

cuadernos

Winter 2021

Vol. I, Issue 1



NOMBRANDO

LA MUERTE

Dispatches from Taos County, 1918

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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 *tocayo* (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.

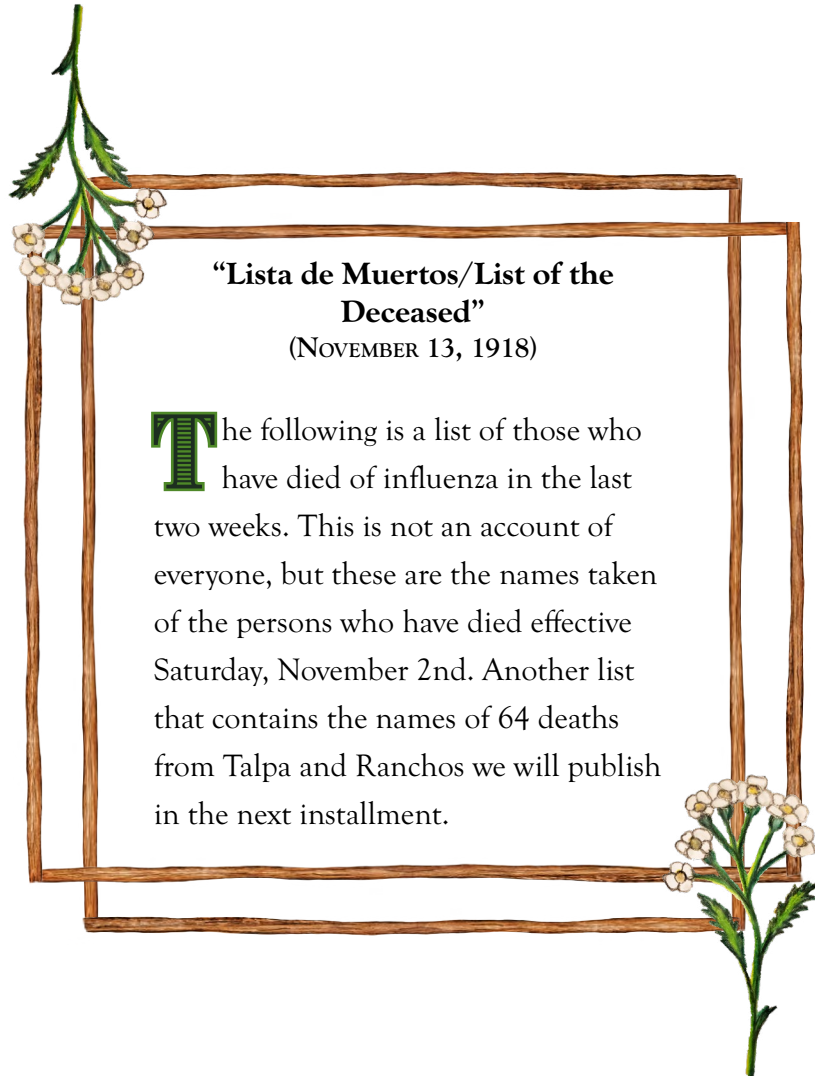
This influenza infected 500 million people globally and killed an estimated 20-50 million people. While it lasted two years, the “second wave” that occurred during the fall and winter of 1918 accounted for the cruelest months of the virus.

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	Jacobo Trujillo, RANCHOS	Ezequiela Romo, TALPA
Liberato Mondragón, RANCHOS	Andrés Gonzales, RANCHOS	José de la Cruz Vásquez, TAOS
Carlota Mondragón, RANCHOS	Francisco Valdez, TAOS	Emilio Vásquez, TAOS
Bonifacia M. Martínez, RANCHITO	Eliza Quintana and son, RANCHITO	José Eulogio Valdez, TAOS
Rafaela Espinosa, RANCHITO	Agustina Vigil, CAÑÓN	Juanita Tenorio, TAOS
Higinio Martínez and Son, PLACITA	Juanita Trujillo, CAÑÓN	Pablo Gallegos, TAOS
Rosario García, PLACITA	Josefina T. Trujillo, CORDILLERA	Cruz Hernández, TAOS
Maximiliano Rodríguez and son	Celina Córdova, CÓRDOVAS	Rafael Romo, TALPA
Nicomedes Trujillo, RANCHITO	Ramón Córdova, CÓRDOVAS	Juan Tranquilino Trujillo, TAOS
Carmilo Morgas, RANCHITO	Lugarda Sandoval, RANCHITO	Carmel Martínez, TAOS
Son of Juan Vigil, TALPA	Celina Salas, RANCHITO	Andreita Luján, EL PRADO
Mrs. Virginia Quintana, RANCHITO	Pablo Quintana, TAOS	Concepción Martínez, RANCHITO
Mrs. Hilario Martínez, CAÑÓN	Antonio Aban Trujillo, RANCHOS	Alfonso Trujillo, RANCHOS
Fedelina M. Trujillo, RANCHOS	Daughter of Gabriel Chávez, RANCHOS	Candelaria López Le-Doux, TAOS
Benita M. de Vigil, CAÑÓN	Rhode Matthews, TAOS	Juana Aragón, CAÑÓN
Marcelina Cisneros, CAÑÓN	Faustin Trujillo, RANCHITO	Corina Fresquez, RANCHOS
Esmeralda Harmon, TAOS	Bersabé Medina A., HONDO	F.E. Quintero and 2 sons
Alfredo Mares, RANCHITO	Mrs. Paul Wiese, TAOS	Eugenio Rael, ARROYO HONDO
Daughter of Rudolfó Anglada, CAÑÓN	Ricardo Mondragón, CAÑÓN	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. Montaña
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	Elaisa Tafoya
Jacobo Trujillo	Agustina Jaramillo
Francisco Trujillo	Ramonsita Apodaca
Andres Gonzales	Feliciano Espinosa
Son of Carlos Garcia	Cicilia Vasquez
Severiano Romero	Carlota Mondragón
Liberio Mondragón	Mariana Sanchez
Elidorio Valerio	Anita Martínez
Agapito Valerio	Julianita Vigil
Enselmo Valerio	Eustaquia Mondragón
Ecequias Herrera	Eligia Archuleta
David Trujillo	Beatriz Archuleta
Bernardo Gutierrez	Juanita Mondragón
Tomas Romero	Emiliana Mondragón
Timoteo Maestas	Epimonia Maestas
Abran Tafoya	Hipolita Griego
Carlos Romo	Rita Tafoya
Ramón Casías	Maria Marcia Tafoya
Onofres Maestas	Simodosea Tafoya
Filimón Trujillo	Ezequiela Romo
José Tafoya	Agustina Medina
Juan Valdez	Nieves Trujillo
Rafael Romo	Aurelia Maestas
Jacobo Vigil	Presiliana Maestas and son
Alfonso Trujillo	Adelina Medina
Bersabel Cortes	Elviria Vigil
Fidelina Trujillo	Manuelita A. Maestas
Margarita Trujillo	Maria Luz Vigil
Josefina Trujillo and son	Eleonor Romero
Locarita Gonzales	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



**“Lista De Muertos En Questa y Cerro/
List of the Deceased in Questa and Cerro”**
(NOVEMBER 29, 1918)

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 | A child of J. Segura |
| Donaciano Martinez | Celina Jaramillo |
| Sofia Vigil | Felipe Silva |
| Sara De Segura and son | Emergilda Silva |
| Gabriel Sierra | Gusmonita de Boyson |
| 3 children of Antonio Segura | Irene de Gonzales |
| 1 child of G. Garcia | Filomena de Duran |
| Cirila Montoya | L. B. Ortiz |
| Luisita Kare | Jesús Herrera |
| 2 children of Pablo Martinez | 2 children of |
| Laisa Blella and male child | Malaquias Romero |
| 1 boy of Malaquias Gallegos | A child of J.E. Vigil |
| 2 children of | A child of Juan Vigil |
| Ricardo Archuleta | A child of J.E. Martinez |
| 1 child of Medard Laforet | Another of Epifanio Garcia |
| A daughter of | A daughter of F. Montoya |
| Timoteo Atencio | Ricardo Gonzales |
| 1 child of Benito Segura | A child of Samuel Young |
| 1 child of J.D. Martinez | 2 children of Celstino |
| Another child of C. Archuleta | Montoya and wife |
| Another child of M. Vargas | 3 children of Candido |
| Gaspar Vigil | Martinez and wife and boy |

“Lista De Muertos/List of Deaths”
(DECEMBER 13, 1918)

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	A son of Antonia Romero
Camila Tafoya	Julianita G. Valencia
Saturnino Tafoya	A son of Ramon Trujillo
Lucrecia Tafoya	Maria M. Gonzales
Tia Sara Muñiz	Encarnación Medina
Teresina G. Maestas	Leopoldo Trujillo
Melisandro Tafoya	Rosabel G. Padia
Juanita Cruz	Manuel Griego
Desiderio Sena	Cirila M. Fresquez
Guadalupe C. Martinez	Abedenago Gonzales
Gumecinda C. Martinez	Carlota Lobato
Ruben Martinez	Antonia Sena
Naborcita O. de Martinez	Escolastica E. Benavides
Maximiano Vigil	2 children of Gracia Lucero
Benjamin Vigil	Benigna Abeyta
Elvira V. Mondragón	Abigail R. Dominguez
and daughter	Juan Rafael Marrujo
Pedro Mondragón	Cirila Martinez
Amelia Mondragón	Daughter of Victor Esquivel
A daughter of Ramon Muñiz	Raquel S. Martinez

Peñasco

Rosendo Sanchez and son
Rebeca S. de Sanchez
Emiliano Sandoval
Demetrio Ortega
Emilia T. Gurule
Lugarda P. Cordova

Trampas

Eligio Leyba
Pedro Romero
Simon Lopez
Manuelita Pacheco
Zenaida M. Leyba
Antonia M. Vigil
Julianita Pacheco

Picuris

Juan Cimbolo
José de la Cruz Lopez
Albina Vermejo
Antonia Duran
Lupe Tafoya

Valle

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

Picuris

Juan Cimbolo
José de la Cruz Lopez
Albina Vermejo
Antonia Duran
Lupe Tafoya

Chamisal

Cleotilde Argüello
Carlota Lopez
Aurora Casado
Patrocinia Lopez
Benerito Vasquez
Porfiria Lopez
Elfido Argüello
Gumersinda Abeyta
Emilia Pacheco
Elvira Lopez
Emiliana Martinez
and daughter
Dionicia Archuleta
and daughter
Rosalia Mondragon
Primogenita Lopez
Oralia Abeyta
Plasida Abeyta
Rosana Lobato
Trinidad Cordova
Pablita Domingues
Amada Lucero
Praxedes Ortega
Agustin Lopez

Rio Pueblo

Bonifacio Lujan
David Vigil
Filadelfo Borrego
Maximiliano Fernandez
Fidelina Vigil
Nicolas Barela
Juan Bisarraga
Guadalupe Cisneros
Malaquias Martinez
A daughter of
Desiderio Martinez
Lupita Lujan

**Llano Largo
and Santa Barbara**

José de Garcia de Lobato
Eliseo Martinez
Mrs. Matt Nord
Son of David Martinez
Son of Juan Nedina (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 Santistevan, 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 poignant 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.

Publication Date: January 2021

The *Manitos Cuadernos Series* is made possible thanks to a National Endowment for the Humanities grant to the Manitos Community Memory Project, a collaborative initiative of the Department of Media Arts and Technology at New Mexico Highlands University, Las Vegas, New Mexico; the New Mexico Humanities Council; and the Cultural Technology partnership with the New Mexico Department of Cultural Affairs.

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