

FREE CHAPARRAL GUIDE

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**2nd Annual
Dam Car Show
August 18, 2012**

Photo by Judd Irish Bradley

2nd Annual Dam Car Show Set for Damsite Resturant August 18

By Kelly W. Cauffman

What started out as a word-of-mouth car show event in 2011 is back this month for a second go-round.

According to organizer Kandace Dalrymple, "Last summer an intern was working for Marina del Sur and started this car show. I believe there were at least 25 cars in the show."

Although last year's show consisted of judges, cars, viewers and ribbons, this year's show has all the markings of being bigger and better. The Second Annual Dam Car Show will include live music by The 24/7 Blues Band and a special feast prepared by celebrity chef Sara of the Food Network & Hell's Kitchen and Damsite Restaurant cook Will Andersen.

Chef Sara has appeared on various Food Network programs and the popular TV series, Hell's Kitchen. Chef Sara's unique approach to preparing healthy and delicious foods comes from her vision.

According to her website, www.chefsara.com, "My vision is to cure the planet and ourselves from the epidemic diseases that can no longer be blamed on genetics. I want to educate and inspire people about the power of eating organic, fresh, alive raw vegan foods to achieve optimal health. The best way to do that is to eat a high enzyme diet consisting of raw fruits and



DAM CAR SHOW - Last year's Dam Car Show drew 25 cars to the Damsite Restaurant and was a huge success. This year's show will feature live music by The 24/7 Blues Band and a special feast prepared by celebrity chef Sara of the Food Network and Hell's Kitchen and Damsite Restaurant cook Will Andersen.

COURTESY photo/KELLY W. CAUFFMAN

Continued on next page

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VINTAGE AUTOMOBILE - There will be many vintage automobiles on display at this year's Dam Car Show in the parking lot of the Damsite Restaurant on August 18.

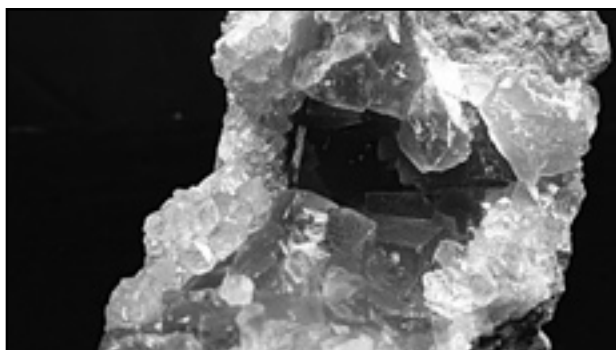
vegetables..." This vision is carried out by her passion for teaching people how to eat healthily and to prepare delightful and easy to prepare healthy meals. "I believe the food we choose to consume plays a vital role in healing the body, mind

COURTESY photo/KELLY W. CAUFFMAN and soul," she said. How this healthy raw vegan approach to a barbecue will occur is a mystery that can only be answered if you attend the Second Annual Dam Car Show on August 18, at the Damsite Restaurant.

Attention All Rock Hounds!

**By Dianne Preisser
Sierra County Tourism Director**
Just in case you consider yourself a rock hound or possibly a rock and gem lover, this story is a must read. The Sierra County Rock & Gem Society (SCRAGS) was launched in the spring of this year, attracting locals from all walks of life and all ages. Whether you love to make jewelry or you just love wearing it, this club should capture your interest. You just might get your kicks picking up beautiful rocks on nature walks or possibly you're a serious

geology buff who needs to supply a dazzling collection of your own. Either way, this new club should be on your bucket list. Josh Frankel has always been interested in rocks and gems. He holds an associate's degree in science, focusing on geology from Keene State College in Keene, New Hampshire. Frankel moved to Truth or Consequences in 1999. His lifelong interest sparked an innovative effort to jump start SCRAGS in April, and so far, 50 members have joined. Their meetings begin at 6 p.m., the first Monday of every month at Geronimo Springs Museum, 211 Main St. During the summer season, SCRAGS has a pres-



BLUE FLOURITE FROM BINGHAM CLAIMS MINE

ence at the Sierra County Farmers Market in Ralph Edwards Park every Saturday, 8:30-11:30 a.m. A representative offers informal discussion and of course displays some fine rock and gem specimens for the public. SCRAGS will resume their monthly meetings in November at the museum with the likelihood of growing in numbers as talk spreads throughout Sierra County. Among future plans are live presentations, field trips and an Annual Rock & Gem Show starting in March 2013. Plans to form a mission statement with officers will enable the club to carry liability insurance when going on private property and will create easier property access for members. SCRAGS will then charge minimal dues and offer lots of exciting events for all its members.

Continued on next page

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SCRAGS has already held their first field trip up to the Bingham Claims Mine, also known as Desert Rose Mine, about one half-hour drive from San Antonio, N.M. The mine is known for abundant blue fluorite, which was primarily used during the World War II as a steel hardener. The mine is currently being reclaimed for mineral specimens.

The San Antonio Rock Shop owner is also the Bingham Claims owner and the public can pay \$10 at his shop to carry out 10 pounds from the mine. If picking for fluorite sounds like fun, make sure to take a flashlight, rock pick and a hefty carrying bag. The location is described as a large overhang as opposed to a deep cave for interested participants.

One of the prevalent military recreational activities in the 1950s and '60s was lapidary work. The American Southwest has an abundance of lapidary craftsmen, since many soldiers moved to this section of the country after the Korean War. These skilled rock cutters surely find the Southwest a depository of rock and gem treasures for their earthly passion.

In previous years, several active rock and gem clubs were established, and three former members have joined the club this spring.

These so-called old timers include Jim Bersch, owner of Loretta's Gifts on Broadway in downtown Truth or Consequences. He acts as the club's sponsor, and donates books and raffle prizes for their meetings. Loretta's Gifts is the exclusive shop that carries lapidary equipment in the area. Rock tumblers, polishing compound and grits are among the shops rock hound inventory. The store also carries an excellent rock and gem library.

Information on SCRAGS and various minerals found in Sierra County, New Mexico are listed on SCRAGS's Facebook page under Sierra County Rock and Gem Society. Some of the minerals on this extensive list include chrysocolla, tetrahedrite, thorite, copper, gold, graphite, garnet, iridium, moonstone, opal, topaz, amethyst, agate-jasper, silver and zircon.



OPENING TO BINGHAM CLAIMS MINE

Contact Josh Frankel for SCRAGS information by e-mail: dorkys@gmail.com.

Truth or Consequences & Sierra County Statistics

Sierra County was organized in 1884, due primarily to the mining boom in the area at that time.

Hillsboro was the county seat, again largely because it was in the middle of that period's mining activity. The county seat was moved to Hot Springs—later renamed Truth or Consequences—in 1934.

Area: 4,231-square-miles
 Population: 12,961 (2002 census)
 Population Density: 3.1 persons/sq. mile
 Average Annual Rainfall: 11 inches
 Average Humidity: Normally 10 to 15 percent.
 During July and August, the humidity usually exceeds the average due to seasonal afternoon thundershowers.

Average Annual Temperatures: High, 74° Fahrenheit, Low, 46° Fahrenheit

Average Temperatures by Month: January, 54°/27°; February, 59°/30°; March, 65°/36°; April, 75°/44°; May, 83°/52°; June, 92°/62°; July, 92°/66°; August, 89°/64°; September, 85°/58°; October, 75°/47°; November, 62°/35°; December, 53°/27°

Cultural Structure: The 2002 Census shows that several ethnicity's comprise Sierra County's population. The local ethnic groups that make up at least one percent of the local popu-

Continued on next page

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Sponsored by Sierra County Recreation & Tourism Board and the Truth or Consequences/Sierra County Chamber of Commerce. To add an upcoming event, visit SierraCountyEvents.com and click on Enter an Event.

- AUGUST**
- 3:** Live Entertainment 7:00 pm, Cafe Groovy Gritz 315 N. Broadway TorC, NM, "Ron Parsons" Guitar Soloist. Toe Tappin' Rock Favorites, Pop, & Folk Music. Cost: Free. Contact: Cafe Groovy Gritz, Brenda Nelson, 575-894-0350, cafegroovygritz@aol.com. <http://groovygritz.com>
- 4:** Bass Tournament 6am-3:30pm, Elephant Butte Lake State Park Contact Tournament Director for further info. Cost: \$5.00 day use fee. Contact: American Bass Assoc, Bobby Brewster, 575-740-7320.
- 4:** Sierra County Farmers Market, Truth or Consequences 8:30am to 11:30 am, Ralph Edwards Park, Riverside between Birch and Cedar, Truth or Con-

- sequences Visit the Sierra County Farmers Market for seasonal, locally grown, fresh picked fruits and veggies; locally baked breads and other items such as jams & jellies; fresh eggs, pet items, and craft items such as cards, woodwork, jewelry, and much more. Local artists perform live music each week. EBT and Debit accepted. Come and become a supporter of our community. Contact: Sierra County Farmers Market, Colleen Davis, 575-894-9375, colleen@sierracountyfarmersmarket.org. <http://www.sierracountyfarmersmarket.org>
- 4:** Live Music: David Garcia 7pm, Cafe Groovy Gritz, 315 N Broadway, Truth or Consequences Contact: Cafe Groovy Gritz, Brenda Nelson, 505-894-0350, cafegroovygritz@aol.com.
- 10:** Live Entertainment 7:00 pm, Cafe Groovy Gritz 315 N. Broadway TorC, NM, "Big Steve" Guitar Soloist, Rock, Folk, 60's & 70's. Cost: Free. Contact: Cafe Groovy Gritz, Brenda Nelson, 575-894-0350, cafegroovygritz@aol.com. <http://groovygritz.com>
- 11:** August Art Hop 6-9pm, Downtown Truth or Consequences Galleries, studios, shops and restaurants are open late on the 2nd Saturday of every month. Check the MainStreet Truth or Consequences website for info on opening exhibits and special events. Cost: free. Contact: MainStreet Truth or Consequences, promotions@torcmainstreet.org. <http://www.torcmainstreet.org>
- 11-12:** 61st Annual T or C Open Golf Tournament 7:30 & 1pm shotgun, Truth or Consequences Municipal Golf Course, 685 Marie, T or C PLEASE NOTE this description is from the 2011 event. Men's and Ladies' flights - individual play flighted by committee. Championship flight is scratch; other flights low net (USGA Handicap Only). Entry includes favors, carts, range, and lunch. Open to the

first 80 paid entrants. Cost: \$100 per player. Contact: T or C Municipal Golf Course, Howie Tucker, 575-894-2603, howieprodog@msn.com. http://www.torcnm.org/departments/golf_course.html

11-12: Drag Boat Races 8am-4pm, Elephant Butte Lake State Park/ Hot Springs Landing Drag boats will race against each other for the fastest quarter mile. Cost: day use fee required. Contact: SWDBA, Ray Vickers, 575-740-0004.

11: Live Entertainment 7:00 pm, Cafe Groovy Gritz 315 N. Broadway TorC, NM, "24/7" Blues Band. TorC's favorite Blues Band, with a wide variety of America's earthy classic, steamin' hot Blues favorites. Cost: Free. Contact: Cafe Groovy Gritz, Brenda Nelson, 575-894-0350, cafegroovygritz@aol.com. <http://groovygritz.com>

11: Sierra County Farmers Market, Truth or Consequences 8:30am to 11:30 am, Ralph Edwards Park, Riverside Drive between Cedar and Birch Buy local! Fresh produce, eggs, baked goods, and crafts will all be available, complete with live music accompaniment! All products sold are locally grown and/or made in Sierra County. EBT and Debit cards are accepted and there's plenty of free parking. See the Farmers' Market website for more information and late-breaking news. Contact: Sierra County Farmers Market, Colleen Davis, 575-894-9375, colleen@sierracountyfarmersmarket.org. <http://www.sierracountyfarmersmarket.org>

11: Ellen M. Wilson introduces her latest album "Destiny". Live Performances! 5-9pm, Charles Mo-

Continued on next page

Sierra County Statistics

lation includes: English, 12%; French, 4%; German, 13%; Hispanic, 26%; Irish, 1%; Italian, 1%; Native American, 1%; Polish, 1%; Scottish, 2%; Mixed Heritage, 39%

Name Changes: Truth or Consequences was originally chartered as Palomas Hot Springs in 1916. The name was shortened simply to Hot Springs sometime thereafter, but the exact date is debated. The city again changed its name to Truth or Consequences in 1950 in honor of a popular radio/television show of the era.

Elevation: Truth or Consequences is located at 4,620 feet above sea level. The highest points in Sierra County are located in the Black Range of the Gila National Forest and are well above 10,000 feet.

Major Industries: farming, ranching, tourism, mining

Major Attractions: Elephant Butte and Caballo lake state parks, Geronimo Springs Museum, naturally heated cluster mineral springs, Veterans' Memorial Park & Museum, many historic mining communities and ghost towns, hunting, fishing, numerous art galleries, and—soon—the New Mexico Regional Spaceport.

Major Special Area Events: Truth or Consequences Fiesta, Hillsboro Apple Festival, Christmas in the Foothills (Hillsboro), Hatch Chile Festival, Elephant Butte Balloon Regatta, Winston Fall Fiesta, Sierra County Fair, Elephant Butte Chili Cook-off, New Mexico Old Time Fiddlers' Association Competitions and State Championships, numerous bass and carp tournaments, Destination: Sierra County, three-day holiday weekends at Elephant Butte and Caballo lakes—New Mexico's largest and second-largest bodies of surface water.

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tel and Hot Springs Spa, 601 Broadway, Truth Or Consequences Ellen M. Wilson will be performing songs from her latest album/cd. Since everyone will be all over downtown on this date Ellen will be doing a repeat performance starting at 5pm. She will perform again at 6, 7, and 8pm. So don't worry if you miss the first performance. Admission is free; refreshments will be served. Ellen will be signing copies of her cd after each performance. For more about Ellen visit <http://www.ellenmwilson.com/> Contact: Charles Motel and Hot Springs Spa, Mark Mullins, 575-894-7154, charleshotsprings@gmail.com. <http://www.charlesspa.com>

14: SCRTAB Monthly Meeting 9am, Geronimo Trail National Scenic Byway Visitor's Center, 529 Broadway, Truth or Consequences The Sierra County Recreation and Tourism Advisory Board meets on the second Tuesday of every month. Cost: free. Contact: Sierra County Recreation and Tourism Advisory Board, Kim Skinner, 575-740-1777. <http://www.sierracountynewmexico.info>

16: Public Meeting, Community Health Needs Assessment Results 7:00 PM, City Commission Chambers, 405 W 3rd St., Truth or Consequences This will be a public meeting for Dr. Kittleson,

NMSU to share results of the latest Health Needs Assessment. Contact: Sierra Vista Hospital, Sharon Finarelli, 5757431272, sharon.finarelli@svhnm.org. <http://www.svhnm.org>

17: Live Entertainment 7:00 pm, Cafe Groovy Gritz, 315 N. Broadway, TorC Award Winning Blues Singer CW Ayon, a one-man-band that plays blues/rock songs, electric & acoustic guitar, harmonica and a kick drum and snare. Cost: free. Contact: Cafe Groovy Gritz, Brenda Nelson, 575-894-0350, cafegroovygritz@aol.com. <http://groovygritz.com>

18-19: Guns of Ojo Caliente 9am-2pm, West Long Point Rd. Elephant Butte Lake N.M. Hosted by Monticello Range Riders. Directions at www.mocowboyaction.com Cowboy action shooting, Timed event, Period correct Clothing, Guns Etc. Spectators welcome. Admission \$5.00 adults; \$3.00 ages 12-18; 11 under free. Bring eye & ear protection. Food & drink vender on site. No Alcohol PLEASE. Sponsored by: Hot Springs Land Development & many more see Sponsor Board on site. www.sassnet.com Cost: see description. Contact: Monticello Range Riders, J.W. Brockey, 575 744 4484, buz7@windstream.net. <http://www.monticellorangeriders.com>

18: Live Entertainment 7:00 pm, Cafe Groovy Gritz 315 N. Broadway TorC, NM, "Dr. Iya Khan" A 25 year PROFESSIONAL MUSICIAN, entertainer, singer, songwriter and composer. He plays a "smokin'" guitar, has a voice like an rock n roll angel and it's hard not to get up & dance when he plays. Cost: Free. Contact: Cafe Groovy Gritz, Brenda Nelson, 575-894-0350, cafegroovygritz@aol.com. <http://groovygritz.com>

18: Best Dam Car Show, BBQ and Blues 4-8pm, Dam Site Restaurant, Historic Dam Site Resort, south end of Elephant Butte Lake 2nd annual Best Dam Car Show; this year with blues and bbq. 24/7 Blues Band will be playing on the patio and Chef Sara of Food Network and TV's Hell's Kitchen will be serving up her world famous BBQ. Come enjoy the last blast of summer at the Historic Damsite Resort. The restaurant and bar will be open serving all kinds of great food and drinks. Registration forms for car show entrants can be picked up at any of the lake marinas, by calling 575-744-5567 or contact kandace@lagorico.com Contact: Dam Site Restaurant, 575-894-2073. <http://www.facebook.com/pages/Damsite-Resort-Marina/281629775233551>

18: Sierra County Farmers Market, Truth or Consequences 8:30am to 11:30 am, Ralph Edwards Park, Riverside Drive between Cedar and Birch Buy local! Fresh produce, eggs, baked goods, and

crafts will all be available, complete with live music accompaniment! All products sold are locally grown and/or made in Sierra County. EBT and Debit cards are accepted and there's plenty of free parking. See the Farmers' Market website for more information and late-breaking news. Contact: Sierra County Farmers Market, Colleen Davis, 575-894-9375, colleen@sierracountyfarmersmarket.org. <http://www.sierracountyfarmersmarket.org>

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25: Live Entertainment 7:00 pm, Cafe Groovy Gritz, 315 N. Broadway, TorC "Cactus Flats Band" Boot-Scootin' Country Classic's. Cost: free. Contact: Cafe Groovy Gritz, Brenda Nelson, 575-894-0350, cafegroovygritz@aol.com. <http://groovygritz.com>

29: Free Class: Dysglycemia - Blood Sugar Handling 6 pm to 7pm, Agape Chiropractic, 402 N. Broadway, Truth or Consequences This class covers Diabetes, Coronary Artery Disease and the Neuro Diseases: Parkinson's and Alzheimer's Learn how you can avoid or reverse the disease process. Class size is limited. Please call and register for this free class. Look for our ongoing health series, to be held once monthly on Wed. evenings. Contact: Agape Chiropractic, Sinead Marron, 575-894-9355, sineadm51@gmail.com. <http://agapechiropractic.com>

31: Live Entertainment 7:00 pm, Cafe Groovy Gritz, 315 N. Broadway, TorC "Dr. Iya Khan" A professional musician who has been entertaining, singing, writing songs and composing for over

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History of the Healing Waters

By Carlos Padilla

Mimbres Indians and then Warm Springs Apache took to the waters for the healing properties found in the natural hot mineral springs located in present day Truth or Consequences. Many believe the area's first inhabitants considered the water sacred.

The Apache's sometimes deadly loathing for European and eastern pioneers kept the white man away from the area until after about 1900 when the United States Army cleared the way for settlement of the region.

It's been said that the first bathtub was chipped out of stone by union soldiers stationed at Ft. McRae on what is currently Elephant Butte Lake.

Documented in a diary of a U.S. military captain stationed at Ft. McRae was the soldiers bloody attempt at taking a bath in the mineral springs only seven miles south of his post. Apaches stormed the captain and his family while they were in the relaxing waters.

In all, two servants, two soldiers, his wife and children were killed in the ambush. Ironically,

the captain was spared to write the story only after having to walk nude and barefoot back to the fort with an arrow piercing his torso.

Clearly, the Native Americans regarded the area where hot mineral water surfaced with great passion. This is, perhaps, further documented by Geronimo in his book, 'Geronimo's Story of His Life', having spent a year with local Warm Springs Apache Chief Victorio. Geronimo noted the water and said it was the most peaceful time of his life. In fact, during most of the book, which chronicles his life on the run from Mexicans and eventually the United States Cavalry, he continually remembers his time with Victorio and the Warm Springs Apache and wished he could return.

As the mineral water became commercialized by settlers interested in building a town around the springs, it was discovered how many afflictions—such as rheumatoid arthritis, muscle pain and skin disorders, to name a few—the waters could treat. Hot Springs became a town synonymous with healing and hot baths. Healers came and opened up shops one at a time. Over 40 bathhouses accommodated visitors that would come to 'take the water'.

The town was built around the springs and on top of the springs. Originally, travelers would come over the rugged desert on horseback to take the water. Eventually they came on the rail as trains would drop them off in Engle and

See **WATER** on Page 12

Go Sierra County

25 years. He plays a "smokin' " guitar, has a voice like an rock n roll angel and it's hard not to get up & dance when he plays Cost: free. Contact: Cafe Groovy Gritz, Brenda Nelson, 575-894-0350, cafegroovygritz@aol.com. <http://groovygritz.com>



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WATER

shuttled them to Hot Springs.

A much more serious element of healers serviced a large portion of visitors to Hot Springs and worked in conjunction with the hot mineral water. The renowned Magnolia Ellis, who's specially constructed brick building remains a landmark in downtown TorC, was among the special group.

The town was initially given the name 'Palomas Hot Springs' during the turn of the last century. Eventually, the name was shortened to simply 'Hot Springs'.

During the construction and just after the completion of Elephant Butte Dam, workers with the Corps of Engineers from a settlement called Butte City, which was located under the dam and where workers lived, floated their homes down the Rio Grande to what is now downtown Truth or Consequences.

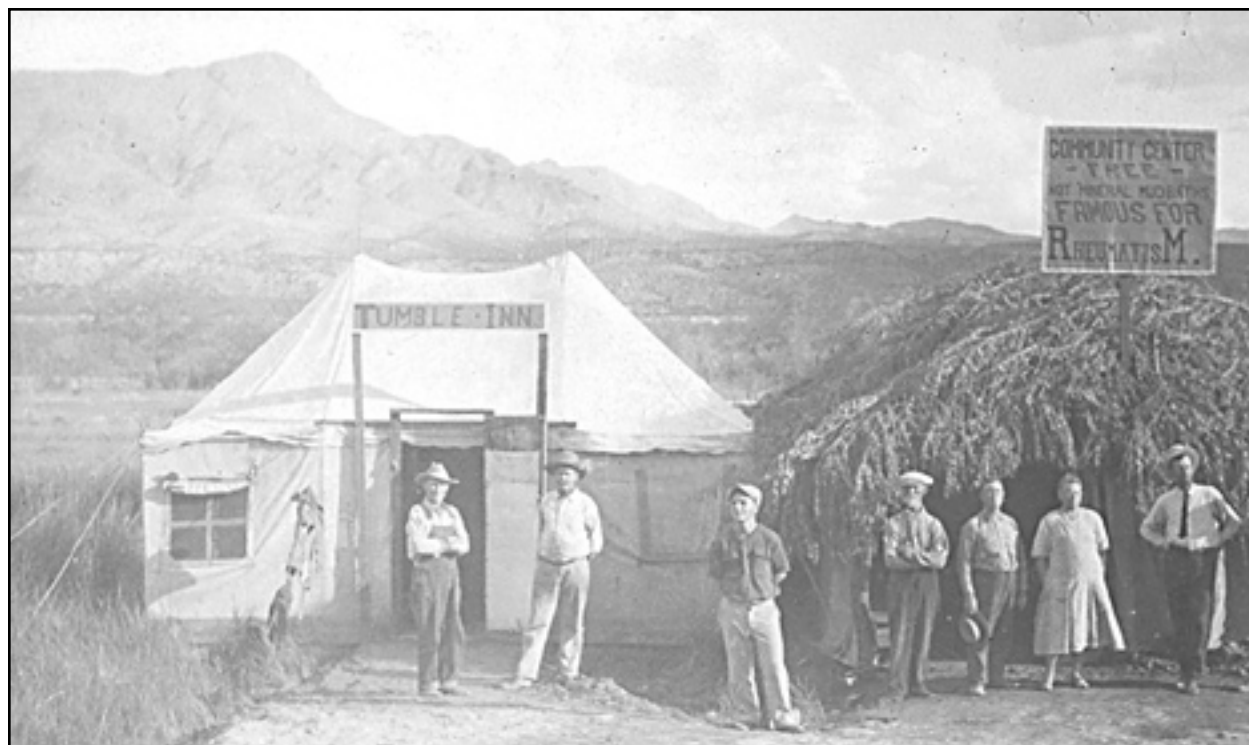
Prior to the mass move, the downtown area was a vast, swampy marshland that stretched from what is now called Water Tank Hill to Tingley Hill, so named because of the location of the Carrie Tingley Hospital For Crippled Children.

The hospital, now the New Mexico State Veterans' Home, utilized the hot mineral water for its great healing abilities. In fact, the Veterans' Home still uses the healing water in its aquatic therapy pool.

The Corps of Engineers dug a flood control channel, thus diverting the Rio Grande, and filled the marsh with a great amount of fill dirt.

Despite being covered with dirt, the water still found its way to the surface and bubbled up.

It has been said by-doctors that every illness



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COWBOYS TAKING A BREAK IN THE HOT MINERAL WATERS AROUND 1929

and every ailment can be traced to a mineral deficiency. With that in mind, it is easy to see why TorC's water—with its 38 minerals—holds a very special healing ability.

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Indians Were First to Use Hot Mineral Waters in Local Area

The famous Palomas Hot Springs with the magic waters coming up through the hot wet earth, sending slender wisps of steam up through the cool mountain air, long ago was used as a gathering place for Indians from all over the continent, who traveled many miles on foot to bathe their aching muscles and wounds received in tribal battles.

When Spaniards later found the springs, it was an Indian Chief who told them of the huge flat rock which was placed over the principal spring, and of the wonderful powers of the magic waters.

Some of the first white men known to bathe in and drink the magic waters were Capt. Phillip St. Cook in 1846, who was in command of the Mormon caravan which was part of Kearney's Army and for whom Cook's Peak was named; and Capt. Marcy who in 1849 came down from Santa Fe, exploring down river to the Mesilla Valley. When the Gadsden Treaty was ratified and published in 1845, the great Butterfield Trail was started and opened for travel in 1858; it was then that the white man really began to drift into this part of New Mexico.

Las Palomas, seven miles below the springs, was settled by four families in 1865. Jose and Dosacino Apodaca (brothers), Antonio Garcia and Ysidero Torres. They applied to the Government for a deed for a townsite, and it was from this settlement the springs became known as "Palomas Hot Springs."

The soldiers who were garrisoned at Fort McRae often came to bathe in the hot water, and were the ones who dug the first hole in the rocks, later to be known as Geronimo Spring, the strongest of many.

In those early years the course of the river ran down what is now Main Street as far as the Post Office, south to the Nu-Way Laundry, west to the Telephone Company, over where the Police Department is now located, on down by the intersection where Main and Broadway form a triangle and followed around the foot of the Veteran's Center hill. All of the main part of the city, which is in the rincon, was a bosque marsh and tulle swamp.

During this time three great ranches came into being, cornering on the mountain across the river. The Aleman Ranch, which John Martin had settled in 1867, was to the east. At the time the Civil War broke out, Martin was a citizen of California.

When the call for volunteers came, he enlisted and was made 1st Lt. Of Company D, 1st California Infantry of which J. H. Carleton was Colonel. From the coast they marched to the Rio Grande, and here took part in many campaigns against the Apaches. For several years, Martin was in command of the military escort accompanying the U. S. Mail north from Las Cruces on the old Santa Fe Chihuahua trail. The place which eventually became known as the Aleman Ranch was where the two escorts met, or about half-way between destinations.

Because of the lack of water for miles, Martin hand dug a well, 6x4ft and 164 feet deep, with no water in sight. He then set off a round of powder in the hole, leaving the well until morning to be cleaned out. To his great surprise, he had struck an underground river. By morning there was 80 feet of water standing in the well.

Here Martin established his headquarters and a stage stop and lived there until 1875 when he moved to Santa Fe, where he conducted the famous Fonda or Exchange Hotel, which was a

one-story structure. Its great corral, with adobe walls almost as high as those of the hostelry was the stopping center of great caravans for over 50 years, and here Martin stayed until his death in 1877.

In the meantime C. J. Graham, Poke Armstrong, a Mr. Putnam and Hiram Yoast homesteaded and established themselves on the Jornada, which was open range in the 1890's.

To the north of Hot Springs lay the Pedro Ar-

Continued on next page

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mendaris Grant which had been patented on January 4, 1878, signed by President R. B. Hayes, but not recorded until 1882.

To the south and west lay the Great John Cross holdings, which later Hopewell bought, and was to become known as the Ladder Ranch. It was in 1882 that the John Cross outfit built the first little adobe structure 12 ft x 10 ft over the Geronimo Spring. High on one of the rafters, the date was burned with a hot branding iron.

Until 1884, Palomas Hot Springs was located

in Socorro County. Sierra County was created by legislative enactment in 1884, being formed by taking land from Socorro, Dona Ana and Grant Counties.

The first officials of Sierra County were appointed by the Governor. They were: Commissioners A. E. Pitkin, G. W. Gregg and Richard Winn; Probate Judge Jose Tafoya; Clerk J. M. Webster; Sheriff Thomas Murphy; Assessor James P. Parker and Treasurer F. W. Taylor. Hillsboro was the first county seat.

In 1910 Font Sullivan filed a homestead right in the heart of what is now the city. His south line went as far down as Broadway, which was then part of the river, and at the foot of the hill back of where the Police Department is today. He built the Sullivan bath house, but never charged a dime for a bath. He patented his homestead and sold it to W. S. Hopewell.

The first road of any importance coming into the county from the North between the mountains and the river was built by prison labor and came as far as Cuchillo. It was to hit the river at the town of Las Palomas, which would have bypassed Hot Springs, but by that time there were a few people scattered at the springs who began trying to get connections with this road. They worked with picks and shovels, and in time a connection was made which was a great contribution toward building population at the springs.

Construction was started on Elephant Butte Dam in 1911 and a small camp sprung into being overnight, right below where the dam is located. Hot Springs continued to grow and in time the government set the reservation aside for townsite purposes, and people were allowed to prove up on lots.

In the meantime, W. S. Hopewell sold his lands to John T. McElroy, W. H. Austin and James L. Marr. The land was a tulle swamp and marsh, but they hired Charlie Henson and Tom Hobbs to survey it, then filled it in and changed the course of the river. They laid it out in lots and started selling – Hot Springs.

In 1912 New Mexico became a state and by 1913 many were coming to locate in the fast growing town. Bill Graham put in the first barber shop; Mrs. Laura Johnston had the first hotel in town, and Mrs. Worden, a restaurant. The Heffernan brothers, Festus, Claude and Allie, operated the jitneys. Dr. Fries was the first doctor here, to be followed shortly by Dr. and Mrs. A. C. White.

Neil Sullivan and Joe Tafoya, partners, had a saloon where the old Buckhorn was. Grover Bolander had a garage right next to the Buckhorn, and a man by the name of Cacahus taught the first school. Otto Goetz and family moved here in 1913. Mr. Goetz was instrumental in getting the village name changed from Palomas Hot Springs to Hot Springs, obtaining appropriations for the State Bath House and the beginning of sanitary regulations for bathing places utilizing the hot mineral springs.

Mr. Goetz helped organize the first Chamber of Commerce, was instrumental in establishing the first school, the first city government and served as mayor of the first village administration.

Mail came through on a buckboard twice a week from Engle to Hillsboro. Leo Smith was the first fire chief and the fire department was made up of a bucket brigade. The first bank was established in the town by H. Hilton. Bob Martin bought Hilton's stock and became president of the First National Bank. He sold to Frank Winston.

The James Apartments and the Vera Hotel were

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SIDE TRIPS ON THE GERONIMO TRAIL

There are many interesting things to see along the Geronimo Trail in Sierra County. A side trip to Engle takes visitors to the remains of the old railroad town, once a bustling shipping center of over 2,000 people that now has four buildings left. The Jornada del Muerto portion of the Camino Real del Tierra Adentro passed through here, and now Spaceport America is being constructed to the south.

Elephant Butte Lake, at the time of construction (1911 - 1916) was the largest man-made impounded body of water in the United States. It was built for flood control and irrigation purposes, and provides water for farm lands along the Rio Grande valley in New Mexico, Texas and Mexico. It is the only body of water under international boundary regulations. Elephant Butte Lake State Park is now the most popular state park in New Mexico, with an abundance of water sports available.

A trip along NM 52 will take you to interesting places like Cuchillo, Winston and Chloride. These historic old towns have many tales to tell, having once been a place where stage coaches stopped and mining towns boomed, which led in due course to saloon brawls and shoot-outs. The Pioneer Store Museum in Chloride is well worth a visit, looking much as it did when it closed as a general mercantile store in the 1920s.

Continuing on the pavement, take NM 59 all the way to the Beaverhead Forest Service work station, through tall pines and over the Continental Divide. Check with the Forest Service office on road conditions during the winter, as roads can become snow packed and impassible.

South of Truth or Consequences along NM 187, the drive takes you to Caballo Lake and then the farming communities along the river valley. Travelers along this picturesque route will see irrigated fields of onions, chili, sorghum, and other seasonal crops as well as many pecan orchards.

INDIANS

moved down from the camp at Elephant Butte Dam when construction was completed in 1916. Burro driver Jim Hawkins hauled the town's wood and water. Mrs. Givens, who later married Billie Kindall, homesteaded Riverside Drive, cornering City Park on December 14, 1921.

In March 1950, the city of Hot Springs held an election, and voted 4 to 1 in favor of changing the name of the town to Truth or Consequences. On April 1, 1950, Ralph Edwards, on his 10th anniversary on radio, made his broadcast from the newly named city. Over the years two more name-change elections were held; with the residents voting each of those times to retain the name of Truth or Consequences.

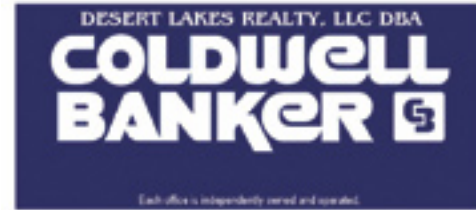
Today the city of Truth or Consequences is a retirement mecca and a sportsman's paradise. It has one of the finest futures of any city in the state.

NM 152 will lead you into the Black Range Mountains and the mining towns of Hillsboro and Kingston. South of Hillsboro is the ghost town of Lake Valley, where the BLM has caretakers protecting the property. These towns were all major communities in the mining boom days of the 1880s and 1890s. Lake Valley had the richest vein of silver ever discovered. Hillsboro was the first county seat of Sierra County and the ruins of the original courthouse are still standing. At the height of the silver boom, Kingston was the largest city in the State of New Mexico, with a population of over 7,000 people during the mid-1890s.

Past Kingston is one of the most challenging and scenic drives in the world: Highway 152

twists and turns as it climbs more than 4,000 feet in nine miles. The view from the summit, Emory Pass Vista, is incomparable on a clear day, where the view shed is over 50 miles looking back toward Caballo Lake and the Caballo Mountains. If the weather is clear and you know where to look, you can see Elephant Butte Dam.

If you are in the area long enough and want to venture further afield, there are many other excursions you can take. The Camino Real International Heritage Center is between Truth or Consequences and Socorro, Fort Craig ruins are nearby, and the Bosque del Apache wildlife refuge is a must-see for birdwatchers during the winter.



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112 Alamosa Rd 5.15 Pristine Acres. 1988 28 X 66 Cameo manufactured home. Well maintained, from the rock lined drive, throughout the acreage. Easy care desert, native landscaping. 3 Bedroom 1 3/4 bath home. Den, formal dining area, cabinet filled kitchen. Covered front deck 26' X 11' and covered back deck is a gracious 44' X 10' with beautiful mountain views. Detached 3 car garage/workshop is a spacious 24' X 42. Large metal storage container, room for all your toys. Quiet, secluded location in Alamosa Village. \$99,900 MLS 20123767



Fifth Street: Great commercial lot. Over one half acre. Clean, Level, Location. Alley access, just one block West of Date. Ready to build on. Don't miss this one!! Priced to sell! One block off Date St. \$65,000. MLS #20123693.

Lot 11 Monterrey Pt. Rd. Beautiful unobstructed lake views from this 1.013 Acre Lot. Build the home of your dreams in Prestigious Rancho del Lago. CC&R's to protect your investment. Shared well, Paved Rd, Electric and phone to property line. Septic required. Area of Fine Custom Homes On the way to Spaceport America. \$64,900 MLS 20123607




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103 Superior: Close to the lake. This 3 bedroom 2 bath slump brick home, sits on a large lot, with plenty of room for your lake toys. Mature easy care landscaping. Attached 2 car garage, plus detached two car garage. Priced to sell. \$156,000 Call Gretchen or Rachel MLS# 20122752



203 Century: Manufactured Home on .50 acre lot 26 X 36 3 car detached garage. 3 BD 2 BA, formal dining area, large living room. RV and boat friendly lot, is fenced. \$89,900 Call Rachel MLS# 20122485



1800 E Third St: 1968 12 X 50 single wide with addition, carport and small work shop. Oldie but goodie. Fully furnished. Great weekend. Walk to the river to fish. Quiet setting. Space rent is \$150.00 per month. \$18,000 MLS#20123492



1048 E Riverside: Pride of ownership shows through out this 2 bedroom 2 bath manufactured home. Beautiful laminate flooring through out. Covered front patio area, garden area, storage shed, fenced lot. This is a must see property and priced to sell. \$18,000 MLS# 20122870 Call Rachel or Gretchen.



Hwy 187 King Canyon: Large 1344 sq ft 3 BR 2 bath manufactured home on 1 acre. Beautiful views of the Caballo Mountains. Large garage/workshop Home is a fixer upper. \$68,000 Call Rachel MLS#20122820.



1309 N Riverside: Beautiful property on the Rio Grande River. Main Home has 2 BR 2 baths. Open living area, beautiful laminate flooring, large addition. Huge 30X60 garage offers parking for large boat or several cars, plus a 2 bedroom 1 bath guest home. Two fishing dock, screened porch, covered carport and workshop area. This is a must see property. \$195,000 Call Rachel. MLS# 20122736



613 Locust: 2007 Cavco Manufactured home on 60X171 lot. 3 Bedroom 2 Bath open living area, walk in closet in master bedroom. \$74,500 Call Rachel or Gretchen MLS#20122734



604 Travis: Well Maintained 2 BR 2 bath manufactured home. Fully fenced 85X136 lot with 2 carports, storage shed, 2 large gates for easy boat and RV access. Covered patio, open living area, plenty of room for all the lake toys. Clean turn key property bring your fishing poles and enjoy the lake. \$72,000 Call Rachel MLS#20122705



1110 Arabian Circle: 3 BD/2Ba home on 1.37 acres in Prestigious Lakeshore Highlands. Open floor plan. Quiet Cul-de sac. Shared well. Horses permitted. Beautiful mountain views. \$145,000 Call Gretchen MLS#20122044



918 Grape: 3 Bedroom home one block from the Municipal Golf Course. Hardwood floors, located on 99X140 foot fenced lot. Room for your RV. Spacious formal dining and living room. A great place to retire and play a little golf! \$98,500 Call Rachel MLS# 20122025



514 Mescal - Vacant lot. Fenced. Water, electric, sewer and trash to property line. Ready for your RV or Manufactured home. \$27,000 Call Rachel 20121652




8 Lake Front Drive - Great Country living. Spacious 4 BR home, with Mountain and lake views. Fully fenced lot that borders BLM. Full access from your own back yard. Large shop off the garage. Horses welcome here. \$198,000 Call Rachel. MLS# 20121420.



705 Catfish - Beautiful spot with great lake views. Oversized Boat Barn for all of your lake toys. Home will sell furnished. 12X60 Fleetwood, with great addition. Seller Financing available to qualified buyer. \$139,000 Call Rachel. MLS# 20121335.



Attention Investors! 87 Lot Mfg/RV park. On the way to Spaceport America. Just minutes from Elephant Butte Lake, Sierra del Rio Golf course, and the Rio Grande. 100 amp electrical service, phone and internet. 1840 sq. ft. club house. Gated park. Ideal location 11.18 Commercial acres. Call Gretchen for details. MLS# 20120778



406 Las Palomas Canyon - 16 Acres more or less, in beautiful, Las Palomas Canyon. Paved road, electric on site, domestic well on site, condition to be determined. Enjoy fishing at Caballo Lake, to the South or Elephant Butte Lake to the North. Horses permitted. \$150,000. Call Gretchen or Rachel. MLS# 20120747



113 Mustang - 3BR/2BA. Estate sale. Beautiful Lake and Mountain views from this 1.55 acre lot in Lakeshore Highlands. Attached two car garage, with full bath. Detached RV garage 24X30. Room for all of your lake toys. \$217,997. Call Gretchen. MLS# 20120958



640 E. 8th - 3 BR/1 3/4 BA. 16 X 72 1998 Oakwood mfg home. Corner lot. Spacious 3 bedroom home. Eat in kitchen. Deck off master bedroom. Large corner lot. Close to Sierra Vista Hospital. \$55,900. Call Gretchen. MLS# 20121017.




700 Erie Ave - Corner Lot! 0.50 acre. Open floor plan is ideal for entertaining. 3 BR/2.5 baths. Oversized laundry with exceptional storage. Garage space for 9 vehicles. Plus 1/2 bath. 12 foot door on the RV portion.. \$260,000. Call Gretchen for details. MLS# 20121094.



203 Lakeshore - Beautiful Southwest home with lake views. Electronic Security Gate with remote control, fully fenced yard. Energy efficient! Motivated, seller just completed new home. \$297,500. Call Gretchen or Rachel. . MLS# 20120616



306 Cactus - Well maintained home. Pride of ownership shows here. 3 BR/2BA. Paved drive and sidewalks, 2 car ports & 12 X 30 RV Port, plus a 16 X 24 two story work shop, with great loft. Heated and cooled. A must see! \$179,000 Call Rachel. MLS# 20119481



104 Caballo Place - Spectacular Lake views from this 3 bed 2 bath. Enjoy the beautiful waterfall, and pool, outdoor fireplace, for year round enjoyment. All on 2.49 acres in Lakeshore Highlands \$398,000 Call Rachel. MLS# 20119398.



209 Kiowa Loop - Beautiful 4BR/2BA 2432 sq ft home. Master suite offers a parents retreat, large master bath with garden tub and walk in shower. Covered back patio offers mister system. Fireplace in Family room. Plenty of room for all the lake toys. \$175,000 Call Rachel. MLS# 20119238.



316 Lost Canyon - Beautiful Lake View Lot: 30X50 Garage, built in 2009, RV Hookup. Room for all of your lake toys. Build your dream home. \$150,000 Call Rachel or Gretchen. MLS# 20120669



108 Huron - 2BR/2BA. Delightful sunroom, Fully fenced, easy care yard, with room for all your lake toys, and your motor home. Work shop, storage building, full RV hookup. Priced to sell. \$142,900 Call Rachel. MLS# 20119240



315 Organ - Cute Weekend place, ready to move in. RV parking with full hook up. 2 carports and room another RV or Boat. Fenced lot covered front patio area. Large storage shed or workshop. \$39,000. MLS# 20119208



222 Underwood - Build your dream home on this 1.5 acre lot with beautiful lake and mountain views. Area of fine custom homes. \$79,000 Call Rachel. MLS# 20118123

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- Great Prices!

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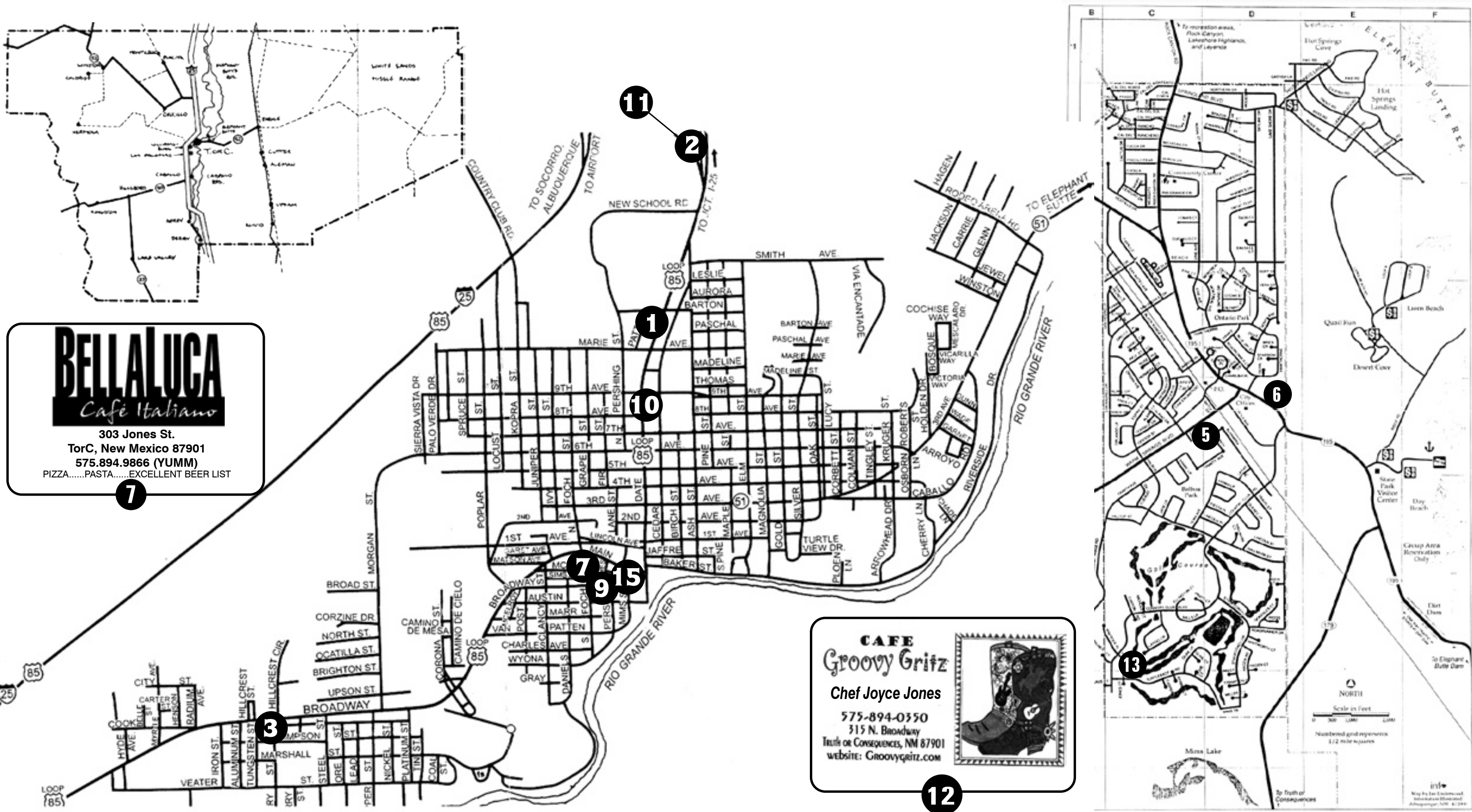
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Hwy 195, Elephant Butte at the Elephant Butte Inn & Spa

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CAFE Groovy Gritz

Chef Joyce Jones

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