



ISSUE #111

JANUARY 2008

TO LOVE WHERE YOU LIVE (AFTER CONTEMPLATING OIL & GAS)

Catherine Ferguson

To wipe the dust off the bark of each cottonwood tree,
to climb, to ride the bucking bronco of the branches.

To run your hand along the backs of the chairs
that winter over in your garden.

To carry by mistake the jewels of the yard ---
seed casings, wet leaves, the small white feathers beneath
the long gray feathers of the collared dove.

To hear the chickadee, and all night to hear the chickadee
play its song in your heart.

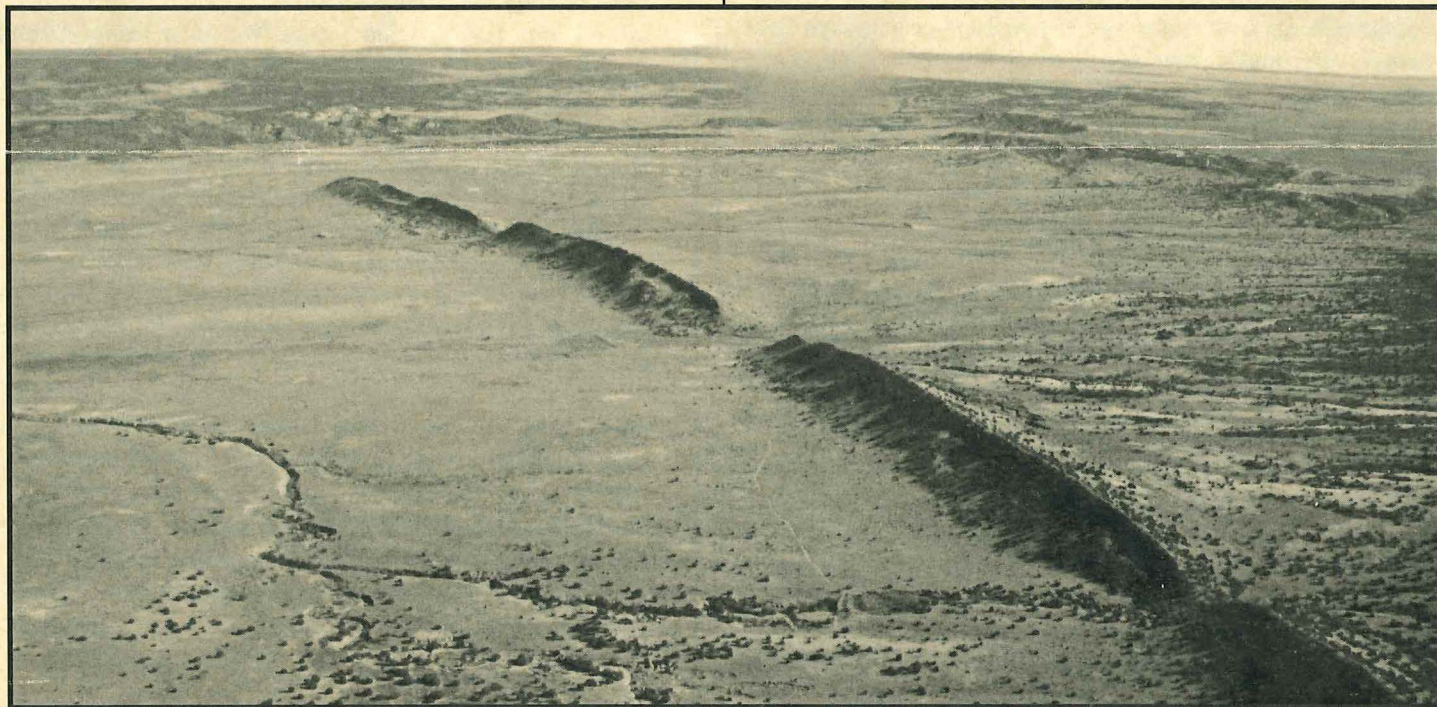
To watch the rain water the wisteria, to watch the snow water,
to feel the roots stir through the cold. (cont.p.2)

COME TO A SATURDAY COFFEE: First Saturday of each month at the Community Center, 10AM. GCA provides coffee, coffee maker. Each month a different person gets to be host, providing yummy, usually home-baked treats. In addition to a good time visiting with each other and meeting new people in the village, we bring books to trade. Steve Tremper hosts on February 2nd. When you want your turn, call a board member.

BUS SERVICE FROM/TO GALISTEO BEGINS: One bus each day **picks up in Galisteo (north of the 41/42 intersection) at 6:55 AM** and arrives at St. Vincent 7:30; So. Complex 7:35; NMDOT 7:36; PERA 7:46; and Sheridan Ave. 7:56 AM. **Returns** (read stops in reverse) are at 5:11, 5:21, 5:41, 5:42, 5:45 **arriving in Galisteo at 6:17PM.**

The G-Line runs from Edgewood, Moriarty, Stanley, Galisteo, and Eldorado to Santa Fe and will carry bikes, but not dogs. For info. call 424-0887. \$2 one-way. **RIDE FREE IN JANUARY.**

Below: Aerial View of the southern creston and Comanche Gap, where you can just see traces of the old road and Railroad (El Central). (Photo: Denise Lynch).



To run out into the prairie and see the wind running along beside you.

To step on the memory of sunflowers.
To remember sunflowers year after year after year.

To follow the river into the cave of the Great Blue Heron.
To lie in the red mud and draw on your skin with a stick.

To break the ice of your past as you walk inside the sunrise.
To recognize a rock that rumbled from her house,
to carry it back and leave it by her door.

To never wear out the horizon by drawing it, day after day,
by studying the wild arc of light as it hits the Wave.

To spread yourself out like the light hitting the mesa,
like the dry sea beating the edge of the highway.

To stand where the sky and earth come together and call it home.

A FEW (SUGGESTED) NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTIONS

It's all about energy -- your own and nature's.

Everybody's ridiculously busy, but can you do more for your community? At the very least, come to all community meetings and stay informed about the issues that are affecting our lives and support those who are doing the work.

*

Our food comes from an average of 1500 miles away; as oil prices rise, so do food prices. Buy and grow locally as often as possible. (Do we really need strawberries in the wintertime?)

*

Eliminate extra trips in the car; carpool when possible. Buy fuel-efficient vehicles. (Ride the bus!)

*

Select Energy Star appliances and replace incandescent light bulbs with compact fluorescents, which last 10 times longer and use a quarter of the electricity. Turn off lights when you leave a room; turn off TV and radio when you're not listening. Put an insulating blanket around your water heater and turn it down to 120 degrees. Get a programmable thermostat.

*

Thank your lucky stars you live in Galisteo: "Stand where sky and earth come together and call it home."

If you want to make a donation to the coalition of local groups fighting oil and gas development in the Galisteo Basin, send (and make out) checks to **IC Change**, attention Rich Freedman, c/o Homewise, Inc., 1301 Siler Rd., Santa Fe, 87507.

"Capitalism goes shopping in the cavernous belly of Mother Earth seemingly blind to the fact that the store is running out.... If we can't see our participation in all the global destruction that's going on when it's right in our faces, we will never understand the consequences of our actions farther afield."

-- Fiona Sinclair (Sun Monthly, Nov. 2007)

LETTER FROM OCD TO YOU, ETC.

A letter received by some residents from Mark Fesmire of the New Mexico Energy Minerals and Natural Resources Department declares that the Oil Conservation Division's "primary concern is protecting water quality, especially water quality at drinking water sources within the basin. When the application is submitted to us it is important to us to have complete information about water wells in the area.

"Therefore, we are asking residents who would like to draw our attention to specific water wells in the basin to please send that information to us. **If you or any of your neighbors can provide a copy of any water well permits and association completion reports from the water well driller it would be most helpful.**

"Please send to the attention of Mark Fesmire, 1220 S. St. Francis Dr., Santa Fe NM 87505. "Once we know the depth of groundwater in the area and where the water wells are located, we can make sure our requirements for locating any new oil well and casing it to protect groundwater are met by adding conditions to the oil well drilling permit.

"Please keep in mind that while we regulate the oil and gas industry, our statutes and rules say that if the industry meets certain requirement we generally must permit them...."

For more information Galisteans are invited to meet with the OCD District Officer for the area, Ed Martin (505-476-3470).

*

Governor Bill Richardson finally found time to comment on the gas and oil situation and issued a statement just before Christmas saying that he is "skeptical that oil and gas drilling can be conducted in the Galisteo Basin without placing our environment and water quality at risk." Tecton has three drilling applications pending before OCD. There will be a public hearing on these next month.

*

The new (now-53-page) Ordinance is on line at www.SantaFeCounty.org. Changes were made at the behest of both area residents and Tecton. **We must respond before Jan.23rd**. (However, this date may change since the January 7th meeting to introduce the ordinance was cancelled due to snow; as we go to press it has not yet been rescheduled.)

Here are some **highlights of the new "improved" ordinance** (reported by Phaedra Heywood in *The New Mexican*):

- The introductory statement of purpose is omitted – a mixed blessing, since it eliminates mineral rights as "dominate" over surface rights, but also omits the goal of protecting "the health, safety, morals, convenience, order, prosperity and general welfare of present and future residents."

- Setbacks from water wells and cultural/archaeological resources have been expanded from 200 to 500' and a new setback is added -- 200' from designated County trails and open spaces.

- Variances have been tightened and can only be "granted sparingly" when wells are located on split estates.

- Only sand and water (not chemicals) can be used in fracking. (*Cont. p. 3*)

- Gas wells, which have higher impact on the land, will be identified separately from oil wells if there are over 100,000 cubic ft. of gas per barrel.

- \$5,000 performance bonds are now bonds representing the actual cost of remediation.

- Reclamation is still required but there is no timetable, and it could be 20 years or more if the well is producing.

- Drilling "islands," consolidating several wells in one spot, are mandated.

- Cerrillos Hills Historic Park and the Ortiz Mountain Preserve are exempted from oil/gas development, though they can still be drilled diagonally from adjacent properties.

GCA REPORT

Linda Braun, Secretary

At the Dec. 17th Open Forum, Ivan Guillen, representing the North Central Regional Transit District came to speak with the board about expanding the G-Line bus service from Eldorado to Santa Fe Monday thru Friday (*See p.1*). Galisteo needs to locate an area for commuters to park. The Board discussed the possibilities, with the south side of the church seeming most workable. Board members expressed both concerns and interest in participating. The current bus holds 33 passengers but could be changed to 53 if needed.

The board brainstormed about how Galisteo as a community might create or participate in an event or action to help keep drilling for oil and gas out of Santa Fe County – perhaps a large event with lots of people attracting media attention, enlisting the participation of a movie star or two or holding an event for County Commissioners? For now the board agreed to write a position paper on the oil and gas issue that will be sent to all County Commissioners. It was agreed to attend the January 7th meeting to respond to the latest version of the ordinance.

The board agreed to make a payment of \$1074.18 on behalf of the village toward the legal fees incurred in the **Morgan Gafford and Peirce Clayton lawsuit**.

The Galisteo Roads Committee will write a letter concerning the NMDOT proposal to "rehabilitate" the NM41 bridges. They will thank them for the speed and "Residential District" signs, which seem to be having a positive effect. They will note that we would like to work with NMDOT on Context Sensitive Design and traffic calming measures to be incorporated at the time the bridges are rehabilitated, which fits well with the proposed bus stop.

Representative Rhonda King let us know she will write a letter regarding our objections to the Safety Evaluation report. NMDOT Traffic Commissioner David Schutz did visit Galisteo and agreed that heavy fuel tankers should be sent to Highway 285, which is more appropriate for this type of traffic.

The County Development Review Committee (CDRC) of the County Land Use Division is **looking for applicants**. The CDRC conducts monthly public hearings on County staff's development-related recommendations and then makes its own recommendations to the Board of County Commissioners.

PEDACITOS/BITS AND PIECES

Celestino A. Mora died in mid December at age 91. He was born in Galisteo in 1916 to Epifanio and Remedios Mora, who lived in Romona Scholder's house. He married Alberta Sandoval in Duran, NM, in 1947 after serving in World War II.

Isabella Gonzales's *Where Is it Safe to Touch Me?* was reproduced (without an artist's credit) in *The Reporter* as part of "Seeds" – "a pretty big show of really small work" at the Underground Gallery, 100 West Marcy.

A group of **community water systems** in northern New Mexico have joined together to share resources. El Valle Water Alliance is the first of its kind in the state. 95 percent of the state's over 500 community water systems serve less than 500 people, yet they face the same federal water quality standards for uranium, lead and arsenic as the larger systems. "Until now," said Blanca Surgeon, of the Rural Community Assistance Corp., "community water systems faced a barrage of problems. Official documents were scattered around villages in people's homes. Board meetings were often unadvertised or poorly advertised. And no one was being held accountable for money collected by the water associations." (*The New Mexican* 10/15)

Sound familiar? Galisteo keeps good track of its funds, but meetings are poorly attended and the system's problems (leaks) are all too obvious as one walks around the village.

The home of **Tom Morin and Isabella Gonzales** ("the well-traveled couple") was featured in *Sunset Magazine* as a fusion of modern and southwest traditional interior design.

The January *Real Estate Guide* in *The New Mexican* ran two columns against gas and oil in Santa Fe County, by Melissa Pippin-Carson and permaculturist Nate Downey, who urged action by everyone.

GALISTEO: THE WILD SIDE

At the turn of the last century, Galisteo was a good deal larger than it is today, and a good deal wilder. There were several cantinas, leading to a certain amount of bad behavior. In 1891, Constable Francisco Chavez from Galisteo brought in Aban Lucero who was charged, on the basis of footprints in the snow, with the murder of shepherd Teodoro Romero. In 1892, Chavez himself, who had resigned as Sheriff of Santa Fe County under suspicion of corruption, died in an ambush.

In 1893, Juan Gonzales shot and killed Severiano Peña, who was a clerk in the village store. A year later the newspaper reported, "the town of Galisteo has been having quite a lively time... A day or two ago Felipe Trujillo was assaulted with stones by a young man named Eulogio Ortega... [who was] placed under a \$300 bond. Yesterday Anastasio Padilla was also assaulted seriously though not fatally hurt... a mixture of whiskey and politics seems to have been at the bottom of both troubles."

Almost a decade later, Dario Mora and Pedro Lopez were "badly cut" in a "drunken fight in Galisteo." Mora ended up in Cerrillos at the doctor's office with his arm "half cut off just below the elbow." And so it went. Makes life in Galisteo today look pretty tame. And you should hear the stories that came out of the even wilder railroad towns, Lamy and Cerrillos...

Phil Gallegos of NMDOT asks that the Galisteo community and individual residents **respond By JAN. 25th 2008** to support the preference expressed in the January 30th, 2007 community meeting for **rehabilitation rather than complete replacement of the highway bridges on NM 41.**

This would minimize disturbance of the wetlands (and our lives) to some extent. If they do not hear from us, they are all too likely to revert to the original, much more grandiose plan -- either two parallel bridges or total replacement, which would mean months of construction and a very different gateway to the village. **SO PLEASE write Karyn Lujan, NMDOT District 5, POB 4127, Santa Fe NM 8750, or e-mail at Karyn.Lujan@state.nm.us.**



Kids in Rodeo Parade (photo: Tom Morin)

EL PUENTE SPONSOR JOHN YOUNG

GALISTEO CLASSIFIED

ADS ARE FREE, AND FOR GALISTEO RESIDENTS ONLY. Call 466-1276 by February 5th for next issue. PLEASE CALL TO RE-RUN AD.

WANTED

Looking for permanent ranch or farm work and cleaning, etc. Local recommendations. Martin and Maria Elena, 490-9900.

SERVICES

Petsitting, call Marghreta, 466-4457.

Mac Tech Support and Tutoring, photo digitizing and organizing, and Photoshop lessons: Tom Martinelli, 466-1020.

White Dog Cyclery: Certified bicycle maintenance/repair. Your family bicycle service. All bikes, no repair too big or too small! Call Frank, 466-2121.

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

Common sense, gentle dog-training: house manners, management problem-solving at your home; also limited boarding. Twenty years experience. Call Evelyn, 466-1875.

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.

Need a pet sitter or house sitter? I will do short or long-term care, occasional overnights, refs. available. \$35 per day and up. Call Maria, 466-8930.

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 231-6352

+++ 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: February 5th. 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