ELDORADO

Monthly Newsletter of the Eldorado Community Improvement Association

1 La Hacienda Loop, Santa Fe, New Mexico 87508 ▼ (505) 466-4248 ▼ www.eldoradocommunity.org

hither Our Water

AST MONTH, ON DECEMBER 1, 2004, the Eldorado Area Water and Sanitation District (EAWSD) took full possession of our local water system after nearly three years of contentious legal efforts to do so. The history of this effort is documented on our website at www.eldoradowaterdistrict.com.

The intent of this article is to look forward and try to describe what the customers on the EAWSD water system can expect in the future.

In order to fund the purchase of the system the district sold almost \$8 million in general obligation (G.O.) bonds. Unfortunately, the condemnation jury determined the market value to be more than \$11 million, which requires the district to raise more money. As this article is being written, the source of the additional funds is still being explored. The bottom line, however, is that the debt incurred by the district must be paid from a combination of property taxes and revenue from the sale of water. Taxes for 2004 were established at a level that would essentially pay the annual debt service on the G.O. bonds, and income from the sale of water should pay operating costs and reserves, plus debt service on revenue bonds. Current water and property tax rates should meet the district's needs for the next few years.

Some have questioned whether what we have gained by local control of our water is worth what we have to pay for it. This requires some speculation of what might have come to pass if the water system had remained in private hands. Since the benefit to private owners is profit either from rates or system re-sale, and both would be reflected in higher costs to water customers, it is probably more a difference of when higher costs occur rather than if they occur. But probably the biggest advantage to the community that can be expected from local control is the stewardship of our water supply. If water were plentiful in our area, costs would be less and management of resources would be less critical. But since quality of life and real estate values are dependent upon water availability, the importance of taking care of our water is hard to overestimate. The district's current line extension policy, which requires approved subdivisions to provide a wet water supply capable of lasting 100 years, and the county moratorium in place that limits subdivision growth until more water is available, will help assure that a reasonable balance is maintained between water supplies and growth.

We are looking steadily toward the future with respect to our water in an area where water has always been a scarce commodity. At the present time, Santa Fe County is planning to develop a regional water system. The goal of such a plan is to move water from parts of the county where a surplus may exist at any given time to other parts of the county that may be experiencing a shortfall. Like a lot of good things, this may take time, and

completion is a matter of years, not months. The concept of a regional

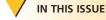
water system is a good one and the district supports it. But any such project will have to be structured carefully, piece-by-piece. Our area is one of the pieces and the county and the district are working on Powers Joint Agreement that

will permit local autonomy while effecting some form of partnering that will preserve our

autonomy as a district.

-Ray Nichols Chairman, EAWSD

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> ECIA Board Work Study Center, Mon.,

LETTERS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Share your comments with us!

For policy and deadline, see below

Editorial Policy

Vistas invites opinions, ideas, stories, photos, and art from the community at large. Please include contact numbers for fact checking purposes. The newsletter will not publish unsigned letters or material deemed inflammatory. Material will be printed at the discretion of the editors. Letters over 150 words will be edited for fit. Community announcements are welcome; accompanying photos are welcome, too. DEADLINE: Newsletter deadline is the 3rd day of each month. Submissions can be dropped off or mailed to the ECIA office or emailed to info@eldoradocommunity. org. Please include "Attn:

Vistas" in your message.

The mission of Vistas, the monthly newsletter of the ECIA, is to inform the Eldorado community about issues before the ECIA Board and the membership at large. By so doing, the publication seeks to foster increased neighborhood pride and community participation in the decision making process.

Back the Way It Was

NOTE OF EXPLANATION TO K. Stubbs' letter in the November Vistas [concerning the September Flea Market]. The ERA fully agrees with her statements. The change of site was the result of concerns expressed by ECIA regarding the parking of cars in the common area at the May Flea Market. As a result, the ERA agreed (with some reservations) to change the site with the understanding that if the new area did not work, we (ERA) would return to the original site.

As the letter plainly states, and we agree, the site did not work. We thank you for your input and hope you and all others will be happy to hear that the May Flea Market site will be "back the way it was." Hope to see you in May.

—Jerry Bradley, President ERA

ECIA Board Election

HE ANNUAL ECIA BOARD ELECTION is just around the corner and there will be five vacancies to be filled. These positions provide an opportunity for interested persons to shape the community they live in.

Please take the time to run for the board.

It is important for the community and all potential candidates to understand some of the very basic requirements and deadlines as outlined in the Bylaws and Election Policies and Procedures:

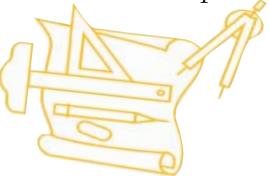
- ▼ To run for the board, a candidate must file a petition that contains the candidate's name and the signatures of no less than 25 owners of property, each of whom must be a Member in Good Standing with the association. These petitions will be available at the ECIA office on February 2, 2005, and must be filed by March 1, 2005.
- ▼ Each candidate must file a résumé and position statement with the ECIA office by March 1, 2005. This information is included in the ballot package sent to all Members in Good Standing.
- ▼ The Election Committee will validate each candidate's petition by March 11, 2005.
- ▼ Election packets and the notice of the Annual Meeting of the Members will be mailed to each Member in Good Standing by March 31, 2005.
- ▼ The ballots have to be received at the ECIA office no later than April 28, 2005 in order to be considered valid.
- ▼ The Election Committee will count ballots, and announce the results at the Annual Meeting of the Members on Monday, May 2, 2005, 7:00 pm.

Pavilion's Progress

♦HE ECIA BOARD VOTED TO APPROVE up to \$55,000 from the Association's Capital Budget to design and construct a community events pavilion at the Community Center. It will consist of an enclosed stage, open on one side, for music and theatre events. The tentative location is north of the railroad building and east of the storage barn.

Architect, musician, and Eldorado resident Pedro Marquez is donating his time and professional services to prepare final drawings for construction bids. Several Eldorado performers and musicians have been assisting in the design, including Bruce Blossman, Charles Young, community bandleader John Emory, and Children's Theatre leader Lisa Lincoln. John Reeder, former ECIA Board member and past president, has helped to gather support for the project.

Senior Center Update



HE SANTA FE BOARD OF COUNTY Commissioners has approved a contract to allow \$575,000 appropriated by the State of New Mexico to be used to build a Senior Center on county land near the Vista Grande Public Library on Avenida Torreon, just south of El Dorado Elementary School. It will be about 3,500 square feet in size, and will contain a kitchen, dining area, and crafts and multi-use room.

NCA Architects of Albuquerque has been selected to design the center. Their experience includes schools, hospitals, and other public buildings. The center is intended to serve 285 south corridor communities all the way to Glorieta.

A Building Committee is working with NCA to get ideas from seniors into the final design. Drawings are expected to be ready for bid in about six months, with completion in about a year.

Important! If you have not paid your annual association fees by March 8, 2005, you will not be eligible to vote!



ECIA Architectural Plan Submission Application

- ▼ Construction of any structure above natural grade requires review and approval by the ECIA. This includes: new homes, additions, large and small accessory buildings, enclosed fences and walls, portals, ramadas, screening fences and walls, cisterns, solar energy assemblies, etc..
- ▼ Property owners and contractors should review the current ECIA Covenants and Guidelines for Eldorado at Santa Fe and submit a project plan with all required information and drawings to the ECIA office and/or the Covenant Compliance Representative (CCR) for review.
- ▼ Include the name, address and telephone number(s) of the contractor and owner on all plans. If you are not the property owner, written permission from the property owner to perform the work must be attached to the application (see application sub-
- ▼ All documentation shall include 2 sets of plans and must be clear, concise and legible.



Required information on the architectural submission application:

- 1. Name
- 2. Unit-block-lot (legal description)
- 3. Project street address
- 4. Description of the project: materials, colors and intended use of structure
- 5. Drawing: site plan (plat survey)
 - **a.** Property line setback distances to existing and proposed structure(s)
 - **b.** Location of adjacent streets (all adjoining road frontage(s) setbacks are 50 feet)
 - **c.** Location of driveway, septic and well (if applicable)
 - d. Location and type of trash container to be on site until project is completed
- 6. Drawing: building (structure) with elevation views (façades)
 - a. Depict the structure in sufficient detail and scale to understand the proposed project
 - b. Depict all pertinent existing structures and relationship to the proposed structure(s)
 - C. Depict the style, material, colors and all dimensions (width / length / height / square footage)
 - d. Depict the view of the east, west, north and south façade(s) (as applicable)
 - e. Depict all roof styles including the required pitch, roofing material and color
 - f. Include all portals and ramadas (style, height, length and square footage)
 - q. Include all enclosed walls and fences (height / length dimensions and enclosed square footage
 - h. Include all screening walls and fences (height / length)
- 7. Exterior lighting (all) must be included on the plans
 - a. Fixture Style: Shall be "fully shielded downward" (bulb not visible on or off)
 - b. Landscape lighting low wattage and fully shielded downward
 - c. Security lighting must be fully shielded and switched by motion or photo sensor and turn off by timer in 2 minutes or less



Note 1: A current site improvement survey may be needed to determine property lines and setbacks.

Note 2: All height dimensions shall be measured from the lowest point where the natural grade of the lot meets the structure to the highest point of the structure...

—Charles Smith, the ECIA CCR

#1 La Hacienda Loop Santa Fe, NM 87508 466-4248, 466-4249 info@eldoradocommunity.org www.eldoradocommunity.org

Bob Pritchard 466-4248 ECommunity@aol.com

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Jeanne Klein 466-2466 Jpkeducate@aol.com **Gretel Underwood**

466-7825

Wunderwood7@aol.com

Frank Schober 310-8593 fschober@att.net

Dan Drobnis 466-4781

Drobnisd@sdsc.edu

Chuck Montano 466-3417 pumbanm@cybermesa.com

Sandy MacGregor 466-0882 s.macg@earthlink.net

Michael Mariano 466-0118 mfm@zipmail.com

Finance: Gisela Knight Architecture: Bill Schwent Conservation: Steve Wust Stable: Dina Sassone Election: Nancy Dayton Road: Ed Benrock Information: Vacant Sandra Vreeland

Ken McPherson kenzwork@hubwest.com Hope O. Kiah hope@webdesignbyhope.com

Debby Padilla 466-4248 whitewolfvision.com 466-2273

466-READ 204-2945 466-1204 424-2050



Celebrate the RR Crossing

The railroad crossing at Avenida Eldorado is finally fully complete. Knowing how important this is to the residents who drive this road every day, the Eldorado Residents Association (ERA) is cordially inviting all community members to join us at the crossing site to celebrate the completion of the much needed project. Hot cider and other goodies will be served from 1-2 pm on Saturday, January 8, 2005. Please join us!

ERA Candidate Forum

On Monday, January 10, 7-9 pm, the ERA is sponsoring an evening where candidates seeking a position on the Eldorado Area Water and Sanitation District Board will be present to make statements and answer your questions at the Eldorado Community Center. For more information, call 466-4253 or 466-1397.

Artists' Shoptalk

January's Shoptalk will be held Wednesday, January 12, 10 am-noon, at the home of Nancy and Jack Moore, watercolor/acrylic painters. Come meet and greet fellow artists as we start a new creative year. Call 466-2857 for directions.

Eldorado Studio Tour 2005

The dates are set for the Eldorado Arts and Crafts Association's 14th Annual Studio Tour to be held May 14 and 15, 2005. Artists who want to join the association (membership: \$15.00) and participate in the tour should call Janet Amtmann at 466-3256 or Joretha Hall at 466-6245 for applications. Cost to participate in the

Moon phases for January



tour is \$100. Applications are due no later than January 15.

The first of a series of three organizational meetings will be held at 7 pm, January 25, at the Eldorado Fire Station on Ave. Vista Grande. Studio Tour participation is limited to artists living within communities accessed by the first three entrances into Eldorado off 285.

Currently, the EACA membership numbers around 150. Last year's tour featured 79 artists and 54 studios, making for the largest Studio Tour in New Mexico. The association expects to have a similar number of participants this year.

Library Presentation

Eldorado resident Andi Sutherland will present an introductory lecture on "Jin Shin Jyutsu," Thursday, January 20, 7-9 pm at the Vista Grande Public Library. Jin Shin Jyutsu is an ancient art of harmonizing the life energy in the body. Revived in Japan in the early 1900s, this physio-philosophical approach to knowing one's innate healing capacities was brought to the United States in the 1950s. Ms. Sutherland is a certified practitioner of Jin Shin Jyutsu.



Five-year-old Hailey Hesch visiting Santa.



Astronomy Corner

Phases of the Moon

The changing appearance of the Moon's illuminated disk results from its orbital motion around the Earth. At "new," the Moon lies in line with the Sun, and the hemisphere presented to Earth is completely dark. At "full," the Moon lies opposite the Sun in the Earth's sky and is completely illuminated. Between these two extremes varying degrees of illumination are seen.

By January 7, Mercury, Venus, Mars and the Moon will be spectacular in Scorpio in the morning sky. Saturn reaches opposition on January 13. If you have a telescope, enjoy the view, and don't forget Jupiter at the beginning of morning twilight.

The Moon is full on January 25, and last quarter on the 3rd, new on the 10th and first quarter on the 17th.

Gourds and Bowls

The Eldorado Arts and Crafts Association will feature a demonstration by Raoul Berke on his pyrograph technique for creating his painted gourds and bowls. This is the first meeting of the 2005 season and will be held at 7 pm, Thursday, January 27 at the Eldorado Fire Station on Vista Grande. These meetings are free to members and interested public. For information, call 466-3256.

January Events

Left out? Help us compile a comprehensive events listing.

Email info@eldoradocommunity.org with your meeting/event information, or bring it to the ECIA office by the 8th of the month for publication in the following month's Vistas. Please include "Attn: Vistas" and be sure to indicate:



1. Type of Event 2. Location

3. Date & Time

4. A Resource Person (one who can answer questions both about the event and the sponsoring organization) and his/her telephone number. Photographs (digital or snapshots) are encouraged!

Note: All meetings are at the Community Center, unless otherwise noted.

JANUARY SPECIAL	EVENTS			
ERA Quarterly Meeting	Mon., Jan. 10, 7-9 pm			CR
ECIA Offices closed	Mon., Jan 17	MLK Day		
ERA T.G.I.F.	Fri., Jan 21, 5-7 pm	- ,		
COMMITTEE MEETINGS				
Conservation Committee	Tues., Jan. 4, 7-9 pm	Stephen Wust		CFR
285 Coalition	Wed., Jan. 5, 7-9 pm	Kathy Pilnock	466-1598	CFR
Neighborhood Watch	Mon., Jan. 10, 7 pm	Sandra Vreeland	466-6079	CR
Finance Committee	Tues., Jan. 11, 10-noon	Gisela Knight	466-2568	RR
Architectural Committee	Tues., Jan. 11, 7-9 pm	Bill Schwent	466-7708	CFR
EAW&SD*	Wed., Jan. 12, 7-9 pm	Ray Nichols		CFR
Board Work Study	Mon., Jan. 17, 7-9 pm	ECIA	466-4248	CFR
ECIA Board	Thurs., Jan. 20, 7-9 pm	ECIA	466-4248	CR
Information Committee	Mon., Jan. 24, 7 pm	Ken McPherson	466-4161	F
Architectural Committee	Tues., Jan. 25, 7-9 pm	Bill Schwent	466-7708	CFR
Stable Committee	Tues., Jan. 25, 7-9 pm			LR
MONTHLY MEETINGS				
ERA Coffee Social	Tues., Jan. 4, 10-11 am	Jerry Bradley	466-4253	F
Boy Scouts Troop 414	Wed., Jan. 5, 7:30-9 pm	Bruce Blossman	955-0880	CR
Book Club	Sat., Jan. 8, 1:30-3 pm	Barbara Rugg	466-2559	
La Canada	Mon., Jan. 10, 7-9			LR
Book Club/Pot Luck	call for date and time	Ken Fischer	466-2537	
Search & Rescue	Thurs., Jan. 13, 7-9 pm	Dave Burdett	466-9765	CR
ERA Coffee Social	Tues., Jan. 18, 10-11 am	Jerry Bradley	466-4253	F
Cub Scouts Pack 414	Call for date	Clay Williard	466-3909	
Library Book Group	4th Thurs., 7-9 pm	Shelley Moore	466-9636	Lib
Arts Assoc. Program	Thurs., Jan. 27, 7-9 pm	Janet Amtmann	466-3256	Fire St
MOMS Club	Call for date and time	Shannon Ratcliff	986-9050	
WEEKLY MEETINGS				
AA	Tuesdays, 5:45-6:45 pm			CR
AA	Thursdays, 5:45-6:45 pm			CR
AA	Saturdays, 10:45-11:45 am			CR
AA	Sundays, 5:15- 6:15 pm			CR
Bridge	1st & 3rd Mon., 1-4:30 pm			LR
Bridge	1st & 3rd Fri., 1-4:30 pm	Marjorie Segell	466-3958	CR, LR
Bridge	2nd & 4th Fri., 1-4:30 pm	Pat Lavengood	466-9765	CR, LR
Bridge	Wednesdays, 9-noon	Nancy Rost	466-2832	LR
Community Band	Thursdays, 6-8 pm	Joel Hopko	466-8412	
Fire & Rescue Training	Wednesdays, 7-9 pm	Fire Station Office	466-1204	Station
Fire & Rescue Work Duty	Saturdays, Call for time	Fire Station Office	466-1204	Station
Senior Lunch**	Wednesdays, 12-1 pm	Therese Janowski	466-1397	CR
Wireless Assoc.	2nd & 4th Mon., 7-9 pm	Scott Gerber	466-9333	CR
Knitting Club	2nd & 4th Tues., 10 am-12 pm	o Joyce Hanmer	466-3018	F
Adult Volleyball	Wed., 7-9 pm	Arlene Mayer	466-6641	School
*Eldorado Area Water and Sanitation District **Reservations Required				

SPECIAL INTERESTS

Learning From a Distance

OMEONE ONCE TOLD ME THAT, as the crow flies, Santa Fe Community College (SFCC) is only 8-10 miles from Eldorado. If only we could fly!

There is an alternative.

SFCC is among a growing list of colleges around the nation that have put some of their courses online, available to any registered student who has a computer and Internet access. (Most courses require textbook purchase, and some require you to own specific software.)

Begun in 2000, Distance Learning at SFCC has grown to meet the demands of several focused studies, and is still growing. As with traditional on-campus courses, you may take these classes for credit, or you can audit without receiving a grade.

What is an online course? Students enrolled in an online course log into a password protected course website on the first day of the semester. There you will find instructions, lectures, photos, quizzes, etc. The exact content depends on the course and the instructor, but all courses include the tools and information necessary to navigate through the course

independently, yet with a sufficient

amount of structure.

Instructors follow each student's progress through weekly assessments and internal, web-based communications. This is facilitated through the use of an

> email system that is self-contained in each online course's website, and a discussion board (both are available to everyone registered in that course). In fact, some instructors base a large part of a student's grade on their participation in the discussion board. If course quizzes to deterstudent mine learning, those quizzes may be taken online as well. Most quizzes are available to

review after you complete them, showing you what the correct answers were and how you scored on the

What is a hybrid course? Some online courses offer several on-campus meetings to enhance student learning. These meetings are usually on a schedule that you can see the first time you enter the course website. This style of online course is usually referred to as a "hybrid."

What an online course is not; online courses are not easier than on-campus courses, they don't require less work, they aren't self-paced (you have weekly assignments and deadlines on papers and/or quizzes), and they aren't for everyone (you need to be self-motivated).

What an online course is: you may have weekly assignments, but you choose when during that week you will go online and work on your assignment. Even if you want to go online at 3:00 am in your pajamas, SFCC's online courses are available 24/7. Most courses offer a discussion board that allows students to meet each other online and to carry on a dialog with a variety of students who have much to offer each other in experience and knowl-

To find what online courses SFCC is offering for the spring semester (which begins January 24), you can check out their website http://learn.sfccnm.edu. Click on Course/Program List and select the Spring 2005 link.

Here are a few highlights of courses offered for the spring semester:

HIST260 - History of New Mexico: from prehistory through to statehood, with possible trips to local museums.

MART130 – Intro to Web Design: a good introduction to creating web pages using HTML.

ENGL216 – Technical Writing: a study of business and technical writing, editing, and revising.

MART180 – Photoshop: learn how to use this popular software.

OFTC111 - Business Software Essentials: learn how to use the software found in Microsoft Office XP.

For the spring semester there are six courses in Health Education and eight in Teacher Education (part of an alternative licensure program). And there are more!

Continuous learning is vital to living a full life, and the inability to drive to a campus shouldn't keep you from it. Registration continues from January 3 through 21. For more information on SFCC, visit the main website at http://www.sfccnm.edu.

-Ken McPherson



SPECIAL INTERESTS

Bobbin' Along

The American Robin - Harbinger of Winter?

LTHOUGH ROBINS INHABIT NEW Mexico all year long, we do not see large numbers of them in the spring and summer here in Eldorado. In the spring, most robins pass through heading north; first the males, and later the females. Our dry ground and brown grass lack earthworms, the robin's favorite food. Some of these birds can be found year-round near irrigated parks, playing fields and golf courses, especially during mild winters.

Around my house, I see the largest concentration of robins between September and early December, especially at my water pans. This time of year they are more social and move in small flocks. They are migrating to milder weather in the south of the U.S., but some travel as far as Guatemala. I often wonder what they eat here, but they seem to manage on the insects, fruit and berries they find. The typical picture of a robin, with head cocked just before pouncing on a worm, is somewhat misleading. They locate worms with their eyes, not by hearing.

Everyone is familiar with this large member of

the thrush family, ten inches long with a wingspan of 17 inches. Females are not quite as bright as males. Both have orange breasts, gray upper bodies, and a small amount of white at the eyes. Juveniles show their thrush heritage with duller colors and spotted breasts. Males may grapple with other males to establish breeding territories. The nest is a small twig cup lined with grasses, feather, fur or other soft material. Male and female sit on the nest and tend the four atrical (no feathers, eyes closed, helpless) young. Eggs hatch in about 14 days and young fledge 14 days later. The pair is monogamous and may start a second brood.

I'm always happy to see these cheery birds, no matter the season. They appear perky as they hop along the ground in search of food. Their short song has a liquid quality and the one-note Kwit call is easy to recognize. They brighten our environment and stand out against the early snow (as recently as the week before Thanksgiving 2004!).

-Pam Henline

Which to Use When: Ice or Heat?

NEE PAIN AFTER YOUR MORNING run in Eldorado? Backache after tending your garden? Twist an ankle playing soccer at the clubhouse? When you experience aches, pains, or swelling, you might assume heat will ease your discomfort. Think again!

Ice and heat have opposite effects when it comes to inflammation and pain. Ice constricts blood vessels and decreases blood flow to an injured area, therefore reducing inflammation and numbing pain. Heat increases blood circulation and relaxes tight muscles. When is it appropriate to use each?

THE ACUTE INJURY STAGE

Immediately after an injury occurs, inflammation takes place. This is the acute stage and lasts 48 to 72 hours. Following an injury, ice should be used right away. It constricts blood vessels, which lessens swelling, as well as numbs pain and controls bleeding. Apply ice no more than 20 minutes at a time. Heat should not be used during the acute stage. It will increase swelling and possibly pain.

THE CHRONIC INJURY STAGE

This is the point at which inflammation decreases, approximately 72 hours after the injury. Pain and stiffness may still be present. Both ice and heat can be used—ice to control pain and inflammation that might occur after working the injured area; heat to relieve muscle tightness or joint stiffness. Apply heat for 20minute intervals, using the same guidelines as ice.

WHEN TO USE ICE

During Acute Stage (48 – 72 hours after injury)

- ▼ To decrease swelling
- ▼ To numb pain
- ▼ To decrease muscle spasms
- ▼ To treat an acute burn

During Chronic Stage (after inflammation subsides - 4 or 5 days after injury)

- ▼ To manage pain and swelling
- ▼ After an activity involving an overuse injury to decrease pain and swelling
- ▼ To treat joint swelling due to inflammatory arthritis

WHEN TO USE HEAT

During Chronic Stage (after inflammation subsides - 4 or 5 days after injury)

- ▼ To warm up stiff joints, aiding in joint mobility
- ▼ To decrease chronic muscle spasms
- ▼ To help stretch tight muscles
- ▼ Before an activity involving an overuse injury to warm up the affected area

Disclaimer: This information is not intended as a substitute for professional medical treatment or consultation.

> -Louise Roach, Editor of on-line health and fitness newsletter, NewsFlash*SnowPack. http://home.netcom.com/~newsflash/.



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corner

Sarah McDougal, born playing a flugelhorn, startled the doctors at best.

They never had seen, or ever heard tell, of a child so unlike the rest.

So imagine their shock, when her brother, Rock, followed her on the harmonica.

And when out came a third, from the middle, on fiddle, the littlest, they called Veronica.

—Lynn McPherson