



Eagle beginnings. Kizzen Laki (then Dennett) typing at her desk late at night in the corner of her living room.

How *The Crestone Eagle* got started or, what, are you crazy?

by Kizzen Laki

"I don't think I'm the right person for the job," I told POA Board member Beth Carlsen in 1986 when she asked me to be the editor of the *Baca Grande News*, the Baca Grande Property Owner's Association official newspaper.

At the time I was the Baca Ambulance Service manager. The Board thought I was doing a good job, and so offered me the job as *BGN* editor. I refused several times—putting out a "term paper" every month!—before I accepted. It was, after all, a paying job in Crestone, and as Beth pointed out, I was moving into the house the previous editor had vacated. The job came with the house. Beth said I'd get lots of help. She was right.

The Baca Grande News started out as a simple POA newsletter, then grew to a 12-page newspaper. It featured primarily POA news, the tennis and golf scores, a little local gossip and a County news column written by Don Duff.

After a year on the job I started making the paper bigger, changed the type and style and added more local hard news. By the second year I added more advertisers, started covering the controversial American Water Development's water export plans, the building of new spiritual centers and more regional events.

By the third year, I was in trouble with the Board. *The Baca Grande News* was an "in-house" newspaper and should be limited to POA news. But, I said, that wasn't the "news." They were concerned I was going too far. I didn't want to do it if it wasn't going to be fun and valid. I told Petie Lipscomb, then POA General Manager, that I was putting in my resignation. Petie said hold on, she had an idea.

Amazingly, the POA Board came back to me and asked if I wanted to take on the newspaper as my own business. They said they liked that I had taken the *BGN* from a

newsletter to a community newspaper and what I was doing, but they didn't want to be in the newspaper business. The newspaper was an expense to them, they had to pay for my wages and the publishing costs. They offered to sell it to me for a buck. Should I do it? Take on debt by buying computer and office equipment? Work for free for several years? Are you crazy? Oh, sure.

Celebrating 108 years!

The original *Crestone Eagle* existed in 1901 and lasted for around 5 years. There were 2 newspapers back then, *The Crestone Eagle* and *The Crestone Miner*. I decided to resurrect the *Eagle*. The very first issue was Dec. 1989. The flag was designed by Janet Woodman, who also helped type and proofread the copy. Numerous people wrote articles for free or helped with the mailing. They wanted to see the *Eagle* fly.

In 1989 the *Eagle* "office" was a desk in the corner of my living room. Layout pages were spread out on the dining table (yes, literally cut and paste!), finished flats went onto the upright piano. My family helped with—or at least yielded to—the monthly newspaper effort. It grew into a tiny bedroom when the eldest left home. Then in a big upgrade, it moved into what is now the Black Bear building—and acquired staff! After several years there and more expansion, we moved into our wonderful new building built by Kim and Nancy Malville who had the office designed just to accommodate the *Eagle*.

The Crestone community was, and still is, wonderfully supportive of "their" newspaper. Writing articles, sending in photos, advertising and of course, buying it each month.

We are so grateful for these past 20 years. It has been an amazing journey and great gift to work with and for such a wonderful community. Thank you for all your trust, support and encouragement.

In the news 20 years ago

Highlights from 1989/90

It's our 20th anniversary! In honor of this landmark, every month in 2009 we will take a trip down memory lane with you, bringing you highlights from a different year or two in our community's history.

July 1989

New health food store opens: B.G. and Al Purvis open "B.G.'s Wild Oats," in "Ole Town" (now the site of the Sangre de Cristo Inn.

Gas and beer is taken in robbery of Crestone store.

First fire ceremony at the Haidakhandi Ashram.

Search and Rescue team form.

New Post Office given a 5 year variance to have a modular building on Galena St., one block East of the then current Post Office (now the Harvest Restaurant).

Michael & Pam Bertin run The Bistro restaurant, now the Desert Sage.

September 1989

"Sally's (Sally Kane) Shop Talk Café" in "Ole Town," serves the coffee and deli needs of the community.

Jeri McAndrews teaches dance and ballet.

October 1989

Flowers by Margot hosts an Open House in her new location at

started as the *The Baca Grande News* (BGN), a POA mimeographed newsletter. Kizzen Dennett (now Laki) had been the editor of the BGN for three and a half years. In



A new post office and a new postmaster for Crestone. Monte Collins seems to fit right in. (December, 1989)

November 1989, the POA Board votes to transfer publication rights to Kizzen, and *The Crestone Eagle* takes flight.

Judy DeBon is baking wedding cakes and other delectable goodies.

December 1989

The Crestone Eagle takes flight!

Monte Collins is the new Crestone Postmaster.

Shirly MacLaine purchases land in Baca with the intent to build a small retreat center.

Buck Winters' first column, "View from Here", appears. (How many of you remember him? How many of you know his true identity?)

First astrology column "Decans & Dwards" by Charlotte Hirer and Lillian McCracken.

January 1990

Obit: Margaret E. Williams
Births: Ayesha Marstrand; Tara Kane

February, 1990

New County Landfill to open in March.

Manitou Foundation hosts Native American Group at Baca.

March, 1990

Colorado College buys Seminar Building and 293 Acres.

April, 1990

The *Albuquerque Journal* obtains classified documents that

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Skoglund Excavation & Landscape owners, Ken & Mary Skoglund. (June, 1990)

Olde Towne.

Victor S. Sierpina, MD, in Moffat is the local doctor.

November 1989

RedSun hosts Native American Elders Congress. Pat Caverly, director of the Red Sun Institute, hosts a conference of 50 Native American elders.

Site chosen for new 35' tall stupa.

The Crestone Eagle is officially hatched: *The Crestone Eagle*



The Stables Gang—we still remember the 'robbery' last 4th of July!: Pam Lunt (Gripp), Marianne Sandstrom, Julie Goodnight, Pam Bertin, Bunny and Mom. (May, 1990)

20 years ago—Highlights

name the Great Sand Dunes as one possible location for the explosion of the nuclear bomb in 1946. White Sands, New Mexico was chosen instead.

May, 1990

Marlene Pruitt elected Mayor of Crestone.

June 1990

250 gather at Ashram for Peace & Unity Celebration.

POA's new heavy equipment shed completed.



Mark Jacobi and Chris Canaly record history in the making at the Michael Murphy concert—a benefit to fight AWDI. (May, 1990)

Birth: Shogpei-Carma born to Awish & Wolf Benaly.

Marriage: Tom & Mary Good-night celebrate their wedding on

May 21 at the Bistro.

July 1990

Crestone celebrates the Wild West at the 4th of July.

Sri Aurobindo Learning Center to host solar and global village network conference in August.

Moffat School celebrates its centennial on June 23 & 24.

Volunteers rebuild Spanish Creek bridge.

Laura and John Syperda begin trash hauling business.

Eight new hermitages near completion at Carmelite Monastery. Their objective is to blend in with the hillside. (Well done.)

August 1990

Anne Belle Whiting buys the Bistro.

911 emergency calling system proposed for Saguache County.

After 6 years, Helen Ryan retires her column "Watching People Watchers."

Crestone/Baca hosts first annual Energy Fair August 11 & 12.

September 1990

Tibetan lamas hold Stupa groundbreaking ceremony.

Births: Sara Maria DeBon born to Judy DeBon, grandmother Bertha Gotterup.

October 1990

Crestone Mountain Dance is formed.

Baca Library celebrates its 14th birthday on Sept. 15.

Dr. Victor Sierpina opens new

office/clinic in Moffat (Now Valley Wide's Moffat Clinic).

November 1990

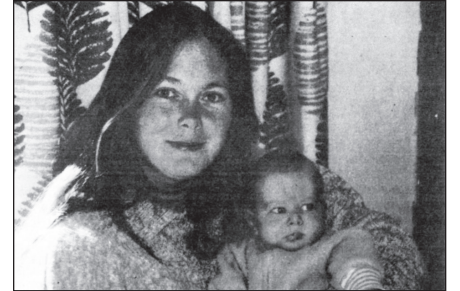
Fire Department snuffs house fire. An apparent chimney fire turns out to be more difficult than first perceived. The masonry chimney was not solid and the façade had to be ripped away to uncover a hollow space where the fire was located. Another few minutes' delay and the entire roof would have been on fire.

Dr. John A. Short opens his family dentistry practice in the Post Office building in Moffat.

Rio Grande Forest to analyze impacts of oil & gas leasing.

December 1990

The Rio Grande Water Conservation District asks for a loan at election to fight American Wa-



Ed & Robin & Abram Rosenberg came into town for a quick visit from Boulder where Ed is studying music. Pic of Robin and new son Abram. He's a real cuddly cutey! (December, 1990)

ter Development, Inc. (AWDI). AWDI's application for water rights is scheduled to go to trial in October 1991, and the bulk \$472,000 loan will go to pay anticipated legal costs.

Births: Abram Rosenberg

The water war with AWDI begins

by Diane Bairstow

The big story of 1990 was American Water Development, Inc.'s (AWDI) grab for water rights in the Valley. They did this on two fronts. They tried to take over the creeks and dam, and to divert the water, which would have resulted in dry creek beds and roads built through the forest as high up as 11,000 ft. This "water diversion" was withdrawn due to strong opposition.

On the second front, AWDI set out to take the subterranean water from under the Baca Ranch, which they owned, and sell it to the Front Range. This battle would last for years.

It all started in 1986 when AWDI applied for permission to withdraw 200,000 acre-feet of water per year to irrigate farmland in the Valley and brew beer. In 1989 Maurice Strong quit AWDI because he felt they were no longer interested in using the water in a "socially and environmentally responsible way." They were going to sell it to the highest bidder.

During this time, Christine Canaly began organizing a Valley-wide citizen's group to oppose the project—The Citizens for San Luis Valley Water.

Meetings with area residents, State Senators and Representatives ensued. Films were viewed about the removal of water from Owens Valley in California. After 15 years of pumping the water to Los Angeles, Owens Lake turned into a dust bowl.

The discovery of a rare subterranean fish, Aprilious Uno Subterranean (related to the Tennessee Snail Darter) made front page news. Residents were sure this would halt AWDI's progress until it was discovered it was just another of Kizzen's Aprilious Foolius Jokius.

AWDI's original application to the District Water Court was to pump 200,000 acre ft. of water annually from the underground aquifer. They denied that there would be any effect on the environment or other water users. By August, they had amended their application to 60,000 acre ft. annually, (still approximately 2 times the amount used by the City of Pueblo annually). They would, however, retain the right to the remaining 140,000 acre ft., but that would be pumped in the future on condition of the courts.

For the first time, AWDI admitted in its application that its pumping would affect 256 wells. This amended application calls for the Water Court and State Engineer to establish a monitoring system to determine pumping impact.

By the end of the year, farmers, merchants and residents of the Valley were fully engaged and were taking out full page ads in *The Eagle* against AWDI. Residents and businesses were filing objections in Division 3 Water Court to AWDI's claims. The Rio Grande Water Conservation District was asking for a loan of \$472,000 to fight AWDI in court.

The combatants were engaged, the battle was on.

(News highlights from The Crestone Eagle 1989 & 1990)

Decans & Dwads—Our first astrological column

December 1989—Starline on *The Crestone Eagle*

by Charlotte Hier & Lillian McCracken

Since *The Crestone Eagle* (sometimes referred to as *CE*) has just been reborn, what better bit of The Plan to begin our debut than the Starline on the paper. The paper's birthday is Nov. 14, 1989. Our little *Eagle* is a Scorpio (OOH); so is it only coincidence that the eagle happens to be one of the symbols associated with Scorpio? So the *CE* is an appropriate name as the paper will soar with a few strategically placed folds and a little arm power.

Numerologically, the *Eagle* is a "7" which is a prime number and one more than a "6" but one less than an "8." Not only is the *Eagle* a sun sign Scorpio, but it also has Mars, Pluto and Mercury in Scorpio. And all this is in the 10th house. Not only does this mean the *Eagle* was "born" just before noon, it also indicates a very visible means of communication. Exactly what this community needs in a newspaper.

The paper will also achieve a high status in the community and will probably drive the competitors to their knees, if not flat out of town. You see, Mars conjuncts our paper's mid-heaven and that means that Mars was directly overhead in the sky as the baton was passed from [*Baca Grande News*] to *CE*. Mars in this position gives unbounded energy and Mars in Scorpio is nothing short of a dynamo.

Scorpio is turned on by the hidden and mysterious; so it's the sign of the researcher as well as the occultist. Scorpio is tenacious, brave, sex-crazed and never ever mediocre. And this relates to the *CE*; we can be sure that the articles will be opinionated, one-sided, revealing, provoking, and very thoroughly researched. This paper will have CHARACTER and not be afraid to take a risk ... ergo Decans & Dwads.

The *Crestone Eagle* has a Gemini Moon and this is most auspicious as it relates to a newspaper. The sign Gemini is wrapped up in communication. In other words, Gemini "rules" the ability to communicate. And a newspaper ought to do this. In fact, Gemini rules newspapers! And since its Moon is in the 5th house, it will communicate in a most creative manner. The Moon rules one's emotional makeup. With a Gemini Moon, don't look for sappy emotional sentiments. Our new paper will be straight-from-the-cuff (or cheek) news source; no punches pulled, no "Love Is ..." column.

A special note of interest is that the *CE* has Saturn sitting right on the Ascendant (rising sign, ascendant, first house—different words for the same thing). Saturn rules Capricorn; so we're dealing with one ambitious rag. One that will be around for a long, long time. Saturn and responsibility go hand in hand; so printing on recycled newsprint would make our new entity quite the happy bundle. With much Saturnian effort (hard work) success is assured.

A final note of goodness is that with Jupiter in Cancer in the sixth house, *The Crestone Eagle* will be a real community service newspaper. People from the community will be clamoring to write for it and will find the paper an invaluable source of community news and information. You heard it here first!



Fill 'er up (with carrots)—only in a small town can you get ride-up service. Bernadette and Curt Ward at the Crestone Store. (October, 1989)