



IN THE ARROYO*

Denise Lynch

Riding across the fresh desert, a dead rabbit there
in the sand.

Not even the dogs smelled it. I was seeing ashes or was it
sparkles from the anemia of me. Cosmos in the autumn
colors of decay make me wonder,

Am I being created or destroyed? Developed like film?
The sand barely giving the impression of its last breath.
I wondered was it in or out.

Beige – neutral without time. We share this inevitable
secret [her first]...

Is the rabbit's foot good luck for me times four?
Could she have fallen from the moon during daylight at
my feet, with a drumming I cannot hear until I'm
Dead too? I absorb this changing reference point like a
Soft paw on the back of my heart
As I gallop on.

*This prizewinning poem was published in the 2009
Awards, Student Writing Competition, by the Santa Fe
Community College, where Denise is studying film.

**YOUR NEIGHBORS' LURID PASTS: A NEW
FEATURE FOR EL PUENTE'S 14th YEAR**

Cindy Lux initiated the idea of a biographical quiz game
at the annual Fire Department Christmas party, and it was such
fun we thought it should spread to the broader community. Call
or email El Puente (flip14@wildblue.net) with "something no
one would ever have known about me." The answer will be
in the next issue. Here's the first one. Any guesses?

"I was a roadie for the Doobie Brothers, Eagles, Dolly
Parton, and Heart, among others."

*

This project follows up on El Puente's 2010 resolution to
publish more contributions from the community: photographs,
opinions, old pictures, memories, historical tidbits – and stuff
from kids too – anything that relates to Galisteo. So how
about you?

El Puente is also deeply grateful for the recent sponsorships
as well as contributions from Trinidad Perea, Minnie Murray,
and Cathy Crelling. But please see the instructions on the
masthead about making out your check to GCA (El Puente
or "newsletter" on memo line), not to the editor personally.

NAMES ON THE LAND (I)

In a name-dropping culture like our own, a terrible distance
opens up between present and past when we do not know the
names our places were given by past occupants. In the Galisteo
Basin, each succeeding culture has renamed its places, but the
original ones -- Pueblo and Spanish—are for the most part
lost. Even landmarks cited in 19th-century land grants are often
unrecognizable to those living here today.

What follows are excerpts from "Remembering Our
Predecessors," a lecture by Estevan Arellano of Taos. In the next
issue, we will begin a series on Galisteo place names, hopefully
with the collaboration of Galisteans with good memories.

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"An *arroyo* is officially a small stream that doesn't have
water all the time. And the word *arroyo* seems to be a combination
from the Arabic and from the Greek. [Here Arellano cites the first
Spanish dictionary, from 1611: *Lengua Castellano o Española*,
by Sebastian Covarrubias Orozco.] The a in *arroyo* (Cont. p.2)



The Rio Galisteo, in some old documents, simply "el Arroyo."

comes from the Arab and the *royo* is from the Greek. ...But a lot of times when I look at the *arroyos*, for me they are like veins in the human body. We don't realize that the water is flowing undetected underneath the arroyos – and almost everywhere you go, you see the *arroyos* full of trash.... They're a disaster what people are doing to them. So there's no difference in you dumping all your trash in the *arroyo* or getting a syringe full of heroin and putting it in your veins.... You're polluting yourself, damaging yourself....

"Cañon means canyon, but the word comes from the Latin word *canna*, or reed, which means that it is hollow. [Covarrubias: "paso estrecho o gargantua profunda entre dos altas montañas, por donde suelen correr los rios.]... A *cañada* is a space of land between two high points. It's also a road to move livestock which is usually at least 90 *varas* (or yards) wide....

"And then we have *Cerro* [as in our Cerro Pelon]...an elevated ground that is neither a valley nor an open space but is not high enough to be a mountain." [Lomas (as in our Loma Montosa) are smaller hills, or mounds.]

"Then we come to *Ranchitos*. Here in northern New Mexico a *ranchito* means a small cattle ranch or livestock ranch. But really the word *rancho* is a military term and it came from the old Spanish and means lodging for troops...

"La otra banda is a strip of land or a border, an edge, a side ("de la banda acá del río"; de la banda de allá del monte"... Most likely Arab in origin...like *acequia*, which is an irrigation canal. Almost every word with "al" has an Arab origin....

"In closing, if there are any politicians or planners in the audience, I urge you not to abandon the names our ancestors gave to the land, to the *arroyos*, *cañadas*. It might be more convenient and easy to give a number to every road. If you do, you will be responsible for erasing hundreds, if not thousands, of years of environmental history."

SADDLEBACK MEETING

Despite the CDRC's adamant rejection of Saddleback Ranch's initial subdivision proposal, on recommendation by County staff, the developers are going up before the Board of County Commissioners – on a *reversed* staff recommendation-- for final approval of 24 lots -- with conditions, on Jan. 12th. This is an unpleasant (and relatively unprecedented) surprise, since not all the data is in. The developers have been working with the County since the CDRC hearing, which they consider to have denied them their legal rights. The party they gave for Democratic politicians a month or so ago clearly paid off.

By the time you read this, the BCC hearing will have taken place. Gabriel Bethel, the lead developer, held a belated community meeting on October 7th at the Galisteo Community Center. Galisteans attending made it very clear that we opposed the project. He provided a copy of his report the next day, but it left us to scramble to get our act together before Tuesday; meetings were held over the weekend to discuss strategy.

The community's major concern, of course, is water. Many of the eventual 47 lots -- all on the east side of the highway, several along the creek -- could get their water from the alluvium of the Rio Galisteo, which is Galisteo's primary water source. Their report states that water is not "a major concern," claiming

that by digging much deeper wells than are common here, they will be accessing a deeper aquifer.. (Hydrology in the Galisteo Basin is still mostly guesswork, which is why the County is supposedly planning to ban geo-hydro reports.) Since each home will have its own domestic well, water rights are not required (though each one is limited to one quarter of an acre foot). Saddleback has very few senior water rights, necessary only for a community system. They will encourage buyers to acquire several lots, for more open space.

Archaeology is another concern, as Saddleback is adjacent to the Galisteo Pueblo. The developers commissioned an (incomplete) archaeological report for only the roughly three acres of each building site, not for proposed roads. They have also conducted viewshed studies to protect homeowners from seeing each other and supposedly to protect us from seeing them.

The County is inexplicably jumping the gun on this one, and the Galisteo community feels very badly served. As I write, there is still a chance – or hope-- that the Jan. 12th hearing may be tabled. If it does take place, we will hopefully be able to fend off further action, at least until far more work is done. More in the next issue.

LA SALA RENOVATION MOVING FORWARD

Barbara King

As President of the La Sala Board, I am excited to report that an agreement has been reached with the St. Joseph Society for restoration and long-term rental of the building. Our plan is to use the old dance hall as a community arts center.

The building committee will be meeting soon with the State Historic Preservation Office, Cornerstones, and County officials to map out a phased plan for necessary repairs, as outlined in the "Assessment and Preservation Plan" completed this past year.

Notices will be sent out, and posted at the bulletin board, as we pursue grants and fundraising opportunities. Galisteo residents will have the chance to help save a part of our village's history. La Sala is one of the last existing dance halls in the Southwest and a wonderful addition to the revitalization of our village center. We look forward to continuing community involvement and support. Stay tuned!

WHAT WE DO*

Andrew Lustig has lived in Galisteo with his two kids for about a year and a half. After three decades in the lucrative TV industry in New York, he moved to New Mexico to pursue a very different life, becoming a homeopathic doctor. He makes annual trips as a volunteer EMT to the Burning Man Festival in Nevada, and several times a year, on his own dime, he travels to Nepal, East Africa, and Peru to bring health care to the poor.

"When I used to run a large business," he told *The Santa Fean* (Dec. 2009), the product was money. Now the product is health and well-being. That is just the ultimate."

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* *El Puente would like to make this an occasional feature, as it did in its early days. If you would like to write or be interviewed about "what you do," call Lucy (466-1276) or just send it in.*

CARBON MONOXIDE POISONING

Wayne King, Fire Captain, GVFR

Early in the morning on December 26, a couple visiting Galisteo relatives for the holidays woke up experiencing shortness of breath, severe headaches, dizziness and lack of coordination. Recognizing their symptoms, they managed to escape their bedroom and run outdoors for fresh air. A visit to St. Vincent's Emergency Room resulted in blood tests confirming carbon monoxide poisoning, and they were treated in a hyperbaric oxygen tent.

This couple was lucky. Many CO poisoning victims do not wake up in time to save their own lives.

What is carbon monoxide? CO is a colorless, odorless, and tasteless gas that is produced by burning fuel. When it is inhaled, the CO molecules replace the oxygen molecules in the bloodstream. When oxygen is driven out of the blood, the body's cells become starved and vital organs shut down. The CO molecule is extremely tenacious in the bloodstream. Brain damage can occur before normal breathing of fresh air can displace it with a new supply of oxygen.

CO gas or fumes should not be confused with a natural gas or propane leak in the heating system. Natural gas and propane have strong odors that warn people that there is a leak of unburned fuel. CO results from the burning of any fuel: gasoline in a car engine; propane in a furnace or wall heater; charcoal in a barbecue grill; or wood in a fireplace or stove. If the appliance and its exhaust pipes are properly installed, CO and other combustion products should simply pass into outdoor air and dissipate. However, if the exhaust system is not correctly installed or is deteriorated, combustion gases can leak into occupied spaces and poison anyone there.

Mild CO poisoning mimics the symptoms of flu or food poisoning: shortness of breath, mild nausea, mild headache, sore eyes, runny nose. The best clue is when everyone in the room or vehicle becomes sick at the same time. Still, blood tests would be necessary to distinguish between CO and food poisoning.

The best way to guard against CO poisoning is to install CO detectors near fuel burning appliances. Similar to smoke and heat detectors, they can be purchased at hardware stores at different price ranges. They come with instructions for placing them in the best locations for detection and they can simply be plugged into a wall outlet.

PEDACITOS/BITS AND PIECES

Liz Rose won Second Place in Adult Stories in *Pasatiempo's* Holiday Writing Contest, with her "Anna: A Winter's Tale," published on December 25th.

A painting of a horse by Susan Rothenberg is on loan to the White House. *Moving in Place*, a major show of Susan's work, opens at the Georgia O'Keeffe Museum on January 22nd, following one at the Modern Art Museum in Fort Worth.

Sam Govea, Principal of Cathedral High in El Paso, who becomes the new Principal of St. Michael's High School in Santa Fe on July 1st, is Isabella Gonzales' brother.

In regard to the article on natural gas development in the last issue, Muriel Fariello points out that the new County Ordinance

on drilling would make it too hard for developers here. Let's hope she's right! The agreement Galisteo has hammered out over the years with Commonweal on threats of impairment to our water sources should be another deal breaker for feckless developers.

Mike Anaya will have a run for his money in his candidacy for State Land Commissioner as the field gets more crowded. On the Democratic side there are Anaya, Harry Montoya, Sandy Jones and Ray Powell; on the Republican side -- newly announced Catron County rancher Jim Jackson, as well as Bob Cornelius, Errol Chavez, and Matt Rush.

Romona Scholder was pictured in *The Magazine* (Dec./Jan.) and a dramatic portrait of Nacha Mendez appeared in the *Santa Fe Reporter* (12/1/09).

Corey McGillicuddy would like to thank all of her neighbors for their kind condolences about the passing of her dog Leica, who thoroughly enjoyed her walks through the village.

ONCE IN A BLUE MOON

Jan Saunders

I sat down this morning to write about celestial delights: How for the first time in twenty years a Blue Moon rose over the Galisteo Basin to commemorate the last night of the year and how the phrase "once in a Blue Moon" came to be. Nevertheless, all I can think about is the Robins. What is going on with these birds? What are they eating and why, for God's sake, haven't they flown south?

The early fall arrival of flocks of dark-eyed Juncos was, to me, a fair indication of a cold winter. When the American Robins migrated in right on schedule, they stayed. Now it's January, wind chill of zero, and Robins still gather at my birdbath to bathe in water the temperature of glacial melt. Has our familiar harbinger of spring become the first sign of winter?

I satisfied my curiosity about the Blue Moon with a little research. The phrase "once in a Blue Moon" has been around for some four hundred years, but came into common usage back in 1883 when the dust from the cataclysmic eruption of the Indonesian volcano Krakatoa turned the moon a lovely shade of cerulean. This phenomenon prompted folks to use the expression to describe a rare occurrence. In the 1940s, the Farmer's Almanac published the oversimplified but acceptable explanation that a Blue Moon is the second full moon to occur in one month, putting an end to the convoluted evolution of that heavenly phrase. Ok, but what about the Robins?

Every day when I walk the Basin trails with my two dogs, I notice things that confound me with delight and keep me awake at night, puzzling out the answers. Back in November, I made note of which juniper trees had the most beautiful berries. When I returned to gather greens for my Christmas mantel, the trees were bare. After an extended search I found an old juniper laden with luscious berries. As I approached (clippers in hand) at least a hundred Robins exploded from the tree.

Suddenly, I got it! Winter birds fly south not to escape the cold but to find food. Robins feast on juniper berries and stay till they peck the last one. They even hang around all winter – once in a Blue Moon.

COYOTE MYTHS

The coyote is a legendary trickster in the traditional stories of many Native nations. As these remarkably adaptable animals spread all over the country, it becomes clear how little we know about them. Recent studies show that they do not compete with hunters for large animals (preferring roadkill, and spring fawns, which helps stabilize out-of-control deer populations). Their diet consists of more than fifty percent berries, fruit and insects, while the game component is mice, voles and other small rodents (plus an occasional pet, and rats in the cities). Less than one percent of their diet is trash or human food. "With each generation," says biologist Stan Gehrt, "they become a little bit more familiar with people" and our landscapes. "Where that ends, nobody knows."

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+++ EL PUENTE DE GALISTEO+++

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El Puente de Galisteo
14 Avenida Vieja
Galisteo NM 87540

Connie Fisher
POB 6248
Santa Fe
NM 87502