



ISSUE #172

FEBRUARY 2014

NANCY HOLT

(April 5, 1938 - February 8, 2014)

Nancy Holt, a resident of Ranchitos since 1995, and an internationally famous artist, passed away in New York City, where she went for treatment after a sudden diagnosis of acute myeloid leukemia in late October.

Holt was best known for *Sun Tunnels*, her 1974-76 monumental earthwork in Lucin, Utah, and for a large number of innovative public art works all over the U.S. and abroad, as well as photography, video, concrete poetry, and artists' books. She focused on connections between the heavens and earth, restoration of industrially devastated landscapes, and perception itself. Her traveling exhibition "Sightlines" (shown at the Santa Fe Art Institute in 2012) was accompanied by a book of the same title edited by Alena J. Williams. Holt never made a public artwork in New Mexico (though she competed for the park in Moriarty and with a team to design the Santa Fe Railyard Park and Plaza).

Nancy's husband, the influential artist Robert Smithson, died in 1973 in a plane crash while overseeing the construction of his *Amarillo Ramp*, an earthwork in Amarillo, Texas. With the help of Galisteo's Tom Martinelli and other friends, she spent her last months editing a new version of her video on *Amarillo Ramp* -- now on display at the Dallas Museum of Art.

On a more personal note, Nancy and I have been friends since the 1960s. She made a crossword puzzle about the first show I curated, in 1966, and *Sun Tunnels* was on the cover of my 1983 book *Overlay*. She had traveled widely in the West since 1968 and felt at home here. When she decided to move to New Mexico in the early 1990s, she rented Harmony Hammond's home while looking for property here. Recipient of a Guggenheim Fellowship and other honors, last October, just before she was stricken, she received a Lifetime Achievement Award from the International Sculpture Center. (From the hospital, she quipped, "Don't ever accept a lifetime achievement award!")

Nancy taught Vipassana Buddhist Meditation and was associated with a Santa Fe Sanga. She is survived by many friends and by her beloved cat Karuna, a kitten abandoned by Highway 41 in 2000 on the anniversary of Smithson's death, and found by a friend who was staying at my house. Nancy was fascinated by synchronicity, but her death was untimely.

Memorial plans will be announced, and Karuna is looking for a home, contact: info@nancyholt.org. (LRL)

WELCOME TO GALISTEO'S BICENTENNIAL

2014 marks the bicentennial of the village of Galisteo (not to be confused with the Pueblo of Galisteo which of course is much older). As your editor returns to work on a history of the village and its environs (c. 1800 to the present), *El Puente* will offer a series of snapshots of the last two hundred years. Any input -- especially from descendants of the founding families-- will be infinitely valuable. The account that follows is still vague, so as I work on the book, I will be correcting and adding to this. Stay tuned!

*

In 1799 the Ojito de Galisteo Grant consisting of 9,000 acres, including the unoccupied Galisteo Pueblo, was awarded to an old soldier, Juan Cruz Aragon, for grazing. Years later it was voided for lack of evidence of consistent use. Hispano settlers petitioned unsuccessfully for Pueblo land because the Tanos were "extinct" (they were not gone, but they had for the most part left the Galisteo Basin).

From around 1795, there was a *destacamento* (garrison) in Galisteo, to buffer Santa Fe against raiding nomadic Indians. In 1808 it consisted of three soldiers. Its location is unclear, perhaps on the site of the Ortiz hacienda (Gwyn house). It remained until 1814 when a struggling Spanish settlement was founded on *La Loma*, a defensive site with a broad view. (Cont. p.2)



Nancy Holt (Courtesy of the estate).

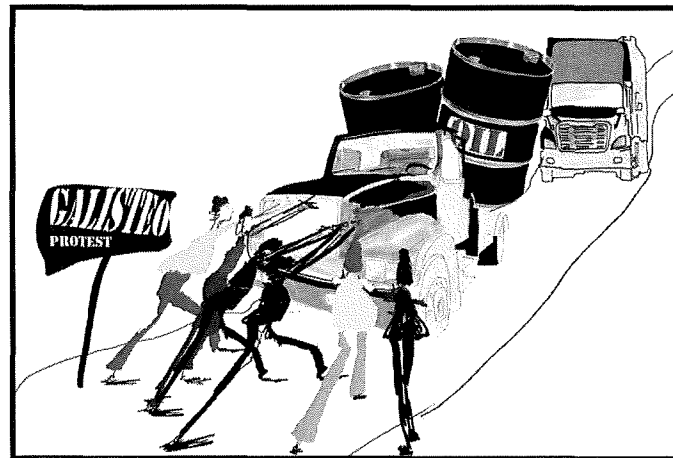
Although there may have been people already living in the area, a town grant was apparently made in 1814 by Governor Alberto Maynez to the following grantees: Vicente Roybal, Rafael Lujan, Miguel Ortiz, Ignacio Chavez, Felipe Sandoval, Matias Sandoval, Manuel Trujillo, Luis Lovato, Bartolomé Lovato, Antonio Anaya, Miguel Lovato, José Chavez, Miguel Roybal, and "a widow woman from Rio Tesuque" (presumably Trinidad Barcelo). Other early pioneers mentioned were Julian Lucero, Diego Pineda and José Antonio Alarid.

According to some accounts, the village was not founded until 1821-22, but Donaciano Vigil, testifying in the 1870s, said his father was among the first settlers in 1814, along with the Anaya, Chavez and Sandoval families, whose descendants remain in the village today. In 1814-16, settlers were ordered to build a dam for irrigation at Galisteo Spring. (Present-day Galisteo Spring is on the Thornton Ranch, miles away from the village, so this was probably at Tanque Viejo, south of the church.) They were also ordered to build "a plazuela around a small square and church." There are no records of the first church's construction on The Hill at the Archdiocese in Santa Fe; some accounts put it at 1821, others at 1814. Houses were built on The Hill and *suertes*, or agricultural field strips, were cultivated below, fed by an acequia and the Galisteo Creek. Remains of ditches and stone borders are still visible.

Perhaps amended in some way in 1818, the 1814/1816 grant may have been a pared-down version of the 1799 Galisteo Grant. Its legal history is complex. *To be continued....*



La Loma (The Hill) -- site of earliest Spanish settlement.



Drawing by Evelyne Francheschi

TRIPLE THREATS COMING DOWN THE PIKE

Citizens of the Galisteo Basin from Galisteo, Lamy, Cerrillos and Madrid are currently battling three threatening land use developments: the crude oil transfer depot in Lamy (see January *El Puente*), the Gold Mine in the Ortiz Mountains (see *El Puente*, November, 2013), and a vast basalt gravel mine on top of La Bajada Hill just off Waldo Canyon Road.

A new coalition (working title: the Preservation Alliance) is being formed to cope with all this. All three developments involve air and ground pollution, safety, noise, dust, misuse and/or contamination of scarce water resources, and the bottom line – quality of life. The coalition advocates for "different types of business and jobs that give back." (See posters on the bulletin board by the mailboxes.)

Our own Roger Taylor is on the steering committee of the new coalition and he reports that early February has been a busy time. They have met with the Highway 285 South Sustainability Alliance to build area-wide support for **No Crude Oil in Lamy (NoCOIL)**. Anticipating legal action, they are interviewing prospective attorneys. (Some weird legality seems to dictate that water sources cannot be protected until something happens to them!) Nationally, more oil was spilled from trains in 2013 than the last forty years combined. There's a major accident every month, putting millions of Americans at risk.

On Feb. 7th, coalition members participated in a conference call with Senator Tom Udall's staffers in D.C., providing updates on their efforts while Udall's staff works with federal regulatory agencies and coordinates with Senator Martin Heinrich and Representative Ben Ray Lujan. It was "no surprise, however," that Pacer Energy officials "refused to respond to the Udall office's requests for additional information," though they are now neighbors, having established an office in Lamy.

Coalition members have also appeared twice on Xubi Wilson's and David Bacon's KSFR radio show, "Living on the Edge." On Feb. 12, a meeting took place (for Lamy community members only) to discuss legal actions.

Please send donations made out to No Crude Oil in Lamy to: No Crude Oil in Lamy, 7 Vista Grande B-7, #494, Santa Fe, NM 87508.

Marc Choyt reports two developments on the proposed **gold mine**. The Turquoise Trail Preservation Trust-funded study of Santa Fe Gold's claims has disclosed that far more water would be expended on the mine's gravity stacking technology than the 70 million gallons the company claims, potentially affecting the water for up to 7,000 homes. The process leaches heavy metal out of the rocks, creating Acid Mine Drainage and pollution that can destroy eco systems.

For every ounce of gold extracted, some 165 tons of rock will be crushed, and there will be a huge amount of industrial activity in the area. The mine is adjacent to the Botanical Garden's preserve in the Ortiz Mountains, and could be an eco disaster for the entire region. The impact on the tourism economy of the Turquoise Trail is also a concern.

There is a chance that the mine might not be viable unless/ until prices of gold rise; they have dipped from 19 cents to 2 cents. But Santa Fe Gold has been bought out by a Canadian gold and diamond mining company called Tyhee Hold Corporation, which could be a much more formidable opponent.

The 50-acre **La Bajada Mine** is proposed by Albuquerque-based developers Rockology/Buildology and Buena Vista Estates, which is selling over 5,000 acres on the mesa. If the County goes ahead with its approval, the mine would operate for 25 years, creating three pits, each about 60' deep, mined one at a time for 7-8 years then reclaimed with topsoil from the site. It would ultimately move and stockpile 34,000 cubic yards of dirt and mine 1.26 million cubic yards of basalt, slicing off the top 20' of the basalt cap on the mesa.

According to *The New Mexican* (2/3/14), Santa Fe County has agreed to sell water to the project, even though it is outside the County's service area. Two 10,000 gallon tanks would be on site for dust control and in case of fire. There is no annual fee for the water (purportedly "only" three acre-feet annually) and the commercial cost is 2 cents per gallon.

This is the second time the mine has been proposed. The Cerrillos-based Rural Conservation Alliance, led by longtime local activists Anne Murray and Ross Lockridge, has geared up for battle again. They are particularly concerned with a cultural landscape that could become the entrance to a La Bajada Mesa National Monument, connecting to the Cerrillos Hills State Park, the Rio Grande, and the Santa Fe River Basin. In 2003 the La Bajada escarpment was selected as one of the State's most endangered places. The mine's night lighting threatens our treasured dark skies and the mine would be visible from various viewpoints

No Camino Real segments would be impacted, according to the NM Historic Preservation Division, and the County Transportation Department has claimed that only 12 to 16 trucks would create a minimal traffic impact, although this did not include trucks purchasing the aggregate sold on site. Aggregate is in high demand. Some 109,000 tons of asphalt and 100,000 tons of base course were used in 2012-13 just for new road construction in Santa Fe County.

Four State legislators (Peter Wirth, Brian Egolf, Stephanie Garcia Richardson and our Senator Phil Griego) have sent a letter to the County opposing the proposal, noting the amount of water and distance to the mine from the nearest county water hookup and requesting that the 50 acres be rezoned. This will be considered by the CDRC (County Development Review Committee) on March 20 (around 4PM) at the County Courthouse on Grant Avenue. It is important that people turn out to protest this proposal. For updates, see savelabajada.org.

FROM THE GVFR

- Sometimes it is easier to burn landscape cuttings than to haul them to the dump. You will need an 'Open Burn Permit' from the GVFR for this. Call 466-0396 to obtain a permit and for the latest info on burn restrictions in our area. Any ceremonial or bonfires larger than 3' in diameter also require this permit.

NOTE: You cannot burn trash or paper products in SF County.

- It is also a good idea to create a fire-defensible space -- not less than 30 feet around your home -- in preparation for the high fire season (late spring/summer). If your home is on a slope, you should increase that distance to 50-100 feet.
- If you live in a mobile home, check your water heater for leaks. They can affect the structural integrity of the floor and may cause your heater to fall through the floor, starting a fire.

PEDACITOS/BITS AND PIECES

Mary Alice Anaya was robbed of a few precious sentimental objects. She hopes to have them returned.

Jim Sloan was the subject of a three page feature in *THE Magazine* (January) which shows his studios in Cedarvale and Galisteo plus a selection of work. The article notes that while he has made his living "moving thousands upon thousands of tons of earth," Sloan has been making art all along – portraits, landscapes, and whimsical combinations. This is not news to Galisteños, but it's good to see it out in the world.

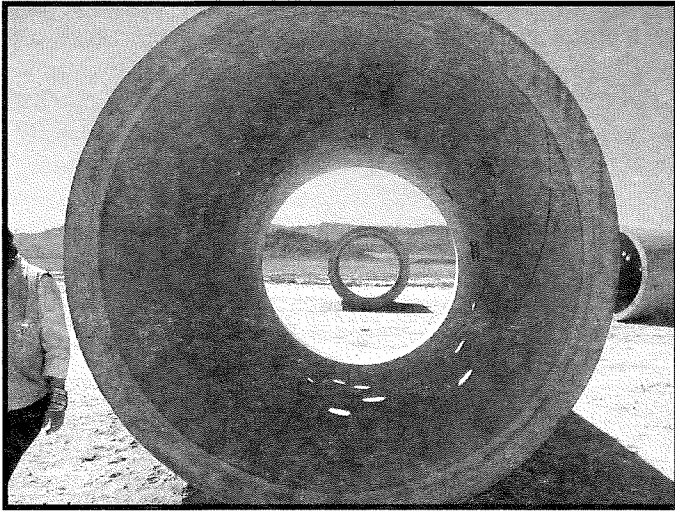
Margaret Wrinkle's novel *Wash* won the 2013 Flaherty-Dunnan First Novel Prize. See her graceful acceptance speech on The Center for Fiction website. Margaret also spoke on a panel with two Jungian analysts on Feb. 7 at the Center for Spiritual Living in Santa Fe, sponsored by the C.G. Jung Institute.

An article on **Tim Willms** and his Talus Wind Ranch appeared in *American Way*, the American Airlines magazine (Jan. 15). The ranch is said to be "near a former Indian pueblo called Galisteo." It noted that although Tim "looks very much the part of a rancher in New Mexico," when he takes his hat off he "transforms instantly from rugged rancher to balding art dealer." His father's family farmed in the Midwest and his mother's family grew hops for beer. Willms himself "started small" with a few heritage turkeys and grass-fed sheep. (Today you find his products in a lot of high-end restaurants.) He notes that ranching is hard today and he is devoted to helping small ranchers get their stock to market. "In the art world, the profit margin is substantial," but in ranching, "You have to watch every penny.I think of art nurturing the soul and the mind, while food enriches the body."

Shaun Gilmore showed in the group exhibition "Blue," at Offroad Productions in Santa Fe in October. A member of the Lady Minimalists Tea Society, she is currently working with weather patterns.

Ron Helman and his new wife Diane Dorsey showed their "luxury casual clothing" in their Galisteo studio on Feb. 1-2 and *The New Mexican* devoted a long article -- "Made in New Mexico" -- to their launch, noting that "nothing they sell is made in China." Their "Minimalist" palette and styles were inspired by the work of the late Agnes Martin, who once lived in Galisteo. Tote bags and silver and gold jewelry are marked with a "New Mexico bird petroglyph." Organized as a non-profit, Dorsey Helman helps its 40 employees, many immigrant women, to earn GEDs, gain citizenship, and take time off to visit their children's schools. Their fashions can be ordered on line and are available in some Santa Fe stores.





Nancy Holt's Sun Tunnels.

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+++ EL PUENTE DE GALISTEO+++

Editor: Lucy R. Lippard. **EL PUENTE logo:** Cara Lee.

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net. NEXT DEADLINE: March 10. TO SPONSOR: make out \$75 check to GCA "for newsletter."

**El Puente de Galisteo
14 Avenida Vieja
Galisteo NM 87540**

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