

ABOUT ME

EXPLORE MY FRIEND!

¿QUÉ ONDA, VECINO? ES QUE NO HAY AGUA.

UN RECORRIDO DE LA ACEQUIA MADRE, SECOTOTE



MAP IS NOT TO SCALE
+ NOVA NO ESTA A ESCALA



A map zine of the Franklin Canal

ABOUT ME

THIS ~~MAP~~ ZINE IS AN EMOTIONAL CARTOGRAPHY, AIMING TO REVEAL A MORE EMOTIONAL & PERSONAL SIDE OF THE FRANKLIN CANAL.

IT TELLS OF A DIFFERENT REALITY THAN A GEOGRAPHIC MAP - ONE THAT REFLECTS THE TIME PERIOD, WEATHER, CONDITIONS AND RELATIONS OF THE CANAL AND ITS INHABITANTS. THE CHAOS OF THIS ~~MAP~~ ZINE MIMICS THE JOURNEY OF AN ALL-DAY URBAN HIKE THROUGH THE CANAL.

THE PAGES IN THIS ZINE CORRESPOND TO THE IMAGES ON THE MAP, WHICH IS 10 FEET LONG IN TOTAL. THE TEXTS IN THIS ZINE ARE FOUND BY FLIPPING THE IMAGES OVER ON THE MAP. SO IT'S LIKE THE MAP JUST NOT AS BIG HEHE.

EXPLORE, MY FRIEND!



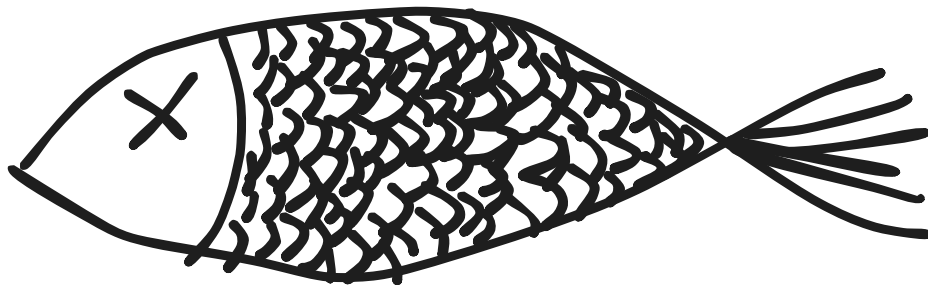
THE ACEQUIA STARTS IN CENTRAL EL PASO, WIGHT UNDER PAISANO & DELTA IN BARRIO CHAMIZAL (WHERE I WORK). IT COMES OUT NEXT TO A GIANT CARTONERA, THE ONE THAT CAUSED THE LARGEST FIRE IN EL PASO HISTORY LAST YEAR.

I HATE THAT CARTONERA

SO MUCH. WHY THE FUCK WOULD THEY LEAVE SO MUCH EXPOSED CARDBOARD UNDER THE HOT SUN!!?? IS THIS WHAT THEY CALL “RECYCLING?” TODAY I SEE SEMIS BRINGING FRESH LOADS OF CARDBOARD. AAAAAARGHHH! I CAN SEE GIANT PIECES OF CARDBOARD IN THE CANAL ALREADY. WHO CLEANS UP THIS CONTAMINATION? I HOPE THE CARTONERA IS FORCED TO , BUT I DOUBT IT. I DON’T LIKE TO START A JOURNAL WITH SO MUCH HATE, HEY AT LEAST THEY HAVE A BURRITO TRUCK. EGGS & BACON, YUM!



TO START AT THE VERY BEGINNING OF THE ACEQUIA MADRE, OR FRANKLIN CANAL, DICEN, I GO THROUGH A LONG DARK TUNNEL, WITH NO LIGHT ON THE OTHER END. IT'S PRETTY SKETCH, BUT I'M STUBBORN LIKE THAT – I GOTTA START FROM THE BEGINNING.



THE CANAL IS **FULL** OF DEAD FISH – LIKE IT'S HARD NOT TO STEP ON THEM. OTHER THAN THAT, THERE'S NOT MUCH TO SEE – TRASH & SAND. LOOKING BACK, WITH THE LIGHT OFF IT LOOKS LIKE THIS.  (IE VERY DARK). AT THE END OF THE TUNNEL THE CANAL DIPS DOWN AND  THERE IS WATER. I CANNOT GO ANY FURTHER. I GUESS THIS IS THE END. THE BEGINNING, REALLY. I HEAR THE SOUNDS OF CARS AND TRUCKS ABOVE. I CAN'T SMELL ANYTHING BUT THEN AGAIN MY NOSE IS PRETTY PLUGGED UP. FUGA PUES.



THE SUN IS HIGHER IN THE SKY THAN I INTENDED FOR IT TO BE WHEN I STARTED – BUT OH WELL, THAT’S HOW IT GOES. THE WEATHER TODAY IS PERFECT, THAT’S MORE THAN I CAN ASK FOR. I WALK FOR A BIT AND LOOK FOR A SPOT TO SIT AND ENJOY MY FIRST BURRITO. IT’S KIND OF LIKE

LA PASA

OF EL PASO DOWN HERE. THERE’S SAND, SHELLS, BEER BOTTLES AND TRASH. THE ONLY THING MISSING IS **WATER**, HUH? AND OTHER PEOPLE, SEAGULLS. **AGUA ES VIDA** THAT’S WHAT THEY SAY HUH. SOME PLANTS ARE GREENING BUT MOST ARE STILL BROWN. IT’S THE END OF MARCH ALMOST BUT WE STILL HAVEN’T GOTTEN RAIN. THE SAND FEELS NICE BUT I KNOW IT’S GOING TO BE TIRING LATER ON FOR WALKING. I SEE SOME FRESH FOOTPRINTS AHEAD, LET’S GO FOLLOW TO SEE WHERE THEY GO!



SO THERE WERE THESE TRACKS, I THINK THEY ARE PROBABLY PIGEONS BECAUSE IDK WHAT ELSE LIVES DOWN HERE. AND THERE ARE ALSO A PAIR OF HUMAN FOOTPRINTS IN THE SAND. IT DOESN'T TAKE LONG TO FIND THE GUY WHO MADE THEM, WHO HAS BUILT HIMSELF A LITTLE STRUCTURE ON THE SIDE OF THE CANAL.

Hey, is your necklace made of real stone?

It's cuz I would make them at the Opportunity Center but someone stole my box of all of them!

No, it's plastic.

Dayumm, I'm sorry! No, it's not this one.

THE ONLY HUMAN INTERACTION I HAD IN THE FRANKLIN CANAL.



PASO POR LA CASA DE MI ABUELITA, PORQUE YA ME ESTÁ DANDO HAMBRE DE NUEVO.
DIJO DE LAS ACEQUIAS:

Cuando yo era niña, el canal no era tan contaminado y había más agua, más limpio. Y la gente pescaban ~ no se si los comían, pero bueno

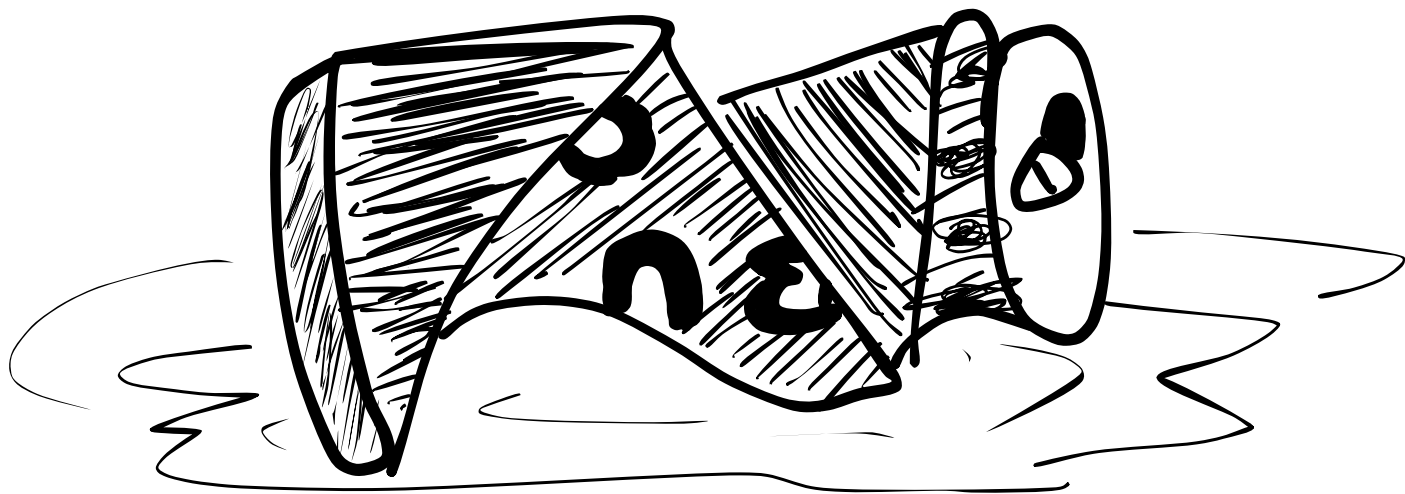


Pero ahora ya no, ya está todo sucio, todo contaminado...

Y COMÍ UN SANDWICH CON CAFECITO BIEN RICO 🍷

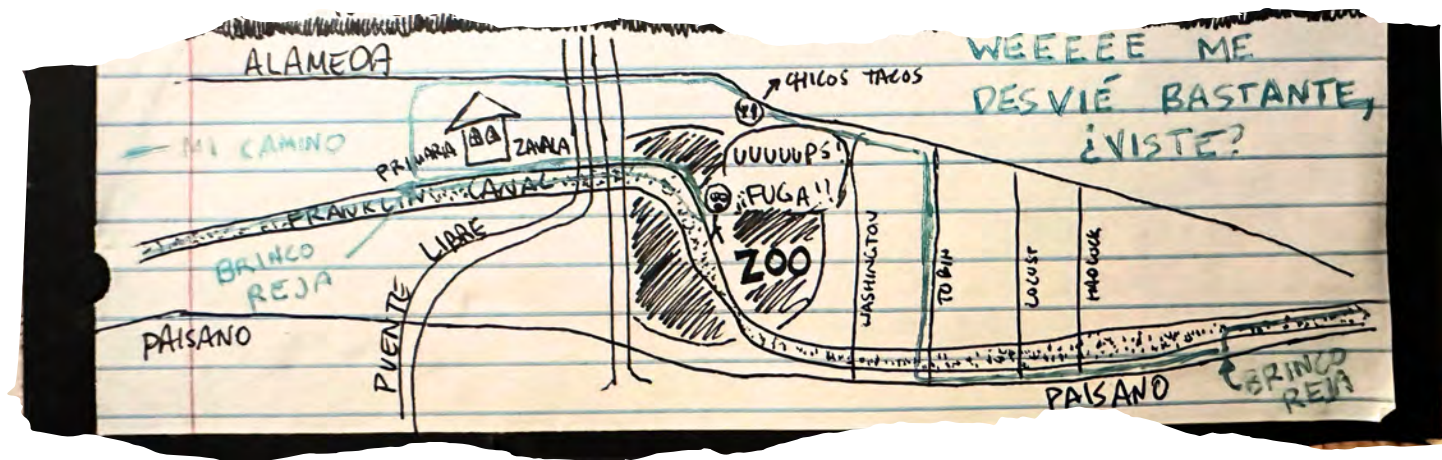


AROUND ZAVALA ELEMENTARY THE CANAL HAS A CONCRETE BOTTOM AND IT FEELS LIKE YOU STEPPED OUT OF A QUIETER NEIGHBORHOOD INTO MORE OF A CITY-SCAPE. THE CANAL RUNS NEXT TO THE FREE BRIDGE SO THERE'S HELLA TRAFFIC. THERE ARE A LOT LESS SHELLS AND PLANTS HERE THAN THE SANDY PARTS. I CAN WALK QUICKER HERE, CUZ THE EARTH DOES NOT ABSORB BY ENERGY. RATHER IT REFLECTS ME STRAIGHT BACK UP TOWARDS THE SKY. IT'S THE SAME FOR THE WATER, I GUESS. NO ABSORPTION, NO GREENERY HERE.





APENAS ME HABÍA UBICADO EN EL ZOO Y AAAA ME ESTABA ORINANDO YAAA. RODEADO POR REJAS, NO TUVE OTRA OPCION, PERO JUSTO CUANDO ME ALISTÉ, ME VIERON 2 PERSONAL DEL ZOO, DE LEJOS. MAL MAL MAL. ESTABA HACIENDO TRESPASS APARTE DE ORINAR EN PÚBLICO. REGRESÉ POR EL TÚNEL, CAMINÉ BASTANTE HASTA QUE BRINQUE LA REJA POR ZAVALA. QUE AÚN ESTABA RISKY PERO FUCK IT. EN ESTO ME DI CUENTA QUE MUCHAS VECES LAS REJAS SON PODRIDAS Y FACIL DE CRUZAR PERO A VECES TE ENCUENTRAS AISLADO, SIN ESCAPE EN LAS ACEQUIAS.



PS I DID MEET A LAZY DOG ON MY DETOUR :P



A LO LEJOS VEO 7 PERROS EN EL CANAL - GRANDES. ¿CÓMO LES VOY A PASAR? SI TENGO MI VACUNA ANTIRRÁBICA PERO...

VEO AHORA QUE LOS PERROS SE METEN POR UN HOYO EN LA REJA. SUPONGO QUE SON DE UN VECINO QUE DEJA A LOS PERROS SALIR COMO SI FUERA SU PATIO GRANDE. POS ESTA BIEN, DIGO, PORQUE NO HAY NADIE MÁS EN EL CANAL... MENOS QUE YO. AJAM.

SUBO A UN LADO DEL CANAL Y LUEGO ELLOS SUBEN AL OTRO LADO. LES PASO SIN PEDO.
¡WHEEEEEEEWWW!





TUNNELS AND BRIDGES ARE THE SPOTS WITH THE MOST LIFE ALONG THE CANAL. TRASH ACCUMULATES ON THE FLOOR, GRAFFITI ON THE CEILING. THESE ARE THE SPOTS I REST - NOT JUST TO OBSERVE, BUT FOR THE SHADE, AS THE SUN GETS INCREASINGLY SCORCHING. ALSO I LIKE THAT I AM HIDDEN FROM THE WORLD, AND IT'S A SPOT WHERE OTHER CREATURES COME TO HIDE AND TAKE REFUGE. I REMIND MYSELF THAT EVEN TRASH IS A SIGN OF PRIOR LIFE.



BEST SMELL
ALONG THE
FRANKLIN CANAL



GOING UNDER THE GATE I'M LIKE WHAT IF IT CLOSES
ON ME & I AM TRAPPED?

THIS IS WHERE HUMANS EXERT THEIR POWER OVER
WATER. INTERRUPT ITS FLOW OR LET IT CONTINUE.

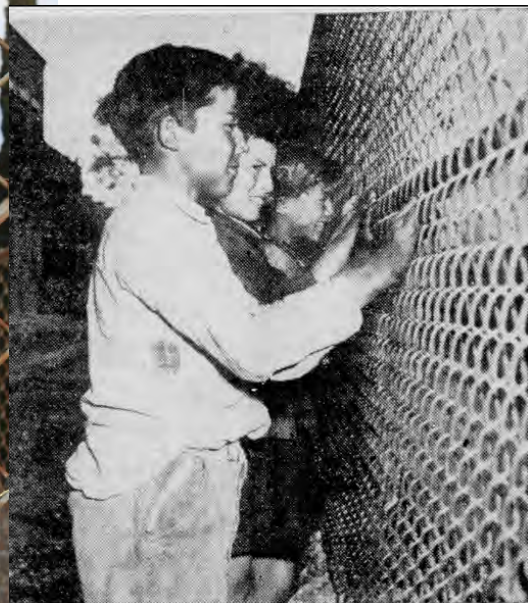
THE GATE IS LOCKED AND I DON'T HAVE THE KEY (NOR
DOES ANYONE I KNOW).



Q: WHAT IS THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN A LITTLE TOY HORSE, A STICK OF GLUE AND A CRAYFISH SKELETON?

A: NOT MUCH! ONLY THAT THE HORSEY HAS GONE THROUGH MILLIONS OF YEARS OF COMPACTING AND TURNING INTO FOSSIL FUELS AND THEN PLASTIC. WHILE THE CRAYFISH WAS ALIVE JUST LAST SEASON.(WHAT WILL IT BECOME THE NEXT FEW MILLION YEARS? WHO KNOWS!)

PS - WE THOUGHT YOU'D GET STUCK ON THE STICK OF GLUE:P



ABOVE: Completed canal fence.
BELOW: They can't drown easily now.

Franklin Canal Drowning Danger Told

(1940)

A total of 76 persons were drowned in El Paso during the 17-year period ending in 1939, with most of the drownings occurring in muddy waters of Franklin Canal.

Police identify bodies found in canal

El Paso police identified two Franklin Canal drowning victims as Manuel Chaparro, 17, and Jose Orgtega, 16, both of Juarez.

El Paso firefighters retrieved their bodies from the canal Sunday.

"The canal system is meant to move water quickly," Water Rescue Capt. Ruben Candelaria said in the news release. "At the surface the water appears to be moving slowly, but the center of the canal is the fastest moving part. Also many times many of the people who jump into the canal system believe that because the water is shallow they can make it across easily. The force of the water is such that it pushes you down stream and requires good swimming techniques."

(2018)

Police identify bodies found in canal

El Paso police identified two Franklin Canal drowning victims as Manuel Chaparro, 17, and Jose Orgtega, 16, both of Juarez.

El Paso firefighters retrieved their bodies from the canal

(1983)

Boy, 11, Drowns In Franklin Canal

(1962)

Oscar Mercado Jr., 11, of 1023 East Second avenue, became the summer season's first Franklin Canal drowning victim late yesterday. The boy was found on the bottom of the canal between Eucalyptus and Piedras streets

IMMIGRATION

Body of possible drowned migrant found in Socorro canal in El Paso County

(2024)



Daniel Borunda
El Paso Times

Published 12:51 p.m. MT April 11, 2024 | Updated 12:54 p.m. MT April 11, 2024



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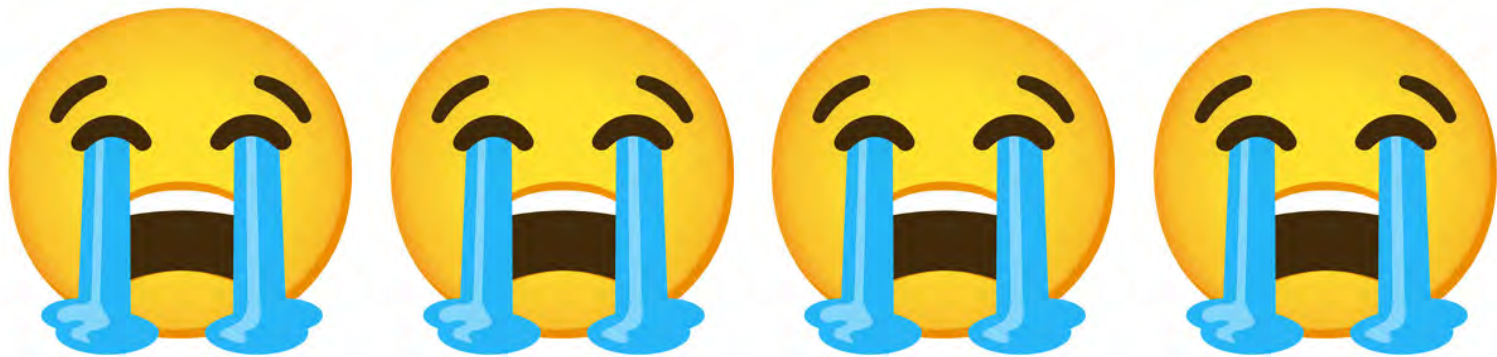
I SAW ONE PERSON IN THE CANAL ALL DAY TODAY. A FEW DOGS. A DEAD CAT. A LOT OF DEAD FISH, CRAYFISH, SHELLS, WHICH IS TO CONFIRM THE VICE-VERSA OF THE SAYING

~~Agua es vida~~

Sequia es muerte

WOW, ACEQUIA MUST COME FROM THIS WORD - SEQUIA. A-SEQUIA → THE OPPOSITE OF DROUGHT, CONTRA DROUGHT, RESISTANCE TO THE DROUGHT.

IN OTHER PARTS OF EL PASO, PEOPLE ARE GETTING READY FOR THE POPPY FEST, PLANTING SEEDLINGS, GETTING READY FOR SPRING. THE SPRING EQUINOX IS IN 3 DAYS, WE WILL HAVE A BIG CELEBRATION AT MY HOUSE. LAST YEAR AT THIS TIME THE CANAL WAS FULL OF WATER AND NEIGHBORS WERE CLEANING THEIR ACEQUIAS. LAST YEAR THERE WERE 10 WATERINGS, THIS YEAR WE'LL BE LUCKY IF WE GET 4.



I GUESS THE WETTEST
THING IN THE CANAL IS
YOUR TEARS.

DAMS OF THE RIO GRANDE

The map shows the Rio Grande flowing from the south towards the north, forming the border between the United States and Mexico. Dams are marked with red dots and labeled on both sides of the river. In the United States (top), dams include Elephant Butte, Caballo, American, International, El Paso, Leasburg, Avalon, Brantley, Red Bluff, and Franklin canal (indicated by an arrow). In Mexico (bottom), dams include Jemez Canyon, Isleta, San Acacia, Cochiti, Angostura, Abiquiu, Galisteo, Santa Rosa, and Summer. Other cities and locations labeled include Platoro, Heron, Juarez, Chihuahua, Delicias, Hidalgo del Parral, Ojinaga, Ciudad Acuña, Piedras Negras, Eagle Pass, Laredo, Nuevo Laredo, Falcon, Matamoros, Brownsville, Corpus Christi, and San Antonio. The map also shows the Gulf of Mexico and the Atlantic Ocean.

“The Rio Grande is no longer a river, it’s an irrigation channel.”

"The Rio Grande is no longer a river, it's an irrigation channel."

“Have you also learned that secret from the river; that there is no such thing as time? That the river is everywhere at the same time, at the source and at the mouth, at the waterfall, at the ferry, at the current, in the ocean and in the mountains, everywhere and that the present only exists for it, not the shadow of the past nor the shadow of the future.”

~Siddhartha, by Herman Hesse

FUGAPUES..



MUCHAS GRACIAS A...

EMMA BROWN

POR PRESTARME SU CÁMARA, FANZINE, Y LLEVARME A LOS TALLERES

MEHRAN SAMEI

POR DARMER ÁNIMOS Y APOYO EMOCIONAL Y ACOMPAÑARME HASTA LAS ACEQUIAS DE DIXON Y ALBUQUERQUE.

MARIANA HERNANDEZ

POR INSPIRARME Y DAR MUCHOS CONSEJOS

ANA MORAN

POR ENSEÑARME SU GRANJA EN ALBUQUERQUE.

AMALIA MONDRAGON

POR ACOMPAÑARME HASTA ABQ CON TANTAS PREGUNTAS SABIDURAS

JORGE GARCIA

POR DARNOS UN RECORRIDO DE LAS ACEQUIAS DEL SOUTH VALLEY

YONI & ILAN

POR OFRECERNOS SU CASA EN ALBUQUERQUE Y TAMBIÉN CONTARNOS DE LAS ACEQUIAS

YOLANDA “PANCHITA”

POR SER NUESTRA GUÍA DE LAS ACEQUIAS DEL DIXON, NM

DAVID ROCHA

POR CONTAR LA HISTORIA DE LAS ACEQUIAS DE GLENWOOD

EDUARDO SAAVEDRA

POR DAR SU PERSPECTIVA DE LAS ACEQUIAS CON EL DISASTRE CLIMÁTICO QUE ESTAMOS ENFRENTANDO

MARCOS MUNOZ

SIN ÉL, NO HUBIERA SALIDO MI INTERÉS EN LAS ACEQUIAS. IGUAL SIEMPRE ME PRESTA SU CASA PARA DESVELARME Y DORMIR EN SU SILLON

LA SEMILLA

POR HACER ESTE PROYECTO POSIBLE Y GESTIONAR TALLERES TAN LINDOS E INFORMATIVOS

¿QUÉ VAMOS HACER?

♦ A TOUR OF A DRY FRANKLIN CANAL ♦

VAMOS
DE CORTAR
ARIZONA



BY MONCHO