

Carson O Piñon!

Carson Community Association

Annual, (sometimes semi-annual), Newsletter

Editor: Elizabeth Brownrigg, PO Box 40, Carson, NM 87517

Summer 2012



photo by Sharon Wilbur

A black bear climbs up a tree after munching apples in the Logues' yard.

Remembering...

-Gerald Boxberger

The big hail storm and rain the other day, west and south of the Post Office, reminds me of others we have had through the years. It rains usually in a narrow strip, but there is plenty of flooding that follows. We have had some dirt cattle pond dams washed out through the years from these types of storms.

Also, seeing the Petaca Arroyo running bank-to-bank following the flood, reminds me of the many years it ran a good stream each spring. After the lack of winter snow, especially up north near the Colorado border where the Petaca Arroyo starts, this is a rare sight these days. Don't think the Arroyo has run much since the early 1950s.

During the spring run-off in the early years of Carson, the Petaca would run for 3 or 4 months. There were three hand-dug wells along the West bank and the walls were built or lined up with rock. Some are still visible. People would haul water from these wells. I remember my Dad and other neighbors, getting their water out of the wells by pulling buckets up with a rope. They usually had some 55-gallon barrels in a vehicle and poured the water into them for the trip home. My Dad hauled 4 barrels in the wagon with a team of horses. The barrels had the tops cut out and he had some burlap sacks that he would put over the tops and wired around the sides to keep the water from flopping out on the journey home.

What memories. Would not trade them for anything. The early Carsonites were some tough people and sure worked hard.

Freak of Nature...

-Scott Stephens

On a fine summer evening I sat in the house, reading, the day quietly coming to an end. Out of the corner of my eye I saw movement by the couch. I looked and saw nothing. I turned back to my book. There it was again! Still I saw nothing. I got up and walked over. While looking around carefully I noticed a strange pile of lint, hair, and dust on the floor near the edge of the couch. Suddenly, the pile opened two gold eyes and began hopping! Turned out a damp toad fresh from the flowerbed had gone under the couch and picked up a dust bunny.



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The Harmonica Women Mystery

-Norman Davis

It was Big Mama Thornton who got me thinking about it. I played a track on my show which featured her playing the harmonica, and I started wondering why more women don't play the "Mississippi Saxophone". After half a century as a DJ, I could only name three or four. And when I asked my friends, most of them couldn't name any!

I got more curious and started doing research on the subject. I looked in all my blues reference books and found virtually nothing. So I started looking on line. Lo and behold, indeed there are some harmonica-playing gals around the world! Not many, when compared with women who play other instruments, but enough to whet my appetite further. I tried different word combinations in Google; women-harmonica, harp-girls, female-mouth harp—you get the idea.

I started finding some gems; Christelle Berthon, a French woman with an exquisite style who has yet to make an album, Octavia in Pennsylvania—as good as any man I've ever heard, Kat Baloun and Beata Kossowska in Germany, Big Nancy in New Jersey. It was like a treasure hunt and I was finding jewels everywhere; Sandra Vazquez in South America, Rachel Plas in France, Tracy K in Canada, Stacy Jones in Seattle, and D J Gosper down under in Australia. It became apparent as I listened to the harmonica ladies that nearly all of them are also excellent singers.

Creating a website was the obvious next step, and while I was discussing possible domain names with a friend, he misspoke the word "harmonica," saying "hermonica." "Wait a minute!" I yelled, "That's it!" And so was born the website www.hermonicas.com, devoted to women who play the mouth harp.

Even though the American Musicians Union refused to recognize the harmonica as a legitimate musical instrument for many years, these days it is quite popular around the world. In the Far East it is taught in many schools with harmonica orchestras and ensembles flourishing.

It used to be that way in the U.S., too. Back in the 1930s and '40s the harmonica was widely popular. Large numbers of students were enrolled in harmonica orchestras. The Los Angeles School District had 10,000 students enlisted one year. Professional harmonica groups proliferated. The most popular group was the Harmonicats, a trio that hit it big with their recording of "Peg O' My Heart" in 1947. The group became so popular they were able to replicate themselves with four or five versions of the Harmonicats touring in different areas at the same time! Copycat bands

started popping up. The Harmonica Rascals featured a midget, (Johnny Puleo), on the big bass harmonica. There was even an all-woman group known as the Harmonicuties, (and they had a midget too!).

But harmonicas lost a lot of their popularity during World War II, as almost all the instruments made then were produced by German companies and could not be imported. And the new amplified electric instruments began attracting many music students.

When blues popularity brought the harmonica back, the women were left out. Very few Americans can name even one female harmonica player. Maybe that will change in 2013 when the very first compilation of harp women will be released as a double album on Ruf Records. Four record companies rejected the idea before Thomas Ruf, a forward-looking label owner in Germany liked the idea, even though most of the artists are virtually unknown. Most people will be hearing them for the first time and are in for a nice surprise.

Hermonicas.com seems to be having some effect on the Internet, as several other harmonica sites have added or beefed up their pages on woman players recently. It's all good news for the gals who have been under-rated, under-recorded and under-publicized for too long. Now, who wants to produce the first all-woman harmonica concert?

Norman Davis is a radio DJ and writer. His syndicated weekly radio show, [Midnight Flier](#), is now in its 18th year and is heard Thursday night 8-12m on KKIT-FM 95.9 and Saturday afternoon 4-8pm on KVOT-AM 1340.

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Think About This

-The Old Man

Why be so selfish? Let's think also about our neighbors. A bottle, a can, or a paper bag does not make South Carson Road any more beautiful. If you think so, then by all means, save them for the return trip home and deposit them on your own grounds. These things thrown from a vehicle are trash. Why would you be a party to such behavior? The people of Carson should be above such conduct. Let's try to put trash where trash belongs.

2012 Summer Fair Donations

(Over 20 donors and over \$1000 in prizes)

Support the businesses that support Carson:

PPC Solar: \$200 cash
Cottam's River Rafting: 1/2 day rafting for 2 (\$100 value)
Green Beauty by Raynera: cut & color (\$95 value)
Zekes Auto Supply: \$100 gift certificate
Ace Hardware: Palm-size screwdriver (\$65 value)
Cid's Food Market: \$50 gift certificate
White Lotus Unique Gifts: \$40 gift certificate
Twirl Toystore: \$25 gift certificate
Moby Dickens Bookshop: \$25 gift certificate
Petrees Nursery: \$25 gift certificate
Good Sole or Taos Mtn Outfitters: \$25 gift certificate
Gorge Bar and Grill: 2 gift certificates: \$25 each
Taos Tac & Feed: \$20 gift certificate
Taos Ale House: \$50 gift certificate
Eske's Brew Pub: \$30 gift certificate: lunch for two
10,000 Wags: \$25 gift certificate
Albertsons Supermarket: 3 gift cards: \$15 each
Randalls Lumber and Hardware: 2 gift certificates: \$50 each
Ranchos Plaza Grill: \$25 gift certificate
El Taoseño Restaurant: \$25 gift certificate

**A big thanks to all the folks who came to the Carson
Summer Fair.**

Spread the word now for next year!

Fair Money

The annual CCA Summer Fair is definitely a good time. But it's also our fundraiser. This year we did better than ever! Thanks Carson & friends!

2012 Fair profit: \$2163.34

2011 Fair profit: \$1068.79

2010 Fair profit: \$1754.25

Tips for Preventing/Defending Against Fire

Clear trees, dead branches, weeds, tall grasses, (anything flammable) from around your buildings. The recommended clearance is a 50' minimum.

In the event of an emergency, (yours or someone else's), ALWAYS CALL 911 FIRST.

Keep all flammables, such as gasoline, paint thinners, etc., at least 50' away from buildings.

Store fireplace ashes in a tightly lidded metal container. This suffocates hot embers and keeps them from blowing out. Be sure embers are completely cool, (24 hour minimum suffocation), before dumping.

When constructing or renovating, use non-flammable materials such as metal for roofs and stucco for exterior finishes wherever possible. Avoid using flammable construction materials.

Ensure that your property is easily accessible in the event of an emergency. Keep a clear pathway for emergency vehicles. For example, if you go to help someone who is in urgent need, be sure not to block access with your own vehicle.

Hear Ye!

-The Old Man

Just as I was ready to give up, here came a new bunch of people and miracles happened. We have a fire department no longer just in the making. There will be a firehouse soon. How grateful we must be to know that help is available.

We are on the move, but we need everyone to participate. There are too many that seem to want things done for them. To isolate oneself from the community isn't to one's advantage. The bigger the army, the stronger.

Think about it. No one is as strong as a group. Let down your inclination toward isolation. Come join the community from time to time. If you give of yourself you will gain in multiples...

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photo by Elisabeth Maier

The CCA is on Fire!

-Elizabeth Brownrigg

Reviving regular CCA meetings in 2008 was a good thing, because what the Carson Community Association has accomplished in the last four years is remarkable:

- **Acquired 3 acres of land, a community building to meet in, and a storage shed**
- **Poured a concrete floor for the community building**
- **Started publishing an annual, (sometimes semi-annual), newsletter again**
- **Attained a federal tax-exempt status for our organization, 501(c)(3)**
- **Established a volunteer fire department recognized by Taos County**
- **Acquired a fully equipped pumper/tanker fire truck (seen at fair)**
- **Acquired a fully equipped brush truck the last week of July (see photo)**
- **9 people are training regularly at Ojo Caliente FD for nearly one year now**
- **9 of our firefighters completed the Wild Land Fire Training course**
- **9 of our firefighters completed the CPR course**
- **5 of our firefighters completed the EMT driving course**
- **4 of our firefighters became First Responders (80 hr course)**
- **Our Fire Dept ranks #3 in training out of 17 fire departments**
- **Acquired thousands of dollars of gear and tools for our firefighters**
- **Acquired a complete Class 3 fire engine, (which needs \$\$ equipment)**
- **Acquired a 2000 gallon tanker truck, (which needs work)**
- **Held 3 annual fundraising fairs to great success**
- **Will send 9 people to the mandatory Structural Fire Training course**
- **Will soon have South Carson Road repaired like never before**
- **Have 2 pending big grants: Firemen's Fund and FEMA**
- **Acquired a 14' portable office trailer from Taos County**
- **Will soon have brand new radios**

Since obtaining our 501(c)(3) status we are obligated to make our volunteer fire department our primary focus, and this year we are put to the test. Our next big hurdle is to provide a temporary garage with heat and electricity for our pumper/tanker. Plans for a permanent building are in the works, but until then we need to keep our baby warm and safe through the winter. We will erect a 20' x 36' metal building on the FD land as soon as possible. The cost of doing this from start to finish is about \$9500. Now more than ever, Carson needs your financial support. Next year state aid will be available to us, but for now we are on our own financially and winter is fast approaching. Please make tax-deductible donations to: CCA, PO Box 101, Carson, NM 87517, attn: E. Maier.

Carson's new fully equipped brush truck from Peralta FD!



photo by Elisabeth Maier

River to the Sea

-Christopher Gallup

*As the seasons leave their trace, lines upon my face,
Laughter and tears, years of working in the sun,
Life's blessings and the good man I've become.
The seasons have shown me my true face.*

*Between the heavens and the earth, my heart's place
From my ancestral animal plant shadow side
I've learned to fly into the light, not hide.*

*I pray to walk this life, heal my heart, and become whole,
So I can help others before I go.
And when my circle of life has become full
I'll drop my ego and fly on home
To my ancestors awaiting me in the blue place in the sky
As a golden eagle this man-child will fly.*

*So I ain't afraid of getting old and turning grey.
From Grandfather Tree in life's wind
I've learned to bend and sway
Like a river to the sea.*

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instrument of peace.

Please donate to the Carson Food Bank.

751-3090

Please donate \$\$\$ to the CCA!

The CCA has slated a number of projects to improve our community. These projects take money and volunteers. The most current projects being planned are:

- Erecting a temporary garage for our pumper/tanker, (\$9500)
- Adding a portale to the Community Center/ FD meeting house, (\$1000)

Any amount of money you can donate will be greatly appreciated *and is now a tax write-off*. Also, please remember your Carson Resident Annual Donations- \$10 per household. Cash is acceptable. Checks and money orders may be made payable to “Carson Community Association” or “CCA”. Please send donations and dues to: CCA, attn: E. Maier, Treasurer, PO Box 101, Carson, NM 87517.



photo by Elizabeth Brownrigg