



LA CLINICA

DEL PUEBLO DE RIO ARRIBA

La Cooperativa Agricola de Tierra Amarilla and La Clinica del Pueblo de Rio Arriba would like to express gratitude for your contribution to the benefit art show, "De la Tierra". Thanks to your help, the exhibition was very successful.

We were pleased to find at final count that over 50 New Mexican artists and craftsmen had donated their work to the show. Due to the great variety of the work displayed, the general feeling and flavor was very much of northern New Mexico. The opening was attended by some five hundred people as a result of good newspaper and radio coverage. Raza mothers from the Mission district of San Francisco made tamales for the opening and entertainment was provided by Los Mascarones, who performed Aztec dances, and El Teatro Urbano, a street theatre group. The show was enthusiastically received by people in the Bay Area, and we are happy to report that a majority of the work sold.

The proceeds from the show will go toward the construction of living quarters for volunteer workers and to expand the hog farm. A community center is also planned for the coming year.

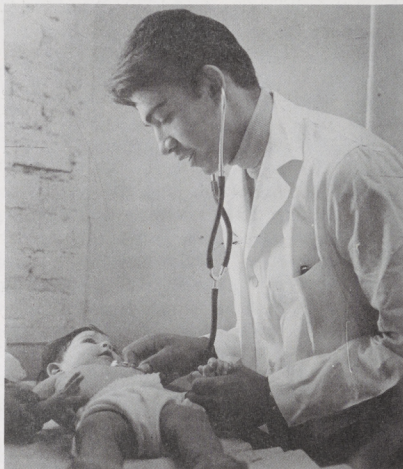
Again, our thanks. May the coming year be a productive one for us all.

Dear Laura Gilpin,

I want to personally thank you for helping. "Camera Study EL Rito will be returned to you. The others sold in San Francisco.

Thank you. John DeB...

La Cooperativa and La Clinica **Box 104, Tierra Amarilla, N. M.**



Dear friend,

A year ago, we wrote to you about our struggle here in northern New Mexico, and about the Cooperativa Agrícola de Tierra Amarilla---the Agricultural Cooperative of Tierra Amarilla, a brand new effort to work communally and produce more food.

Thanks to hard work and the help of people like yourself, we had our first harvest last fall. Now we are working toward our second harvest--and it will be much bigger and better. We have planted over three times as many potatoes this year as last year. Corn, wheat, barley and beans have been planted this year, too. We have more equipment, more land, and more experience.

The Cooperativa's first goal was to help provide food. Now we have set out to meet another vital human need: health.

For the last three years, there was no doctor in this area---which extends over 90 miles. But there was an abandoned clinic, and despite many problems the Cooperativa managed to acquire it. We planned to open it as La Clinica del Pueblo de Rio Arriba, the People's Clinic of Rio Arriba.

Before it could be opened, La Clinica was set on fire and half-destroyed. But those who did this made a big mistake. For their action only made the people more determined. In less than a year, we rebuilt the Clinic, found a doctor and a dentist, sent three of our young people to California to be trained as technicians, and were ready to open on a part-time basis.

This is a clinic of the people, administered by and for the people. Its goal is not to make profit from human suffering but to keep people healthy and make our children grow up strong and proud. Everyone who works at La Clinica receives the same subsistence salary, even the doctor. Patients are treated whether or not they can pay in cash--if they wish, they can pay with produce, stock or volunteer work.

The Cooperativa is expanding in other ways, too. This year's projects include a hog farm, to produce ham, bacon, lard, etc. for the people; a machinery shop to fix vehicles and equipment; a grocery store to distribute food at rock-bottom prices; and a program to construct these as well as other buildings with adobes and other local materials. We are also working to set up a mobile medical unit to serve people who cannot come all the way to La Clinica. And we are arranging to have a lawyer and a welfare counselor available to the people free of charge at certain hours. ALL OUR PROJECTS WILL BE SELF-SUPPORTING WITHIN A FEW YEARS.

These projects are an effort to deal with some of the many problems facing our people. As you probably know, the Spanish-speaking of the villages in this area used to do everything cooperatively--farm, build, make equipment. They used to graze their animals and cut their wood in the common lands belonging to the villages. When the Anglos came, people could not do this any longer because most of the land was stolen or taken over by various methods. Today this area is one of poorest in the nation. There isn't enough land to farm and graze, or enough good food to eat, or enough wood to build with.

The Cooperativa's efforts toward solving these problems will succeed because the people are strong and dedicated. But we need your help.

We lost part of our crop last year because we didn't have a bailer to pick up wheat that had been beaten down by an early hail-storm. We badly need granaries in which to store our coming harvest. Our building plans mean more expenses. And La Clinica, which will have a full-time doctor by September 1, still has only half the necessary funds to operate properly.

A year ago, La Cooperativa and La Clinica seemed like dreams...that might or might not come true. Now they are realities. But your contribution can help to guarantee a year of success. Please send as much as you can, today, in the enclosed reply envelope. Checks should be made payable to La Cooperativa and La Clinica. Muchas gracias, and Viva la Cooperativa y la Clinica!



*Mrs. Fernando Martin
Ubaldo V. Martin
Omar Fly
Nelson Lopez
Gigante Aguilar*

THE BOARD OF LA
COOPERATIVA and
LA CLINICA

P.S. in appreciation of your contribution, you will receive a 3-month gift subscription to El Grito del Norte--a newspaper of the movement here, which will keep you informed about our progress and other events.

INFORMATION SHEET ON ART SHOW FOR LA CLINICA DEL PUEBLO..

The Medical Committee for Human Rights is sponsoring a benefit art show of work by New Mexico artists, in San Francisco for La Clinica del Pueblo de Rio Arriba. A small work group of artists and individual citizens here in New Mexico are assisting the Medical Committee by collecting works from artists and craftsmen of the area.

The exhibition will be from December 12th to January 4th at the Millberry Union Building of the University of California Medical Center in San Francisco. (This is a new building with a permanent exhibition area.) The purpose of this show is to raise money for a community owned and operated health clinic. This clinic is the only health facility offering full family health services to a 70 mile area in northern Rio Arriba County. In addition to raising money, however the show itself will also attempt to make an important statement about the land and the people of northern New Mexico.

We will be collecting works on November 15th, and will accept any that are available before that date as soon as possible. Works that are unsold at the close of the exhibition will be returned to the artist, unless it is specified that the donation is a gift for La Clinica to keep for undetermined future use.

Unfortunately, we cannot offer tax exemption for these donations. We had told some artists that they would receive tax receipts, but our legal advisors have now informed us that current laws make no such provisions. (Cash donations to the Medical Committee for use by La Clinica are tax exempt, IRS exemption number #13-2514240.)

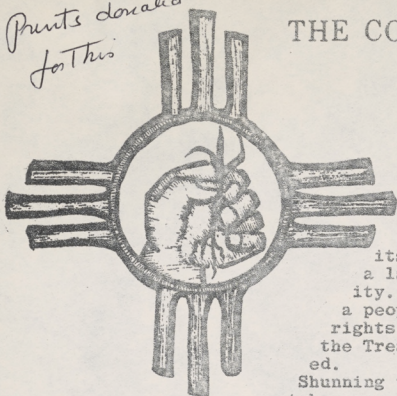
We are trying to assemble the best possible selection of works that are expressive of this region: the land, the people, the culture: good contemporary work, but with a feeling of place-roots. Works by painters, photographers, craftsmen, graphic artists and sculpture will be included. Both the exhibition itself and attendant publicity in the Bay Area should afford participating artists a good exposure there.

It will be a good show for a good cause. Thank you for taking part in it.

LA CLINICA
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Tierra Amarilla, N.M. 87575
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WORK GROUP CONTACT
Rini Templeton
General Delivery
Ranchos de Taos, N.M.

Prints donated
for this



THE CO-OPERATIVE AND CLINIC OF TIERRA AMARILLA

Two summers ago, 16 poor families in the Tierra Amarilla area of northern New Mexico, started planting land communally both as a way of getting food and a way of organizing La Raza to regain its traditional land rights. This is a land where La Raza is in the majority. These families are descended of a people who have fought for their land rights for the last 122 years-ever since the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo was signed.

Shunning those government programs which take away community control, the people pooled what land is left, equipment and seed; they cooked food for volunteers who helped with the cultivating and lent their hand to the harvest. AND IT WORKED. People saw they could work together without fat salaries, professional poverty programmers or politicos, to change the course of their lives.

In the middle of that first summer, the organization, LA COOPERATIVA AGRICOLA DEL PUEBLO DE TIERRA AMARILLA, discovered that the only doctor for a 70 mile radius was giving up his practice. His clinic had been left vacant for two years while he served in Viet Nam. Moving quickly, the Co-op, with the help of the Medical Committee for Human Rights, borrowed the downpayment for the building, and began recruiting staff who would serve in the clinic.

The people's aggressiveness in starting to build their own structures must have scared someone in charge. On the night of September 5th, 1969, the northern end of the building went up in flames. The arsonists miscalculated, however. More community people than ever rallied in support of La Cooperativa and La Clinica. The rest of the summer saw previously uninvolved people volunteering for the necessary 24 hour guard duty.

The community board which runs the Cooperativa and the Clinica is made up of people from Tierra Amarilla and the surrounding villages. They do not see the work of the co-op and clinic in a narrow way. These programs are building the necessary cooperative structures to support the needs of poor families while they are fighting for their land and cultural rights. A hog farm and processing plant; legal aid, family counseling, and a village health program, and a co-op grocery store are now all being discussed by the group. They estimate that \$100,000 is needed this year to build the buildings, train the people, and stock the hog farm and grocery store, in addition to supporting the volunteer staff who work full time at the co-op and clinic.

\$100,000 to this area is like a million dollars given anywhere else. People work for nothing, with just their expenses being taken care of. This is not a projected community program...it is real and has grown in this tiny mountain village on a shoe string. It has slowly built up community support until now there are three local families who work full-time for the coop and clinic.

The culture of nuestra raza is rooted in our land. As with the indians, there has been a steady, violent movement to take our land and wipe out our culture. To support La Cooperativa and its clinic is to insure resistance to this genocide.

"IF you feel that hunger should not exist in this affluent country,
IF you feel that people should not have to live on a dole all their lives,
IF you feel that poor people should organize themselves to change the conditions around
them.....then act NOW!"
from THIS IS OUR WAY: The Cooperativa Agrícola del Pueblo de Tierra Amarilla.

BACKGROUND:

The Cooperativa Agrícola del Pueblo de Tierra Amarilla was first formed in the spring of 1969 by twenty to thirty families who together wanted to do something with their land to stave off the terrible hunger of the area. (Listed by the 1968 CCAP Hunger Report as an Emergency Hunger County.)

As Senora Martinez, one of the members of the co-op has put it: "We have to feed our people, the poor, the chicanos. Our families can't get jobs here and prices are so high in the stores. Many people are hungry. We have to leave here to survive." Nearly 500 acres were promised to the co-op from the individual farmers, as were tractors, farm implements and even food for the volunteers. 150 of those acres were planted last summer, 125 were cleared and over 15 tons of potatoes were harvested. It was an experimental year that produced not only potatoes and a few other crops; but it also produced firm ideas about what such a cooperative agricultural program could do to affect hunger in the area.

What we are attempting to do in Northern Rio Arriba County is to build alternate structures which provide basic services...but which demonstrate how such structures can be run by the people they serve. For the next few years, for example, we intend to experiment agriculturally with ways to provide a basic diet that can cut away at malnutrition. This doesn't mean emergency measures like food drives. When we say that we are creating alternate structures, we mean to institute a food providing structure that will be on-going and self-supportive...not a flash-in-the-pan project that will last only as long as there are people willing to organize food drives.

The present existing 'food-providing' structures have built in the fact that hunger will exist, and malnutrition will flourish unless the consumer has large amounts of cash. The bigger the family the more the need for cash...and poor people on the average have the biggest families of all. The traditional approach to dealing with the problem of poverty in a rural area has been to try and create job-providing projects and/or create PRODUCERS cooperatives so that the small farmer can get a little more cash income each year for his labor. While these attempts might eventually work for a few poor people, they usually only provide a little more cash for a few more people. This does not solve the hunger problem. It does not help most of the hungry children in school to concentrate on their lessons; it does not help most of the pregnant mothers to give birth to healthy babies instead of those with congenital diseases or deformations related to malnutrition.

What the cooperativa agrícola is now experimenting with is an idea to provide 4 or 5 basic staples at cost price or less. This means cooperatively producing beans, potatoes, wheat for flour and eventually lard. Once we can stabilize the production of these staples...once we can affect the buying habits of the majority of the population (to change over from the credit system asking 65 or more cents for a 5-pound bag of flour,) to the co-op's system (cash or food stamps of paying a nickel or less a pound for flour that has not been bleached and that will possibly be enriched by mixing soy flour into it), then we can introduce other nutrients into the diet such as cheese, milk, eggs, etc., at such a low price as to make it feasible for a family to supplement their diets. It is a long, slow process to change a family's traditional buying and dietary habits. What we propose is to work with the existing diet of chile, beans, tortillas, etc., (which is basically nutritious but not adequate) and gradually make it economically feasible to supplement that diet with other required nutrients.

THE CLINIC

As we were half-way through our first summer, the only doctor in the area (for a 70 mile radius) announced he was selling his clinic; a well-built 5 year old building with 12 rooms. The co-op met and decided that ownership of the clinic would fit naturally into our attempts to provide cooperative structures to service the area. Money was borrowed for the down payment and co-op membership started consideration of the first year's program. A proposal was written outlining a budget for a little over \$71,000 to outfit the clinic, salary 10 people (5 of them local) and provide supplies, maintenance, training, etc., for one year. Doctors are now being recruited and 2 young local people have agreed to train for lab and x-ray work. All staff will receive \$3600 yearly as salary. (See attached excerpts from proposal for more in-depth explanation of the clinic.)

While the cooperativa does not view these attempts as THE solution or even one of the solutions to the problems of this area, we feel that such measures will lay the foundation for a people's movement to organize itself to deal with the problems of poverty and discrimination. A people's movement has a hard time existing and sustaining itself when the children are sick and hungry, when the adults get old and tired before their time and when the youth must leave the area to survive. What we propose is to demonstrate that the people working cooperatively can build and run service structures more relevant to their needs than those which now exist.

SOME QUESTIONS WE GET

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?? If the people in the area have land, how come they are poor and hungry?? Most farmers stopped trying to support their families from their land because as the price of living went up, their need for cash grew. Even if they had the basic cash capital to plant a large number of acres in any one crop...the market varies so much, that often a man receives less for his crop than what he layed out to plant it. Many men in the area migrate to other states to find work, or take day labor in the area for the cash needs of their families.

But the land question is not just a matter of economics...and this is very important for the outsider to understand. As the land is lost, the youth leave the area, and old families wither and die; the culture is lost. It is true that one can't eat culture; but we have seen within La Raza that when our people sacrificed everything (sometimes including our culture) to obtain a decent life for their childrena generation of children rise up to lead in the fight against the loss of our culture and values. Bread, while necessary, is not sufficient. The land in Northern New Mexico is key to La Raza's physical and spiritual well-being; thus families refuse to sell their last remaining plots of land (which have been in the family often for over 200 years)....even though this makes them ineligible to receive welfare. It should be understood that the land is not viewed by the people as a "capital investment" or a status symbol....as is traditional heard said in the north: "The land is our mother; without our land we would be orphans."

?? Why don't they raise the food they need for themselves??

Some families do; and if they are members of the co-op, they want to help other families which don't. whether a family does grow food or doesn't, the co-op providing basic staples could cut some of the cost of living down. Some few families have sold their land to receive welfare but are unable to adequately feed their large families on the amount allotted them. Some families don't grow food because the man of the family and his sons and daughters try and get jobs to meet the cash needs of their large families, thus there is not enough family manpower to do the work of farming. Many do not have the equipment and cash for enough seed to make farming worth their while.

??About the Clinic...why can't you get the public health service or the UNM Medical School to run it??

We want to demonstrate that co-operative medicine can more effectively serve our area than private medicine has in the past. If we are to effectively service the health needs of this area, the people will have to organize themselves in each village to upgrade health conditions. We feel that people will be more willing to do this as they become involved in running their own clinic and developing their own preventative medicine programs. We will, of course, be working wherever possible with the public health service and the UNM Medical School as soon as we have had adequate experience in running the clinic and organizing the community around health issues. The Community Medicine Department at UNM has already offered to assist the Clin's trainees in on-going training to help them upgrade their skills and maintain quality in their work.

??O.K., so you don't want people to be dependent on welfare for support...how is that so different from their being dependent on outside money to finance their co-op and clinic?

The Clinic will be self-supportive after its first year of operation. Nearly everyone in the area is eligible for Medicaid and Medicare and we will have little problem in supporting our basic needs after we have become established. As far as the cooperative, this year we will be experimenting with growing a couple hundred acres of blue corn as a money crop. Blue corn always has a good market value since it is not widely grown. Additionally, since the co-op owns the clinic, any cash surplus from the clinic can be reinvested back into the co-op at the end of our fiscal year. We see all outside support money as seed money...money to help us grow towards being self-supportive.

FUND RAISING

We are seeking individual, foundation and church assistance for our financial needs. There have been many questions raised about why we do not seek government money for our programs. We feel we must first organize ourselves into a strong community group which has had the experience in making the policy decisions and basically running our own institutions. Once we have done this, we will be in a position to evaluate available government assistance. Additionally, since the co-op is not a producers co-op, we are not really eligible to receive the government loans available.

We have requested assistance from those foundations, churches and individuals who respect our desires to be independent, who respect our right to make mistakes as we move towards our goals, and who, in essence.....leave us alone.

Foundations and churches, however, are slow in making decisions about supporting any project. They look for the safe, nearly riskless project. Additionally, most foundations and churches know little about La Raza and its struggle. In spite of this we have started getting significant signs of support from foundations towards the more 'riskless' portions of our program. We feel confident that a good portion of the clinic's budget will be funded by foundations and/or churches. The co-op will receive some support from these institutions, but since it is basically an experimental program, we have turned to individuals for the major part of the assistance needed. ARRANGEMENTS CAN BE MADE SO THAT ANY MONIES DONATED TO THE CLINIC OR THE CO-OP WILL BE TAX-DEDUCTABLE.

We are turning to individuals (and organizations) for the following immediate cash needs for our next three months of operation:

a. If we project the clinic to open on a part time basis in late spring, we will have to send the two community people to be trained (for 3 months at Salud Clinic in California) as soon as possible. This means we need \$3000 immediately.

b. If we are to be on time for spring planting we will need seed money (\$2500) no later than April, (includes gasoline and other expenses to disk and plant).

FUND RAISING (Cont'd)

c. If we are to get the equipment in shape for breaking the ground, planting and cultivating, we will need \$3500 as soon as possible for tools and parts and to salary a mechanic.

We are, therefore, making a concerted drive this winter and in early spring to pick up nearly \$10,000 by organizing fund-raising events and contacting interested individuals and organizations in the following key cities: Albuquerque, Los Angeles, San Francisco, Denver (and possibly in Santa Fe, Carmel/Monterrey and Santa Cruz, California).

IN ALBUQUERQUE:

Albuquerque has a support group named Friends of the Cooperativa Agrícola. Throughout the summer this support group was instrumental in keeping our volunteers alive by sending up, almost weekly, food, tents, cots and various other vital supplies. Since harvest the group has started to re-evaluate its support role. FOCA will hold a fund-raising workshop the last weekend in January to explore ways of raising assistance outside of the liberal community of Albuquerque (which has supported the co-op but which is being constantly bled for different benefits). Participants will be individuals who have more or less committed themselves to doing fund-raising in the community-at-large. There are also plans to put together a speakers bureau which will utilize the fund-raising film on the co-op and clinic now being processed.

LOS ANGELES, SAN FRANCISCO AND DENVER

Two excellent artists have made their services available to the co-op. John DePuy and Rini Templeton are assembling oil paintings, sculpture and pen and ink work that makes a striking statement about the tierra in the Southwest. We are presently discussing plans for utilizing the show as follows: (and suggestions welcome)

In any one weekend we would like to reach three possible groups of people:

A. People who support the Chicano movement in general and would come to a cocktail party or Mexican dinner (with checkbooks) to meet and talk with the co-op people. The art show would be up for people to see...and buy...but this group would be hit for straight donations: money, medical supplies, equipment, mechanical supplies, etc.

B. People who have money...are interested in art and also have a bent for supporting good causes and would come to a private art show in a home (or gallery, if available) with the idea of buying art and/or donating to the co-op. Co-op people would be there to talk to interested people individually. The main purpose of this night is to sell the work.

C. Political people who are interested in an evening of discussion (with, perhaps, beer) with New Mexico people. These would be asked to donate money but more importantly would be asked to follow up with support activities after New Mexico people have left. If the art show is in a house, it could be up for this meeting and people would be encouraged to view it and perhaps buy some work.

We are, of course, interested in selling the art work; but to us it is just important that the art show makes a visual statement of the land and can give people from the West Coast an idea of what we are fighting for. In any city, in addition to these activities we would be setting up discussions in the Chicano community for purposes of support and possibly recruiting personnel. We realize this is a heavy schedule for one weekend, but it is the best utilization of the people from New Mexico's time and resources as we cannot afford to commute back and forth.

If you are interested in assisting us in any way, please contact us right away:

The Cooperativa, c/o Box 104, Tierra Amarilla, New Mexico, 87575, (505) 588-2672
Maria Varela, 1307-1/2 Marble St. N.W., Albuquerque, N.M., 87104, (505) 247-2092
or leave a message at (505) 242-4689