours on the movie ranch.



March 8th: The GCA Board addresses the few faithful.

**EL PUENTE SPONSOR:  
WENDY CHASE**

### GALISTEO CLASSIFIED

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

#### WANTED

Highly responsible woman with experience in Galisteo seeks summer house-sitting situation. Loving care of pets and gardens. Excellent local references; call Priscilla Barton 520-896-3315 or e-mail pwbarton@theriver.com.

#### FREE

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

#### FOR RENT

650sq ft. unfurnished studio on The Hill. \$550 per mo. + PNM, Call John Young, 466-7224.

#### 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: APRIL 5. TO BE A SPONSOR: make out check to GCA for \$75, note "for newsletter." and send to address above.

El Puente de Galisteo  
14 Avenida Vieja  
Galisteo NM 87540



**We are Excited to Welcome  
New Chef**

**Kim Müller**  
(formerly with The Compound)

**Come Taste the Great New Changes!  
The Bar Menu is Back  
Great food — Reasonable Prices**

**Please Join Us in Welcoming Kim  
Reception Party Date  
to be posted at the bulletin board...**

**Join us for our Amazing Sunday Brunch  
The Patio Opens Soon!**

**Call 466-8200 for menu and reservation info.**