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# Lozen: Female Indian Warrior

By Kelly W. Cauffman

Born early circa 1840-1890 into the Chihenne Chiricahua Apache, Lozen – sister of Chief Victorio and granddaughter of Chihenne Chief Cuchillo Negro – was to become one of the most infamous of Apache strategists during the Indian Wars. As a child, Lozen was shunned by the other girls of the Warm Springs tribe. Her athletic abilities made her a runner, wrestler and hunter with all the athletic prowess of any of the young men in the tribe.

One warm afternoon, Lozen and the other young girls of the tribe were swimming and having fun in the warm pool. “She was a proficient swimmer because she practiced her breathing and heartbeat exercises at every available moment,” Tom Diamond writes in his book, “Apache Tears.” “She swam to the opposite bank and noticed the water between her legs was reddening. She thought, ‘I have cut myself on a rock.’” Feeling no wound, she realized that she had reached womanhood and the bleeding cycle had begun.

This change in a young woman set off an entire string of tribal events that helped a young woman move from childhood to womanhood. The primary tradition is for the young woman to spend four days in the wilderness, alone. It

was necessary that this be done with a pure and clear mind. Lozen was ready and excited for this great event, but was worried that she would not live up to the great expectations that members of her family had put on her to become a woman and take a warrior and raise a family.

The journey to the sacred tribal area was long, and Lozen’s father, mother and brother would accompany her to ensure her safety. Riding on a beautiful mule for which her father had traded many pieces of turquoise, Lozen was dressed in a smock made of deerskin with a fringe around it, which went down to her knees. She wore a new pair of moccasins, which came halfway up her thighs. On the ride to the sacred mountain, her mother practiced the chants she must use to honor Ussen.

The Apache believed in three spirits, Moon, Sky and Earth. These three spirits were led by

Ussen, the life-giver, the most powerful spirit.

“Her mother also schooled her on the way to construct the altar fire, and explained that Ussen would come to her as she looked deeply and reverently into the hot coals while chanting the invocation that would open the doors to womanhood,” Diamond writes.

Beginning this reverent tradition, Lozen was left alone in a cave for four days without food, to fast and pray before participating in the ceremony of womanhood. “These four days and nights were a period of intense religious introspection for Lozen,” explains Diamond. The visions that were conjured up during the ceremony were similar to those experienced by the great Chief Mahko (previous great Chief of all the Apache tribes and medicine man). Indian lore goes that Mahko experienced a splitting of himself during the



**LOZEN (c. 1840-1890)**

Chiricahua warrior, medicine woman, prophet, sister of Victorio

Continued on Next Page

## Geronimo Springs Museum

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transitional ceremony from childhood to manhood.

This splitting of self traditionally allowed Mahko to be in one place and his mind to be in other places, a power that allows the gifted to see into the future. This power Lozen had seemingly inherited from Ussen and her ancestor, Chief Mahko, would prove to be a valuable asset to the strategy of the Apache to hold off the "white-eyes."

In the 1870s, Victorio and his tribe were moved to the San Carlos Reservation in Arizona. He and his followers left the reservation around 1877, and began marauding and raiding. Lozen fought beside Victorio when he and his followers rampaged against Americans who had appropriated their homeland around western New Mexico's Black Mountain. One tale is told how Lozen took a small band of women, children and old men across the torrent conditions of the mighty Rio Grande. One witness, James Kaywaykla, recalls seeing Lozen raise her rifle to the sky and kick her horse in the upper shoulder and they swam across the Rio Grande to safety. The story goes on to reveal that after Lozen had secured her band of Apache to safety, she turned her horse, ran directly into the torrents of the Rio Grande, and went back to Chief Victorio and the other warrior Apache to continue fighting with the men.

Lozen fought many a battle during her lifetime. Many of these battles were fought side-by-side her mentor, Chief Nana. From her time as his apprentice to the last battles of the Sierra Madre (in northwestern Chihuahua), Lozen fought beside Nana and his handful of warriors in his two-month long bloody campaign of vengeance across southwestern New Mexico in 1881. Just before the fighting began, Nana said of Lozen, "Though she is a woman, there is no warrior

more worthy than the sister of Victorio."

Lozen also fought beside Geronimo after his breakout from the San Carlos Reservation in 1885, in the last campaign of the Apache Wars. With the band pursued relentlessly, she used her power to locate their enemies – the U.S. and Mexican cavalries. According to Alexander B. Adams in his book "Geronimo," "She would stand with her arms outstretched, chant a prayer to Ussen, the Apaches' supreme deity, and slowly turn around." Lozen's prayer is translated in Eve Ball's book, "In The Days Of Victorio:" "Upon this earth, On which we live, Ussen has Power, This Power is mine, For locating the enemy. I search for that Enemy, Which only Ussen the Great, Can show to me."

It is told that Lozen spent her final years trying to negotiate a treaty between the "white-eyes" and the Apache leaders to keep them out of the confines of Alcatraz prison. The American leaders dismissed the treaty and sent much of the Apache tribe to reservations in Florida, while separating many of the leaders by spreading them to reservations around the country.

Some time after 1887, Lozen – like many of the Native Americans held in reservations – succumbed to death by tuberculosis in the confines as a prisoner of war in Mount Vernon Barracks in Alabama. Regardless, the treat-

ment placed on her by the American leaders, Lozen and her life was noted as a validation of the respected place that women held among the Apaches.

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# Hobo-Style Hitchhiking

By Kelly W. Cauffman

Seldom is it appropriate for a reporter to write in first person in order to tell a story, but this story is different – this story is about a personal experience recently encountered by this reporter.

The story starts from a return trip from Las Cruces. As I always do, I stopped in Doña Ana for gas on my return trip home. And as is common, there was a hitchhiker standing at the on-ramp. This hiker had a small dog. Now I am not sure what got into me, I have not picked up a hitchhiker since all the mass murders of the 1980s. Be it from fatigue of the day or just the holiday spirit, I pulled over and spoke to the hitchhiker for a few moments. Getting no butterflies in my

stomach, I decided all was safe and offered the hitchhiker and his four-legged companion a ride as far as Truth or Consequences.

Now I know, Truth or Consequences has more than its share of hitchhikers and panhandlers, however, I figured “what the heck is one more?” As our journey continued north on Interstate 25, the young man spoke of adventures, crisscrossing the Pacific Northwest and Southwest of the United States. It made me feel nostalgic for the days after college when I wished I had had the nerve to hitchhike across the country and see the beautiful United States in that fashion. Years later I bought a camper and have been seeing the country that way, not exactly the same, but more age appropriate than hitchhiking.

Enjoying our conversation, I realized he kept referring to himself as a homeless person, however, if you listened to his stories, you learned he was not actually homeless at all. He has a mother, father, sister, and grandmother, all living in Sweden. He has an aunt and godmother in New Orleans, whom he had lived with for a period of time. This young man also has a passport, photo ID and a credit card, three items

I do not usually associate with the belongings of homeless people. I had to chime in at some point and explain to the young man, Sebastian Sialle, that he was not homeless, but was living a chosen life as a ‘hobo’. At the age of 21, he has already seen and experienced adventures that many people have only read about in their novels.

Approaching Truth or Consequences, I realized that it would soon be too dark to set up camp or find a ride further to Socorro, which was his intended destination. His plans were to hit State Highway 60 from Socorro and eventually spend a time in Sedona, Ariz. Explaining to Sebastian that I had an extra camper on my property and he was welcomed to spend the night, he agreed, but stated that he would need to



Hiking down the trail at Paseo del Rio (the old fish hatchery) led to a stop-and-climb break now and then for this hitchhiker from Sweden and the world.

do work for the room.

Once we arrived at my humble home in Cuchillo, the first order of business was to assess whether my three dogs and his pup, Vinnie, would be able to coexist for a few days. As was to be expected, Vinnie and his alpha personality, and my German shepherd, King – with his alpha personality – the whole weekend was banter back and forth between the two. Nothing too aggressive, just strong-willed dogs trying to pump out their chests.

Once the dogs were separated for the night, the night proceeded and, while we ate supper – it was nice to have a reason to cook – we talked about his life in Sweden and how he landed here in the United States. He talked of a wandering

Continued on next page

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spirit that wanted to see the United States through the eyes of everyday folks. I asked if he was going to write a book or do something special with this gathered information. Sebastian stated that he had started a couple of diaries, but had lost them along the way. This was a bit amusing to me and sad at the same time, the boy would have so many wonderful stories to tell. But according to him, he was always losing things.



Hitchhiker contemplates the adventures available in this new area – Cuchillo, NM.

sequences. He agreed, and I decided to take him on a tour of some spots in Sierra County. Often us locals forget the beauty and charm of our county until we see it through the eyes of a visitor.

The first adventure was a trip to the UJ Ranch, where he got to meet up with Mary Lou Smith and her family. The young man sat on the front porch with one of the “old-timers,” as they exchanged story for story of their life journey. It was

fun listening to the two men exchange story for story. I remember finding it a bit amusing that this very young man was able to hold his own

in the storytelling arena with this great guy in his 70s.

It was truly a fun afternoon, but the sun would be setting in a few hours and this young hitchhiker had never ridden a horse.

Riding the horses in and around the mountains, it was fun watching Saille’s eyes as each bend in the trail brought a new and aspiring scene to this young man. And you could see the joy of exploration in his eyes and his smile. Now it started to dawn on me why so much of his life was spent learning new experiences, it was fun. At the end of a warm afternoon of riding, it was time to return home to a small campfire and some grilled steaks – the way a perfect day is ended in Sierra County.

For the second day’s journey, I decided that

See **HIKE** on Page 10

One of his interesting stories was of his first hunting experiences in the South, I think Mississippi. He told of a family who readily and easily shot things and ate them. Sebastian’s eyes would light up as he talked about a family who was so obviously wrapped in the traditions of being what most people would consider ‘good ole country redneck’. He told how they let their dogs kill a rabbit just so they did not have to waste a bullet. But he also told of the camaraderie of the family and how their nights usually ended with beer and lots of laughter.

Sebastian seemed to have a special fondness for Alaska. He told a story of traveling people he met, and how it took them weeks to build a fortress with wood and other waste materials. As he started to laugh, he explained how, once the fort was built and it was warm and waterproof, “I only spent about two more weeks there and I moved on.”

Being as things were going well, I offered the young man the opportunity to spend a couple more days in Cuchillo and return to his trip on Monday when there would be more traffic on the Interstate leading out of Truth or Con-

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# HIKE

Continued from Page 5

he had to see the lake and the river. And since he had asked me on a couple of occasions how Elephant Butte got its name, I decided it was a must that he visit the namesake as it rises out of the waters of Elephant Butte Lake. The first stop was at Paseo del Rio (the old fish hatchery). It was a beautiful fall day and the leaves were a shimmering yellow in the early afternoon sun. As we walked down the trail, he continued telling stories of Christmas back in Sweden, where

the main emphasis on the family was Christmas Eve, and how he will miss his grandmother's cooking the most for the holidays. The day ended in a soak in one of the famous hot springs in Truth or Consequences.

During all this time, the young man also got a spot made for my propane tank, moved a satellite dish and dug the holes for my clothesline poles. But Monday was finally here, and it was time for me to take the young man to the onramp near Denny's. I had given him my wool blanket to help keep him warm in the mountains, and extra doggie treats for Vinnie were in Saille's

backpack. I dropped the young 'hobo' off at Denny's, wished him the best of good luck, and went about my day.

But as I drove away, I looked in my rearview mirror and realized I had had an adventure, just by doing the right thing by a fellow human being and reaching out a helping hand.

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**12:** Second Saturday Art Hop: 6-9 p.m., Downtown Truth or Consequences. Galleries, studios, shops and restaurants are open late on the second Saturday of every month. Check the MainStreet Truth or Consequences website for information on opening exhibits and special events. Cost: free. Contact MainStreet Truth or Consequences, [promotions@torcmainstreet.org](mailto:promotions@torcmainstreet.org), [www.torcmainstreet.org](http://www.torcmainstreet.org).

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# Study Reveals Source of Hot Mineral Water

The following is excerpted from the book, "Geology of the Caballo Mountains," by Vincent C. Kelley and Caswell Silver, and published by the University of New Mexico Press.

The City of Truth or Consequences is the site of a number of hot mineral-water springs. The thermal-water area outlined by wells and springs lies on the south side of an inselberg of Paleozoic limestone. The immediate area of the thermal springs and wells is covered with alluvium through which the springs issue.

The thermal water discharging in the area amounted to 3.5 second feet or 2,260,000 gallons a day in 1941 (based upon a study made by Theis, et al., at that time) of which approximately 130,000 gallons a day are discharged from artesian wells and the balance by natural means. The temperature of the thermal water ranges between 98-degrees and 114-degrees Fahrenheit, and the discharge of heat is about 180 million calories per minute. The daily output is equal to the amount of heat that would be obtained from the complete combustion of about 40 tons of coal per day.

Theis, et al., conclude that the thermal water is distinctly different and has an entirely different source from that of non-thermal groundwater of the vicinity. This is borne out not only by the chemical composition, but by the artesian pressure of the thermal water as compared to the lack of pressure in the unconfined non-thermal water. The (hot mineral) water issues from Paleozoic strata into the overlying clay, sandstone and gravel, which are apparently capable of holding some back pressure, and moves laterally through the alluvium to the river.

They also concluded that "the hot water at Truth or Consequences must be derived over an extensive area and probably drains by deep circulation an area considerably larger than 70 square miles.

They concluded that "the most probable source

of the heat of the hot water is igneous rock at depth, either acting by conduction of heat through the rock and steepening of the geothermal gradient or by yielding steam and hot gases that rise through fractures to mingle with the normally circulating meteoric groundwater. The latter alternative seems to be favored by the chemical character of the water."

The existence of overturned structure and associated fracturing of the rock would appear to allow the transfer of heat through vapors and fluids rising from a hot igneous body at depth, but it is probable that such a body underlies the

immediate vicinity of the thermal water area rather than at some remote point in the Engle Valley, as suggested by Theis, et al.

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## ABOUT THE CHAPARRAL GUIDE

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**280 Date:** In the HEART of T or C at the corner of 3rd and Date, 16210 sq. ft. lot, with 3 commercial buildings. High Visibility. Great Possibilities for restaurant, retail, or office. Buildings are 3558 sq. ft. with great apartment - 1839 sq. ft. used as a restaurant - 1137 sq. ft. used as a restaurant. Call for appointment to view. MLS 20125573

**13 Vista del Fuego, Elephant Butte:** From the copper clad Turret Entry, to the elegant door way, this outstanding home features 2 fireplaces, granite counters, Spacious master suite, large walk in closets, soaking tub and shower, all with lake views. Outdoor kitchen, and 180 degree lake views from the wrap around covered patio, stamped cement flooring, enhances your outdoor living. Recessed accent lighting throughout. Slate accents the exterior. Oversized 3 car garage. A truly outstanding home. MLS20113229



**138 Alamosa Village:** Beautiful Horse property. 3 Bedroom 2 bath Oak Creek Manufactured home on 20 acres. Home offers open living area large master suite with walk in closet, master bath offers double sinks garden tub and walk in shower. Horse barn, 2 car carport, work shop and office or bunk house. Beautiful mountain views. Plenty of room to retire. Enjoy the quiet seclusion. \$160,000 MLS#20125449.



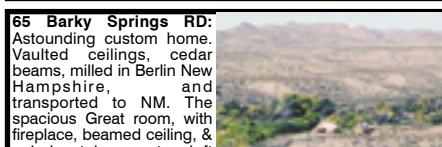
**1105 N Riverside Dr:** 3 bedroom 2.5 Bath. On the Rio Grande River. 0.394 acre lot, fully fenced. Beautiful addition, with beam ceiling, and barnwood accents. New carpet. Wrap around covered decks, shaded by cotton woods. Fabulous views of the river and Caballo Mountains. Prime location. \$189,000 MLS#20125341.



**506 Catfish,** offers great lake and mountain views. This gracious home, opens to multiple shaded patios, with lush landscaping, providing the ultimate in outdoor living. Spacious living, dining room, centers around a warm, wood burning fireplace. Master suite, with large sitting area, opens to its own private deck. Huge walk in closet, was once a third bedroom. The detached garage is fully insulated. 20x25 detached boat garage. Charming and unique. MLS20125717



**504 Skyline:** Nice large 4 bedroom 3 bath home in quiet neighborhood with large shop, 2 car garage, and RV parking ...room for all your toys. Home has beautiful view of the lake from the upstairs. This home features nice open floor plan perfect for entertaining and enjoying family time. Minutes from shopping and schools, and only a hop, skip and jump to the lake. \$249,000 MLS 20125354



**65 Barky Springs RD:** Astounding custom home. Vaulted ceilings, cedar beams, milled in Berlin New Hampshire, and transported to NM. The spacious Great room, with fireplace, beamed ceiling, & spiral staircase to loft above, provides views of the Caballo Mt range, and the valleys below. Large dining room, with built in buffet, allows for gracious entertaining. Located on 10 acres in the heart of Las Palomas Land and Cattle Company. Sells with 1/2 interest in LPL&CC. A working cattle ranch, on 3000 +- deeded acres, plus BLM and State leased land. 400 AU. Call for full information. \$650,000. MLS 20125203.



**Pinto Trail:** Expansive Mountain views from these 5 contiguous residential lots. Electric is close by. Well and septic required. 8.89 acres total. Will sell all or individually. Seller financing available. Attention builders don't miss this opportunity! The lots border BLM to the North. \$100,000 MLS #20125044



**517 Elm:** Well Maintained 2 bed/2 bath manufactured home on large 70 X 69 corner lot. Enclosed front patio, covered back patio, 2 storage sheds and 2 carports. Fully fenced lot plenty of room for RV and boat parking. Home sells furnished \$57,000 MLS# 20125012



**204 Camino Cinco:** Nice Weekend place on large 0.22 acre lot. 1999 Manufactured home. 2 Bedroom 2 Bath home has new carpet and tile throughout. New range. Sells furnished, just bring your lake toys. Borders BLM. \$60,000 MLS 20124846



**Armendaris Rd:** 13 Acre tract. Estate size lot, fantastic Family Compound, or develop. Beautiful Lake and Mountain Views overlooking Elephant Butte Lake. Champagne Hills area of fine custom homes. Just minutes from Dam Site Marina. On the way to Spaceport America. \$228,000 MLS 20124795



**506 Birch:** 2 Bedroom, 1 Bath. Starter home. Covered front and back patios. Large work shop on 30X140 foot lot. \$95,000. MLS 20124565



**10792 Hwy 152 Hillsboro:** 4 Bedroom, 2 Bath home, mature trees. Enjoy the formal living room, large formal dining room, cabinet filled kitchen with breakfast room, and bar. Stainless steel appliances. Large master suite. 10 x 40 screened porch. 8 car garage. \$315,000. MLS #20124563



**204 Black Range:** 3 Bedroom 2 Bath Manufactured home assessed as permanent. Large fully fenced lot, with 24X24 detached garage. Room for all of your Lake Toys. Priced to sell. \$82,000 MLS # 20124556



**112 Alamosa Village:** 5.15 Pristine Acres. 1988 28X66 Cameo manufactured home. 3 bedrooms 1-3/4 baths. Covered front deck 26x11 and covered back deck is a gracious 44 x 10 with beautiful mountain views. Detached 3 car garage/workshop 24x 42. Large metal storage container, room for all your toys. Quiet, secluded location. \$99,900 MLS # 20123767



**22 Monticello RV Park:** Well Maintained 1997 Sportman RV. Two Pull outs. Large refrigerator. Beautiful covered 10 x 30 Trex deck. Large storage shed. Plenty of room to park the boat. Space rent \$120.00 a month. Beautiful views of the mountains. \$24,000 MLS #20123748



**1800 E Third St:** 1968 12 x 50 single wide with addition. Carport and small work shop. Oldie but goodie. Fully furnished. Great weekend. Walk to the river to fish Quiet setting. Space rent is \$150.00 per month. \$18,000 MLS# 20123492



**1309 N Riverside:** Beautiful property on the Rio Grande River. Main home has 2 bd/2 Ba. Open living area, laminate flooring, large addition. Huge 30 x 60 garage offers parking for large boat or several cars, plus a 2 bd 1ba guest home. Two fishing docks, screened porch, covered carport and workshop area. This is a must see property. \$195,000 Call Rachel MLS# 20122736



**613 Locust:** Price Reduced! 2007 Cavco Manufactured home on 60x171 lot. 3 bedroom 2 bath open living area, walk in closet in master bedroom. \$69,500. Call Rachel or Gretchen MLS #20122734



**203 Century:** Manufactured Home on .50 acre lot 26x36 3 car detached garage. 3 BD, 2BA, formal dining area large living room. RV and boat friendly lot. \$89,900 Call Rachel MLS# 20122485



**1110 Arabian Circle:** 3 Bd/2Ba home on 1.37 acres, in Lakeshore Highlands. Open floor plan. Quiet Cul-de-Sac. Shared well. Horses permitted. Great mountain views. \$145,000 Call Gretchen MLS # 20122044



**316 Lost Canyon:** Lake View Lot: 30x 50 Garage. Lot is 100x 199. Built in 2009, RV Hookup. Room for all your lake toys. Build your dream home \$150,000. Call Rachel MLS # 20120669



**203 Lakeshore:** Motivated sellers! 3246 sq. ft. home. 3 bd/3ba home, offers passive and active solar systems. Energy efficient. Outstanding lake views! Property borders BOR. Main floor offers great room, kitchen, 2 bd, 2 ba, greenhouse/plant room. Downstairs offers large den, plumbed for a second kitchen, office, bedroom and bath. 3 car garage, plus 4 car carport and built in storage. RV pad and remote controlled entry gate. All on a 120 x 140 RV friendly lot. Will consider trades of smaller properties. \$297,500. MLS 20120616 Call Gretchen



**113 Mustang:** Price Reduced! 3 bd 3 ba 1932 sq. ft. home in Lakeshore Highlands. On 1.55 acre lot with great mountain views. Two car attached garage, with full bath. Detached RV garage 24 x 30. Room for all your lake toys. Ready to move into! \$217,997.00 MLS 20120958



**700 Erie: Price Reduced:** 2558 sq. ft. 3Bd 2.5Ba home. Open floor plan, custom wet bar, stainless appliances. Exceptional storage and custom cabinets. Exercise room off of spacious 2nd bedroom. 9 car garage!!! Corner lot 170x150. \$249,000 MLS 20121094



**Old Ranch Road:** 600 Acres in Historic Monticello Canyon. 64.2 acres of the property are in a platted and approved subdivision. 54 one acre lots. 36 of these lots are on hard surface roads, with underground electric. The remain land is range land. Tremendous potential. Beautiful Lake and Mountain Views. Just 4 miles East of I 25 from exit 89. MLS 20124771 Call Gretchen



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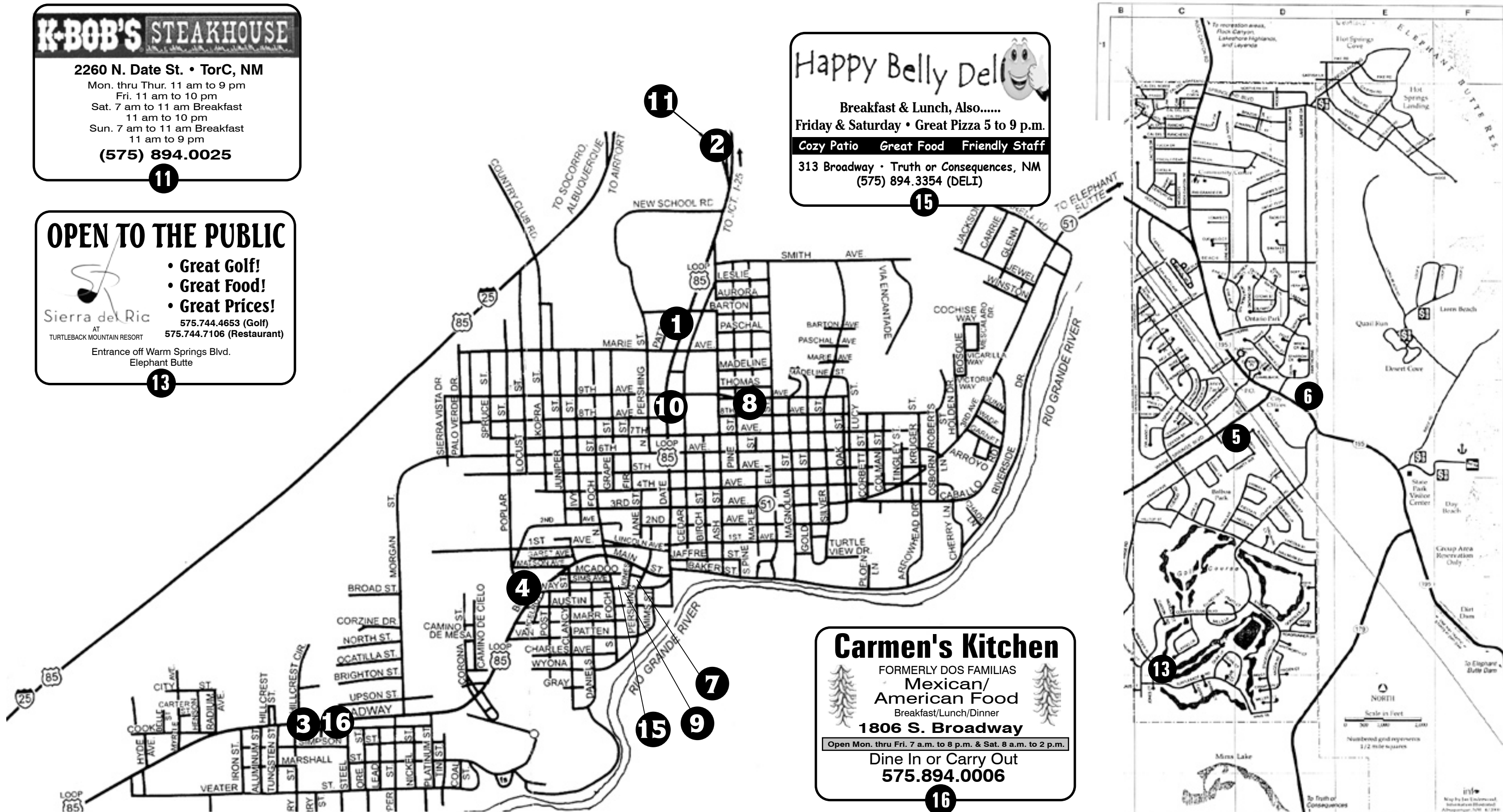
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