

EL PUENTE DE GALISTEO

ISSUE #121

JANUARY 2009



La Sala Board aboard: C. Ferguson, J. Wall, D. Van Dyk, E. Thomas, B. King, A. Cárdenas, L. Rice, Santa Lux, C. Lux, Amy Lynn. (Absent: J. Moya and M. Ortiz y Pino.)

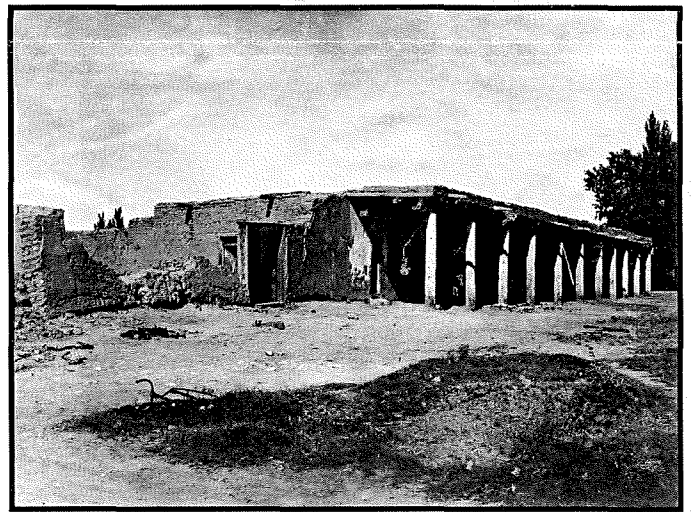
LA SALA DE GALISTEO

Janice Wall

The first annual La Sala de Galisteo Benefit Holiday Fair was a truly celebratory event. The Community Center was filled to capacity with the enthusiastic participation of Galisteo artists. The music of Marghreta Cordero (aka Nacha Mendez) heightened the festive atmosphere. Frank Lux was a young but nevertheless jolly Santa Claus who arrived in David Montoya's restored 1957 red pickup truck, driven by Carlos Montoya.

Cindy and Frank Lux donated their graphic design talents, creating the posters, flyers, ads and signage that resulted in a record turnout. There were baked goods, jewelry galore, note cards, furniture, wreaths, poinsettias, farolitos, pine cone fire starters, paintings, photographs, sculptures and other goodies. Each artist donated a piece to the cause. All proceeds and donations contributed to the financial success of the event. The funds raised enable us to start an operating fund for La Sala de Galisteo and to complete our matching grant from Cornerstones.

Since 1986, Cornerstones, a private non-profit organization, has worked in partnership with New Mexico (*Cont. p.2*)



"Juan Ortiz House, Galisteo," c.1905 (courtesy the Museum of New Mexico Photo Archive, #9715).

A SAD FAREWELL TO THE GALISTEO INN

Just as it seemed that the Galisteo Inn was getting back on its feet and becoming a real community gathering place, the owners were forced to pull the plug for economic reasons. The current owner is Karen Griscom Boyd and her family; Karen, daughter of Chris and Richard Griscom, was raised in Galisteo. The inn is still nominally for sale. (Recent village rumor that Karen and her husband were going to live there after it closed was just that – a totally unfounded village rumor.)

Former co-owner Joanna Kaufman told *El Puente* that she is "sad, but optimistic. I'm sure the Inn will rise again in a new incarnation. Things change. Maybe it's time to be reborn as something else. It's been a lot of things over the years. What's most important is that its historic character – the building, the trees, the property – is maintained. The heritage is what's important, whether it's open to the public or not."

The inn was originally the home of Juan Ortiz, who married Concepción Pino in the 19th century, initiating the Ortiz y Pino line. According to David Kammer in his narrative for the State Register of Cultural Properties, it was built "c. 1860." Juan Ortiz, father of José Ortiz y Pino I ("the Last Patron"), (*Cont. p.2*)

(LA SALA CONTINUED) communities to restore historic structures, encourage traditional building practices, and affirm cultural values. Now that we have raised the matching funds, the State Historic Preservation Department will sign a contract with Cornerstones allowing them to begin an assessment and preservation plan for La Sala in February, weather permitting.

Last Spring, when a "for rent sign" appeared in front of the Sala, local artists sprang into action. On May 10th, the first of many exploratory meetings took place at Barbara King's house. A board of twelve people, headed by King, was formed and subsequent meetings took place with the Sociedad de San José de Galisteo, owners of the building. Negotiations are still in progress on a rental agreement that is sensitive to the time and energy we will invest in restoring the building and to the charitable activities of La Sociedad. To be continued in *El Puente*.



COMMUNITY GIVING

Anna Cárdenas

I was going to caption this photo "What's Wrong With This Picture?" But Freddie discouraged me from doing so. He said it would focus on the person or persons who defaced our old mailboxes, and we could be retaliated against for saying something about our disappointment. Freddie and I don't always agree, but I am going to meet him half way. I am going to turn a negative into a positive and use this opportunity to thank those who have contributed to our community in a positive way and encourage those who haven't yet donated to do so. If I forget any group or organization, I apologize.

First I would like to thank our elders for all the hard work and effort you have given in the past and present. Next, all current and past community members for all the hours they have spent working to create and maintain our Mutual Water Consumers Association, the Galisteo Volunteer Fire Department (true heroes), the Galisteo Community Association, and sub-committees (too many to list) for informing the community on many issues and building the Community Center and holding activities and events to bring the community together. Thank you to the Galisteo Community Planning Committee which has worked long and hard to ensure that our community maintains its unique character.

Thank you to those who donated land for the park behind the church, and for the cemeteries and for our church, Nuestra Señora de los Remedios. Thank you for the women's society, Sacred Heart of Jesus, which, by the way, sponsors a (*Cont. right*)

(THE INN CONTINUED) came to Galisteo from Dolores with his mother and siblings around 1865, when his father died. The family already owned farmland here. Juan Ortiz was a trader and prominent citizen whose compound included a mercantile store.

After his death in 1929, the building was in the care of the Villanueva family. By the time World War II was over, the property was abandoned. In the 1950s and '60s a series of owners began to work on it -- a doctor in the 1950s who couldn't stay because the nearest phone was in Lamy; a man called Rosie Rosenwald who planned a restaurant, but went broke; then the Turner family. (below Rosenwald)

Finally in 1984, Elizabeth Luster, from California, bought the Inn and restored the hacienda to something closer to its original form, with territorial details. She named it Willow Southwest (her California inn was called Willow), and opened it as a "women only" retreat. When that was not successful, she renamed it The Galisteo Inn and operated it as a conventional inn. Luster never lived here, and the Inn has always fared best when the owners are on the spot to care for it.

In 1989, Joanna Kaufman and Wayne Aarnikoski bought the inn and moved here from Berkeley, California. It seemed to thrive in their respectful hands, but tremendous energy is demanded to maintain such an old building. They sold it in 2000 to Chris Griscom.

The mythology continues. As recently as 1998, an article about the inn in *The New Mexican* began: "The sleepy village of Galisteo hasn't changed much during the last few centuries." On the contrary, things are changing all the time.

Maybe the inn will indeed rise from the ashes. It would be wonderful (though perhaps not practicable) if a local group stepped up to manage it. Or maybe Tim Wilms's *tienda* will eventually provide a new meeting place. Who knows what the next chapter in this 150-year-old history will bring.

(COMMUNITY GIVING CONTINUED) scholarship for college students. Thank you for the men's societies of Saint Joseph and Saint Anthony, which assist members when they are ill or when there is a death in the family, and also own La Sala, where the community used to hold dances, Christmas plays, and other celebrations.

Thank you for the Galisteo Art Association and their annual Studio Tour, and La Sala de Galisteo for organizing to help restore the hall and sustain Galisteo artists.

Thank you to all the citizens of Ranchitos de Galisteo and the surrounding ranches for all their contributions to Galisteo and its community organizations, and thank you to all the Galisteo citizens who have contributed in an event or donation to our village either for the Legal Defense Fund or the Oil and Gas Defense Fund. Thank you to those who hire locally and buy and encourage our local artists' work. Thank you to those who bring up ideas and inform the community of surrounding issues that may affect us positively or negatively. Thank you to those who contribute to our village without anyone knowing who did it. You know who you are!!! Lastly, I would like to thank Freddie for repainting the defaced mailboxes.

FIRE DEPARTMENT NEWS

At the December business meeting, the following officers of the Galisteo Volunteer Fire and Rescue were elected: **Chief, Jean Moya; Assistant Chief and Medical Officer, Linda Anaya; Treasurer, Frank Lux; Secretaries, Barbara King and Janice Wall; Fire Captain, Ken Spicocchi; Fire Lieutenant and Fire Prevention, Wayne King.** THANKS for the hard work this all entails.

Mark Russell has left Galisteo for Edgewood to work with the Sheriff's Department there, but has offered to come back and help with some trainings. Isabella Gonbzales has joined the Department and is studying for her EMT exam; as a Spanish speaker, she will also be valuable as a translator.

The GVFR now has a 501.C3 for donations. Please make your checks out to Friends of the Galisteo Volunteer Fire and Rescue, which is now a separate entity.

SNOWBOUND

Jan Saunders

Rain is drippy and depressing, but snow -- snow is light, lovely, comforting, calming, and cheerful. Even the birds seem to prefer snow to rain. In the rain and wind, birds go to ground. Only the ravens play on the wind. Some folks declare you can predict the length and severity of a snow storm by birds' behavior. If it's going to be a brief flurry, the birds stay put; but in a prolonged storm, birds brave the elements to feed frantically. As I write this -- two days after the Winter Solstice and two days ahead of Christmas -- snow is falling and birds are mobbing my feeders.

Snow and cold mean a calorie-rich suet is not only a favorite, but a lifesaver for birds. Water is a necessity. As soon as I put warm water in the bird rock, birds flock to it like skiers to a snowy hot tub. Fittingly, most of my visitors are "snow birds" (Dark-eyed Juncos) that migrate altitudinally to escape the snow in the high country. I wonder if they are surprised to find high-mountain snow conditions here in the Galisteo Basin.

For me, a winter storm is both welcoming and warming, as I snuggle indoors watching snow and ice build up on my chili ristra. Insulating as a down coverlet, snow cocoons my spirit, keeping it safe from the snarls and snares of shopping and endless errands. A phone call from a friend brings news of highway closings. Lucky for me, I'm stocked up on cans of soup and Bailey's Irish Cream. Lucky for the birds, I have laid in a nice supply of black oil sunflower seeds and homemade suet.

The Santa Fe County Open Lands and Trails Planning and Advisory Committee (COLTPAC) is looking for volunteers to serve from the southern part of the County, which includes Galisteo. If you are interested, send a letter outlining your qualifications and a resumé to: Colleen Baker, POB 276, Santa Fe, N.M. 87504-0276.

CORRECTION: The quotation from *The New Mexican* in the December issue on the "abandonment" of the community plans was incorrect. The plans will be incorporated in some form into the new growth management plan.

PEDACITOS/BITS AND PIECES

After seven semesters of non-stop studying, **Janice Felty Griscom** graduated from the Santa Fe Community College's Nursing Program on Dec. 12th -- Phi Theta Kappa, as a Graduate Nurse. After passing her New Mexico State Boards, she will become a Registered Nurse. She has been hired by Saint Vincent Hospital and started her orientation Jan. 5th. Janice says, "Richard kept the homefires burning with tons of shopping, cooking, and dish-washing. Much of the credit goes to him."

Romona Scholder was on NPR on Dec. 26th talking about her former husband (and former Galisteño), artist Fritz Scholder, and his exhibitions at the Institute of American Indian Art Museum in Santa Fe and at the National Museum of the American Indian in Washington D.C.

In the December issue of the *Santa Fe Monthly*, **Chris Griscom** published "Enlightenment: a Tool for Change." In the January issue, **Ron Helman** contributed advice for the New Year, recommending Gandhi's famous maxim: "You must be the change you want to see in the world."

The Lamy Station Café is open with a beer and wine license: Sat. 8:30-3; Sun. Brunch 10-3; Wed-Fri. Lunch 11-3; Thurs.-Sun. Dinner 5-8:30.

Frank and Cynthia Lux were in the Contemporary Clay Fair in November at the Santa Fe Women's Club.

A movie about Georgia O'Keeffe is being shot at **Vista Clara**. **Richard Griscom** will be singing with the Santa Fe Camerata at the Scottish Rite Temple, Sat. 1/17 at 7PM; Sun. 1/18 at 3PM.

Tom Ford has signed his first deal to direct a film -- *A Single Man*, starring Colin Firth, Julianne Moore, and Matthew Goode. He is also designing costumes for films (the latest James Bond), and will design costumes for a production at the Santa Fe Opera this summer.

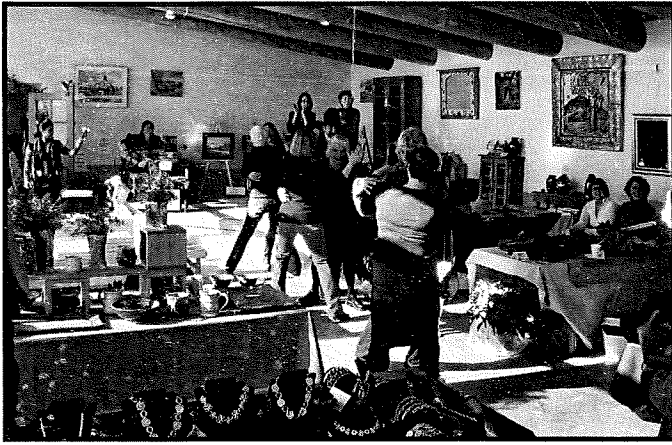
OIL AND GAS: IT'S NOT OVER YET

Now that the Board of County Commissioners has passed the progressive County Ordinance on gas and oil, with its strictures on drilling, the State Legislature and the oil companies' lawyers will have a go at it. So far the meetings of the OCD (Oil Conservation Division), the state agency that has the final say, have been inconclusive. Another meeting is taking place as this newsletter goes to press.

But the oil/gas industry has a mind-boggling bill coming up before the State Senate that would *strip all New Mexico's counties of any regulatory powers whatsoever*. This would take us back to total deregulation. Remember what deregulation has wrought in the financial "industry."

Another bill coming up in the House will be introduced by the newly elected Brian Egolf, a water lawyer. He proposes that owners of mineral rights must give notice to surface land owners about potential lease and give them the option (right of first refusal) to buy the subsurface rights. IT IS CRUCIAL that all of us who care about the Galisteo Basin contact our legislators to get rid of the first bill and support the second.

Then hold your breaths and hope the hired guns from out of state are correct when they insist the County's new ordinance is air-tight.



Dancing at Sala Holiday Fair (Photo: David Van Dyk)

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