

ATENAS TODAY



*Issue number 54
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ATENAS TODAY is a free English language newsletter for the residents and potential residents of Atenas, Costa Rica. It contains informative articles and creative compositions submitted by our readers, and is distributed via email approximately once a month to over 200 email addresses. To get on the distribution list or to submit material, please send an email to Fred Macdonald at fredmac222@yahoo.com.

Compositions from back issues are archived by category on the Atenas Chamber of Tourism and Commerce website, www.atenascatuca.com. Click on the English version and then [Atenas Today](#) on the business page.

Updated Directory of English-Speaking People in the Atenas Area

Many new names and numbers have been added to the directory. With each issue Atenas Today subscribers will receive an updated file containing the names and contact information of people who have chosen to be listed. Simply download the PDF file attached to this Atenas Today email and print it or save it on your computer.

If your name is on the list without contact information, it is because you are a subscriber to the newsletter, but have not authorized the publication of your email address or other information. To add or correct data please send an email to fredmac222@yahoo.com.

New English-speaking Business Networking Group in Atenas

Do you want to grow your business or start a successful business in Atenas?

The opportunity is here: in addition to the native citizens of Atenas there are now hundreds of English-speaking residents who are potential customers. The challenge is to pick the right activity and then market it aggressively.



Gen

Sara

Two Atenas entrepreneurs, Sara Basloe (2446-0663) and Genevieve Codere (8859-5163), have started a discussion and networking group called **Business and Breakfast in Atenas**.

They are holding highly structured breakfast meetings every Tuesday morning between 7 and 8:30 am at Kay's Gringo Postres. The goal is to exchange ideas and promote each others' businesses through referrals.

Members of the group will get to know each other's business in detail and are encouraged to talk about it with their friends and contacts so that they can give you names of people who will be expecting to hear from you.

Having attended the first meeting, I can tell you that this is not the typical conference where a few people dominate the discussion and not much is accomplished. Sara and Gen have an agenda, and they stick to it.

Similar groups have been very successful in North America in helping established and new businesses grow. If you are serious about selling a product or service in the Atenas area, you owe it to yourself to come to a meeting and consider joining this group that will step up your efforts to succeed.



Atenas Recycling Center Provides Work for the Handicapped

by Fred Macdonald



Located just before the Red Cross on the road to Escobal, the Atenas Recycling Center provides a valuable community service. Not only does it protect the environment by recycling our mountains of trash, it gives employment to a group of Ticos who otherwise would have difficulty finding jobs.

Also, the small profit they make from recycling goes toward their medical needs.

We can help them in two ways. First, save your glass, plastic bottles, metal cans, and paper, put these items into separate bags, and bring them to the center. It is very easy. Just pull into the driveway and drop off your bags.

Second, the center is in need of funds to buy equipment. They need a small truck to pick up and deliver large batches of recyclables, and they need a machine to break up glass bottles into small pieces.

Donations can be made on line to Banco Nacional account 100-01-021-2106-8 (Asociacion pro Personas Discapacitadas de Atenas), or Banco de Costa Rica account 302-0001171-1.

Cultural Activities in Atenas

by Tina Newton

Ever wonder what there is to do in Atenas? Ever wish there were more cultural activities? Join forces with the new cultural committee and make things happen.

The cultural committee of Atenas, “Atenas Clima y Cultura,” is a new committee formed just last November to help organize and promote cultural activities in Atenas. Each month the committee is dedicated to presenting a cultural activity.



For example, from January to March, the committee held “Domingos en el Parque” (Sundays in the Park) providing a space for local talent to perform while providing free entertainment to the public. In April, the committee assisted CATUCA with the “Feria del Clima” and in May and June held similar activities in the church salon bringing talent and the public together. July brought an activity by the Ministry of Culture to the central park and in August will be the Anniversary of the Canton of Atenas which the cultural committee is also assisting. Of course, in September will be the Independence celebrations, October brings the Festival of Dance, and November, the Storyteller presentations (“Cuentacuentos”).



One of the goals of this committee is to bring these activities to Atenas as well as assist in on-going activities, promoting them and helping so that the community is aware of what is available. Another main goal is to establish a “Casa de la Cultura”, a cultural house, which is an arts center hopefully with a stage and areas for people to practice the arts.

The cultural committee is headed by a 7 member board—Gina Espinoza, President; Tina Newton, Vice-president; Eva Maria Hernandez, Secretary; Jorge Espinoza, Treasurer; Patricia Quesada, Fiscal; Miguel Cortes and Cecilia Matamoros, Vocales. However, just with the chore of putting together monthly events, many of the long-term goals, have not advanced as quickly as they would like. In addition, this is a very inclusive group—they want to involve as many people and talents in the Atenas area as possible. Therefore, if you have artistic talent (theater, art, dance, song, music, and more), please contact this committee to be included on the register of talents that they are trying to put together.

If you have time and an interest in the arts, please contact them and become involved. They have recently formed smaller commissions in charge of specific areas—cultural nights, finances, promotion, the cultural house, and more. So, they would love to have you involved in these commissions so that more ideas and more hands can contribute to advancing the arts in Atenas. Don’t worry if your Spanish is not perfect as there are several people who speak at least some English.

The next board meeting is on Tuesday, July 28th at 6:00 p.m. in Su Espacio (in front of the gas station, Coopeatenas). Call Tina at 2446-7735 to get your name on the list of talents or to join one (or more) of the commissions. They want to hear your ideas and want your knowledge in promoting arts in Atenas. Get involved today!



A Book Review

By Ron Bell

The Ticos: Culture and Social Change in Costa Rica

by Mavis Hiltunen Biesanz, Richard Biesanz, and Karen Zubris Biesanz. Lynne Rienner Publishers, Inc. 1999.

Don't be put off by the subtitle of this delightful and highly informative book. It is far from being a sociological tract, and for learning about the people we live among, there is no better guide. For me, studying Costa Ricans for a mere two years, it is full of surprising glimpses behind the façade of amiability, legends, and myths. The authors have been studying Costa Ricans and their culture since the early 1940s. Not only do they have a wealth of experience and knowledge but for a team they write exceptionally well. And while they are intrigued by and evidently like Ticos, this in no way blinds them to their follies and weaknesses.

One of the first surprises is that squabbling in court doesn't run counter to Ticos' overriding need to appear amiable. Legally at least, they are very contentious, clogging the courts with their personal quarrels. I'm guessing this wrangling is related to the habit of varnishing the truth that causes so much mistrust. "Civil cases tie up the courts far more than do criminal ones. So many people are involved in lawsuits that, as an early twentieth-century president remarked, a safe conversational opening in Costa Rica is, "How's your case coming?"

Costa Rica is in danger of being overrun with lawyers, and lawyers are infamous for saying the equivalent of, "You two fight it out and we'll hold your coats." It seems safe to imagine that with all the lying, and all the mistrust it engenders, and a law office on every other corner, as well as a terrible fear of gossip and slander, Ticos find themselves easily encouraged to file lawsuits. Given the culture of the victim, pervasive in Costa Rica, it must be very easy for lawyers to persuade someone they've been swindled or slandered and that the best way to handle it is to sue.

Ticos also think of themselves as *delicado*, easily offended. Such hypersensitivity is embodied in law and a person who has been proven to have injured another's reputation may be fined or even sentenced to ten to fifty days in jail. Thus, before we shout well-deserved condemnations of a swindler's character, it behooves us to remember that under this nation's Napoleonic Code, you are guilty until you prove yourself innocent.

One of the things that make Costa Ricans attractive is their peacefulness. "Ticos want above all want to *quedar bien* ... to get along and make a good impression, to appear amiable. The desire to *quedar bien* often wins out over other values, such as keeping your word"? That's why maids and gardener don't always show up when they say they'll come and why people who don't know the way give you misleading directions. You probably didn't know it, but they couldn't bear to tell you the cold truth because you might no longer think well of them.

Opinion polls show that Ticos are fully aware that their country is facing increasing crime and its police forces are too inefficient and corrupt to deal with it. They also know, almost instinctively, that a stronger police force is a double-edged sword, a tool ruling elites eve-

rywhere use to keep the people in line. “Any hint of reforms in the direction of a well-trained career police force has long been rejected as *militarismo*.” And how right they are! They have only to consider the consequences of the U.S.’s tough-on-crime attitudes that cost billions of dollars annually and do not come even close to solving the problem. A question not addressed in *The Ticos* is why the ruling elites do not resort to the scare tactic, used so successfully in the U.S., to get the people to fund more and more policemen and more prisons, and to build a huge military system to funnel taxpayers’ money to the super rich.

Quoting Pierre Thomas Claudet, a Swiss-born psychologist, the authors introduce the culture of the *pobrecito*, “in which people are invited to perceive themselves and others as “victims” of their situations, duties and obligations. Furthermore, this phenomenon serves as a shield to justify not assuming the responsibility and difficulty of vital personal, family, social and work situations.”

Since Ticos put a great deal of energy into saving face, their own and others, it follows that they seldom have to face criticisms like “You’re full of it!” even though this might seem to many *extranjeros* the best way to bring the light of truth to shine on a troubling situation.

When the authors confronted an attorney who had defrauded them, he told them “his judgment had been impaired by a recently discovered brain tumor. Another attorney to whom we mentioned this howled with laughter. “That’s a classic excuse—that and “My mother is dying.” He wants you to think he’s a *pobrecito*.” Shouting at the first lawyer that he was a liar wouldn’t have had the desired effect because, as a university professor told the authors, “You Americans are insulted when someone calls you a liar. We Costa Ricans are not.”

In San Francisco you may be asked “What do you call fifty lawyers chained together at the bottom of the Bay?” And the correct response is, “A damned good start!” Perhaps Ticos ought to start rattling some chains because Alicia Bogarin, who created and ran the Notary Administration to regulate Costa Rica’s notaries, said that up to 65% of the country’s 10,000 or so notaries are corrupt. Most of them are lawyers too. Registry fraud involving property theft is the number one swindle, Bogarin added. The situation is so bad a former Public Security minister warned, “It’s easier to steal a property than it is to steal a car.” (Since cars are very easy to steal it is common sense to regularly check that the property you think is yours is still yours in the *Registro Nacional*.)

Although about four out of five Ticos claim Catholicism as their religion, “They feel free to pick and choose among points of doctrine as elements of individual faith and to adopt beliefs that to many priests smack of Protestantism and witchcraft.” In this they are not so different from those Americans who have created what some scholars of religion call a “buffet religion.” Some important surveys show that many Ticos aren’t choosing from the buffet table “Thou shalt not bear false witness” or “Thou shalt not covet thy neighbor’s wife.” A 1987 sample survey the Biesanzs quote said that “87% of married and cohabiting women said they had been unfaithful before age forty-five. ... Most of these women, however, reported only a few instances of extramarital sex, which usually occurred, they said, because they did not feel loved or valued.”

It’s not difficult to understand why they strayed. A 1992 study “found that two out of five had never experienced orgasm. Foreplay is rare; sex is equated with intercourse, and this, says sexologist Mauro Fernandez, seldom lasts more than two or three minutes. Premature ejaculation is a problem for 70 percent of sexually active Costa Rican men, Fernandez adds.”

Looking at couples of all ages holding hands in public, teenagers practicing kissing in Atenas' central park in broad daylight, and middle-aged lechers hanging out of vehicles to shout and leer at young women shoehorned into their clothes, who would have guessed at this lamentable situation? If there are not many genuine *pobrecitos*, there are *pobrecitas* aplenty.

Because Ticos read so little, fundraising to buy many tens of thousands of copies of *The Joy of Sex* probably wouldn't help much. (In any case, the Catholic Church would surely condemn the book as pornographic.) In the last year or so we encountered two men who brought their wives along to, as we were to deduce, read a simple contract. (In Spanish, of course.) We had been taken in by the government's claim of a jump in literacy from 11 percent in 1864 to 93 percent in 1984. Not so, say the authors, for "many functional illiterates who have forgotten skills acquired in school are officially classified as literate. ... Many Ticos believe that illness and even insanity afflict those who read and study too much and commiserate with the *pobrecito* who is expected to write a paper or pass an exam."

Under the heading "Cultural Acceptance of Mediocrity," we find in this fascinating study that "A nation of readers bespeaks a nation of good schools. And Costa Rican schools do not encourage reading. ... A 1992 ministry memo indicates the dimensions of the problem: Teachers were asked to set aside *fifteen minutes a day* for reading."

But another part of the problem is the scarcity of books, as a visit to the Atenas public library will confirm, and their high cost. We were astonished and dismayed to learn from our eighth-grade son, who attends a public school in Grecia, that he and his classmates had been given no textbooks. In such a case the students can't be expected to develop a good grasp of ideas. And they don't. "A business professor told us he gave his students, all public school graduates, two essays with opposing theses. 'Not one student noticed that the authors disagreed,' he said"

As a people Ticos are better than their all-too-human frailties (as the authors are careful to show). It is their stunning achievement to have created a stable, enduring government while all around despotism has reigned. And by abolishing their army while giving a good part of their budgets to health and education they have set a model for larger, richer nations to emulate..

President Arias' Nobel Prize for Peace was well-deserved (unlike, say, Kissinger's) so he could chide the leaders of nearby states for engaging in an arms race. And while Ticos are too willing to forgive each other for bending the truth, I doubt they lie any more than other people.

The Ticos is a labor of love decades in the making, refining, and updating. I can hardly imagine a better introduction to this intriguing country, its people, and its culture. If I were to fault it, it would be that I would like it to be twice as long. Armed with the wealth of insights it provides, I feel much better equipped for viewing Ticos in a broader, well-balanced way.

Note: *The Ticos* is available at Goodlight Books in downtown Alajuela, at the Juan Santamaria Airport, and at Amazon.com.

Ron Bell is an editor, writer, and ghostwriter as well as a psychological counselor and life coach.

Our Columnists

A Visit to the Maleku Reserve with Atenas Artist, Jan Yatsko



by Lorna Smith

I have long been an admirer of the lovely tropical paintings of Atenas artist, Jan Yatsko. Last year I was the successful bidder of an auction item that Jan had donated to benefit the abandoned animals of Atenas, and now a wonderful painting of an Atenas scene (including a local dog) is proudly on display in our new home in Hacienda Atenas.

In addition to her paintings Jan also gives semi-yearly art tours to various destinations around Costa Rica. When the opportunity arose for me to accompany her on a recent tour to the Maleku Indigenous Reserve north of Fortuna, and experience their nature-based art at first hand, I jumped at the chance.

Jan offers different ways to experience her tours. Several of the tour participants opted for the full week option which included visits to San Jose galleries, Quepos and Man-

ual Antonio National Park and a private Scarlet Macaw sanctuary. The Maleku tour

involved three days and two nights in Fortuna including a full day at the nearby Maleku Indigenous Reserve where we were warmly welcomed by several Maleku families.

Jan encourages her tour participants to keep their own unique travel journal using art techniques of their own choosing. The beautiful journals she has personally created over the years provided inspiration for all us. My one complaint was that our time was so richly filled throughout the three days that little time remained for mulling over and experimenting with our own approaches to art/ travel journaling. However, now that I am back in Atenas, I am inspired to get out the art supplies and get creative.



The Maleku are a unique indigenous group completely separate from the other indigenous tribes of Costa Rica such as the Bri Bri or Cabecars who live to the south. Although the total population of Malekus numbers less than 700 today, they have

maintained their cultural traditions and a distinct spoken and written language. Even the youngest children are taught to speak both Spanish and Maleku. We were enthusiastically greeted upon our arrival with cries of “Capi capi” which means “Welcome!” in Maleku. We then entered the community lodge where a fire is kept burning night and day. As in many other indigenous cultures, fire is sacred to the Maleku. However the central fire always maintained in each home serves a very practical purpose as well in a palm thatched building. The smoke that rises discourages the presence of insects or reptiles who might choose to take up residence.



Although many of the Maleku homes are now constructed from concrete block in the typical Tico fashion, a number of the community structures still are built in the traditional manner. Palm fronds from the Pejibaye palm are used to thatch the roof and hand-hewed wooden planks form the walls. Floors are hard-packed earth. Examples of the Maleku traditional artwork are displayed around the walls of the communal building. The Malekus consider themselves to be “lovers of nature” and that is reflected in how they live their lives, in the values they pass on to their children and in their art. Colorful, realistic birds, butterflies, frogs and flowers adorn masks, carvings and the painted halves of jicara gourds.

The historical lands occupied by the Malekus were perhaps ten times the size of the area they occupy today. Even though they were successful in winning a decision from the Sala IV (the Supreme Court of Costa Rica) that the government must purchase back some of their lost lands and return them to the Maleku, little has happened. Many hectares of their former home have been converted to coffee plantations and grazing lands. Primary forest has been felled and the timber sold. Wildlife the Maleku depended on at one time for sustenance has disappeared. Plants used for homes, for clothing, for food and medicines have become increasingly scarce.

The Maleku have not waited for the government help to arrive. Using their own resources, the community decided to begin an ambitious forest restoration program. On our visit, we were guided through this recovering secondary forest area and were amazed at the comeback happening right before our eyes. Our local guide and naturalist, Elias, showed us trees that have grown to an amazing size in the past dozen years. He found rare plants that are coveted and protected by the Malekus for their medicinal properties. The community has no local clinic or doctor. These native remedies are critically important for treating a plethora of ailments from the common cold to snake bite. Elias had us taste or smell certain plants used for teas, for pain relief and for flavoring foods.

The Maleku today have a school for 7-14 year olds thanks to the generosity of the Methodist Church which provided the school, the labor and student materials. The Maleku follow their aboriginal religion which worships one god and believes in the sacredness of nature. However, they respect their Christian benefactors and welcome the help for their children. We visited the local radio station which has a broadcast range of 40 kilometers. A range of programming is provided, including a

number of programs in the Maleku language.

At the end of our forest walk, we returned to the community lodge to witness and participate in a ceremony to acknowledge the sacred role of fire in the Maleku lives, and to pray for a better understanding on the part of mankind towards man's role of stewardship of our Mother Earth. We were all invited to join the dance circle which we did with smiles and a spirit of thanks.



After the ceremony the Maleku treated us to a typical meal of their staple foods—rice, yucca, a small amount of chicken and beans. It was deliciously prepared. Although the Maleku raise much of their own food, the soil is not rich enough to grow food for export out of the reserve. The unemployment rate among the Maleku is very high. Many must leave their home for prolonged periods of time in search of work. That is why cultural tourism like the trips Jan arranges is very important to their survival. I know that I could not resist coming home with about dozen pieces of their beautiful, modestly priced artwork. It was with a certain sadness that we said goodbye to our new friends for the return trip to Atenas.

For more information on the art of Jan Yatsko, or to sign up for one of her tours, here is a link to Jan's website:

www.janyatsko.com/

Missives from an Old(er) Feminist



by Diane Holman

A Screed (A Long Monotonous Harangue)

I first became aware of the corporatization of American life on a night in the mid-80's when I went to a Lakers game at the Forum in Inglewood, Los Angeles, California. I will never forget my first sight of the Forum in the early 80's. It was a magnificent arena, white with patrician columns; it shone in the dark night, a fitting theater for the greatness of Kareem Abdul-Jabbar and Magic Johnson. But on this night I saw banners displayed that said: Great Western Forum. I was utterly dismayed. What connection could there be between a huge banking institution and basketball? *Great Western Forum*? It felt profane. I later learned that the Lakers organization had sold the "rights" to the name to Great Western Bank for a million dollars.

The second epiphany came when I was in-house counsel to a large restaurant company in Irvine, California. Each employee was invited (mandated) to attend a meeting led by members of the Human Resources department, on a new insurance

program that was being put in place by the company. The new plan involved something called HMO's (Health Management Organizations) and as I listened to what was being said, I realized that these new creatures—HMO's—would be directing the health care I received instead of doctors. I raised my hand and asked how this could be. I received some type of answer in Personnel-speak and later was visited in my office by the CFO of the company. He said that as a member of management of the company I should not ask questions on behalf of labor. Since I had asked my question not in the interests of management *or* labor, but in the interests of general common sense, I was flummoxed by the CFO's injunction.

And so I watched it happen, the encroachment of corporations into health and sports and politics and mainstream media and nearly every other aspect of American life. I was preached the new gospel from the bully pulpit of the Reagan White House to the movie screen inner sanctum of Wall Street's Gordon Gecko. The owners and CEO's of giant corporations were good people, who would take their riches and reinvest them in their companies, creating more jobs for everyone. Making money was no longer a priority in the U.S., it was the only thing that mattered. The courts deemed corporations "persons" within the meaning of the 14th Amendment, with all the protections afforded flesh-and-blood human beings. The courts stated that corporations had no duties to the communities in which they flourished; they could close up shop and move anywhere where they could pay lower wages and damn the ghost towns they left behind. The *only* duty corporations had was to their shareholders; their only mandate was profit.

In the 90's I watched an interview by someone on 20/20 with Ken Lay, the CEO of Enron. Enron had already wrested power, electricity, from governmental regulation; Enron had corporatized electricity, a necessity of life. The consequences were still in the future, as California, most notably, was destined to learn. But at the time of the interview, the fellow from ABC interviewed Ken Lay with the deference of an acolyte. Toward the end of the segment, he

said: "You would sell *air* to the people for Enron's profit." Lay responded: "You bet I would if I could".

And so we are where we are. We, flesh-and-blood persons, know that greed is not good. We know that profit to shareholders and bonuses to CEO's are not the be-all and end-all of communities. We know that money cannot buy happiness. We know that, but corporations do not.

Interesting Facts *by Anonymous*

It takes your food seven seconds to get from your mouth to your stomach.

One human hair can support 3 kg (6.6 lb).

The average man's penis is three times the length of his thumb.

Human thighbones are stronger than concrete.

A woman's heart beats faster than a man's.

There are about one trillion bacteria on each of your feet.

Women blink twice as often as men.

The average person's skin weighs twice as much as the brain.

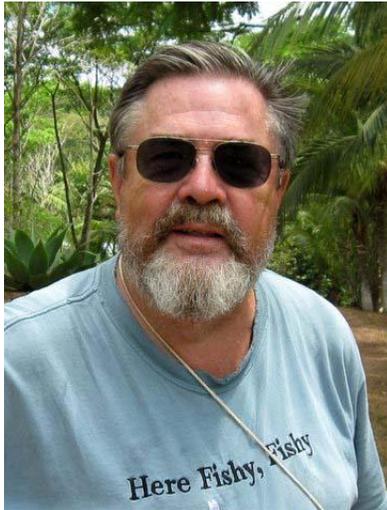
Your body uses 300 muscles to balance itself when you are standing still.

If saliva cannot dissolve something, you cannot taste it.

Women will be finished reading this by now.

Men are still busy checking their thumbs.

Chagas



by G. Martin Lively

Don't scratch that itch.
Your Mom's admonition when you were a kid takes on cosmic significance when you live in Central or South America

Last Sunday while driving home from the gym near his home in Vienna, Virginia, one of my best friends, John DiFazio (he was best man at our wedding,) passed out at the wheel and drifted into oncoming traffic.

The collision did not injure him but he was unconscious as the paramedics placed him in the ambulance, his heart had stopped. On the way to the hospital he stopped breathing. Defibrillation and chest compression restarted heart and lungs.

At the Cardiac Intensive Care unit of Fairfax Hospital, Fairfax, Virginia he was sedated and put on complete life support. Investigation disclosed that he had not had a heart attack. His heart had stopped from a massive inflammation of the myocardium. But what caused that?

When his wife Judith called us on Tuesday to let us know John was critical, tons of tests were underway. Suspects included

bacteria, viruses and parasites – especially one the parasite *Trypanosoma cruzi* from the Chagas bug.

Chagas are found all over the new world tropics and are more common where houses are not fumigated and walls or ceilings are of thatch. Guess what kind of a cabina John and I and the others on my Rio San Juan Tarpon Safari last September stayed in? Si, exposed ceiling, palm thatched, bamboo walled huts.

As of today John appears on the mend. He is off the breather, the inflammation is subsiding, he can talk and walk – all of that weakly and very slowly, but there is every hope for a complete recovery.



Oh yes, the itch. **If** it was Chagas he had to have scratched the itch resulting from the little blood sucker's bite. Chagas has the habit of relieving itself of its last meal immediately after a new one. Almost all of them carry the protozoan parasite *T. Cruzi*, and when one scratches/rubs the itch the feces bearing the parasite is shoved into the bite wound! *T.Cruzi* then makes a home in the human gut until, and that can be ten to twenty years later, something triggers a proliferation and a blood borne move to the human heart where their invasion and numbers inflame and then stop it.

So, remember what your Mommy said, "Don't scratch that itch!"

PS. We have reservations for the tarpon tournament this year in a new little hotel which has conventional walls and ceilings and which assures me they fumigate regularly. (Still two place available.)

American Builder

20 years experience building in Costa Rica. References and photos. Have architect to help with plans and permits if needed. Building in Atenas can be easy with the right team.
Call Bill Enell 8812-0126 or 2446-4837

Crutches Wanted

Does anyone have crutches that I can borrow or buy?
John Wood, Atenas Centro, 2446-6840

Private Lot on River



This 5400 square meter lot is in Finca Zacatal, a 9 lot community located in San Isidro de Atenas, approximately 5 kilometers from town. Huge trees and a stream border the property, which is completely private with no other houses visible. Water and electricity is installed to the property line. Two other houses have been constructed in the community, and a caretaker house at the entrance provides security.

Asking price \$60,000.

Contact Fred Macdonald, 2446-0440, 8848-7632, fredmac222@yahoo.com.

Mountain Cottage for Rent



Our newly remodeled two bedroom cottage is 5 kilometers from downtown Atenas on a private road. Great views of the valley may be seen from both the front and rear terraces. Trees and coffee all around, and there is a nearby river with a 30 foot waterfall. One bedroom contains a double bed, and the other a single bed. The living room has a small dining table, a sofa, and several chairs. There is a full kitchen and bathroom (shower only). A land-line telephone makes it possible to connect to the internet. Linens and kitchen utensils are provided, and optional maid service is available. There is a modern washer/drier in the attached bodega. Enjoy a variety of music from the CD player and the library of discs.

High Season Rates: one week, \$300, two weeks, \$400, four weeks, \$500

Low Season Rates: one week, \$200, two weeks, \$300, four weeks, \$400

Special rates for longer stays.

Call Fred at 8848-7632 (country code 506), or email fredmac222@yahoo.com

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