

This is Part 2 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.

In August of 1992 there was a fundraising that consisted of starting with the donation of a penny. The next person would double that and the next would double it. This went on for a few rounds when Russ Daines raised his donation to \$100.00. It made for a unique fundraising.

The Aerie was incorporated by New Mexico in September 1992 as required by state law before could apply for liquor license and we got liquor license in May 1993.

At the 1993 Spring Conference in Albuquerque the founding members were asked



what the Aerie number was. Since they had not yet been assigned an Aerie number they replied

“cuatro cero”. After some bewildering looks, it had to be explained that in Spanish it meant four zeros. It was worth a laugh, but was also used as the Aerie number until 4308 was assigned. There were tee shirts with four zeros on them. The Aerie logo had four zeros and still you will still see the numbers 4308 each embedded in an encompassing zero.



There were many fund raisers and work parties during the remainder of the year. The Aerie had to be resourceful while waiting for license to be approved. Members would bring own bottles and beer and the buy it back to help with funds.

We lost our lease in November 1993 and moved into Lasky's bait shop four miles north of park entrance. For four months shared one room with minnows and other types of

fishing bait. We had to stop meetings when fishermen wanted bait. In February of 1994 the Aerie moved to the VFW Post 4293 (once an old school house) in Rodey.

A search was begun for land to build a permanent home. Many meetings were held, and on December 29th voted to issue certificates of indebtedness to raise the money to build an aerie home. Between aeries and eagles around the state nearly \$70,000.00 was raised. The certificates were paid in full in February 1999. More meetings and finally in June 1994 the 5.47 acres where the aerie is located was bought from Jim Franklin. Jim was paid the final payment in September of 2006.

Fund raisers were started and work parties began to prepare land for the building. The building committee let a contract to erect the building and in early August the cement was poured and the building was erected. It consisted of a single room 100' by 50' with no sheetrock, ceiling, water, heat, electric, etc., but it was El Valle #4308's home. We got our liquor license back as we had put it in temporary hold until we got a permanent address. The bar was two steel tables, a refrigerator, and an 8 foot cable reel with a carpeted top.



Building Committee

To Be Continued.....