

TIDBITS ABOUT FIESTA

- In the middle 60s members of the posse would spend days with liquid black and white shoe polish getting the breast plates and leather chaps (leg coverings) looking bright black and white for the parade.
- The first golf tournaments were held at both golf courses, Elephant Butte and Truth or Consequences. Whatever course you played Saturday, you would play the other on Sunday. The combined score would determine winner.
- 4x4 and dune buggy races were first held east of T or C on the mud hills east of town on Third. Then were moved to the mountains on the other side of the Rio Grande.
- Fishing derbies are always fun. There is a story told that one grandpa was lucky enough to help three generations,.



- The Miss Fiesta contests are great to go to. Many of the young women still live in T or C area. You probably see them several times a year. And you don't even know it. So keep a look out.



Fiesta's continue to be held the first weekend of May each year



BOOK 2



Short stories of growing up in Truth or Consequences, New Mexico USA focusing on the name change

By Susan Brandt



mustache and beard
competition, bonnet contest,
car shows, fishing derbies,
bronc riding, food, crafts,
music, historical plays, dances,
barrel racing, rodeos,

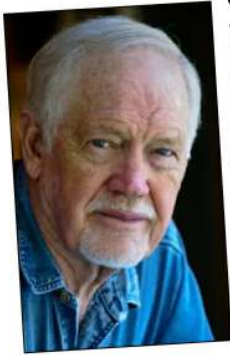
skateboarding,
and basketball.
Every kind of contest
you could image.



Yes, people were
rolling beds down the Broadway.

The list of helpers is endless some of the names that fill the pages of history are: Joe and Edith Pankey, Freddie Torres, the ladies of the Pilot Club, Hersel and Ilene Welty, the Junior Woman's Club, Jack Scott, Carols Hardy, Victor Sullivan, Frank Sullivan, Chris Trujillo, Mike Kirikos, the Sheriff Posse, Neil Baird, Paul and Maureen Tooley, (Sr), Mo Koenick, Sherry Farr, Destiney Mitchel, Buddy Montoya, Bella Garcia, Frances Luna, Paul Tooley, Susan Currey, Charlie and Billy Oldfield, Leroy Bierner, Punk Potter and all the city employees that helped out put up barricades, ambulance crews and police officers. This is a scratch in the names that made it possible for each year's Fiesta to take place.

If you are excited about the faces of past Fiesta, the Geronimo Springs Museum, has a wing packed full of information.



One year, actor Ronnie Cox (Apple's Way, mid-70's) was a featured artist. One of dad's uptown friends, said he was looking for his old friend Leroy Faulkner when he arrived at the party. Cox and Faulkner had been buddy's on the ranch, near Kingston, in their teens. Cox made it know he was upset Mr. Faulkner wasn't there, I am told. Mr. Faulkner was tracked down and made his way to the party and the two were seen swapping tales the rest of the evening. (Cox grew up in the

Silver City area.)

The Fiesta got lots of notary over the years. During the 25th anniversary, Jim Bean made an empty decanters for collectors. My grandpa had almost all of the Jim Bean collection so I got to see these up close. Kinda cool. I think he paid \$30 in 1975.

Now they are only \$19 according to Google.



Everyone has their favorite part of Fiesta every year

Residents and visitors over the year have fallen in love the annual Fiestas, whether it be the longest and shortest of parades, tricycle parades, bands, posses, the junk boat contests, the dune buggy races, the 4x4 mud mountain races, the duck races, Miss Fiesta, Mr. Fiesta, golf tournaments, art contest, fiddler's contests,

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These people and their willingness to believe in magic still exists in the world, have contributed in some way in making this books and other books on our website possible.

Elroy Germishuys

WEST CAPE SOUTH AFRICA

Susan Brandt

TEXAS UNITED STATES

Ruth Shannon

NEW MEXICO UNITED STATES

Carol Anton

NEW MEXICO UNITED STATES

Harry Verburg

NEW MEXICO UNITED STATES

Saloman Kpai

COR D'IVORE WEST AFRICA

FREEPIK.COM

The "real" Ruth is an absolutely wonderful retired elementary school teacher. She is not party to these stories other than she was talked into using her caring personality to tie the stories together.

The world needs a lot more "Ruths" in it.

Her list of good qualities is longer than most people's arms - won't even try to list them. If you have ever been lucky in meeting her, you will go away a happier, better person.

Thank you, Ruth, for saying yes. I'm glad we're been friends all these years.

- Susan Brandt

Another Adoquin Roca book. Published in April 2024

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member recalls coming around a corner and almost bumping right into her as she stepped back into the parade while shaking hands with parade watchers.

A local businessman, Jim Anton, remembers how he got to ride in the plane when the Edwards made the first trip to Truth or Consequences. Anton's dad was the pilot so he got to go along. Mrs. Edwards pulled him close and put the blanket she had over both their legs as the plane flew all over Truth or Consequences and Elephant Butte.



Mr. Edwards would also bring his own gag crew and announcers from Hollywood for the Saturday night "Stage Show". This would give the traditional TV/radio environment.

Speaking of a gag - the bra gag. It was always good for laughs. Mr. Edward's audience person would go about interviewing the audience. All of sudden, one random member would be into a deep conversation... the announcer would appear as if he had been grabbed. When he got away he had this huge bra he was waiving in the air. Everyone laughed.

Entertainers of all kinds came to the Fiestas. The list is endless. Every opening Friday night, the community would welcome Mr. Edwards and his party, Miss Fiesta and people from the community. Old friends would connect back and exchanges stories.



*The Truth or Consequences **Show** was produced by Ralph Edwards Productions. Other huge hits for Ralph Edwards Productions were "This is Your Life" and "People's Court" (which was on for over 40 years). Not so well known are "About Faces," "Knockout," "Place the Face," "It Could Be You," "the Cross-Wits," and "Name That Tune" (1970s version).



*When I told my dad and this friends about the "**unanimous vote**" they all broke out laughing. One of them said it was a, lmost an annual affair for a while voting about the name change. There are still rumbles about it. It's the only town by that name in the country. And I have met people from the eastern hemisphere who came here just because of the town's name on it and wanted to see if it really existed.

*There were a lot of people that came with Ralph Edwards over the years so the TV show could be right there in the old gym. The auditorium was eventually named after Mr. Edwards. One of them was Bob Parker (also known as the face of The Price is Right). When Mr. Barker left Ralph Edwards Produc-



tions, he was replaced by Bob Hilton with his wonderful smile for the remaining years for the Ralph Edward's Fiesta.

There was Mr. Edward's lovely wife, Barbara, who enjoyed the event as well.



There is the story of how she got out of the parade vehicle and was shaking the hands of people along the parade route. One former sheriff's posse



My name is Ruth. Since my first collection of stories was such a hit, I thought I'd share with you the history of "Truth or Consequences" and how it got it's name. Everyone is always asking me what it is when they come to town.

Remember, these are a collection of the stories I heard growing up, mostly while I was hanging out with my dad when we'd come to town. As I said in the last book, I lived on a farm outside of town. So I was stuck, absorbing all the tales they told at a coffee shop.

First, let's take a look at what you find in the books. When you see (*) there is a related story.

In the text books, about the history and name change

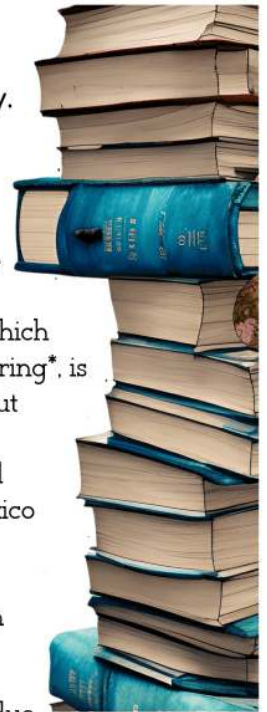


We are located in Sierra County, New Mexico in the southern part of the United States. The town, which was once known as Hot Spring*, is

now a small resort town with a population of about 6,000 people. "Truth or Consequences" is located about 120 miles north of El Paso, Texas USA and about 150 miles south of Albuquerque, New Mexico USA.

We are consistently featured in lists of places with unusual names.

The name change to "Truth or Consequences" is due to a 1950s radio show. * They tell me I'm suppose to have something educational in these books so .. let's do a little history lesson. History was always one of my favorite classes.



A little history

In the late 1800s, the first pool of water constructed over the free-flowing Geronimo Spring.* However, there were no major settlements until the Elephant Butte Dam and Reservoir was constructed and completed in 1916. This project was included in the Rio Grande project, an extensive irrigation project under the 1902 Reclamation Act. (The farmers up and down the valley funded the local project.)



The area soon became busy, and the town was named Hot Spring in 1916 because of the natural flowing hot springs in the area. In 1937, Hot Spring became the seat of Sierra County.*



Name Change

The change of name from Hot Spring to Truth or Consequences is credited to Ralph Edwards who hosted a radio quiz program on NBC Radio named "Truth or Consequences." March 1950, Mr. Edwards promised to air his show from any town that would change its name to match the name of the

program.* Several towns sent in applications, but Hot Springs, New Mexico that was selected. The town held a vote and unanimously agreed to the name change.* The name was effectively changed on March 31, 1950, and the show was aired from here the next evening on April 1, 1950. Every year for the next 50 years, Ralph

Edwards and his crew* visited the city for "Fiesta".



Got it?

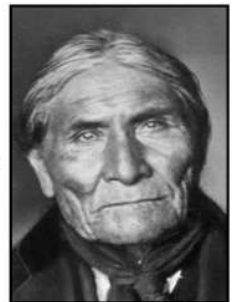


Okay, let's move on....



* For a very short time (the guys can't agree on the months), both **Truth or Consequences** and Williamsburg were named Hot Springs. This created an uproar. Especially since many of the residents of Williamsburg had relocated in the neighboring community in protest of the Truth or Consequences name. The village came to be in 1950, when three residential communities southwest of and adjacent to the larger Hot Springs (now Truth or Consequences) voted to incorporate as a village and take the name of the first mayor, Dr. Thomas B. Williams. Doc was also a long standing physician in the area also.

***Geronimo**, was a Native American Indians that lived in the area. He was a member of the Chiricahua Apaches. After many battles the warriors would come to the hot springs and soak in the hot waters which they believed lead to a rapid recoveries.



*The **county seat** for years was in the nearby, southwest mountain community of Hillsboro. In listening to dad's friends talk, story goes the county seat got changed when a handful of "good ole boys" rode up to the Hillsboro courthouse. Once inside, gave a stick of dynamite "the ole one, two, three and four heave". This opened up the safe, they grabbed the county records and dead headed to "Hot Springs" on horseback. The good ole boys stood guard until the county seat was right and proper in Hot Springs.

