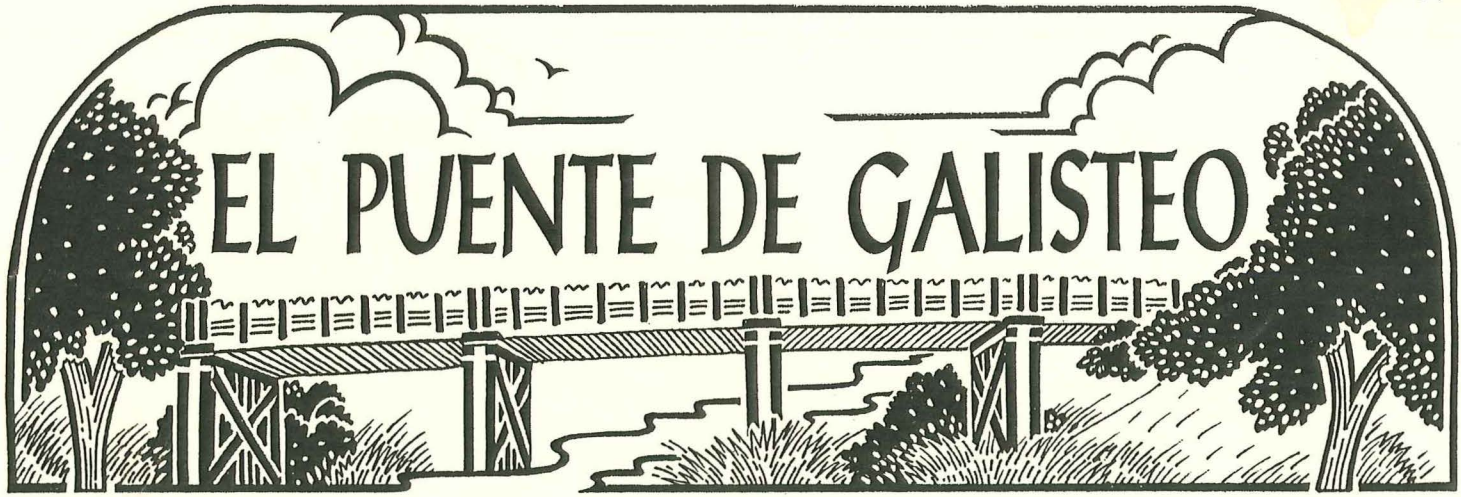


VPL



ISSUE #150

DECEMBER 2011

MERRY CHRISTMAS*HAPPY HOLIDAYS*FELIZ AÑO NUEVO

Tuesday, January 10th, County Courthouse, Grant St., Santa Fe. Second meeting to approve the Galisteo Community Plan. Community Support is important. PLEASE COME and support your committee.

NEW YEAR'S EVE: Firewalk at the Light Institute (for details: www.gwendolinafeisst.com)

CHURCH NEWS

Holiday Mass schedule at Nuestra Señora de los Remedios: Christmas Eve: 7PM; Christmas Day: 11:30; New Year's Day, 11:30.

Thanks for the elegant white metal cross in the "new" cemetery is due to Maria Ortiz y Pino, Brother Bob of the former College of Santa Fe, and Eagle Construction. It was being discarded by the Santa University of Art and Design which occupies the former Christian Brothers college campus. Maria was notified by Brother Bob and she jumped at the chance. (She had been considering just such a cross for Galisteo, but it was going to be very expensive.) Eagle Construction, which built the church ramp, brought the new acquisition to Galisteo on a flat bed and installed it. Soon to come (with the help of Antonio Chavez and Phil Tuwaletsiwa) is a smaller metal cross for the gate of the old cemetery.



WHO KNEW? Freddie Cárdenas was the Texas Collegiate Gymnastics Side Horse Champion and All American, 1969-70, and National Jr. College Side Horse, NCAA Western Athletic Conference Side Horse Champion, 1971-72.

NEXT: Who (in the late 1970s) "hitchhiked" with her twin sister as "baggage" on a Russian airliner from Cairo to a surprise stop in Yemen, and first class (another surprise) to their destination in Tanzania?

WANTED: More "Who Knew" entries from anyone in the village. Send them to flip14@wildblue.net or call 466-1276.

SUPPORT YOUR LOCAL PRINT MEDIA

** Every year, *El Puente* gets told that that we should close down the paper edition and go on line. It would cost a lot less, but we won't even consider it so long as the community is willing to support us. Not everybody has access to the Internet. We would lose some readers, and besides, your editor is old fashioned, devoted to the print media, and hates reading on line.

A generous gift from Dianna and Woody Gwyn has kicked off our drive to raise the newsletter's postage for the coming year. We need \$400 more. This is separate from the sponsors who pay for printing each issue, which are always welcome and needed. Oh, for the good old days when we just put the papers in people's mailboxes – no labeling, stamping, stickering, and fundraising.

Janice Felty Griscom's morning walk with Dooley and Ted



WATER: THE BOTTOM LINE

El Puente is devoting a whole page of this issue to the endless battles and discussions about water in our village, county, state and region because nothing is more crucial to continuation of the ways of life we are working hard to preserve.

*

To begin close to home, eight hookups were added this fall to the Galisteo Mutual Domestic Water Consumers Association, four of them on the west side of Avenida Vieja, including two of us who have been hauling expensive water from Edgewood for years. Although we paid a lot more than we had expected, we are very happy with the results. The Water Association is allotted 42.5 acre feet of water rights annually; Ranchitos has a separate system. The County figures one acre foot (almost 326,000 gallons) can serve four families of four per year.

*

Roger Taylor reports from a meeting held Nov. 5th in Eldorado, where a panel addressed a possible pipeline leading from the Rio Grande via the Buckman Direct Diversion project (BDD) to Rancho Viejo through Eldorado along the 285 Corridor to Cañoncito/Apache Canyon, where it would provide a few dozen homes with a reliable supply of drinking water. (Their water has tested over the federal limits for uranium and radium; they are already 3 years into a 10- year contract for treatment to remove the radium. The Cañoncito delegation to the meeting consisted of members of the same family who supposedly own much land in the area and are looking to develop it.) The pipeline would cost more than \$5 million.

Panelist Patricio "Pago" Guerrerortiz, recently appointed director of the County Water Division, stated that the County owns 50% of the BDD and pays for about a quarter of its operating costs, so they are "looking for customers to pay for the water." Panelist Steve Wust, a hydrologist with the Eldorado Water Board, said the pipeline would allow Eldorado to grow but was concerned about maintenance costs and retaining independence from the County. Activists David Bacon and Paul White, also on the panel, said the County had issued RFPs without notifying the public and that Rio Grande water was already overcommitted to cities as greedy as Denver, Phoenix, Las Vegas, and even Los Angeles (via the Colorado). They also noted the presence of contaminants in the Rio from the Bechtel Nuclear Processing site at the Los Alamos Lab, increased cost of electricity (up to 70% more than we pay now), and the cost of building substations along the pipeline.

Issues raised by Roger and other participants included concerns about the inevitable growth that would arrive along with the pipeline, its sustainability, and the County's recent deal with Las Compañías which sets a bad precedent. In addition, there is the question of Eldorado water rights and their future if a pipeline were built. Although it was implied that Eldorado would not relinquish the rights, retirement would give "downstream" communities like Galisteo a breather and allow the aquifer to recharge. A summary document for the BDD (which handles c. 2000 acre feet annually) gives the diversion only nine years

before it is maxed out; the headwaters of the Rio Grande lie in an area that, with climate change, is predicted to be an epicenter for aridity. Doesn't sound like much of a future for this pipeline?

*

Then there's fracking in gas and oil extraction. It takes 1-5 million gallons of water to frack one well, and more if it has been fracked before. In a classic example of short-term thinking, some Colorado cities are selling their "excess" water to oil and gas companies, earning much-needed revenues while risking their futures. During our monumental 2007-08 Basin-wide battle against oil and gas development in the Galisteo, we managed to push back the frackers for the time being. Mora County is up against it now. And fracking has become a huge issue on the east coast, as the risks of drinking water contamination are coming to the fore. Six years ago Congress and the EPA exempted fracking fluids from the Safe Drinking Water Act, but now they are being forced to reconsider.

The majority of the 52,000 oil and gas wells in production in NM (which is rich in shale gas and depends on the revenues) have been fracked. The State Oil Conservation Commission has approved a rule requiring companies to reveal the chemical contents of their fracking fluids, but the companies want to disclose contents only after the fact, which would clearly be too late. In New Mexico, fracking fluids are generally 99.5 % water; the remainder is a chemical mix that can include acids, xylene, toluene, benzene, formaldehyde, polyacrylamides, chromates, diesel fuel, hydrochloric acid, gels and methanol. (For a thorough coverage of this issue, and some more scary statistics, see the Dec. 4th issue of *The New Mexican*.)

*

In October, WildEarth Guardians protested the sale of 163 and 118 acre feet of irrigation water rights from private owners in Socorro to Santa Fe. Not only does this leave farmlands fallow forever, and shrinking acequias, but WildEarth claims that such transfers also reduce river flows in the middle Rio Grande. At the moment the NM price for an acre foot of water rights ranges from around \$12,000 to \$19,000, depending on the region. But around desperate Las Vegas, it can go for \$20-30,000.

*

Worse still, on Nov. 29th, *The New Mexican* reported that L Bar Energy intends to pump, treat, and use up to 20,000 acre feet a year from its ranch in Sandoval County. This is about twice the amount that the city of Santa Fe uses in a year (c. 10,000 af). Albuquerque uses about 100,000 af. In 2005, the entire state used c. 4 million acre feet of surface and ground water. And if the L Bar Ranch were to use all 608 deep (c. 3000-3500') wells that have been filed officially with the State Engineer, it would *control more water than is currently used by all of the state's cities and towns*. This seems absolutely unbelievable, not to mention the fuzzy distinctions between wet and paper water rights.

*

These stories are only the product of random clippings. Nothing much has changed since the coining of the old western saying, "Water runs uphill toward money."

PEDACITOS/BITS AND PIECES

The 2010 Census showed a 4% decrease in Galisteo's population (down from 265 in 2000 to 253) and a 17% increase in housing units (up 24 to 160, 134 of which are occupied year-round). We are 108 men and 145 women. (They don't call it GAListeo for nothing.) There are 29 residents under 18, and 224 who are 18 and over, broken down as follows: age 20-24:8; age 25-34:20; age 35-49:35; age 50-64:87; age 65 and over:71. (Not quite a retirement community yet...)

*

The GVFR picture on page 1 last month did not include several members of the department. Missing were: Corey McGillicuddy, Janice Wall, Mo McGarry, Lucy Lippard. (Let me know if I missed any other absentees...)

*

Patrick McFarlin spent a month in residence at the Row Houses in Houston, Texas, where artists make and install their work in a vibrant community of artists and local residents.

*

Did any Galisteños end up as extras in the movie filming at the Rodeo Grounds on Nov. 12th?

*

The Community Plan input sessions at the Community Center on Nov. 12th and 15th could have been better attended, but those who participated contributed a great deal and we are very grateful.

*

Shaun Gilmore's show at Eight Modern was written up in *The Magazine* in November, as was Munson Hunt's show at CCA.

*

Ray Belcher is showing his photographs, some of which are from Galisteo, at Legends Santa Fe, 125 Lincoln Ave., through Jan. 3rd. A feature in *Pasatiempo* (12/2) reproduced *Ruins, Two Windows* -- "the dilapidated adobe stagecoach stop in Galisteo" (the ruin on Avenida Vieja, though it may not have been a stagecoach stop). Belcher lived in Galisteo from 1979 to 1987, in "Priscilla's stone barn," the Griscom house, and in Ranchitos.

*

Down Country: The Tano of the Galisteo Basin 1250-1782 has received the Denver Public Library's Western History 2011 Caroline Bancroft History Prize.

SOLAR GALISTEO

El Puente would like to run a series on the ways solar energy (or any other renewable energy) is used in Galisteo, whether passive or active, thermal, grid-tied and so forth. There are so many choices these days; we can provide each other with advice and local models. Please contact me at flip14@wildblue.net. Thanks.

GCA UPDATE

From Roger Taylor, Secretary

The GCA is looking for sponsors for monthly Saturday morning coffees and book swaps in March and May. A sponsor books the GCC with Janice Wall, and sends a community announcement to gcabarb@gmail.com. The sponsor also makes up a pot of coffee and one of hot water for tea (coffee and tea supplied by the GCA), and supplies breakfast pastries. The Saturday coffee can also serve as a forum for musical entertainment, slide-shows, presentations, etc. Call Anna Cárdenas to get your name on the sponsor list!

The Galisteo Planning Committee submitted the Galisteo Community Plan to the County for review on November 18, and will present it to the BCC for comment and discussion on December 13th, and again on January 10th (see p.1). This will be the first Community Plan presented under the new SGMP (Sustainable Growth Management Plan), so we expect questions and commentary but probably will not be approved until after the County Code is approved in early 2012.

It has come to the attention of the GCA that foreclosure proceedings have been initiated against the Saddleback Ranch property north of the Village. The Community Association's lawsuit against the County over approval of development plans at the ranch had previously been stayed at the joint request of the GCA and the County in hopes that the developer would revise its development plans without the need for litigation. At this point it is unclear how the foreclosure proceedings will affect the development plans or what will become of the property. However, it may take quite some time to move within the Court system. In the meantime, the lawsuit will remain stayed but still pending. We'll do our best to monitor the situation and keep the community informed. (Thanks to Matthew McQueen.)



All-village Christmas party at the home of Woody and Dianna Gwyn, hosted by La Sala de Galisteo on December 4th.





La Sala president Barbara King and board members Anna Cárdenas and Cindy Lux.

**EL PUENTE SPONSORS:
Deborah Madison +
Patrick McFarlin**

GALISTEO CLASSIFIED

ADS ARE FREE, AND FOR GALISTEO RESIDENTS ONLY. PLEASE CALL 466-1276 TO UPDATE, CHANGE, OR DELETE YOUR ADS. Next deadline: January 5th.

FOR SALE

Talus Wind Meat CSA Shares available. Once a month Galisteo pick-up of NM grown lamb, beef, goat, eggs, and more! Full & Half shares available - reasonable prices. Contact Timothy at 501-4940; twichland@taluswindranch.com ;for more info. <http://taluswindranch.com/meat-csa.html>.

SERVICES

Dream Interpretation: Learn about the message from your Inner Self in your dreams applied to your daily life - Veronique Cartier- 466-0803.

The Orchard: Full service catering, personal chef, and Care Network. Corey McGillicuddy (aka Dragon Lady), 466-1831.

Pet and housesitting, watering plants, feeding animals, etc. Call Linda Jones, 466-6624.

We build and repair coyote fences; haul trash; yard work & other odd jobs. Fair prices, local references, Michael J. Anaya, 660-8920.

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

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

Carpentry: Custom closets, hand-carved tables, benches, gates, doors; also electrical work. Ted Montoya, 466-1430 (messages).

Barbara King Pottery: functional and decorative, handcrafted with a variety of glazes on white stoneware. 466-3219.

Rocky Mountain Handyman. Can do anything! Call Mark Lyons, 629-9323.

Snowplowing driveways/roads, and rides to and from the airport: Paul Thompson, 660-2171. www.paulthompsonandassociates.com.

Computer tutor/personal assistant. Contact Paige, 466-1002. **MacTech Support and Tutoring,** photo digitizing and organizing, and Photoshop lessons: Tom Martinelli, 466-1020. Beth is available for **petsitting in Galisteo,** 470-7606.

Need a pet sitter or house sitter? I will do short or long-term care, occasional overnights, reasonable rates, refs. available. For info, call Maria, 466-8930.

White Dog Cyclery: Certified bicycle maintenance/repair. Your family bicycle service. All bikes, repairs. Call Frank, 466-2121.

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

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.

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.

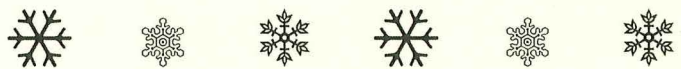
Need a permit? Computer Aided Drafting Support for architects, engineers, contractors etc. Adan Cárdenas, 466-8967.

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

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

+++ EL PUENTE DE GALISTEO+++

Editor: Lucy R. Lippard. **Contributors:** Jan Saunders, Tom Martinelli. **EL PUENTE logo** by Cara Lee. **Printer:** Allegra. **Send letters, comments, suggestions, contributions to EL PUENTE, 14 Avenida Vieja, 466-1276. NEXT DEADLINE: JANUARY 5. TO BE A SPONSOR: make out check to GCA for \$75, note "for newsletter," send to address below.**



El Puente de Galisteo
14 Avenida Vieja
Galisteo NM 87540

Nick Contreras
POB 239
Stanley NM 87506