

# History of El Valle Aerie #4308 Fraternal Order of Eagles

*This is Part I of an ongoing article regarding the Birth of an Aerie. If you have anything you'd like to add in the coming issues, please let us know.*



One evening in May 1991, Jay Isaacs, Rita Isaacs, and Clyde Miller were on the river bank in the riverside campground at Caballo Lake State Park. The discussion turned to the fact there was no Fraternal Order of Eagles in the area. As time and refreshments passed, they decided to try and start an Eagles Aerie at Caballo.

David Sheppard was the organizer and got the ball rolling. He set up meetings and got people to start signing prospects for membership and collecting money for their dues. Meetings were held at the trading post and the old Lakeview bar. During June, July, August, and September work was done towards setting an instituting date. The New Mexico State Aerie set the date for November 10th. In



Albino Fajardo



The Lakeview Bar - Our First Home

late October the Grand Aerie informed the incoming secretary that this was not correct. We had signed ladies and men as instructed by the state president. Grand aerie said to return all money and start over. There were 199 names on the list. All monies were returned. A huge amount of work and time had been for nothing. David and others had worked very hard to get the aerie started and were disappointed.

In February of 1992, Jay Isaacs and Russ Daines went to the spring conference of the New Mexico State Aerie in Albuquerque and

presented all of the misinformation about the Aerie startup in 1991. The New Mexico State Aerie and the Grand Aerie gave permission to start over and commissioned Jay Isaacs to be the organizer and Rita Isaacs was commissioned to be the organizer of the Auxiliary. Many people worked very hard to get members signed up. Three brothers, Albino, Juan, and Geronimo Fajardo, volunteered to accept the obligations of the new members. The Aerie was instituted on



Charter Presentation Nov 14, 1992

June 27, 1992 and the Auxiliary on June 28, 1992. Instituting Deputy for Aerie was Fred Gutierrez and Nigel Johnson for the Auxiliary. There were 135 men and 76 ladies on the charter. The charter was presented in Los Alamos New Mexico on November 14, 1992.



Charter Presentation Nov 14, 1992

A lease was signed making the old Lakeview Bar home to be the Aerie. Lots of time and effort was spent fixing up the building. We had a contest to pick a name for the aerie and "El Valle" was the winner. In September a state picnic was co-hosted with Aerie 4101 of Alamogordo. Aerie and Auxiliary split \$1995.00. We had 136 adults and 3 children in attendance



Auxiliary Officers 1992  
Ada Watkins, Gilda Bouvet, Rita Issacs, Mary Burke, Marge Smith, Virginia Register, Martha Williams

**To Be Continued.....**