



EMPIRE RANCH FOUNDATION NEWS

P.O. Box 842 • Sonoita, Arizona 85637-0842 • (520) 529-8934

www.empireranchfoundation.org

Empire 100 Art Show *Simply Outstanding!*

What makes the 2006 *Empire 100* Art Show and Sale magical? The juried show has attracted twice as many artists as any previous year, yielding a wide variety of style and subjects, featuring established artists and new talent. Quality is guaranteed.

Open to the public January 23 through February 24, 2006, the show reaches a new level. As always, splendid landscapes such as Darcie Peet's "*High Sun Over Honeybee*" and Frederick Wackerle's "*Tucson Sunset*" are abundant. The Empire's people continue to be immortalized on canvas by Moomey, Homer, Dorr, Thomas and other artists who attended the spring photo shoot at the ranch and came home inspired.

Women, as subjects, claim front and center. Both Louis Maestas and Jessica McCain present lovely Native American maidens. The Maestas piece "*Cherokee Maiden*" is donated for silent auction, with all proceeds going to the Foundation. Brent Flory and Janeil Anderson capture their ladies in the ever-familiar pose of primping for an important event. Margo Petterson's soft painting "*Dreamy Secrets*," of two young women exchanging gossip at a country gathering, invokes a story.

Architectural paintings that include Empire Ranch buildings as well as Mexican street scenes, San Xavier del Bac, and country churches. Even a saint and a still life made their way into the exhibit, joined by animals of all descriptions.

The show interprets "western art" in



Silent Auction features "Cherokee Maiden" (left) donated by artist Louis Maestas. Other show offerings include "Dreamy Secrets" by Margo Petterson (center); "High Sun Over Honeybee" by Darcie Peet (top right); and "Rawhide Braider" by Chauncey Homer (lower right).

the broadest sense to appeal to all tastes.

Returning favorites are featured, including Artist of the Year recipients, Michael Ewing (2001) and Buck McCain (2005). Rising new stars, Jean Chambers and Tom Black are making their Empire debut. In summary, this is the show of shows, not to be missed! A portion of all sales benefit the Foundation.

For a full list of artists and location details, please see the next page.



Strong Response to Year-End Appeal

Contributions to our November appeal for funding to match challenge grants, carry out emergency repairs, expand events and educational programs and support improved interpretive information for our ranch visitors is on track to match last year's very strong response. Thank you!

If you have not contributed to the 2005 year end appeal, it is not too late to do so. Please take a few moments to complete the form at the end of this Newsletter and drop it in the mail.

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.

“Empire 100” Art Show

January 23 -February 24, 2006
At Northern Trust Bank
3450 E. Sunrise Drive, Tucson AZ
8:30 am - 4:00 pm
Monday through Friday



“Tucson Sunset” by Frederick Wackerle

Participating Artists:

Roger Alderman • Janeil Anderson
Kurt Anderson • Bruce Andre
Santos Barbosa • Ty Barhaug
Jean Beck • Lorrie Beck • Tom Black
Karen Bonnie • Karen Bright
Jim Butler • Tobin Capp • Natalie Carey
Bonnie Casey • Jean Chambers
William Cook • Millard Davidson
Nancy Denzler • Bruce Dines
Linda Dobkin • Tom Dorr
Katheryn Drummond • Michael Ewing
Brent Flory • Jon Gerik
Aline Goodman • Jim Gruzalski
Faye Gustafson • Leigh Gusterson
Frederick Hambly • Sherry Henderson
Chauncey Homer • Rockwell Jackson
Dinah Jasensky • Carolyn (Keri) Jelks
January Jorgenson • Robert Kembel
Earl Kuhn • Frank Lalumia
Joan Marron LaRue • Jon Lightfoot
Kath Macaulay • Louis Maestas
Diane C. Maroscia • Mary Martin
Patricia Mathes • Buck McCain
Jessica McCain • Gregory I. McHuron
Paul Miller • Bill Mittag • Bill Moomey
Tom Murray • Darcie Peet
Margo Petterson • Hank Richter
Owen Rose • Mark Rossi
Susan Samborowski • David Schwindt
Joe Staheli • Phil Starke
Johanna M. Stephens • Ken Stockton
Wayne Sumstine • Gabor Svagrik
Carol Swinney • Charles Thomas
Sandra Vanderwall • Bernard Vetter
Frederick Wackerle • Carolyn Watson
John Watt

Visit www.empireranchfoundation.org
for full list and selected color
images of artworks in the show.

Board of Directors Election Report

The following officers were unanimously elected to one-year terms at the November 19, 2005, board meeting:

President—Sarah Miller, of Tucson. A board member since 2003, and President since 2005, Sarah also coordinated the 2005 Roundup and creation of many of the photo displays and exhibits featured at the Roundup and other events.

Vice President—George A. Masek, of Sonoita. A board member since 1999, George has been active in Foundation organization, and is our liaison to the Arizona Historical Society, a co-sponsor of many ERF events.

Treasurer—Frank Hedgcock, of Tucson, a board member since 2004, has been active in numerous painting and repairs projects at the ranch house, and in preservation planning and oversight.

Secretary—Walter Kolbe, of Hereford, on the board since 2003, has been active in ERF fundraising and development planning, and has extensive business and ranching experience.

Introductions also are due for four additional individuals who were elected as board members during 2005:

Thor Hanson (Vice Admiral, USN (Ret.)), of Sonoita, elected to the board in August 2005. He brings years of experience in non-profit organization management, gained following his retirement from a successful Naval career.

Dick Schorr, of Tucson, a past board member and President, 1998-2004, was reelected to the board in November 2005. Dick has had a leading role in ERF youth outreach and education programs; his return to the board is most welcome.

Mike Segneri, of Tucson, elected to the board in August 2005, has been particularly active in volunteer repair projects recently completed and planned at the ranch house. Mike has extensive business and professional experience in construction, contracting and inspection.

Tim Vail, of La Quinta, CA, was elected to the board in November 2005. A great-grandson of Walter Vail, Tim is now a practicing equine veterinarian and was previously a professional rancher. He brings broad ranching knowledge as

(continued on page 4)

ERF Administrative Changes

At the end of November, Bruce Lehmann, our part-time administrative services provider since the autumn of 2002, left the Foundation for family reasons. Our primarily volunteer enterprise has benefited enormously from his day-to-day administrative support.

Many of you got to know Bruce as the cheerful, gregarious, upbeat face of the Foundation during the past three years. When he joined us his administrative work was cut out for him! He took over our computer-based financial and communication systems which had evolved over several years through the minds and hands of half a dozen people. This he did with dispatch. Beyond his administrative competence, he had a natural knack for reaching out to members and supporters. He left the Foundation in much better shape from every perspective and we wish him well in his new endeavors. Thank you, Bruce!

The talented Pam Erskine will continue this support in the future. Pam was selected from a very competitive field of service providers. She and her husband recently relocated to Tucson from Boston, Massachusetts, where she was the Director of Information Services Customer Service at Northeastern University. In her role there she united her technical expertise with her people-friendly skills to dramatically improve customer satisfaction scores and reduce costs. She is very enthusiastic about the Empire Ranch Foundation's mission and has already made some systems improvements. When you come to our events this year, be sure you meet the tall, slender blond with a ready smile!

Pam will also be providing preservation contract administrative services, which Leslie Schupp has provided so ably over the past three years. Leslie has resumed fulltime teaching, but promises to continue her ERF involvement as a volunteer. We thank her for her fine service, past and future.

PLEASE NOTE:
ERF now has a new phone number:
(520) 529-8934



An Old Time Potluck Gathering

This year's annual November membership potluck lunch continued a fine tradition, with the atmosphere lighthearted in keeping with the musicians playing old cowboy pieces on the front porch. At noon, at tables and chairs placed under the old front yard trees, the temperature was perfect for an outing at the Empire Ranch.

Potlucks were a common occurrence on the ranches when I was growing up nearby. During the Spring, it was a community effort—gathering the cows with the young calves out of the hills. The cows were sprayed for flies; the calves would be branded, vaccinated, etc. Then the cows and calves would be mothered up before turning them back into the pastures. After the cattle were worked, the women readied the potluck. After some good food and a little rest, us kids would get the softball and bats out to have a ballgame. This would be carried out from ranch to ranch until the Spring work was done.

After five or six ranches, the older folks would be more stove-up from stumbling on a dry cow pie first base than from the wrestling of the young fresh calves just brought in from the hills.

Much of that life is gone now, but the folktales of this kind of social/work activity still linger on. We didn't bring our bats, mitts or softball, but the spirit of getting together at the Empire Ranch was much the same. For those that came, thanks for the fun together. For those that missed it, you missed some great pecan pie, my frijoles, and a pot full of togetherness.

Photos and story by Dick Schorr



Congressional Staff Visit the Empire

Recently, U.S. Congressional staff from nine offices spent the weekend in southern Arizona on a fact-finding trip. The goal was to educate participants about the National Landscape Conservation System (NLCS), designated in the year 2000, and the newest system of public lands. The NLCS covers 26 million acres of western lands and waters, including Las Cienegas National Conservation Area where Empire Ranch is located.



Empire Ranch House tours with Max Witkind (l) and Gerald Korte (r) (photos: P.Erskine)

The group visited Ironwood Forest National Monument and Las Cienegas National Conservation Area. Both areas have unique characteristics and they are wonderful illustrations of the ecological and cultural values of the NLCS. By hiking and touring the area with expert guides from the American Hiking Society, The Wilderness Society, the Bureau of Land Management, Sonoita Valley Planning Partnership, and numerous other agencies, it was easy for the group to gain an appreciation of the challenges associated with trying to manage conservation with limited funding.

On Sunday, January 8, the group visited the Empire Ranch for a tour of the buildings, a discussion of the BLM and Foundation partnership, and a talk led by Mac Donaldson on some of the challenges he faces ranching in the area. The group thoroughly enjoyed listening to Sarah Miller, Gerald Korte, and Max Witkind review the history of the Ranch and discuss issues and progress associated with restoration and preservation.

We hope our visitors will think of the National Landscape Conservation System with fond memories as they make decisions in the future



South Barn now, and in 1924. (photos: M.Segneri, and BLM, courtesy of Univ. of Arizona)

South Barn Repairs Now Definite

South of the Main Ranch House, approximately 200 feet, is a weathered structure presently referred to as the South Barn, or Blacksmith Shed. Our previously announced plans for ERF cost-share funding for emergency repairs to the South Barn's roof, posts, rafters, and footers are now set. Repairs by BLM workmen should get started by early March, to be completed within 30 days of start. Our sincere thanks for the member donations that have made our funding of the costs of materials for this project possible.

Built in the early 1920s by Banning Vail, the South Barn served for horses and for storage of feed and hay, and storage and repair of machinery and vehicles. It serves similar functions today for the Empire's active ranching operations, and will remain in that service after repairs until other uses may be decided. It still harbors some antique machinery which will be kept, available for interpretation at some time in the future.

Ranching Heritage of the Boice Family

The Boice family ranching tradition began with Henry Stephen Boice, a cowboy in the 1880's and 1890's. In 1891 he married LuBelle, daughter of Charles Gudge of Gudge and Simpson, Independence, Missouri, the greatest breeders of Hereford cattle in the U.S.

For a while H. S. Boice ranched in Kansas and Colorado, but during a severe drought 1905 he closed down his outfit and became general manager of the XIT, for a time the biggest of the big ranches in Texas. Within three years he became involved with the Chiricahua Cattle Company (the CCC or "Cherry Cows") with two partners.

When the XIT closed out in 1912, he bought 400 of their purebred Gudge and Simpson Herefords and moved his and the CCC cattle to Sulphur Springs Valley and then to the San Carlos Indian Reservation in Arizona. Throughout his career he continued to improve his herds using Hereford bulls and culling lower quality cows.

From childhood, Henry's sons Henry G. and Frank Seymour Boice grew up ranching. Both were also well educated at New Mexico Military Institute and Occidental College in Los Angeles. During WWI at age 24, oldest son Henry G. Boice took over; H. S. Boice died in 1919. In 1921 Henry G. became President of the Arizona Cattle Growers Association, a post to which he was reelected through 1927.

During those hard times for the cattle industry, he pulled cattlemen together and built up the organization to be an effective voice for cattle growers. He also faced his own challenges. In the mid-1920's, the U.S.

government, acting for the Indian tribes, notified the Boices to remove their cattle from the Indian reservations.

By this time brother Frank Seymore had joined Henry's ranching operation. They began to buy ranches in southeastern Arizona and were able to buy four: the Eureka near Wilcox in 1924, the Empire Ranch (including the Rail X) in 1928, and the Arivaca east of the Santa Rita mountains in 1930.

Both Henry and Frank were leaders in the cattle industry throughout their lifetimes. Frank later served as President of the Arizona Cattlegrowers Association, 1935-36, and as President of the American National Livestock Association, 1940.

So it was when the Vail family decided to sell the Empire, they found in the Boices outstanding cattlemen wanting to buy. It took the Boice family 5 years to remove their cattle to their new ranches. Because of its good grass they ultimately chose the Empire Ranch for their purebred Hereford breeding herd. A new era began at the Empire Ranch.

[Based upon article "Hereford Tradition of Arizona's Boices," American Hereford Journal, July 1959.]

Gifts in Remembrance

The Empire Ranch Foundation deeply appreciates recent generous donations sent in memory of:

Janet Donaldson, Earl F. Glenn, Jr.,
Joan Hedgcock, Dusty Vail Ingram,
Pierre Janssen, Ann K. Korte,
Leo LaVerdi, Sam McChesney,
Charles H. Pace, and Julia Scribner Ruch
and in honor of:
Banning Vail Ingram

Board Elections *(from p. 2)*

well as Vail family perspectives that are most welcome.

Past year board members Billie Donaldson and Laurel Wilkening will be continuing on the board.

We are appreciate the work and dedication of these colleagues, and of members of our current advisory board: Carol Barleycorn, Steve Boice, Jerri Blackman, Sinclair Browning, Dick Daggett, Mac Donaldson, Jack Goodman, Susan Ingram Hughes, Gerald Korte, Marion Hyland, Jacquie McNultie, J.K. Norfleet, Chuck Pettis, Robin Pinto, Denise Ryan, and Louise Serpa.



Working Calendar

February

24 Closing Day "Empire 100" Art Show & Sale, Tucson, AZ (to be open through February 24, 2006)

March

18 ERF Board Meeting

April

29 Artists' Shootout at Empire Ranch (by invitation only)

May

20 ERF Board Meeting

-- Spring Trail Ride will not be held this year

2005/2006 Membership Reply

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

Name: _____

Street/P.O. Address: _____

City, State, ZIP : _____

Phone: (____) _____ Email: _____

Check enclosed MasterCard Visa Card

_____ / _____
Card Number Exp.Date. Signature

This membership donation is also in memory of _____

This is a gift membership from: _____

EMPIRE RANCH FOUNDATION



- \$25 Homesteader
- \$50 Total Wreck Miner
- \$100 Wrangler
- \$250 Vaquero
- \$500 Jefe
- \$1,000 Patron
- \$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.