

There are not many people who could tell you where in the Galisteo Basin Ya'atze or Tanu'ge are, or even Sierra de San Marcos or Mount McKenzie. Most of us know them, but by different names. This is the story of some of the place names in common use in the Galisteo Basin today.

We all give names to important places and natural features around us. But the name you use is also an acknowledgement of ownership. People who recognize one name rather than another validate one owner rather than the other. Is it the Galisteo Wave or Cerro Pelón? In this region all the old places have carried different names, each tied to a different owner.

Probably the oldest name in current use in our region is Cerro de la Cosena. This is the name of the large Cerrillos Hill immediately to the west of the Silver Hills subdivision. Cerro de la Cosena, sometimes awkwardly and wrongly translated as "Hill of the Seamstress", is in fact the "Hill of the Hello", "guatzina" being the Keres word for "hello". It is one of our few modern place names that has been carried forward more or less unchanged from olden days. The Territorial miners of 1879 tried to rename it Mount McKenzie, an appellation now forgotten by all save a few history nuts.

Another old name, probably the oldest surviving Spanish name in our region (certainly older than Santa Fe), is Galisteo. "Galisteo" was bestowed in late summer 1581 by Capitan Francisco Sánchez Chamuscado upon the Tano pueblo whose inhabitants mistakenly thought they were living at Tanu'ge, the "down country place". Capitan Chamuscado was from Cáceres, in the Extremadura region of Spain, and he made liberal use in the Galisteo Basin of the place names from his boyhood home. Of all of his nominations only "Galisteo" has survived. And it is just a skosh weird that the town of Galisteo in Spain lies 60 miles, as the raven flies, northeast of the Spanish city of Albuquerque. It was 125 years after Chamuscado's naming of Galisteo here that Albuquerque, New Mexico, was founded, so that juxtaposition has to be a coincidence. Or is it? A galisteo is a man from Galicia.

The occupants of the Indian city of Ya'atze, "Cornville", must have been just a little skeptical when, on a cold January day in 1591, Capitan Gaspar Costaño de Sosa told them that henceforth the place they were living would be known as San Marcos, and the nearby hills were to be called la sierra de San Marcos. Sosa and his company of crypto-Jews, trying to stay a step ahead of the Inquisition, had just come from the Tano Indian town of Yamp'hamba, "Band of Willows", which he had named San Cristóbal. A couple

of weeks later, a little farther down the Galisteo River, the Sosa party's luck ran out. A squad of Spanish soldiers caught up with them at the Indian town of Kewa, which Sosa had just decided to call Santo Domingo. The rest of Costañó de Sosa's story is not a pleasant one.

The oldest written reference to "Los Cerrillos", from 1660, describes the location as two leagues (5.2 miles) northwest of the church at San Marcos, near La Cienega. But it was the establishment of *el Real de los Cerrillos* by Governor Vargas in 1695, and the appointment of Alfonso Rael de Aguilar as its alcalde, that thrust the name "Los Cerrillos" into prominence. "The Mining Camp of los Cerrillos" was located close to where Bonanza Creek Ranch is today, and was intended to function as the center of activity for the silver and lead mines in the sierra de San Marcos. Real de los Cerrillos took its name from the cluster of rocky little hills immediately to its north, which hills are marked on most maps today as Bonanza Hill. The mining camp endured barely 13 months, succumbing to the turmoil of the times. In later, more peaceful years the descendants of Rael de Aguilar received land grants where Real de los Cerrillos had once stood. You will find the grants of Los Cerrillos and the Sitio de los Cerrillos on most modern maps.

The pueblo town of San Marcos was abandoned as a result of the revolt of 1680. Even though the town of Real de los Cerrillos existed only briefly, 1695-1696, the name Los Cerrillos came to be applied to the mountains that had been called, while San Marcos was occupied, the sierra de San Marcos. Now most everyone knows them as the Cerrillos Hills. But the journey of the name "Los Cerrillos" didn't stop there.

Nearly 200 years later Anglo speculators, in this case Stephen Elkins and Tom Catron, began to accumulate land in expectation of the arrival of the railroad. A station was determined for the spit of land where the San Marcos Arroyo joins the Galisteo River, and the name selected for that railroad stop was "Cerrillos Station", probably chosen by Catron. Today's Cerrillos on-the-railroad lies about 7 miles south of the original Los Cerrillos, with the hills now also called Cerrillos situated between them.

Some of our regional place names are traceable to specific people: José Francisco Ortiz, William C. Rogers, Juan de Archibeque, Capt. N.S. Davis, Bishop Jean Baptiste Lamy, Judge Henry L. Waldo. But the identity of the original Señor Madrid is unclear. Steve Elkins (again), in 1891, repackaged some of his holdings to create the 20,000 acre Madrid Tract, containing the best coal lands, which he immediately sold to the Atchison,

Topeka & Santa Fe railroad. We don't know from which of several historical Madrids he might have expropriated that name for the tract and the coal town.

For the final entry in this little tour of regional names we will delve into the numeric. The ancient road running between Tijeras and Santa Fe, *el camino alto*, the road that had been known for half a century as State Route 10, in 1973 was given a second number. It was designated State Route 10-14. Starting the following year, 1974, the "10" was dropped. Thereafter it was to be only S.R. 14. The Interstate Highways had arrived, and certain numbers, 10, 25, and 40, were reserved for Interstates. A state road carrying one of those numbers was no longer allowed. The final twist is that S.R. 14 once again has two names. It is officially called State Route 14 and it is equally officially the "Turquoise Trail National Scenic Byway".

So what's in a name? Sometimes there's quite a lot in a name.