During its first years the first settlers of San Juan (El Llano de San Juan, Taos County) had no water supply in the village. They would have to carry it up from the valley of the Rio Chiquito or of the Santa Barbara River. Then as tradition tells us, a certain lady by the name of Catalina Martinez, *began to dig a ditch*. The exact date is not known, what is known is the fact is that, as she was working on the ditch, she gave birth to a son. He was born in 1815 and lived to the age of 105 years, dying in 1920. His name was Jose Antonio Martinez. After this lady had built the diversion dam on the Santa Barbara River, she continued with the digging of the ditch proper. Lacking an engineer her only method was to continue digging ahead of the flow of water. When the rest of the residents saw that the water would run up hill, they all pitched in to help this woman and it took them twelve years to finish the ditch. They built it with wooden tools and after they had finished the ditch to the village they met for several years, nightly at vigils where they prayed and gave thanks to God. 1[1]