



EMPIRE RANCH FOUNDATION NEWS

P.O. Box 842 • Sonoita, Arizona 85637-0842 • (888) 364-2829

www.empireranchfoundation.org

3:10 to Yuma & the Fords Draw a Great Crowd

Crowds packed The Loft Cinema at the Empire Ranch Foundation's screening of the classic, original "3:10 to Yuma" on Aug. 15, featuring special guests Peter & Lynda Ford. The film stars Glenn Ford in the lead role, and members of the audience came as much to see the taut drama as they did to hear engaging tales told by the Fords. Peter is the son of Glenn Ford and the equally celebrated actress and dancer Eleanor Powell. The audience was quick to interact, asking questions which were answered with candor and humor.

Also making comments about the film were Bob Shelton, founder of Old Tucson, and Helen Hobson, an extra in the film, and a former owner of Triangle T Guest Ranch, two sites among many where the movie was filmed.

Peter drew on stories told in his recent book about his father, titled *Glenn Ford: A Life*. Early guests also purchased autographed copies of the book.

Peter also spoke about their tour to the Empire Ranch, "I could see my dad here—he would have felt right at home. Without the support of an organization such as yours, no doubt much of the Empire Ranch history would be lost."

The event was made possible through generous underwriting by The Green Valley Pecan Company, Strategic Issues Management Group, and Hacienda de Sol Guest Ranch Resort. Our thanks to Board members Emil Franzi and David Steele for their tireless efforts to make this annual summer event a success.



3:10 to Yuma at The Loft (photos: G. Auerbach, M. Siquieros)

Members Respond to Empire Ranch Needs

What does a working cattle ranch and a beautiful historic ranch have in common? Great Members! I want to thank all of you for your support during this important membership drive. We absolutely can't continue our preservation and educational projects, as well as day-to-day activities without great members like you. We are grateful for your support and confidence in this great endeavor and meaningful program.

As of the end of July, more than 200 have joined ERF, including 26 new members. If you have not yet joined or renewed your membership, please do so using the form on page 4 or please visit our website, www.empireranchfoundation.org.

And, of course, be sure to drop by the ranch for our highly anticipated Annual Empire Ranch Roundup & Open House, Saturday, November 2, from 10am to 4pm. It's a family event that should not be missed. See the enclosed flyer or visit our website for full details—hope to see you there!

Thanks again for your support! Happy trails from a proud member of the Empire Ranch Foundation.

Ron Martin
ERF President



Celebrating the Cowboy

Work is well underway on the Cowboy Life exhibit, funded in part by an Arizona Humanities Council grant. The exhibit will have its official opening on February 8, 2014. Using ERF oral histories, archives, and other resources, Mary Melcher, curator, and Alison Bunting, project director, have conducted extensive research to document Empire Ranch vaquero and cowboy traditions, daily lives, and methods of handling cattle.

A wonderful side benefit of the research has been the opportunity to connect with descendants and learn more about several men who worked at the Empire Ranch in the late 1800s and early 1900s.

Brief summaries of their lives and involvement at the Empire Ranch are below.

Tomás López, born in Hermosillo, Sonora, Mexico in 1827, emigrated to Los Angeles in 1850. In 1873, he, his wife, Sacramento, and seven children including son Blas López, began a trip from Los Angeles to Hermosillo via Arizona. While traveling south of Tucson their wagon was attacked by Chiricahua Apaches and they lost everything, forcing them to stay in Arizona. Tomás later homesteaded in the Cienega Valley, near the Empire Ranch. He is listed in the 1880 U.S. Census as a herder working at the Empire Ranch.

José Blas López, son of Tomás, was born in Los Angeles in 1868 and was five years old when his family was forced to settle in Arizona. Blas married Maria Pallanes López and they had three daughters, Rita, Elena, and Rosario (pictured below). Blas began to work at the Empire Ranch in the early 1900's, first as a cow-



Blas López, wife and daughters; Amulfo Rena standing center back, 1900. [photo: E. Gardner]

boy and ultimately as foreman.

Blas' grandson, Edward Gardner, grew up hearing stories of Blas' participation in the 1890 cattle drive from the Empire Ranch to California led by Edward Vail and Tom Turner.

Juan Tomás Sierras (photo below) was born in southern Arizona in 1887. He worked as a cowboy at the Empire Ranch around 1910. His son, John Thomas Sierra, notes that Juan eloped on horseback with his mother, Josefina Molina, who lived in the mining town of Greaterville, near the Empire Ranch. Juan moved to California in the 1920s and worked for the Vail Company there for a time.



Juan Tomás Sierras, circa 1910. [photo: J. Sierra]

Thomas J. Turner (photo on right) was born in 1861 in Texas, where he worked as a cowboy until he moved to Arizona and settled on a ranch near Benson. The 1910 U.S. Census lists Tom, his wife Mary, and their four children living at Empire Ranch; Tom's occupation is listed as superintendent. His involvement with the Empire Ranch dates back to at least 1890, when he was the foreman on the cattle drive from the Empire Ranch to California.

Tom's great grandson, Gary Turner, wrote in an article: "It was Tom's job to round up the cattle, gather together a crew of wranglers, hire a cook, purchase a chuck wagon and supplies, locate enough horses for the trip, plan the route, and get started."

We are grateful for the photos and stories provided by Edward Gardner, John Sierra, and Gary Turner. If you have stories or photos you can share, we'd love to hear from you!

Cowboy Exhibit Items Needed

The Cowboy Life exhibit will be installed in the oldest part of the Empire Ranch House in the room where the cowboys slept. ERF is looking for the following items to be placed on display in a secure closet unit or exhibit case. Donations will be acknowledged in the exhibit. If have something you are able to donate, please call (888) 364-2829 or please email the foundation at admin@empireranchfoundation.org.

For the cowboy bedroom: We're seeking used, non-fancy items that would be used by working cowboys, such as:

- Hats, boots, jeans, long sleeve shirts
- Bedroll
- Duffle bag or old suitcase
- Chaps
- Shaving mug & brush
- Fireplace andirons (for space 16" deep and 34" wide)

For the exhibit case: We're seeking used cowboy gear and equipment, such as:

- Bridles & bits
- Hackamores
- Ropes (rawhide, manila, nylon)
- Spurs
- Branding irons
- Cattle earmarkers
- Cattle inoculation equipment
- Farrier equipment
- "Smear 62" bottle



Tom Turner, circa 1910. [photo: G. Turner]

Las Cienegas Ranching

On June 8th, the Foundation's *Wild About the Grasslands!* (WATG!) education and outreach program and Colossal Cave Mountain Park sponsored "Ranching Across the Cienegas" Family Fun Day to celebrate "National Get Outdoor Day" and connect children and adults to the shared history between the communities of the Cienega Valley—Elgin, Patagonia, Sonoita, and Vail.

The festivities began with a tour of the ranch house led by docent Joanne Triplett. Dusty Vail (Lucinda Iverson) and friends helped the delighted children decorate their own stick horses. Chuck wagon Charlie (Tim Corkill) prepared a green apple cobbler from scratch and demonstrated the art of Dutch oven cooking.



Chuck wagon Charlie demonstrates Dutch oven cooking [photo: D. Parks]

Docent Van Fowers represented Colossal Cave Mountain Park by providing information about La Posta Quemada Ranch.

An old-fashioned ice cream social hosted by Margaret Vail (Gail Corkill) and her oldest daughter Mary Eliza (Traci Swift) was a refreshing treat. Singer Janice Deardorff led the audience in favorite cowboy tunes and wowed them with her new song about young Dusty Vail.

All had a chance to view the Vail Preservation Society's Territorial Kitchen exhibit and enjoy the "Growing up on the Empire Ranch" presentation by Sharon E. Hunt and Gail Waechter Corkill.

We are most grateful for all the help and enthusiasm of ERF volunteers who made this event possible.

The Foundation warmly invites you to join our next WATG! family event, on Saturday, September 28. It will be in recognition of the 20th Anniversary of National Public Lands Day, and will celebrate volunteerism, getting fit, and having fun outdoors.



Legacy day moments, May 8, 2013. [photos: C. Auerbach]

Legacy Day 2013

Legacy Day at the Empire Ranch proved to be a magical and fun day for the more than 60 middle school students who attended the educational outreach event on May 8. Elgin School students have been participating in Legacy Day since 2005, but this was the first opportunity for Patagonia School 7th and 8th graders to join Elgin students and learn first-hand about the ranching heritage of the area.

From the moment they arrived students were kept busy learning about ranch tools from Dean Fish, bee culture from Ryan Gwidt, horses and wagons from Steve Boice and Theresa Warrell, adobe brick making from Chris Schrage, roping from Joel Eliot and Steve Schmitt, raw-hide braiding from Dick Schorr, letterboxing from Gail Corkill, and drawing from Denise Purvis.

After emphasizing that caring for the soil is the rancher's most important job, Fish explained the essential nature of the cow, stating that "a cow is a magical creature," due to its unique digestive system and its ability to provide both dairy and meat food sources.

During the traditional ranch barbeque lunch prepared by ERF volunteers everyone enjoyed listening to western songs performed by Janice Deardorff. After lunch, students enthusiastically joined in a sing-along with Janice.

We so appreciate the volunteer efforts of Dick Schorr who founded Legacy Day and has been organizing it since 2004. Thanks are also due to all the presenters and to volunteers Alison Bunting, Anna Schorr Coleman, Bunker DeFrance, Lucinda Iverson, Ron Martin, and Larry Winter who assisted with meal preparation and other tasks.

Volunteer Power

On Saturday June 22, more than 20 volunteers from the Empire Ranch Foundation joined BLM Tucson Field Office employees at a Volunteer Work Day at the historic Empire Ranch. After a thorough safety briefing, teams got to work on a variety of projects.

ERF Board member David Yubeta led a crew of volunteers in patching adobe on



(continued on p. 4)

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



the interior walls of Rooms 3 and 6, two of the original bedrooms in the 1870s section of the Ranch House. These rooms will house the Cowboy Life exhibit now in development (see article, p. 2).

Another crew worked on repairs to corral fences and gates, while Doug and Sally Pyne continued their efforts to rehabilitate wood features in the Cowboy Kitchen. The kitchen work table and shelves are looking terrific.

A regular June task is cleaning out rain gutters and downspouts to make sure that runoff is kept away from walls and foundations. Other volunteers spent a busy morning cleaning the Ranch House and organizing the Huachuca House, which is looking more and more like a Visitor Contact Station while still serving as meeting and storage space for the Foundation.

Please consider joining us at the bi-monthly volunteer work days at the Empire Ranch. Volunteer power provides critical help in preserving, protecting, and interpreting this significant heritage resource.



Marty Bond and Elyane Rocheford help clean the Ranch House; John Bellingham and Lucinda Iverson patch adobe walls and chimney. [photos: C. Auerbach]

Gifts in Remembrance

The Empire Ranch Foundation gratefully acknowledges gifts recently received

In Memory of:

John Paul Andree, Fred Baker,
Boice Family, E. Neil Carr,
John Donaldson, Earl F. Glenn, Jr.,
Dusty Vail Ingram, Rockwell E. Jackson,
Earl Kern, Ferne Kemp Lewis,
Julia Scribner Ruch, Bud Strom,
Al & Russ Vail, Banning Vail,
Ed & Mary (Brownie) Vail,
Edward Newhall Vail, Edward Tio Vail,
Russ Vail, Thomas Edward Vail,
Margaret Vail Wooley

In Honor of: Boice Family

Working Calendar

Location: Meet at Visitor Contact Station, Empire Ranch Headquarters, unless otherwise noted. To volunteer, or for more information, call (888) 364-2829.

September

14 Docent-led tours of Empire Ranch House, 11am & 1pm, free, open to all.

21 ERF Board Meeting, 9am-Noon

28 WATG! National Public Lands Day Activities, 9am-3pm, free, open to all.

October

12 Docent-led tours of Empire Ranch House, 11am & 1pm, free, open to all.

19 Volunteer Work Day, 8am-2pm (note extended time). To volunteer, call 888-364-2829. All welcome!

November

2 Roundup & Open House at the Empire Ranch, 10am-4pm. Public Invited! \$10 donation per vehicle.

9 Docent-led tours of Empire Ranch House, 11am & 1pm, free, open to all.

16 ERF Annual Board Meeting & Elections, 9am-Noon. All welcome.

December

14 Docent-led tours of Empire Ranch House, 11am & 1pm, free, open to all.

2013/2014 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
- \$ _____ Year-end Gift
- \$ _____ 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.