



ISSUE #162-163

FEBRUARY-MARCH 2013

**IN MEMORIAM**  
**RAMONA MONTOYA WATTS,**  
**October 3, 1939 - December 27, 2012**

**TALKING TO DOC FERNEAU**

**Janice Felty Griscom**

I met Doc (Elmer) Ferneau in early 2011, soon after Richard died. Wonderful Wendy Chase (Galisteo misses you, Wendy!) was a godsend to us toward the end of Richard's life and she mentioned that she often visited Doc. He was open to a visit from me, and we hit it off right away. We enjoy a friendship that is full of laughter and singing (hymns from my mother's Baptist hymnal and popular songs from the 1930s and '40s – he sings melody and I sing harmony). I always receive a warm, enthusiastic welcome and find him alert, engaging, thought-provoking and fun – at age 94.

When I asked Doc to tell me about his life he said, "The beginning was a long time ago". He was born on a farm in southeast Iowa on December 7 (later to become the "Day of Infamy" – Pearl Harbor Day, 1918). His grandfather was a pioneer of sorts. He plowed with four horses and used a large "breaking plow," that turned the prairie grass sod. His father was a skilled farmer, raising herds of Guernsey cattle and Duroc Jersey hogs. His mother had been a school teacher before she married.

He remembers his dad getting lime from the railroad and then spreading it on the ground in the spring to de-acidify the soil, rotating his crops, and spreading manure. His dad built the house and barn, could fix anything, and put in one of the first grain storage silos in the area. In the middle of winter, there was often four feet of snow on the ground.

Doc, his parents and older brother attended a little country church, the Highland United Brethren Church, and their social life centered on the church. He attended a one-room school, kindergarten through 8<sup>th</sup> grade. He believes it was a wonderful learning environment. Because the older students shared desks with the younger ones, and were expected to help, they all learned more quickly. Fights only broke out when an older student felt his younger pal was being picked on. In those days, there was a recitation bench in front of class and each student was expected

to recite what his class had been learning. This was another way the younger students learned from the older ones.

Doc skipped a grade in elementary, as was sometimes the case back then. As a result, he was always younger than most of his schoolmates, starting high school when he was 12 years old! He weighed 180 lbs and had a 17 1/2" neck, which stood him in good stead playing football and wrestling. Later at Iowa State College, he paid \$10 a quarter for tuition if he kept his grades above a C+. He worked for his board as a dishwasher and potato-masher in a fraternity house kitchen. His parents sent him \$5 every 2 weeks, which paid for his room in a boarding house. Doc majored in vocational agriculture and studied soils, animal husbandry, and farm mechanics, including blacksmithing, which he especially enjoyed.

He graduated from college when he was 20, and was hired to teach vocational agriculture at a high school in Bedford, Iowa. The recruiter happened to see him applying for a job and hired him on the spot, probably convinced by his size that Doc could handle a class of unruly high school boys who had caused problems for the previous instructor. On the first day, Doc proved he could indeed handle unruly boys. It's safe to say his disciplinary techniques would never pass muster today! Three years later war broke out and Doc volunteered for service in the Navy, reporting for duty January 3, 1942.

(Part 2 of this interview will appear in a future issue.)



**Barbara and Philip Pfeiffer (Photo: El Puente)**

## SALSA THE NIGHT AWAY

Saturday night Feb. 16th, in the Community Center, we had one heck of a party! Valentine's Day? Mardi Gras? Salsa? Well, it all came together under Xmas lights and candles, with tons of food and drink...and a great Cubano salsa band --Havana Son --led by Galisteo tres player Fred Milder: [www.havanason.com](http://www.havanason.com). It seemed we all needed to get out and shake our bootys 'cuz the joint was jumpin' from start to finish. There was a cake walk (music plays, music stops, and the 15 attendees who landed on the right number went home with really yummy confectionary delights). There was a photo booth and some wild costumes — a giant vulture, an alien, a king and queen of hearts.

Did we mention this was a fund raiser for La Sala de Galisteo? As La Sala moves towards some big construction this spring and summer, money is needed and welcomed. Galisteo comes through on every level, every time, and we all appreciate it. The entire Board worked hard to bring this event together, from setting up Friday afternoon thru clean-up on Sunday.

"We need to have dances more often!" was heard time after time, all night long. OK, OK! Seems a nice fit to be restoring our village dance hall by doing just that.....*dancing!*

*Ed Note:* My dancing pictures didn't come out, and there was a lot of flashy competition. But I'd vote for Lisa and Orlando Griego as the smoothest couple on the floor.



Top: Janet Pfeiffer, Eric Thomas, Laurie Mitchell, Cindy Lux and David van Dyk. Below: Havana Son. (Photos: Cindy Lux and Bill Mitchell).

## CITIZEN RIGHTS IN GALISTEO

Sina Brush

Last summer, working at the Galisteo Community Museum Gallery, I met visitors from around the state, the country and elsewhere. I learned that most of them came specifically to enjoy the 'non-touristy' tranquil setting, see unspoiled traditional adobes and real history. During impromptu discussions on the portal, perfectly timed Alta oil tankers barreled through, shaking the ground, upsetting and startling visitors, most wondering aloud why this occurred.

I ask that myself, along with why the road in the village must be 'widened', after two years of writing letters to the department of Historical Preservation, the Highway Department, and Alta Oil Co. in Colorado -- to no avail. There is nothing like Galisteo anywhere in New Mexico, but the state will not protect it; their excuse is 'safety'. BUT no highways anywhere else in the country skim so near buildings now, let alone after widening. Safety is not the answer. Highway construction dollars and corporate oil interests are not the answer. Deadly accidents with tankers occur on the straight wide road from Clark Hill to Moriarty, and on the hill itself, not on our section of narrow hilly Highway 41.

Alta Oil Co. answered my letter truthfully about speeding trucks, an answer I already knew. Drivers will not slow down if they know nothing can be done to stop them. Period. One highway worker retiree visiting the village gave me a startlingly excellent bit of news saying "*the department doesn't want you to know you can have stop signs installed at either end of town.*" **IT IS OUR RIGHT.**

Speaking of rights, Alternative Radio's David Barsamian recently broadcast a talk by Paul Cienfuegos, from Portland, Oregon, speaking at length about citizen rights to determine what is best and safest for communities if the government will not. He outlined decisions made by communities around the country to protect homes, children, air, water quality and general safety of their towns: A) Lancaster, Pennsylvania passed and enforces a law to not allow fracking within or near the town. B) The state of Montana has a constitution giving citizens the right to vote on any corporate activity deemed unfit for a community or the state to protect citizens from corporate malfeasance. C) Bellingham, Washington blocked a mining company moving coal through town at a rate of twenty open train cars daily, leaving a trail of deadly coal dust dirtying the town, endangering citizens.

Mr. Cienfuegos went into some detail about we can accomplish the same and how corporations have been setting up laws in this country over 100 years to their advantage and our detriment. Highway 285 serves extremely well as an alternate route for tankers. It is not too late to stop tankers altogether and stop the broadening of the highway in the village, and possibly the rest of the road. It is time to have by-laws for the village to protect OUR interests, including the traditional aspects of all kinds. Our buildings should not be shaken to pieces, our children, adults, horsemen, or dog walkers need not be endangered by corporate oil 'interests'. See this link: <http://coal-free-bellingham.org/>.



## PEDACITOS/BITS AND PIECES

Maria Ortiz y Pino identified the Galisteo watercolors by Heinz Emil Salloch in the last issue of *El Puente* as 1) the Duran house (former Light Institute) or the nearby Peña house and 2) the ruin that preceded Judith Masin's house.

Margaret Wrinkle's first novel, *Wash* (Atlantic Monthly Press), has appeared to rave reviews. *Vanity Fair* (Feb. 2013) included it in its "hot type" feature: "The rumor of her ancestors' history of slave breeding drove Margaret Wrinkle to write her unflinching, stunningly imagined debut novel." She gave a talk and signing at Collected Works on Feb. 8<sup>th</sup>. (When Margaret locked herself in her house to do the last rewrite, Corey McGillicuddy brought her meals.)

Catherine Ferguson won Third Place in *Pasatiempo's* Adults' Stories Competition. "She Could Never Carry a Tune," a fiction with recognizably Galisteo references, was published on 12/28.

Deborah Madison's latest book is *Vegetable Literacy* (10 Speed Press). It's about twelve plant families and how they behave in our kitchens, with recipes, of course. On March 18<sup>th</sup>, she will be interviewed on Mary Charlotte's RadioCafe program (KSFR, 101.1). On March 20<sup>th</sup>-- the first day of spring-- she will be giving a talk and signing books (with an interview with James McGrath Morris) at Collected Works.

La Sala was cited by Robin Jones as an important project of Cornerstones Community Partnership in *The New Mexican* (2/16/13): "La Sala in Galisteo is a small dance hall traditionally associated with social functions linked to the neighboring church. The community now intends to restore it to use for art display and community events....not only to preserve history but also for what the building may offer this small town in the future." Jones also noted that the young people in Galisteo and other small towns "need to care because these sites form a cultural foundation upon which to build a social and economic future." The Sala project was also featured, with pictures, in *The New Mexican's Home* magazine (January), noting that Cornerstones hopes to have adobe-repair workshops here this summer.

In the same issue of the paper both **San Cristobal Ranch** and **Talus Wind Ranch** were mentioned for donating lambs to the Santa Fe County 4-H program; they will end up on plates at the Atrisco Café in the DeVargas Center.

On Feb. 28<sup>th</sup> Judy Tuwaletsiwa is giving a talk -- "Poetry is Everywhere"-- on her new glass work at Bullseye Glass in Santa Fe: "Just as a poem is composed of words we all use, my work is composed of mundane materials we all see."

Daniel Gibson devoted most of his skiing column in *The New Mexican* (2/21) to "**Rodney Hall** of Galisteo." Seems that in 1996 Rod initiated "The Ribbon People" as alternative awards at Ski Santa Fe. Two people with ribbons nominate someone new and 473 colored ribbons have been handed out so far. "We use the Rastafarian colors [red, yellow, black, and green] in honor of the 'One Love' vibe up here," he explained. And the custom has spread to ski areas all over the world. In 1972 Rod moved to Santa Fe and then to Galisteo, "where I've been ever since" (except when he is running the Barothy Lodge in Michigan in the summers).

Ted Fleming's son Walker Fleming is the Director of Photography/Executive Producer of *Ascension*, a Sunday Afternoon Films' Original, written and directed by Ryan Cantwell, about Greg, an uninteresting accountant who is going through a divorce. It takes place in the mediocrity of suburban America on the day of his father's funeral. Unable to find solace in the sterile reality of his everyday life, Greg descends into the hallucinatory.

A photograph of **John Benjamin and his son Ian** was on the Legal Tender website; they volunteered to serve Thanksgiving Dinner there.

Oralia "Shorty" Sandoval (born 5/28/1920) passed away in December. She once delivered mail in Galisteo.

## NOTES ON BUYING A USED BICYCLE

from White Dog Cyclery (aka Frank Lux)

Hi neighbors! Now that the weather may be getting nicer and you are contemplating getting a bicycle to get around the village, here are some tips for you to consider.

A good friend of mine bought a used bike at a garage sale for \$50 and asked me to fix it up so that they could use it to get their mail, etc. After figuring that (for starters) it needed roughly \$180 in parts (no labor) to get it operational, we agreed to give it the appropriate burial it warranted. Garage sales are famous for the bargain bike that only needs a "little work" to get it going again. If you absolutely have to get a bike at a garage sale, think of these things as you decide:

A) Consider the fit of the bike to your body. If it is too small or too big, you won't remember how cheap it was when your back and knees start aching, even if only using it to go to/from the mailboxes. Getting the right size bike is what bike shops are for.

B) In most cases, the frame will be fine. Generally bikes at garage sales aren't being used very much. The moving parts are where things go bad after sitting in a garage for any length of time.

C) Check the tires for tread wear. Are the tires pumped up? Tires are expensive and if they are flat, you will also need inner tubes and protective rim strips. That's 3 items to purchase for each wheel.

D) Squeeze the brake levers. If they are stiff or not moving, you may need new cables and housing for the front and rear brakes. If these cables are bad, chances are you will need cables and housing for the front and rear drivetrain as well. That's 4 cables and 4 separate housing, plus lubrication for all.

E) Make sure the seat tube is removable.

This is just some basic stuff to make you a more educated consumer at garage sales. Sometimes you get lucky, and sometimes a trip to a bike shop might be a better thing. They have warranties, bikes on sale, and smart people who will steer you in the right direction if they know what you want.



## SAN CRISTOBAL A WINNER

The San Cristobal Ranch won the prestigious American Quarter Horse Association's Bayer Best Remuda Award in 2012. Grant Mitchell, SC ranch manager in 2000, took over the horse division for Singleton Ranches (30 in NM alone) in 2005. Three stallions are used to "breed for cow sense and trainability.... We raise everything here, start [the quarter horses] as 2-year-olds and then give them to cowboys to ride. Our goal is to give the cowboys a horse that lets them get the work done."

To be eligible for the Best Remuda award, applicants must breed and use five or more Quarter Horses for ranch work and be a member of the AQHA. Singleton Ranches Ranch Rodeo Team also won the New Mexico Championship Ranch Rodeo two years in a row. (Thanks to Denise Pruett for the info.)

## EL PUENTE SPONSORS: WOODY AND DIANNA GWYN

### GALISTEO CLASSIFIED

ADS ARE FREE, AND FOR GALISTEO RESIDENTS ONLY. CALL 466-1276 TO UPDATE OR DELETE YOUR ADS. Next deadline: April 15.

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#### FOR SALE

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#### SERVICES

**Maria's Personal Assistant Services:** Elder assistance, errands, office support, organizing, housesitting, petsitting, wrapping, packing and shipping: 466-8930.

**Meditation and Knowings** class with Chris Griscom, Sundays at The Light Institute, 4:00-5:30 pm. Free to Galisteo residents. 466-1975.

**We build and repair coyote fences; haul trash; yard work & other odd jobs.** Fair prices, local references, Michael J. Anaya, 660-2275.

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

**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, 310-2904 or 466-3102.

**Common sense, gentle dog-training:** house manners, management problem-solving at your home, and limited boarding. 20 yrs. experience. Call Evelyn, 466-1875.

Call Adan Cárdenas for **Firewood, Misc. Hauling, Odd Jobs, Humane Custom Butchery, CAD services.** Phone 466-8967 or cell: 435-3067, adan.cardenas1@gmail.com.

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**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.

**MacTech Support and Tutoring,** photo digitizing and organizing, and Photoshop lessons: Tom Martinelli, 466-1020. Beth is available for **petsitting in Galisteo,** 470-7606.

**White Dog Cyclery:** Your family's certified bicycle maintenance/repair service. All bikes. Frank, 466-2121.

**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.

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### +++ EL PUENTE DE GALISTEO+++

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**net.** NEXT DEADLINE: April 15. TO SPONSOR: make out \$75 check to GCA "for newsletter.

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