

Water Discovered on the West Mesa

Atrisco Oil & Gas, LLC has discovered water at its West Mesa well site, and based on preliminary seismic readings, it appears to be substantial. The water was found while drilling wells north of Interstate 40 on lands where mineral rights are held entirely by Atrisco Oil & Gas. The discovery is considered a “deep water aquifer” (greater than 2,500 feet beneath the surface) and is the first large aquifer to be discovered in the Albuquerque area and only the third to be discovered in the state of New Mexico.

In the desert Southwest and certainly within the state of New Mexico, finding new sources of water is of particular importance. Moreover, this discovery could potentially be a significant event in the Albuquerque community because the city continues to grow despite its strained water resources. Our discovery could provide Albuquerque and the surrounding area with a new source of water,

lessening water resource stresses.

We joyfully share this news with you, which is simultaneously being made public via media dissemination. As this concerns all Atrisqueños, it is important that you get what facts we have, to date, about the matter from us. We also believe we can manage the message more effectively through “El Atrisqueño” than through local media outlets.

Because Atrisco Companies has no water entity, you may be wondering how this came to be. As you know, Atrisco Oil & Gas was formed to explore, protect, and commercialize the mineral assets related to lands held within the original Land Grant. The company contracted with Tecton Energy, LLC, an energy exploration company, to determine whether commercial hydrocarbons exist on the West Mesa. Tecton began drilling for natural gas at the West Mesa site about a year ago. But instead of natural gas, they found

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Heir Profile: Dr. Leo Gomez Bringing Science Home

Dr. Leo Gomez was raised to have respect for everyone, but to be in awe of no one. He was also taught to be responsible for his own life and that no one had the right to keep him from pursuing his own dreams. And such teachings have availed him well.



Born in Albuquerque and raised by parents of humble means, he has soared. And his Atrisqueño heritage has never been stronger. He is a radiation biologist with more than 30 years experience studying the medical and environmental impact of radiation on living organisms. His research has taken him all over the world, both on the planet’s surface as well as in its deep seas. “While project manager for biological oceanography programs at Sandia Labs, I did a lot of work in the deep oceans and got to sit on three international commissions dealing with the health of the ocean,” he said. “And in working with Jacques Cousteau on two commissions, we studied marine radioactivity and marine chemistry for pollution of the Mediterranean.”

In addition to the legendary Jacques Cousteau, he has worked with

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Registering As An Heir Important

Registering as an heir is very important, as Atrisco Heritage programs and services are geared towards the needs of our heirs. Registering gives the basic information that helps us design those programs, as well as contact you when necessary to let you know about the latest news and information.

It is currently very important for anyone interested in being awarded a scholarship to register. Only Atrisco Land Grant heirs are eligible for the scholarships, and it is now a requirement for heirs to be registered in order to be awarded a scholarship through the Hispanic Scholarship Fund.

“It’s an easy process,” said Anita Lucero, program administrator. “All you have to do is call and we can take all the information over the phone.”

If you are registering your children, you must have their birthdates and basic information, such as phone numbers and addresses. Call 836-0306 to register or visit the Web site at www.atriscoheritagefoundation.org.

President’s Message

I hope this message finds everyone well. Throughout this past year, we have been focusing on rediscovering our heritage, our people, and the accomplishments of our ancestors as they evolved as a group over the past 400 years from their humble beginnings in Atrisco. In this edition of *El Atrisqueño*, you will read about successful as well as up and coming Atrisqueños; learn of new opportunities; and maybe even deepen your sense of pride as an Atrisqueño.



The Atrisco Companies are dedicated to preserving our history, connecting our people and providing opportunities for benefit and growth to heirs of the Atrisco Land Grant. We can clearly see, and we hope you can too, the steps being taken to achieve these goals and how they are making an impact in all our lives. Within these pages, you will learn about the successes of Dr. Leo Gomez from humble beginnings in Atrisco to a premier scientist and expert in his field. You will also see such promise in a young Atrisqueña, Adriana Sandoval, also featured, who believes the key to preserving our culture begins by preserving our Spanish language. Both stories are great representations of our people’s capabilities, hard work and determination. They are but two examples of accomplishments among our own that demonstrate to us that we already have tremendous strength within our ranks. But we cannot become complacent. We must continue the process of elevating individual lives and ultimately all of us as a group. As we march forward along this path, let’s remember who we are, where we came from, and the lessons of humility shared with us by our *parientes*.

Each day, we receive more and more phone calls from Atrisqueños who wish to register as heirs. Remember, if your parents or grandparents were heirs, you are also an heir. It doesn’t matter whether or not they owned shares of Westland stock. With this latest edition of *El Atrisqueño* you will discover the importance of being part of *La Merced* and all the great services and programs available to heirs of the Atrisco Land Grant. As our ancestors had hoped ... the land continues to give to the people.

Thank you all for your support. I hope you find the reading enjoyable.

- Peter Sanchez, President
Atrisco Companies

Atrisco Histories on the Big Screen

The Atrisco Heritage Foundation is sponsoring Phase I of a series of video documentaries called the Atrisco Video Histories Project (AVHP), which is a collaboration between the Atrisco Heritage Foundation (AHF), the National Hispanic Cultural Center (NHCC), the Resource Center for Raza Planning (RCRP); media company Arts of Aztlan (AofA), and community members to create a historical archive of video oral histories in Atrisco..

This initial pilot will consist of 12 video histories of Atrisco as told by Atrisco heirs.

“The participating heirs are selected due to their interest and knowledge of the Atrisco Land Grant,” said Carolyn Ortega of the Foundation. “We’re capturing the Atrisco history through the eyes and memories of some of our senior Atrisqueños and we hope to catch on film some wonderful and historical accounts of what was happening within our community at a different time.”

This grassroots endeavor will culminate with a broad stroke picture of the general culture, political environment, and economy of the time, but include the finer strokes

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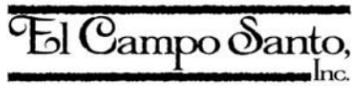
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Contact Us

Peter Sanchez , President/CEO
Linda Blair , Program Director
Carolyn Ortega , Program Director
Anita Lucero , Program Administrator
Marian Ordonez , Office Manager
The Atrisco Companies, 1730 Montano Road, NW, Suite B, Albuquerque, NM 87107
www.atriscoheritagefoundation.org , www.atriscooilandgas.com

Santa Clara Cemetery Undergoing Beautification Project



Our goal at El Campo Santo Inc. is to improve all three of our cemeteries -- Santa Clara, San Jose de Armijo and Evangelico. However, it is at Santa Clara where you may notice the most changes recently.

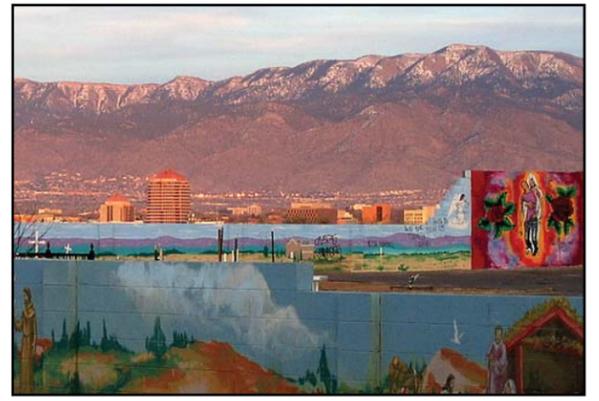
The Santa Clara improvements include improving security, including a new entrance gate and landscaping. We also have improved the maintenance at the cemetery.

In the future, our heirs will see even more impressive beautification projects. We have

already completed the design phase of a landscaping plan, which includes irrigation, additional shrubs and trees, improvements to the walkways and increased burial/cremation sites.

"We hope to make Santa Clara as vibrant and beautiful as San Jose de Armijo," Linda Blair, Business Manager for El Campo Santo, said. "Our mission is to provide a beautiful and safe place for the final resting place of our heirs and their loved ones."

If you would like more information about Santa Clara or any of our cemeteries, call (505) 836-0306.



Santa Clara Cemetery is a special place on the West Mesa.

'Gathering of Heirs' Will Return Under the BIG TENT

Atrisco Heirs, you are the guest of honor at our second annual "Gathering of Heirs" family event.

We had such a great time last year under the big tent that we will do it again this year. Have no worries -- the tent will be back to provide shade and a pavilion for all of the special events planned to celebrate Atrisco heritage.

This year will be extra special for our heirs. We will preview some of the video documentaries highlighting some Atrisco families. The

When: Sunday, Oct. 5, 2008
Where: National Hispanic Cultural Center
What: Food, fun, entertainment for all our heirs.
Bring the whole family!

documentaries are just one of the programs sponsored by the Atrisco Heritage Foundation. Heirs also will see a photo slideshow of more heirs -- the faces and places that have made Atrisco special for generations. We will have

large screens set up for everyone to have a good look at these special shows.

More than 1,000 heirs attended the event in 2007 and we expect even more to come out this year. We have been busy registering more heirs who are discovering their Atrisco roots.

Save the date, Oct. 5, 2008. There will be plenty of food, fun for the kids and live entertainment as well as our video and photo slideshow. Invitations will be mailed out in September.

Non-Traditional Scholarships Can Make Dreams Come True



We know that not all dreams and aspirations require going to a four-year college or university. Sometimes the next great chef or entrepreneur is living right next door, and the only thing holding them back is a way to pay for their trade school or vocational training.

The Atrisco Heritage Foundation, specifically established to help all heirs of the Atrisco Land Grant to pursue their ambitions, would like to not only help college-bound students, but also those who may need extra training in order to reach their

career goals. The Foundation's non-traditional scholarships are designed to give heirs that help. In support of these dreams, we offer funding to help pay for tuition, fees, books and other educational related costs. Our intention is to reach heirs both in-state and out-of-state who seek financial assistance. Scholarships will range from \$500 to \$2,000 to any one recipient in a given year depending on type of program and whether attending full or part time.

Ultimately, we hope we can in some way help the great people of Atrisco pursue their chosen fields. A few examples of types of schools that would be considered for an heir to receive a non-traditional

scholarship include: culinary arts, truck driving, health care, dance, cosmetology, real estate, welding, plumbing and electrical.

These are a few of the examples of areas in which we can provide support. It is not meant to be all inclusive. So, if your interest is in a field that is not mentioned, please feel free to call us and we can discuss its inclusion as well. Contact program director Linda Blair at (505) 836-0306, or visit the web site at www.atriscoheritagefoundation.org, click on the programs and services button, then the scholarship button for the criteria and a downloadable application.

Heir Profile: Dr. Leo Gomez: Bringing Science Home

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many other of the world's most acclaimed scientists in the United States, Canada, Central and South America, Europe, the Middle East, the former Soviet Union, Japan, China, and Africa. "From my cultural background I am attuned to differences, as I was taught not to assume that my cultural values are better than those of the countries I visit," Dr. Gomez said. "I've become a citizen of the world."

Dr. Gomez's extensive resume has pages of academic credentials, professional experience, and works published in numerous national medical journals and scientific periodicals. In 2000, he retired after 23 years as a scientist for Sandia National Laboratories.

After retiring from Sandia Labs and from Los Alamos National Laboratory working in collaboration with the University of New Mexico Cancer Research and Treatment Center, he performed radiobiology related research as Director of Research while working for TCI Medical. In addition, he spent his early career as a radiobiologist for Oak Ridge National Laboratory in Tennessee, Colorado State University, Veterans' Administration Hospital in Albuquerque, Lovelace Foundation for Medical Research, and the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

How did Dr. Gomez go from a child experimenting with ants in his Albuquerque backyard, mixing various concoctions to make them grow, to an international scientist and published author? One school day at a time, and he made regular visits to the library.

"We were poor, but it costs nothing to go to the library, where my mother continuously pushed me," he said. "I read about science and scientists, such as Louis Pasteur, Niels Bohr, and Marie Curie." Dr. Gomez was also helped by the priceless influence

of a persistent mentor. John Hoback, Dr. Gomez's English teacher and counselor at Albuquerque High School, introduced him to many professionals and encouraged him academically. "I never thought of going to college, as no one in my family ever had, but I enrolled in the University of New Mexico to satisfy him," Dr. Gomez said.

Learning and the fulfillment of meeting scholastic challenges became a passion and after completing a biology degree from UNM in 1963, Dr. Gomez earned a master's in radiation biology and health physics as well as a radiation biology Ph.D. from Colorado State University. "I visited Mr. Hoback in 1973, by then Principal of Boulder High School in Colorado, to invite him to my Ph.D. graduation," said Dr. Gomez. "He cried. I reminded John that I would never have gone to college had it not been for him."

Dr. Gomez passed on to his own children Hoback's influences. The result? Four happy and productive professionals whom Dr. Gomez is proud to call his children. His son, Stephen, is a Ph.D. in plant molecular biology and often partners with his father in research projects. His oldest daughter, Kathleen, is a graduate of Stanford University and owns a clothing design business. Sandra, the middle daughter, attended UNM School of Law and is an attorney in Albuquerque. The youngest daughter, Jamie, is a graduate of UNM Medical School and a practicing physician. Dr. Gomez also has eight grandchildren.

Since Dr. Leo Gomez's retirement from Sandia National Labs, he has launched his own consulting firm providing services in the areas of radiobiology, radioecology, health physics, and nuclear waste management. He also works part-time as a principal scientist for ORION International Technologies,

Inc. "I'm busier now than when I worked full-time," he said.

Dr. Gomez continues to be active in numerous national and international scientific professional societies. He is responsible for co-founding one such organization, the Society for Advancement of Chicanos and Native Americans in Science (SACNAS). The mission of SACNAS is to encourage Latino and Native American students to pursue graduate education and obtain the advanced degrees necessary for science research, leadership, and teaching careers at all levels. It has grown from 40 members in 1975 to 6,000 currently. Visit www.sacnas.org for more information.

While continuing to attend to his professional interests, Dr. Gomez wastes no time in enjoying the fruits of his labor. He and his wife, Mary Burnett de Gomez, travel to Japan every year to learn more about the gardens of Japan. Mary runs Hanayagi: The Japanese Garden Shop, Inc., a Japanese garden design business in Albuquerque.

"We also do a great deal of purely social globe-trotting," he said. "Such is the life provided by the early attention to education."

Dr. Gomez is grateful to his parents for the values that they instilled in him, his school mentors, and for the hard work he did early in life that led him to fascinating work around the world. "I may have missed out on some fun while studying years ago, but it more than paid off. My expertise is under my control which provides endless fun and great friends spread across the globe," he said. "Everyone has a brain, but it takes guts to exercise it."

Heritage Foundation Selects Money Management Firm to Handle Endowment Fund

Investment Strategy Is Designed Around Sustaining Programs and Services for Atrisco Heirs

The Atrisco Heritage Foundation's financial future is in capable hands. The Foundation's board of directors, and several other members of a selection committee, announced that Raymond James Financial Services will be the money management firm to oversee our nest egg.

The goal of the Heritage Foundation is to have the fund sustain the programs and services we provide to heirs. "This is a long-term management strategy," said Atrisco Companies CEO and President, Peter Sanchez.

"Raymond James Financial has a solid and time-honored investment team," he said. "The committee chose the firm based on a number of criteria, but most importantly, we felt that this firm also had a keen understanding of the land grant and the historical importance of keeping the Foundation on solid financial footing."

As part of the sale of Westland, SunCal agreed to give the Atrisco Heritage Foundation \$1 million a year for 100 years. The funding is used for Foundation programs – including the monies granted for scholarships recently awarded to Atrisco heirs, Foundation services, and day-to-day



™

operations.

The fund, "managed prudently, will generate a return on our investment," Sanchez said. "As the interest grows, so does the endowment as well as the financial stability of the Foundation."

The fund will ensure the Foundation is sustained, regardless of SunCal's future monetary support. The foundation is able to put a significant amount of money into the endowment so that current programs can continue and others can be created.

Raymond James Financial was selected after an extensive request for proposal process. Three finalists were selected: Morgan Stanley, The Bank of Albuquerque's Investment Trust and Raymond James.

Representatives of the companies made presentations in February to a panel of evaluators, made up of members of the Board of Trustees, Atrisco management and heirs. The evaluators asked questions before making an informed decision about the firm best suited to manage the Atrisco Endowment Fund.

"We are pleased and confident that the Raymond James Financial investment team will carry out our investment policy," Sanchez said. "It's unusual for any nonprofit to set up an endowment so early in its existence, but we are pleased to be able to do that as a foundation."

Atrisco Heritage Foundation Sponsors Students in Mariachi Spectacular 2008

Mariachi Spectacular is a festive annual event known to excite New Mexicans and visitors every July, while providing a unique opportunity for aspiring and professional musicians to learn from the world's finest and most talented mariachi artists.

The Atrisco Heritage Foundation is now part of that excitement. Atrisco Heritage Foundation, in alliance with Mariachi Spectacular de Albuquerque, provided tuition waivers for several Atrisqueños to attend the three-day July workshop as well as the year-round Mariachi Academy. Mariachi Spectacular de Albuquerque is providing recognition of the Atrisco Heritage Foundation on their Web site and at performances during the Mariachi

Spectacular, which was held at the University of New Mexico Student Union Building July 9 through July 11. Over 700 students of all ages attended the three-day workshops, conducted by Mariachi Spectacular de Albuquerque, to learn techniques used by master instructors.

They also learned about mariachi history, musical theory, ensemble presentation, musical arrangements and ballet folklórico. Participation in Mariachi Spectacular enhances the cultural understanding and appreciation of folk and Mexican music.

Mariachi Spectacular de Albuquerque promotes culture, arts, and excellence in art education and provides a foundation for life-long



participation in the arts. The organization is committed to demonstrating Albuquerque's vibrant artistic, cultural and ethnic heart and soul through supported interested parties who want to learn mariachi music and develop musical skills. Mariachi Spectacular concludes with the Showcase Concert & Competition. This year that was held on Friday, July 11, at Albuquerque's Downtown Civic Plaza.

This event has become one of Albuquerque's most popular and well attended events. It provides the community with spectacular entertainment and a unique opportunity to support musicians and dancers as they compete for top prizes. As the student groups demonstrate their talent and abilities, they are judged by a panel of experts. The student mariachi group with the highest overall score was invited to open the next evening's

(Saturday, July 12) Spectacular Concert at the Sandia Resort & Casino's Amphitheater.

They shared the stage with Mariachi Sol de Mexico, Mariachi Internacional Guadalajara, and Mariachi Las Adelitas — the world's finest professional Mariachi groups.

Part of the Atrisco Heritage Foundation's Partnership with Mariachi Spectacular includes tuition waivers to attend its year-round Mariachi Academy. For more information contact Linda Blair at Atrisco Heritage Foundation.

Atrisco Heritage Foundation Partners With National Hispanic Cultural Center; Educational Opportunities Will Be Maximized for Atrisco Heirs and Their Families

The Atrisco Heritage Foundation is pleased to announce a partnership with the National Hispanic Cultural Center Foundation (NHCC) in providing education opportunities that promote and preserve the ancestral and cultural heritage of New Mexico families – namely Atrisqueños.

The educational programs will provide instruction in visual arts, performing arts, history, and literary arts. "The programs are exciting opportunities to fulfill the missions and priorities of both the Atrisco Heritage Foundation and the NHCC and directly impact students and families of Atrisco heirs," said Clara Apodaca, President/CEO of NHCC.

The myriad of workshops, with an emphasis on youth and families, will directly serve Atrisco heirs and residents of the Atrisco Land Grant. Designed to be as enjoyable



Clara Apodaca, NHCC
CEO/President

as they are informative, the programs will enrich the experience of Atrisqueños in relation to the arts and humanities of Hispanic culture and the traditions and heritage of the Atrisco community. Programs include a writing workshop for high school students throughout New Mexico that involves working with and learning under accomplished writers and poets, and a summer intensive theatre apprenticeship program, conducted in collaboration with Tricklock Theatre Company, culminating in performances in Albuquerque and Santa Fe. Participative workshops in visual arts, music, and dance are also planned.

For more information regarding taking part in this unique opportunity to learn more about Atrisco heritage, and program sponsorships available to Atrisco heirs, contact Linda Blair at (505) 836.0306 or at lblair@atrisco.org, or visit the Atrisco Heritage Foundation web site at www.atriscoheritagefoundation.org.

Dance, Zoo, Write! Heritage Foundation Made it a Fun Summer

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Young Atrisco heirs, including some toddlers, were given a summer of adventure this year thanks to programs sponsored and supported by the Atrisco Heritage Foundation.

Many of these programs will be held next summer, so stay tuned to the Atrisco Heritage Foundation web site for all the information. There also may be other programs for youth and adults throughout the year, and all the information will be posted on the site.

Here's what was cooking this summer:

Flamenco

Some of our youngest Atrisqueños and Atrisqueñas participated in Festival del Albuquerque, Flamenco Kids Camp in June.

The Foundation was one of the sponsors of the camp, which allowed several young Atrisco heirs the chance to get instruction in dance, guitar, cajon, cante and literacy. All the children in the camp were given the opportunity to study with the finest flamenco artists from Spain.

During the festival, which ran in conjunction with the camp, the young flamenco campers were treated to world-class performances. On the final day of the camp, family and friends were treated to a special performance by the camp participants.

BioPark Adventures

A day or a week at the zoo, aquarium and botanical gardens is part of this summer experience. Children of all ages up to ninth grade participated in the programs.

For the little ones, Nature Beginnings offered a fun visit to the zoo for parents and children. For children in kindergarten through fifth grade, the zoo camps offered games, crafts and learning about the animals. Older children up to ninth grade even got a taste of what it's like to be a zoo-keeper and have a career in a zoo.



Voces participants Andrew Padilla and Tescia Schell perform.

Voces Writing Project

The challenging program at the National Hispanic Cultural Center offered teens the chance to write about their heritage in a nearly month-long project. The program culminated with special performances and readings of their work by the students.

Writing mentors helped each participant in areas of reading, writing, editing, presenting and polishing their work.

“It was an exceptional opportunity for me,” said Andrew Padilla, one of the Atrisco heirs who participated. “I learned so much in just a few weeks.”

Upon completion of the program, each of the participants received an award of \$400.



Lori Moralez, Mo Cash and Gianna May.

MANOA Project

This program at the National Hispanic Cultural Center, included lessons in acting, singing and training in all technical aspects of theater, such as lighting, sound and set production. This program was a six-week event sponsored by Tricklock Theatre and the National Hispanic Cultural Center for ages 14 to 18.

Young Atrisco Heir Spotlight: Adriana Sandoval

Albuquerque's Adriana Sandoval is one of our first Atrisco Heritage Foundation Scholarship winners. She's a vibrant and spirited young Atrisqueña who is proud of her roots and of her South Valley family. Sandoval recently returned from Cuernavaca, Morelos, Mexico, where she taught English as a second language at Fray Luca de Paccioli Universidad.

We had a chance to catch up with her and to ask her about what the future holds and why she is so proud of her Atrisco heritage. Proof of her pride can be seen in the poem she wrote in honor of her family. She read the poem at our Scholarship Dinner in January (see box).

Q: How did the teaching in Mexico go?

A: I taught three continuing education classes in a “diplomado” program. I had students that ranged from as young as 18 years old up to several 40-somethings. I heard about this program through one of my favorite professors from UNM, Dr. Rebecca Blum-Martinez. I applied to go and was chosen.

My boss out there wanted me to stay, but since I teach here in Albuquerque, I wasn't able to stay. However, there's a good possibility that I might go back to teach next summer.



Adriana Sandoval at the top of an Azteca pyramid in Tepoztlán, México.

Q: What is your educational background?

A: I have a Bachelor's of Science degree in Elementary Education with a minor in Bilingual Education, and then I have a Master's of Arts degree in Language Literacy and Socio-cultural studies with an emphasis in Bilingual Education.

Q: That's quite impressive. You spoke at the scholarship luncheon about how important it is to preserve language. Can you explain it for us here?

A: I've noticed that throughout the generations, unfortunately, due to the “one nation one language” socio-political ideology of my mother's generation we have experienced language loss in our family.

It's the all too familiar story that many Atrisqueños and Chicanos in other older sections of the city have experienced. Most of my grandmother's first or dominant language was Spanish and she was punished for speaking Spanish when she entered the public school system, which taught her that English held more value than Spanish. Due to *vergüenza*, shame, she didn't use Spanish that much around my sisters or me growing up.

My parents only spoke in Spanish to one another when they didn't want my sisters or me to know what they were talking about. Ironically, it is through education that sisters and I have learned and reclaimed the Spanish language as our heritage language, and we're actively trying to maintain it by having my nephews and nieces participate in the bilingual education programs within the public schools.

To me, language and identity are so intertwined with one another that one of the several ways young Atrisqueños can stay connected to their roots is by learning, maintaining and preserving Spanish as the language of our people.

Q: Finally, what are your plans for the future...long term and short term?

A: Well, in my short term plans I am moving into a house. I'm in the final stages of buying. I wanted to live closer to the school I teach at so, sadly, I'm moving out of my barrio. But as the saying goes: “You can take a girl out of the barrio but you can't take the barrio out of the girl.”

Long term, I'm not sure so much since I tend to focus on the present. However, I know eventually I would like to have some children of my own, God-willing, and I've considered continuing my education in some way either by pursuing a Ph.D or getting nationally board certified. I don't know, *si tengo las ganas*.

I AM FROM/ SOY DE

A POEM WRITTEN by Atrisco Heir ADRIANA SANDOVAL

I AM FROM THE CRAZY INTELLIGENT SANDOVALS AND THE VERY CHICANO, RURAL ROMEROS
I AM FROM THE RHYTHM OF LATIN MUSIC
I AM FROM THE REMNANTS OF ZICANO MOVEMENT
I AM FROM THE BARRIO OF ATRISCO, WHICH MY AZTEC ANCESTORS ONCE CALLED ATLIXCO, LAND OF THE WATERS, UNTIL THE SPANIARDS CAME AND CHANGED EVERYTHING...

I AM FROM A PACHUCO DAD AND A MOTHER CON UNA LENGUA MAS PACHINGADA A LA MADRE...
I AM FROM THE SONG “ROSA MARIA SE FUE A LA PLAYA, SE FUE A LA PLAYA, SE FUE A NADAR..”
I AM FROM THE SMELL OF THE CHILE ROASTING THAT CAME FROM MY DAD'S GARDEN

I AM FROM A FAMILY OF EDUCATORS, ALL OF EDUCATING OUR OWN AND OUR COMMUNITY,
I AM FROM THE ACEQUIAS THAT LAY DRY, FILLED WITH WEEDS THAT ONCE USED TO RUN FULL OF THE RIO GRANDE WATER THAT WOULD ONCE NOURISH OUR GIVING EARTH.

I AM FROM THE CAMPO SANTO THAT SAFEGUARD MY ANCESTORS
I AM FROM THE STREET OF FOOTHILL, THE ADOBE HOUSE MY FATHER BUILT WITH THE CLAY FROM OUR LAND AND THE SWEAT OFF HIS BROW.

I AM FROM ATRISCO, WHERE CABRAS, CHICKENS, HORSES AND AT TIMES COCHINOS ROAM FREE.
SOY LATINA, CHICANA, NUEVA MEXICANA, ATRISQUEÑA PERO SOY, Y ME QUEDO

Meet Two Members of the Atrisco Companies Board of Directors

Charlie Peña



To say Atrisco Companies' Board Member Charlie Peña has spent most of his life learning and supporting his Atrisco heritage is not an exaggeration.

He said he remembers walking with his mother, the late Susie Armijo Peña, to some of the best entertainment in town – meetings with the Atrisco Land Grant founders and followers.

"I'd hold my mom's hand as we'd walk from our house off of Isleta to the old Armijo School for the meetings," he said. "They were always so lively.

Sometimes they got quite heated, but I always remember those days and how people were so passionate about Atrisco and the land grant."

Peña's passion for preserving the Atrisco heritage is matched only by his passion for wanting the heirs to also have opportunities for higher education and to prosper. All of those things, he says, are part of the goals of the Atrisco Companies, and he couldn't be happier about it.

"Education first," he said. "For so long, we tried to set up scholarships with Westland. I'm so glad that in just a very short time, with the hard work of Peter and his staff at the Atrisco Heritage Foundation, we were able to deliver on giving 40 heirs scholarships. It was one of the proudest moments of my life as an heir and as a Board Member."

Peña said that through education, all heirs will have the opportunities to prosper financially and economically. And he hopes those heirs who are unitholders of Atrisco Oil and Gas will see some financial rewards as well.

"It would be wonderful for the oil and gas company to become profitable," he said. "The strategic plan we have set up is designed to do just that. It's not something concrete. A lot of what we want we will have to

wait to see if it happens. But our hope is that the company drilling the wells will find something. This is our best opportunity to not only find natural gas – which is something in such short supply right now – but to continue to provide profits to our unitholders. This is a big responsibility and I know we are up for the challenge."

Peña, one of five siblings, learned from an early age what it means to be an Atrisqueño. Anyone who knew his mother — La Susie, as she was called – also got some of her impromptu Atrisco history lessons. She was known to walk to her neighbors' homes just to sit, talk and take notes. Before she died, Susie spent a lot of time gathering family history, and she recorded much of that history in journals and notebooks.

The Peña family traces its roots to Juan Armijo y Baca, one of the original families of the Atrisco Land Grant. Charlie's father, Raymond Peña, 84, still lives in the South Valley and is surrounded by family and longtime friends.

Professionally, Peña was a restaurant owner. He learned the business from the ground up. He washed dishes at his grandmother's Old Town restaurant and over the years learned all he needed to know about customer service, running a restaurant and about cooking some of the best New Mexican food around. His lessons led him to own CJ's Café in the Wells Fargo Building Downtown for 14 years before selling the business in 2004.

Peña still operates a catering business and in addition to serving on the Atrisco Companies Board of Directors, helps with lobbying to encourage responsible growth and development on Albuquerque's West Side.

His goals for the future of the Atrisco Companies are the same goals he says he remembers from the old days of attending those fiery land grant meetings with his mom.

"We, as the protectors of our heritage and as the people overseeing the oil and gas company, must stress the importance of education to our heirs," he says. "We must continue to give them the chances to go to college if they want or to have the money they need to start their own businesses and provide for their families. Anyone who cares about Atrisco wants these things."

Troy Benavidez



Troy Benavidez has always cherished his Atrisco Land Grant ties, and he has parlayed that devotion into years of work on both the Westland Development Co., Inc. and the Atrisco Companies board of directors. He wants to ensure that generations of Atrisqueños ahead of him will benefit from what the Atrisco Heritage Foundation is working to develop.

Troy was elected to the Westland Development board in 2003 and has served on the Atrisco Companies board since its creation in 2006 after the sale of Westland to the SunCal Development Companies.

He is an Atrisco Land Grant heir through his father, Rudy Benavidez, The family owns a ranch on Albuquerque's West Side, where Benavidez was raised. "It was a wonderful place to grow up," he said. "My hope is that as the West Side continues to grow, families will continue to find it a desirable part of town."

Benavidez credits his professional successes to his belief in education. He is a graduate of St. Pius High School in Albuquerque and The Colorado College in Colorado Springs where he earned a B.A. in political science and economics. Benavidez is the Associate Director of Corporate Affairs for AstraZeneca Pharmaceuticals, a worldwide pharmaceutical company. In his previous political career, he has worked for Sen. Pete Domenici, the late Congressman Steve Schiff and former Lt. Gov. Walter Bradley.

Benavidez's national board of directors involvement is extensive and includes serving on the corporate boards of the National Hispanic Cul-

tural Center Foundation, the National Hispanic Medical Association; the Cuban-American National Council and Chairman of the Corporate Advisory Board on the National Hispanic Council on Aging. In addition, he was appointed in 2005 by President Bush to the Presidential Advisory Council on HIV/AIDS.

As an Atrisco Companies board member, Benavidez enjoys attending to the needs of all the land grant heirs and creating a greater sense of the Atrisco community. He feels that one of the board's greatest challenges is changing the culture so that Atrisco heirs understand that the "Atrisco Heritage Foundation is there to serve all the heirs."

Benavidez is confident this will be accomplished in part through the Atrisco Heritage Foundation's educational opportunities and other cultural programs being developed to help heirs understand their history. "The Foundation can serve as the cornerstone of our history – a place where heirs and everyone can come to learn about Atrisco," he said.

Benavidez's significant non-profit board experience adds valued amplitude to the Atrisco Companies' board. "I believe my board experience can add significantly to the leadership of the Atrisco Companies, he said.

In addressing young Atrisqueños looking forward to education and career, Benavidez states, "We have a unique history and I encourage you to actively participate and take an interest in the Atrisco community being created."

In reaching out to the more mature Atrisqueños he states, "I want everyone understand that the Heritage foundation is for all heirs. The Foundation offers educational programs and opportunities for the benefit of everyone."

Benavidez feels that the Atrisco Companies board is in the favorable position of preserving history and culture through the foundation, and is grateful for the chance to influence the heirs' excitement of that history.

Atrisco Heritage Academy High School Preparing to Open This Fall on West Mesa

The Atrisco Heritage Academy High School is rising from the mesa on Atrisco Land Grant territory! The new school won't have students until sometime in October. However, all students who live in the Atrisco Heritage Academy boundaries will begin school in August with all other Albuquerque Public Schools students. APS has partnered with Bernalillo County to use the vacant Bernalillo District Courthouse at Fifth and Tijeras downtown for the first two months of school. All children will be bused downtown.

"This is a minor inconvenience," Principal Karen Sanchez-Griego said. "But when we walk into our new \$120 million dollar school, it will be special. This campus is worth the wait. But our staff, teachers and students will be ready on day one of the new school year."



Architectural drawing of the freshman academy, the first building of the Atrisco Heritage Academy high school that will be completed this October.

Water Discovery on the West Mesa is Welcome News for All

an extensive amount of water in each of three zones drilled. The quality of the water (found in depths from 6,200 to 7,200 feet) varies from zone to zone, but in general, it all falls within the “treatable for potable water quality spectrum.” While brackish, the water can likely be treated by desalinization technology and converted to potable quality drinking water economically and, therefore, profitably.

As we all know, New Mexico, along with the rest of the western United States, is facing a water crisis. We are hopeful and encouraged that this discovery has the potential to provide a significant source of water for Albuquerque so it can continue to grow and thrive. It also presents an opportunity for Atrisco Oil & Gas unit holders to begin to see a return on their investment.

However, we need to undertake much work and research before we pop the champagne corks. The water discovery is only the beginning of this story. So, while this is exciting, it’s also complex and costly. Quite simply, the value of water is not equal to that of oil or gas. Much more water needs to flow to the surface to economically justify drilling. Atrisco Oil & Gas is currently working with engineers and hydrologists to study the feasibility of retrieving the water. We have two well locations that we’re utilizing in this testing process and more may be needed.

So, what’s next? The first step has been completed, which is an appropriation process filed with the Office of the State Engineer. We are now clear to move forward in finding out how much of this voluminous body of water is retrievable.

Throughout this process there will be two overriding questions we must answer, producing the water, and the water quality. Additionally, we may have to deal with challenges over the water from others who may think they have a superior claim over Atrisco Oil & Gas, the rightful owner. These issues are addressed in the following paragraphs.

Producing the Water: Because the earth’s pressure is very great at the depths where the water is located, we’re challenged to create sufficient water channel flow. What this means is, while we may know water exists below, having the technology available to maximize the recovery will be extremely important. The greater the volume of water which can be produced, the better the project will look in terms

of profitability and attracting financial partners. Production at the water depths we are dealing with is just beginning to be understood. So, there does not yet exist significant expertise with extracting deep aquifer water. In this state only two aquifers have trail blazed in this area and both are still in their early stages. However, as shallow aquifers are limited and exhaustible, addressing this problem is imperative. It also represents the next frontier, especially in the drought zone of the southwest. And, as a result of our fortunate discovery here on the Westside of Albuquerque, Atrisco Oil & Gas finds itself in the center of pioneering this new frontier.

Water Quality: Once we know that we can profitably flow a sufficient enough volume of water to the surface, the water quality needs to be confirmed. While preliminary lab analyses from samples taken from existing wells indicate that the water is well within the treatable range, we cannot assume it represents all the water in the newly discovered aquifer. So, the second critical factor which needs to be sorted out is confirming the brackish nature of the water and understanding what treatment and costs are involved in making the water a saleable product.

Atrisco Oil & Gas does not have the cash in hand to conduct these tests independently at an estimated cost of \$1-2 million. Therefore, we are assessing several options of collaborating with financial partners in conducting the next series of tests. Possibilities include private companies as well as governmental entities. We believe the testing process, which will ultimately reveal the economic value of our discovery, will take a minimum of 18-24 months to complete. While it will be some time before we can give you conclusive reports, we are hopeful and encouraged.

Assuming that all test findings ensure the feasibility of commercialization, Atrisco Oil & Gas would then monetize the water. We have two potential revenue streams: the physical water and the water right. As such, the three most likely monetization options are:

- We maintain ownership of the water and lease it to a service provider, such as the Albuquerque Bernalillo County Water Utility Authority, for on-going revenues.

- We pump the water to the surface from the deep aquifer, clean it to a re-injection standard,

and then re-inject it into a shallow aquifer for future use. This is called an ASR or Aquifer Storage and Recovery project.

- We deliver the water, cleaned to discharge standards, to the wastewater treatment plant and collect “return-flow” credits which we can sell. This option is simple because the treatment costs are minimized.

Potential Challenges: While all of this activity is happening, there is also the possibility of facing challengers for the water. Our effort to “appropriate” the water through the State Engineer’s Office has been completed which reduces the number of potential claimants to Atrisco’s water discovery. But, it does not eliminate all possible challenges by individuals and organizations, particularly those making a claim of being impaired by the water mining. Although everyone should be excited by this discovery, legal attacks, which we hope do not emerge, could come from environmental groups or nearby surface and subsurface owners. We will move forward with the pursuit of our objective and deal with such obstacles should they arise. Atrisco Oil & Gas unit holders have a right to this discovery, and we believe the people of Atrisco are in the strongest position to benefit from this discovery of precious water. We must all exercise the same tenacity in retaining this water right as was demonstrated by our ancestors in holding claim to Atrisco for over 300 years.

This is a lot of information to digest, but better too much than not enough. We will of course, keep you informed as we proceed with doing our best to make this good news even better. Moreover, whether or not we can mine this natural resource today or at some later point, when deep aquifer retrieval technology has been mastered, the City of Albuquerque may now have a new source of water that will benefit to its residents. In spite of New Mexico’s desperate drought conditions, newcomers to our state are undeterred in their decision to relocate here. Currently, Bernalillo, Valencia, and Sandoval are the fastest growing counties in the state. The only issue greater than the alarming depletion of the area’s natural resources, is the demand for more. If all goes as planned, and with your valued support, Atrisco Oil & Gas may well be in the unique position of contributing to the sustainability of Albuquerque and delivering profit to its unit holders.

Atrisco Video Histories Making Their Way to Big Screen

Continued from Page 1

of personal stories, family, traditions, customs, trades and businesses — the colorful accounts that inject the historical facts with life.

The Atrisco Heritage Foundation will participate in creating the interview questionnaire as well as video tape editing. The Foundation will also own the cut and uncut documentaries. The final cut version will be shown at the gathering of Atrisco heirs event to be held at the National Hispanic Cultural Center in October 2008. (Watch for your invitation in the mail.)

“Beyond merely recording these stories, the project will actively seek applications for these historical narratives in projects such as the Atrisco Neighborhood Sector Plan. The AVHP will enable these stories to play a unique role in our civic life. Overall, the project seeks to honor our ancestors and family traditions,

ensuring that our children have a good community to grow up in and remember the stories of their abuelitos.” Says Henry Rael (AofA) Approximately 100 people in total will be interviewed. “They sought our help to launch the collection of histories and plan to use the final footage of the Phase I videos to promote and raise funding to complete the comprehensive project,” said Ortega.

If you have knowledge of the Atrisco history, either personal or academic, or know someone who does (a grandfather or great aunt perhaps), please contact Carolyn Ortega at the Atrisco Heritage Foundation, (505) 836-0306. It is only through the involvement of Atrisco heirs that the true history of Atrisco can be fully projected.

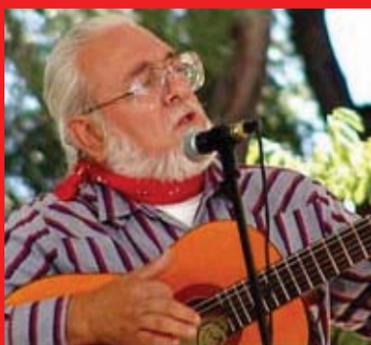
New Mexico History Textbook Set to Publish this Fall

Roberto Mondragon and Georgia Roybal have worked for 17 years to get a textbook of New Mexico history published and in schools statewide. Now, thanks to the help of the Atrisco Heritage Foundation, their textbook will become a reality.

The Foundation helped financially to get Mondragon’s and Roybal’s nonprofit group, Semos Unlimited, rejuvenated and back to the task of completing the textbook. It will be published as a pilot project at the Atrisco Heritage Academy High School.

After students have had a chance to “test drive” the book, revisions will be made and the book will go to print in large quantities for schools throughout the state. “We are thrilled to be the school chosen to use this textbook,” said Karen Dz. Cox, the department chair for history at AHA. “What I love about this book is that it was written about New Mexico by prominent New Mexican authors and historians. It truly is a gem and we intend to cherish it.”

Atrisco will have its own chapter in the book, co-written by Atrisco Heritage Academy teachers Barbara Armijo and Dz. Cox.



Roberto Mondragon

This is the first textbook of New Mexico history published to be used in schools. The state now requires every high school student to take New Mexico history in order to graduate. Semos has produced and promoted bilingual education materials for many years,” said Mondragon, who you might remember served as lieutenant governor twice under Bruce King. “We are pleased to be able to complete what has been a labor of love for us.”

Semos’ educational materials are designed to maintain and augment the use of Spanish and give insight into all aspects of Hispano culture. “We incorporate language, history, beliefs, family, values, customs, folklore, literature, art, music, dance, and legal and government systems in all of our educational materials,” said Roybal, Semos director. She has education backgrounds in elementary education, Chicano Studies, Spanish, special education, and more than 20 years teaching experience.

“Atrisco Heritage Foundation is happy to play a part in what will be the first ever state-sanctioned New Mexico high school history textbook,” said Atrisco Heritage Foundation President Peter Sanchez. “It will be utilized by students in classrooms throughout the state eventually, and we are proud to help make it happen.”