



EMPIRE RANCH FOUNDATION NEWS

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www.empireranchfoundation.org

Legacy Day 2009

May 6th proved to be a beautiful, sun-filled day, just perfect for Legacy Day at the Empire Ranch. Sixty students and five teachers from the Elgin Middle School grades 6, 7, and 8 participated in an exciting day of fun and educational events.

In the morning students learned about range management of native grasses from Larry Howery, University of Arizona; wool spinning and weaving from Anna Coleman, Elgin School; and horse hair rope making from Jesus Garcia, Arizona-Sonora Desert Museum.

Afternoon activities included rawhide braiding with Dick Schorr and Joel Eliot, and an Empire Ranch tour. Steve Boice's hands-on demonstration of horse harnessing using his beautiful gray Percheron horses captivated the students.

The tasty traditional cowboy lunch provided for the students, teachers, and guests was a big hit. The fare included beef brisket prepared by ERF president Alison Bunting; cowboy beans and tortillas supplied by ERF board member Ron Martin; and other delicious treats served by our enthusiastic volunteers. Throughout the morning everyone enjoyed the biscuits cooked in cast iron pots by Dick Schorr, Bob Hyland, and Steve Coleman.

Special acknowledgement is extended to Dick Schorr and Gail Corkill for organizing this popular Legacy Day. Thanks to all the volunteers who gave their time to make Legacy Day 2009 a huge success!



Hands-on Legacy Day makes a great school day (photos: D. Schorr and C. Auerbach).

Thanks for Your Membership Support!

Our annual membership drive is well on its way and we are so grateful to all who have renewed their membership or joined us for the first time! We are pleased to report that as of July 27th, 260 members have generously contributed \$28,795. If you haven't yet renewed, we hope this newsletter will be a gentle reminder to send in your membership renewal today.

Every member dollar counts, helping us to achieve matching fund opportunities, and continue with the preservation and restoration of the Empire Ranch. Your membership support also makes possible the educational enrichment programs for young people described in this issue.

To join or renew your membership, return the membership card recently mailed you, or mail in the membership form on page 4. You may now also make an electronic donation through our website at www.empireranchfoundation.org. Just click on **Donate Now!**

Please take that important step now!

Don't Miss It!

**“Cowboy Country at the
Historic Empire Ranch”**

**2009 Empire Ranch Roundup
& Open House**

**Empire Ranch Headquarters
Las Cienegas National
Conservation Area, Sonoita**

Saturday, October 24, 2009

**See enclosed flyer, or visit
www.empireranchfoundation.org**



Published by the Empire Ranch Foundation, a not-for-profit organization, in cooperation with the Bureau of Land Management. The purpose of the Foundation is to protect, restore, and sustain the Empire Ranch historical buildings and landscape as an outstanding western heritage and education center. Donations to the Foundation may be sent to: P.O. Box 842, Sonoita, AZ 85637-0842.

Preservation Progress

The June 20th Empire Ranch volunteer day was the best ever! Over 30 enthusiastic volunteers, ranging in age from 80 to 8 worked throughout the Headquarters buildings on a variety of projects.

The front porch of the Victorian Addition was sanded and primed for a coat of new paint, as were several windows on the east side of the Rear Addition. The adobe team patched cracks in several rooms of the original homestead, filled a large hole on its exterior, and repaired a floor crack in the Master Bedroom of the Victorian Addition. The cleaning crew left the Master Bathroom fixtures gleaming and finished removing old contact paper from the metal kitchen cabinets.

Outside all gutters and drains were cleared in preparation for the summer rains, shrubs were pruned, and the fountain was cleared of plants and debris. A few days later five trees were professionally pruned and shaped by Patagonia Tree and Brush to remove dead limbs that threatened the roof of the Victorian Addition and the Stone Corral.

At the end of June, we received a welcome surprise—BLM was able to secure deferred maintenance funding for the entire Lintel stabilization project, permitting us to redirect Foundation funds toward other projects. Lintel work currently is being scheduled. Progress on it and plans for other priorities will be discussed in our next newsletter.

This increased BLM funding, and a recent three-year extension of our partnership agreement with BLM, is a reflection of the BLM's highly positive evaluation of the consistent high level of funding and volunteer effort that Foundation members have brought to the mission of preserving the Empire Ranch. Thank you!



Over 30 volunteers tackled many important tasks (photos: G. Auerbach)

Empire Ranch Windmills



One of the most photographed icons of the Empire Ranch Headquarters is its windmill.

In April, its Dempster No. 12 windmill was badly damaged in a severe windstorm. Happily, in late June the BLM was able to replace it with an Aermotor windmill moved from another Las Cienegas location.

Windmill technology began to be used in the United States in the late 19th century; it provided an ideal mechanism for pumping water for farming, cattle operations, and households. At first the windmills were made of wood, but a far more reliable and effective windmill made of steel by the U.S. Wind Engine & Pump Co. in the 1870s revolutionized its use.

Dempster and Aermotor windmills were made by two prominent companies, still in business today. Dempster Mill Manufacturing Co. was established in 1878; its Dempster No. 12, a self-oiling steel pumping windmill was introduced in 1922 and remains in production. Aermotor Windmill Co. released its first product in 1888, and in 1915 introduced a windmill with an enclosed gear case, allowing for automatic oiling of all working parts. This self-oiling design reduced maintenance from weekly to once a year.

The installation date and model of Empire's first windmill is unknown. Photos taken in the 1880s show a large water tank east of the Adobe Haybarn, but no evidence of a windmill. By the 1920s a windmill is clearly visible adjacent to the water tank. This was replaced by the Boice Family with a new well, windmill, and water tank, south of the South Barn, in the late 1940s or early 1950s.

Wells, windmills, and water tanks are critical for raising cattle. During the Vail era there were approximately five hand-dug wells on the ranch. The Boices added about 25 mechanically dug wells to insure that water was available to cattle as they grazed in widespread pastures. Eventually windmills began to be replaced with electric or solar powered submersible pumps. An important responsibility of Empire cowboys was and is checking water supplies to ensure that all equipment is working properly and water is readily available.

Welcome to the Tomlinson Family

We are pleased to welcome the Tomlinson Family, owners of the Vera Earl Ranch, Inc., as working partners on the Empire Ranch. In March 2009 they entered into a grazing lease agreement with the Bureau of Land Management to run cattle on the Las Cienegas National Conservation Area. The Vera Earl Ranch, which borders the Empire Ranch on the west, was established in 1968 by Burton and Bettie Ann Beck. Ranching operations are managed by Ian Tomlinson, a grandson of the Becks. He and his wife Kristin and daughters Marin and Addison live in Sonoita. The Foundation looks forward to a close working relationship with the Tomlinsons in the coming years.

Wild About the Grasslands! 2009

Empire Ranch Foundation hosted another successful *Wild About the Grasslands!* Summer Day Camp at the Empire Ranch this past June. Twenty youngsters, grades 5 - 8, spent five fun-filled days in the outdoors exploring the Empire Ranch and learning about the forces that shape the landscapes of the LCNCA.

These "Grasslanders" engaged in many hands-on activities designed to develop the skills of a naturalist, preservationist, scientist, and outdoor enthusiast. The incredible team facilitators (Netzin Steklis, Patty Cooper, Jeffrey Cooper, and Gail Corkill) provided endless energy and creativity; enthusiastic Team Assistant Leaders (Traci Swift, Rachel Ward, and Wulf Steklis) and Group Leaders (Taylor Bureson, Kyle Simms, and Bernd Steklis) served as friends and role models helping to lead the kids in outdoor games and adventure.

The history of Empire Ranch came alive during a treasure hunt game called "letterboxing" designed to teach about ranching heritage, the families who lived at the Empire Ranch, and the language of cattle branding. By following directions, clues, and deciphering compass readings they navigated through Ranch Headquarters to find a set of three hidden letterboxes. Once found, each student uncovered the box, drew a brand they created in the log, and then imprinted the stamp with the inkpad found inside the box.

They also had a wonderful time playing in the mud while learning the "art" of adobe brick making from BLM preservationist, Chris Schrage.

During nature-guided hikes students discovered habitats and observed wildlife. Throughout the week, they kept a personal journal of their observations, using drawings and notes to record what they saw, heard, felt, and experienced. They journeyed to many places on the LCNCA to practice science skills ranging from observation and field sampling to data collection. Local experts (Tim Snow, Dieter Steklis, and Erik Powell) exposed them to issues confronting ranchers and land managers including the practice of prescribed burns and reintroduction of the Pronghorn, Aplomado Falcon, and Black-tailed Prairie Dog.

The last day of camp culminated in a



(photos: N. Steklis)

family ice cream social and a branding demonstration by Mac Donaldson. All the kids were thrilled to take home their own brand on a piece of wood salvaged from the Empire Ranch.

We are enormously grateful to the generous student financial scholarships made by the Anne C. Stradling Equine Foundation, Arizona Rangers-Sonoita Company, Patagonia Elementary Parent Teacher Club, Patagonia Museum, Ron Martin & Carla Kerekes Martin, and the Mountain-Empire Rotary. The continuation and expansion of this dynamic ranching heritage and ecology program is funded in part by grants from the Fred W. Stang Foundation, Patagonia Regional Community Foundation, Sulfur Springs Valley Electric Cooperative Foundation, and the BLM.

The Language and Practice of Historic Preservation

As hands-on preservation efforts by Foundation volunteers continue at the Empire Ranch, we thought our readers would be interested in a review of the materials and techniques that are mandated for preservation of federal historic sites, and the criteria for what's appropriate.

There are a lot of different words to describe the variety of good things one might do to historic buildings, including stabilization, remodeling, maintenance, protection, renovation, preservation, rehabilitation, restoration, reconstruction, recycling, adaptive reuse, replication, and conservation.

The terms aren't all synonymous, and which treatment you choose has critical implications for a historic property. So, in 1995, the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties was revised to consolidate recommended treatments into four main categories: Preservation, Rehabilitation, Restoration, and Reconstruction. (The following definitions and recommendations for the application of each treatment are adapted from the Standards).

Preservation focuses on the maintenance and repair of existing historic materials and retention of a property's form as it has evolved over time. (The terms Protection and Stabilization, from the original Standards, have now been consolidated under this treatment.) The Standards say that Preservation is an appropriate treatment when the property's distinctive materials, features, and spaces are essentially intact; when depiction of a particular period of time is not appropriate; and when a proposed use does not require additions or extensive alterations. Preservation places a high premium on retaining historic fabric through conservation, maintenance, and repair. It reflects a building's continuum over time and through successive occupancies.

Rehabilitation is the process of making possible a compatible use for a property through repair, alterations, and additions while preserving those portions or features that convey its historical, cultural, or architectural values. Rehabilitation may

(continued on p. 4)

Language *(cont'd from p. 3)*

be appropriate when repair or replacement of deteriorated features is necessary; when alterations or additions to the property are planned for a proposed use; and when its depiction at a particular period of time is not appropriate. Rehabilitation emphasizes the repair of historic materials, but allows more latitude for replacement because the property may be more deteriorated prior to work. (Both Preservation and Rehabilitation standards focus preserving those materials, spaces, features, and finishes that, together, give a property its historic character.)

Restoration involves accurately depicting the form, features, and character of a property as it appeared at a particular period of time. This can involve the removal of features from other periods in its history and reconstruction of missing features from the restoration period. Restoration may be considered as a treatment when the property's architectural or historical significance during a particular period of time outweighs the potential loss of extant materials, features, spaces, and finishes that characterize other historical periods, and when there is substantial physical and documentary evidence for the work. Before undertaking work, a particular period of time (the restoration period) should be selected and justified, and a documentation plan for Restoration developed.

Reconstruction re-creates non-surviving portions of a property for interpretive purposes. Reconstruction is considered appropriate when a contemporary depiction is required to better understand a property's historic value; when no other

property with the same associative values has survived; and when sufficient historical documentation exists to ensure an accurate reproduction. **Reconstruction** entails the least authenticity of historic materials; one period in history is depicted using new materials, based on archeology and other research findings.

So how do we determine which treatment is appropriate? Wherever possible, Preservation is preferred. It's possible that the definitions used in the revised Standards are meant to encourage Rehabilitation over restoration and reconstruction, not only because Rehabilitation (as defined) has a greater integrity of original historic fabric, but also because it encourages what we call "adaptive reuse." Structures in use are much more likely to be maintained, and hence "preserved" (if we may use that term loosely) for the future!

(Article has been adapted by Chris Schragger from an earlier version by Mary Farrell and Jim Britton, first published in the Kentucky Camp Chronicle.)

Gifts in Remembrance

The Empire Ranch Foundation deeply appreciates the following recent donations:

In Memory of:

Rex Allen, John Paul Andree, Laddie Bok, Earl F. Glenn, Jr., Joan Hedgcock, Carey Ingram, Dusty Vail Ingram, Klondike, Bob Kuhn, Ferne Kemp Lewis, Jim McNulty, Barbara Odenweller, Julia Scribner Ruch, Dr. Joe Shields, Mercedes Sumner, Godfrey Sill, Al Vail, Russ Vail, Oscar Ward

In Appreciation of:

John Donaldson, Mac Donaldson, Bob Hyland, Howell Manning

Working Calendar

[Location: Empire Ranch Headquarters, unless otherwise noted. To volunteer, or for more information, call (888) 364-2829]

August

15 Volunteer Day, 8am-Noon

September

19 ERF Board Meeting, 9am-Noon

October

17 Volunteer Day, 8am-2pm

24 2009 Empire Ranch Roundup & Open House, "Cowboy Country at the Historic Empire Ranch", 10am-4pm. Public invited.

November

21 ERF Board Meeting, 9am-Noon

December

4 Artists entries due for 2010 "Empire 100" Western Art Show & Sale

January

11-13 Preview, "Empire 100" Western Art Show & Sale, 9am to 4pm, Northern Trust, 3450 East Sunrise Drive, Tucson, AZ

14 Members & Friends Reception, "Empire 100" Western Art Show & Sale, 4pm to 7:30pm, Northern Trust (Show runs through March 12)

16 ERF Board Meeting, 9am-Noon



Empire windmill, ca.1920 (photo: M. V. Woolley)

2009/2010 Membership Reply

Yes, I want to help save the Empire Ranch for future generations!

Name: _____
(Please enter name(s) in your preferred format for acknowledgments.)

Street/P.O. Address: _____

City, State, ZIP : _____

Phone: (____) _____ Email: _____

Check enclosed Charge to: MC Visa Discover This is a new address

Credit Card Number

Exp.Date. Signature

This donation is also in __memory/ __appreciation of _____

This is a gift membership from: _____

EMPIRE RANCH FOUNDATION

- \$35 Homesteader
- \$50 Total Wreck Miner
- \$100 Wrangler
- \$250 Vaquero
- \$500 Jefe
- \$1,000 Patron
- \$2,500 Majordomo
- \$5,000 Cattle Baron
- \$10,000 Territorial Governor
- \$_____ Other

Please Mail To: Empire Ranch Foundation, P.O. Box 842, Sonoita, AZ 85637

The Empire Ranch Foundation has an IRS 501(c)(3) non-profit classification; donations are tax-deductible as allowed by law.