

# *Carson O Piñon!*

**Carson Community Association**

*Annual, (sometimes semi-annual), Newsletter*

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

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## *Winter 2015*



*-photo by Elizabeth Brownrigg*

# Remembering

*-Gerald Boxberger*

At our Community Christmas pot luck, a young fellow started asking me some questions about the old telephone poles that are still visible west of the post office, along the north side of highway 567 going toward Taos Junction. He thought they were telegraph poles.

I may have written something on this subject before but thought I would add a little more. Those poles were put in when the railroad decided to build a depot at Taos Junction, formerly Stong, in 1914. The line went through the gorge to Taos. Don't know when Carson got a telephone but the Templeton's had the first and only phone for many years. Talked to Don Kirk, their grandson, and he thought it was around 1940. He remembered the ring was three long and one short. The Templeton's were located about 1.5 miles east of the present post office. They had a store, gas station and a couple of cabins and think they moved out of Carson in the late 1940s. It was in the early '60s that my folks got a phone.

Some new residents may not know about Taos Junction, which had a good-sized train depot, hotel, gasoline bulk tanks, a grocery store and more. The train was taken out in 1941 and the buildings were moved or torn down, a little at a time. The town was located in the vicinity of where "Susie's" and later "Maria's" Cafe were located, a short distance north of the intersection of US 285 and our State Road 567.

Taos Junction was where freight and passengers arrived for Taos, as Taos never had train service. John Dunn ran a taxi service from Taos Junction to Taos. My mother rode in one of his taxis in the early '20s.

Fond memories of early Carson.

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**Please donate to the CCA and the CVFD.**

**Both organizations need your ongoing support!**

**The CCA has a few new projects for the community!**

**PO Box 101, Carson, NM 87517**

# Notes from Our Trea\$urer

*-Elisabeth Maier*

## **THE CARSON FOOD BANK**

The CCA has been supporting the food bank on a monthly basis. This is an invaluable service to our community. We need your contributions, no matter how small they may be. Please send a check to CCA, PO Box 101, Carson, NM 87517

## **FREE BOX at the FOOD BANK**

We will soon have a free box for clothes and shoes available during food bank time. Please bring your washed & wearable adult and children's clothes and footwear you wish to donate. Or, I can pick them up from you, too. Call me, Elisabeth Maier: 751-7480.

## **A BIG "THANK YOU!"**

The CCA received a very generous grant from the Markeeta McNatt Brown Advised Fund of the Dallas Foundation. This grant is designated specifically toward support of the Santo Nino Food Bank!

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# CARSON FIRE DISTRICT EMERGENCY CONTACT PLAN

PLEASE PRINT, FILL OUT, AND RETURN TO CCA, PO BOX 101, CARSON  
THIS IS IN CASE OF AN EMERGENCY, AND STRICTLY CONFIDENTIAL

1. Name \_\_\_\_\_

2. Phone \_\_\_\_\_

3. Blood type \_\_\_\_\_

4. Doctor's phone \_\_\_\_\_

5. Medications, oxygen, etc. \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

6. Emergency contact if you live alone \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

7. Physical address driving directions \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

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## **Battles between Piñon & Juniper Trees**

*-Paul Green*

Most of us have the pleasure of seeing a mix of piñon and juniper trees from our windows. This complex ecosystem involves more than one thousand species of plants, animals, and fungi that interact in often surprising ways.

Piñon-juniper woodlands are unique to North America and cover an area of around 47-million acres in the west today. As a habitat, piñon-juniper woodlands are comprised of overlapping bands of piñon and juniper at the base of mountain ranges throughout the west. Piñon often adjoin ponderosa pine at higher elevations, with juniper butting against the piñon at its lower limit and also downward into the grasslands and shrub steppe. Piñons and junipers thrive in areas with less water than ponderosa pines, which are generally found at higher elevations, although locally we also find ponderosas at elevations below the piñons in the bottom of the Rio Grande gorge where there is more water, the reverse of the normal pattern.

Today, piñon and juniper live together in some of the driest pine habitats of the world, but because they share similar ecological needs, they compete with each other for water and nutrients. Junipers have a greater tolerance to drought than piñons so we tend to find them at the lower, drier elevations since they can absorb water from drier soils.

**Juniper's greater tolerance to drought comes from how it reacts when faced with poor water availability. In all plants, water moves on up through the roots into the branches and leaves through vessels called xylem as a solid column. Under high water stress air bubbles are pulled into the vessels, which stops the movement of water from the soil through the roots and up to the branches and leaves. Juniper roots are much more tolerant of this than are piñon.**

**During the 1996 drought, researchers discovered that piñons stopped conducting water through their roots and branches while junipers simply reduced their water flow by between one quarter and one half. During drought, junipers continue to absorb carbon dioxide for carbohydrate production, (photosynthesis), while the piñons close up their pores to stop water loss, thus preventing access to carbon dioxide and so stopping photosynthesis. A tree that continues to photosynthesize will continue to grow and reproduce, outcompeting those that cannot. So junipers thrive in dryer conditions while piñons suffer.**

**Much of our precipitation falls as rain during the summer months, when most of it either evaporates or runs off before it can soak far down into the soil. Both piñon and juniper trees have extensive shallow root systems that allow them to make the most of this ephemeral surface water. Dense fine root hairs exist in the top twelve inches of soil and extend well beyond the canopy to absorb water and nutrients. In our region the one-seed juniper can reach much further beyond its canopy than can our piñons. In northern Arizona one researcher found that junipers have 50-percent more root mass than piñons where the two coexisted. When researchers dug a 12-inch trench around piñons, these piñons doubled their root mass, suggesting that they were suffering from competition from the junipers.**

**So how does a piñon manage to coexist with a juniper? At upper elevations, where water is generally more available, piñons photosynthesize at a much faster rate than junipers and so outgrow them and shade the junipers out.**

**While the piñons and junipers compete fiercely for the water, they will serve as nurse plants for one another. Nurse plants provide seedlings and young plants with shade, lower temperatures, increased nutrients, greater soil water, less summer drying, and protection from being eaten and from the wind. Young plants of both species show better establishment when they have the shade of tree canopies. If you look around Carson, many of the young trees are growing up in the shelter of a sagebrush plant.**

**At least one thousand species of plants, animals, and fungi are associated with our local two-needle piñon (*Pinus edulis*). Like most plants, piñon and juniper have symbiotic fungi called mycorrhizae that live with the fine roots of the trees. These**

fungi are critical in helping the trees survive in our region, and become more abundant as growing conditions become less favorable. They greatly enhance the trees' ability to absorb water and nutrients. Incredibly though they may absorb up to 60 percent of the carbohydrates produced by the tree through photosynthesis. This really tightens up the energy budgets of the trees, setting up a tug-of-war between various animals that extract resources from the piñons for themselves.

Piñon and juniper have different species of fungi associated with them. So if a piñon seed germinates in a pure stand of juniper it may not find the kind of fungi it needs to thrive. Junipers however share many species of root fungi of common grass species, such as blue grama, making it easy for juniper to establish in a piñon-grassland site.

Both species are dependent on birds and mammals to disperse their seeds. More about that another time.

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# **Please help make a difference- give *monthly* to the Santo Niño Food Bank.**

(now a charitable organization under the CCA)

**Make checks payable and mail to:**

**The Food Depot**

**(!!Specify your donation for Santo Niño Carson in the memo on check!!)**

**Attn: Viola Lujan,**

**1222 A Siler Road, Santa Fe, NM 87507**

**[www.thefooddepot.org](http://www.thefooddepot.org)**

**\*Your donation is a tax-exempt\***

**For info call Richard or Tupper: 575.751.3090**

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# *Vista Verde Retreat*

**Put up ~~with~~ your friends and family  
here in Carson.**

Please like us on Facebook  
and recommend us everywhere!

**[www.vistaverderetreat.com](http://www.vistaverderetreat.com)  
575.758.2758**

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## **The Old Road to Taos**

*-Scott Stephens*

**Taos is east. It is straight across the mesa with the Rio Grande Gorge in the way. So we go east, then north, or maybe even south, then back south or north again. It was different when we were able to drive straight across and down and up. Down into the gorge, across the Taos Junction Bridge, then right up on the other side on Highway 570. In the winter it was an adventure. There were springs along there, and one of them was really good drinking water. On the Taos side, these springs would freeze, and the sheets of ice would always slope off the edge over the cliffs. In order to make it to the top, you had to go a bit fast, aim uphill, and let the truck's sliding momentum carry you as you slid toward the edge! The road, being one-lane with no guardrails or turnouts, created all kinds of situations when vehicles would meet. One spring season the lower part washed completely out. Then the big landslide closed the road for good. It is a very nice hike now, and the paved West Rim Road is deluxe.**



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## A Thought or Two

*-The Old Man*

Well, last year has come and gone. There was quite a lot accomplished. There was one exception: interest in the activities by all. There seems to be a lack of *interest* by more than half the people residing here. You'd think that just one robbery would get everyone's attention. Until you've been robbed you will never know the feeling. You work hard for what you have. It hurts to lose it, even to a neighbor. Ha! Come join us. There is room. I know we like to keep our lives close and private, but there will always be one that thinks your stuff looks better over at his house.

One other thing: there is a definite lack of participation in the community. Those that volunteer to guide affairs of community don't shun a better idea when it's presented. Come on! To be so shy cheats you from pride of being. We've come a long way; there is more to be done. Take pride in helping...

# Bark

*-Anonymous*

*First light, just after dark,  
Very quiet, until dogs bark.  
Beautiful sunrise, calm, with no wind.  
Off and on, they bark again.  
Summer days, warm, almost hot,  
Bark, and bark, and bark  
A lot.*

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# Yapping

*-Elizabeth Brownrigg*

**We really have an awesome place to live! Being out here in Carson, whether in the trees or on the mesa, is a special experience. Most people choose Carson because of its tranquility and remoteness. However, two ongoing problems have been brought to my attention recently that need addressing: barking dogs and gossiping people.**

**Regarding the dogs: it's important not to allow your dog(s) to bark for more than 10 minutes. Actually, it's an ordinance, designed to end this nuisance in communities. And it IS a nuisance! If your dog is barking, or, as in some cases, running through Carson getting into stuff, you need to deal with this before someone else does. We all love our dogs, AND it's important be a responsible pet owner. Anyone who hears a barking dog or sees one on his/her property should call the owner immediately. If the situation persists, call Animal Control: 751-2217 or 751-2034. This can be done anonymously and the offending owner can be cited. No one really wants to do this, so *please* bring your barking, running dogs inside!**

**Regarding the gossip: It's really easy to say unkind, judgmental things about others. I'm certainly not exempt from this bad behavior. However, it does a great disservice to everyone, and it's *really* hurtful. We all have our demons and problems to handle. Some of us may be handling them better than others, which is why it's even more important to remember to help each other, not hurt each other. There's enough pain in life without adding our unpleasant words to it! Let us practice kindness.**

# Got mud?

**Remove the snow pronto next time,  
and improve your driveway!**

Peter Allen has plough, will travel.

505-795-3298

*unreasonable prices, call anyway*

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## 2015 Carson Community Events

*-Elizabeth Brownrigg, CCA Secretary*

**This year the CCA Board has decided to make some wonderful event changes! Instead of having the Carson Summer Fair, we are now going to have a Carson Harvest Moon Fest in the fall as our major fundraiser. It will be cooler then, and the event will be more oriented to art than in previous years. Prior to that, we are going to host a “Spring Bling Fling” at the Fire Department on **Saturday, April 25, from Noon - 4:00!** This is basically a glorified yard sale. Please start amassing your saleable items now. You will be able to sell your stuff, including food, (but not alcohol), at this event. A small percentage of all sales will be donated that day to the CCA. (This is more of a community gathering than a major fundraiser). Then, in December, we will host our annual holiday party at the Quonset as usual. Please come join in the fun!**

# *Swiss Ms. Sewing!*

Basic alterations  
for a reasonable price.

*Elisabeth Maier 751-7480*

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## **Tips for Preventing/Defending Against Fire**

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

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

**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.**

