cuadernos
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NOMBRANDO LA MUERTE
Dispatches from Taos County, 1918
This cuaderno was developed for the Manitos Community Memory Project.
For manitas and manitos living in New Mexico and Colorado and in the far flung diasporas, death is personified as a female skeleton seated on a wooden cart grasping a bow and arrow. She is known as Doña Sebastiana, named for a third-century Christian saint and martyr, feared I think much more than she is revered. But her 3rd century tócayo (namesake) was actually widely recognized as a protector against pestilence and plague. Whether her name was invoked as a protector or feared for the shadow she cast, in 1918 she arrived in the villages of Taos county during the pandemic popularly known as the Spanish Flu.

This influenza infected 500 million people globally and killed an estimated 20-50 million people. While it lasted two years, the “second wave” that occurred during the fall and winter of 1918 accounted for the cruelest months of the virus.

The late Arsenio Córdova of El Prado used to say, “In our culture, we die three times. The first when we breathe our last breath, the second when we are buried and the third and most tragic, when we are forgotten.” I thought of Arcenio and of his wisdom recently when Professor David García shared his findings of the coverage of the global influenza pandemic of 1918 from the weekly newspaper from Taos, La Revista de Taos.

Each week, through the months of November and December of 1918, the editor of La Revista de Taos recorded the names of those who had died in villages throughout Taos County. José Montaner, the editor of the paper, was active in helping inform the community about both the local and global situation, perhaps due in some part to the fact that his co-editor, 31-year old José Eulogio Valdez, had in November also died of the influenza.

The lists of names appeared weekly alongside numerous articles about the impact of the virus upon health, education and politics. Names were identified, often aligned to particular villages. Names were identified by date, as they were published by the paper, and sometimes by village.
“Lista de Muertos/List of the Deceased”
(November 13, 1918)

The following is a list of those who have died of influenza in the last two weeks. This is not an account of everyone, but these are the names taken of the persons who have died effective Saturday, November 2nd. Another list that contains the names of 64 deaths from Talpa and Ranchos we will publish in the next installment.

Rebeca V. Trujillo, Taos
Liberato Mondragón, Ranchos
Carlota Mondragón, Ranchos
Bonifacia M. Martínez, Ranchito
Rafaela Espinosa, Ranchito
Higinio Martínez and Son, Placita
Rosario García, Placita
Maximiliano Rodríguez and son
Nicomedes Trujillo, Ranchito
Carmilo Morgas, Ranchito
Son of Juan Vigil, Talpa
Mrs. Virginia Quintanta, Ranchito
Mrs. Hilario Martínez, Cañón
Fedelina M. Trujillo, Ranchos
Benita M. de Vigil, Cañón
Marcelina Cisneros, Cañón
Esmeralda Harmon, Taos
Alfredo Mares, Ranchito
Daughter of Rudolfo Anglada, Cañón

Jacobo Trujillo, Ranchos
Andrés Gonzales, Ranchos
Francisco Valdez, Taos
Eliza Quintana and son, Ranchito
Agustina Vigil, Cañón
Juanita Trujillo, Cañón
Josefina T. Trujillo, Cordillera
Celina Córdova, Córdovas
Ramón Córdova, Córdovas
Lugarda Sandoval, Ranchito
Celina Salas, Ranchito
Pablo Quintana, Taos
Antonio Aban Trujillo, Ranchos
Daughter of Gabriel Chávez, Ranchos
Rhode Matthews, Taos
Faustin Trujillo, Ranchito
Bersabé Medina A., Hondo
Mrs. Paul Wiese, Taos
Ricardo Mondragón, Cañón

Ezequiel Romo, Talpa
José de la Cruz Vásquez, Taos
Emilio Vásquez, Taos
José Eulogio Valdez, Taos
Juanita Tenorio, Taos
Pablo Gallegos, Taos
Cruz Hernández, Taos
Rafael Romo, Talpa
Juan Tranquilino Trujillo, Taos
Carmel Martínez, Taos
Andreita Luján, El Prado
Concepción Martínez, Ranchito
Alfonso Trujillo, Ranchos
Candelaria López Le-Doux, Taos
Juana Aragón, Cañón
Corina Fresquez, Ranchos
F.E. Quintero and 2 sons
Eugenio Rael, Arroyo Hondo
Julian Rael, Arroyo Hondo
“Los Que Han Muerto De Influenza En Esta Mes/ Those Who have died of the Spanish Flu in this Month” (November 22, 1918)

This list is not complete, it lacks various names whom we have not been able to acquire. This list covers the Town of Taos, Ranchitos, Cañon, Talpa, Ranchos, Cordillera and one or another name of the deceased in Arroyo Hondo.

The list published above on November 13th is repeated, with the following additions.

List of people who have died in Cañón, LeDoux and Taos

Rafael Cruz
Teodorita Barela de Cruz
Mrs. Loreta M. Montaño
Mrs. Rosarito Salazar, Cañón
Mrs. Rosario M. de Le-Doux
Mrs. Trinidad Sandoval
Mrs. Perfecta Moreno
Rosenda Martínez

List of people who have died in Ranchos and Talpa

Alvino Carabajal
Jacobo Trujillo
Francisco Trujillo
Andres Gonzales
Son of Carlos García
Severiano Romero
Liberio Mondragón
Elidorio Valerio
Agapito Valerio
Enselmo Valerio
Ecequias Herrera
David Trujillo
Bernardo Gutierrez
Tomas Romero
Timoteo Maestas
Abran Tafoya
Carlos Romo
Ramón Casias
Onofres Maestas
Filimón Trujillo
José Tafoya
Juan Valdez
Rafael Romo
Jacobo Vigil
Alfonso Trujillo
Bersabel Cortes
Fidelina Trujillo
Margarita Trujillo
Josefina Trujillo and son
Locarita Gonzales

Elaisa Tafoya
Agustina Jaramillo
Ramonsita Apodaca
Feliciana Espinosa
Cecilia Vasquez
Carlota Mondragón
Mariana Sanchez
Anita Martinez
Julianita Vigil
Eustaquia Mondragón
Eligia Archuleta
Beatriz Archuleta
Juanita Mondragón
Emiliana Mondragón
Epimenia Maestas
Hipolita Griego
Rita Tafoya
Maria Marcia Tafoya
Simodosea Tafoya
Ezequielia Romo
Agustina Medina
Nieves Trujillo
Aurelia Maestas
Presiliana Maestas and son
Adelina Medina
Elviriia Vigil
Manuelita A. Maestas
Maria Luz Vigil
Eleonor Romero
Ernestina Tafoya
“In our culture, we die three times. The first when we breathe our last breath, the second when we are buried and the third and most tragic, when we are forgotten.”

-Arsenio Cordova

During painful quarantine in Questa and Cerro the following people have died. This list was reported by Mr. M.S. Trujillo to the quarantine official of the county.

A daughter of
Fermin Martinez
Sofia Vigil
Sara De Segura and son
Gabriel Sierra
3 children of Antonio Segura
1 child of G. Garcia
Cirila Montoya
Luisita Kare
2 children of Pablo Martinez
La isa Blella and male child
1 boy of Malaquias Gallegos
2 children of
Ricardo Archuleta
1 child of Medard Laforet
A daughter of
Timoteo Atencio
1 child of Benito Segura
1 child of J.D. Martinez
Another child of C. Archuleta
Another child of M. Vargas
Gaspar Vigil

A child of J. Segura
Celina Jaramillo
Felipe Silva
Emergilda Silva
Gusmonita de Boyson
Irene de Gonzales
Filomena de Duran
L. B. Ortiz
Jesus Herrera
2 children of
Malaquias Romero
A child of J.E. Vigil
A child of Juan Vigil
A child of J.E. Martinez
Another of Epifanio Garcia
A daughter of F. Montoya
Ricardo Gonzales
A child of Samuel Young
2 children of Celstino
Montoya and wife
3 children of Candido
Martinez and wife and boy
Those who have succumbed to the malignant Influenza in areas of Taos county. The following list was provided by Mr. Alfredo Trujillo, district teacher in Río Lucio. This list exceeds 120 deaths which have occurred recently during the month of November.

**Llano de San Juan**
- Reginalda V. Benavides
- Camila Tafoya
- Saturnino Tafoya
- Lucrecia Tafoya
- Tía Sara Muñiz
- Teresina G. Maestas
- Melisandro Tafoya
- Juanita Cruz
- Desiderio Sena
- Guadalupe C. Martinez
- Gumecinda C. Martinez
- Ruben Martinez
- Naborcita O. de Martinez
- Maximiano Vigil
- Benjamin Vigil
- Elvira V. Mondragón
- Pedro Mondragón
- Amelia Mondragón
- A daughter of Ramon Muñiz

**Chamisal**
- A son of Antonia Romero
- Julianita G. Valencia
- A son of Ramon Trujillo
- Maria M. Gonzales
- Encarnación Medina
- Leopoldo Trujillo
- Rosabel G. Padia
- Manuel Griego
- Cirila M. Fresquez
- Abedenago Gonzales
- Carlota Lobato
- Antonia Sena
- Escolastica E. Benavides
- 2 children of Gracia Lucero
- Benigna Abeyta
- Abigail R. Dominguez
- Juan Rafael Marrujo
- Cirila Martinez
- Daughter of Victor Esquivel
- Raquel S. Martinez

**Picuris**
- A daughter of Victor Esquivel

**Valle**
- Juan Andres Cruz
- Victor Montoya
- Gabriel Lucero
- Son of Toribio Montoya
- Lucia Romero

**Picuris**
- Juan Cimbolo
- Jose de la Cruz Lopez
- Albina Vermejo
- Antonio Duran
- Lupe Tafoya

**Llano Largo and Santa Barbara**
- José de Garcia de Lobato
- Eliseo Martinez
- Mrs. Matt Nord
- Son of David Martinez
- Son of Juan Medina (sic)
- Luis Miera
- Manuelita Medina
- Daughter of Rosenda Rodarte
- Daughter of Bernabé Duran
- Daughter of Cristobal Espinosa
- Daughter of Aniseto Medina
- Two daughters of Magdalena Lopez
- Daughter of Victoriano Chacon
- Manuelita M. Sanches
- Candido Fresquez
- Maximiliano Montoya
- Sinforosa V. Maestas
- Daughter of Victor Esquivel

In the same edition, the deaths of eight other residents of the county are listed with fuller obituaries:
- Antonio D. Pacheco, Arroyo Seco
- Elaiza Gomez de Blea, Cerro
- Onesimo Herrera, Arroyo Hondo
- Felix Santisteban, Arroyo Hondo
The Manitos Cuaderno Series began in the summer of 2020 to tell stories about sickness and wellness from the Spanish Flu of 1918 to the COVID-19 pandemic of 2020. The word cuaderno comes from the Latin quaternus and means a set of folded sheets of paper that form a book, a notebook. Historically, leatherbound cuadernos have been used to record celestial movements of the sun, moon and the stars as well as the accountings upon the ground, the movement of livestock, of waters and of the harvest. Clerics and Hermanos scripted upon the pages of these notebooks the prayers, dreams and mysteries, both joyful and sorrowful. Mothers, fathers, sons and, daughters recorded marriages, births and, in between the lines of these books, captured those poigent moments when people closed their eyes forever. The recollections made with ink and paper are as old as time and span across global geographies; they are the stories of community. As they have done globally, these cuadernos have recorded the experiences and histories of Manitos living in villages throughout northern New Mexico and southern Colorado and places to where they migrated. Collectively, these recordings represent a part of an archive, a community’s repository that reflects upon the past, but as a living community, its present and future as well.
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