



EMPIRE RANCH FOUNDATION NEWS

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www.empireranchfoundation.org



Empire Ranch House and Adobe Haybarn viewed from the West (photo: courtesy TuleReed.com Photography)

Help Keep Us At the Top

Message from the President

This could not be a better time for me to ask you to consider new or renewed membership in the Empire Ranch Foundation. We are indeed *at the top* of our game.

When I say *at the top*, I mean the Foundation has achieved impressive progress, and is poised for more...

- Just last month, we received a huge vote of confidence. The Foundation's teamwork was honored by a Challenge Cost Share Grant for \$25,000 sponsored by our partner the BLM. With your help, we will fully match the grant with member-donated dollars and volunteer time.

- Legacy Day, our pilot education program taught at the ranch headquarters and structured for young students, is on track for May 17. We'll host Elgin School District students with expanded curriculum and events. Imagine the powerful impact forty-four thousand Empire acres has on an impressionable mind. That's exactly what we want: no text books here.

- Our Fall Roundup Open House and Western Art Show in October once again

promises a unique, educational family experience for members and new friends.

- Membership numbers over five hundred strong with individuals, corporations and foundations from around the world.

- The Empire Ranch Headquarters was selected, from a long list of widely known candidates, by the Vernacular Architecture Forum, a prestigious association of architects, as a study and tour site for their 2005 VAF Conference. We now join the ranks of other host historic sites such as Williamsburg, as in "colonial" Williamsburg!
- The "Save the Adobe Haybarn" emergency repairs program concludes this Summer with repairs to the barn's northeast corner. With your membership dollars and with grant assistance from The Southwestern Foundation and our partner the BLM, nearly \$200,000 in repairs has saved from imminent ruin this historic jewel, built circa 1878.

- Additional preservation and improvement projects are in planning, to be completed along side of large scale adaptive reuse construction at the Headquarters

(continued on page 2)

Empire 100 Art Show — Another Success Story

The fifth *Empire 100 Art Show* closed at Northern Trust Bank, Tucson, on February 23, 2005, after seven successful weeks on display.

Each year the crowd of art enthusiasts has grown so that now the show requires two opening receptions to accommodate all of the excited viewers. A third of the exhibition sold within the first two days, and nearly five thousand people viewed the show throughout its duration.

The *Empire 100 Art Show* features high quality, affordable art by well known



Artist Jon Lightfoot won the People's Choice award for his striking painting entitled "House of Clouds."

(continued on page 2)

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.

Adobe Haybarn: More Than the Sum of Its Parts

The Empire's historic Adobe Haybarn is not a very impressive structure from a distance, but it is quite unique when you look at it up close and think about how and when it was built.

It was first constructed sometime around 1878, and has gone through some changes over the years, including a fire that caused one wall to collapse. The wall was rebuilt, windows and interior divisions were removed, doors relocated and various coatings of plaster and stucco applied to the walls. It must have been a very important part of the ranch operation to be continually repaired and kept in service for so many years. Hay was a necessary item for the horses, and probably milk cows, that were kept in the corrals and had to be fed.

Let's take a "Words Eye View" of this old building. It is approximately 28 feet wide, 61 feet long, walls 12 foot high, with a gable roof that peaks at 20 feet. The walls are made of raw adobe and are about 16 inches thick. The adobes vary in size, partly due to weathering, but are roughly 9 inches wide by 16 inches long and 4 inches thick. The mortar was made of mud as are the adobes.

The present roof is made of 2x6 lumber and corrugated metal roofing. It is estimated that there are approximately 7000 adobes in the walls, which would require someone to dig, mix, form, cure, haul, lift and set nearly 127 tons of dirt. That was done without the use of trucks, mixers or any other mechanical device that we rely on in today's construction. It is assumed that the adobes were made close by, probably near a source of water. Just north of the building site is a cienega that might have been that source of water and that has a type of soil simi-



Adobe Haybarn viewed from the South (photo: courtesy TuleReed.com Photography)

lar to that used to make the adobes.

That 127 tons of dirt is estimated to have been used to not only make the 7000 adobes but also approximately 25 tons of mud mortar. With a team of horses and a good wagon they would probably haul a 1000 pounds of adobes to the building site at one time. With approximately 102 tons to transport that means over 200 trips plus another 50 trips for the mortar. Then of course all of that had to be unloaded then built into place up to 20 feet high. No small task by any means.

There are stories of the Vail and Boice children and grandchildren that played in this barn, climbing on the hay up until about 1960. Maybe when the barn is finished there will be some hay in it for the kids to play on.

So when you make your next visit to the Empire Ranch, stop by the Adobe Haybarn and take a look, and think about what it took to build it and all the things that might have happened inside those walls over the last 125 years.

for July 1, 2005 through June 30, 2006.

"Right now," as my enclosed letter to you says, please send in your reply and become a current-year member. Help keep us *at the top*.

Thank you!

*Sarah Miller, President
Empire Ranch Foundation*

Art Show (cont'd from p. 1)

artists. Individual sales ranged from \$245 to \$3,500 with an average sales price of \$1,400. Artists donated a portion of their sales to benefit the Foundation, and several artists—John Fawcett, Gary Hammil, and Louis Maestas—generously donated the entire proceeds for selected pieces. All told, the event bestowed the Foundation with over \$13,000 in critical preservation and program funds.

Of the 63 artists showing, 13 were new to the show this year. Two young artists who receive scholarship funding from Friends of Western Art were favorites in the show. Charles Thomas beamed when his spectacular painting, *Danza de los Vaqueros*, was purchased by another artist, Sherry Blanchard Stuart. Daniel Gonzalez, who first showed at last year's Roundup, also sold his painting entitled "Bull Ride".

With five magnificent years under our belts, it is time for the *Empire 100* to say a big thank you to its founders and all of the artists whose work has yielded vital revenue to the Foundation's cause. A spring photo shoot is planned in April for these special friends. They will be able to see the Empire's rancher Mac Donaldson and his crew move cattle. There will be wagons and horses and lunch too. This is a small way that we can express our deepest appreciation to our family of artists.



"Danza de los Vaqueros" oil by Charles Thomas

At the Top (cont'd from p. 1)

which will be funded through BLM appropriations over the next five years.

Our unique collaboration as a private volunteer foundation working in cooperation with BLM is proving to be a national model for success in saving historic sites for future generations, and promises another *at the top* performance

Reflections from Sixty Years Ago...



Gerald Korte in foreground, changing horses on spring roundup on the Empire Ranch at Rosemont, circa 1948, 1949 (photo: courtesy G. Korte)

ERF Board member Gerald Korte went to work for the Boice family on the Empire Ranch part-time in 1946 and around 1947 was a regular staff cowboy. The following are his recollections.

Most of the year there were only two cowboys and a foreman at the headquarters and a cowboy at the Rosemont Camp.

During roundup twelve cowboys were needed. For the fall roundup in October the additional men came from the northern states. They were in Arizona to escape the cold winters. After the roundup they worked at various dude ranches and elsewhere for the rest of the winter months.

For the spring roundup around June (which was not best because of the screw-worm problem), Pancho and Bob Boice were experienced cowboys, out of college and available, so we used them. Other, less experienced students knew some and wanted to be cowboys. We used them for holding the herd together. Mainly the cattle were worked in the open as corrals were not always available on roundup. The experienced cowboys would do the roping, branding, earmarking, vaccinating, etc.

Each cowboy had four horses or more and during the roundup they were changed

at least once a day. The horse changes were also done out in the open.

The cowboys "corralled" the horses with a single rope around them while two designated ropers went into the herd to catch the horses the cowboys wanted. To avoid spooking the herd, swing roping was never used. Instead we pitch roped, holding the rope on one side of our bodies and then we'd quickly throw out a single loop to catch the designated horses.

We took eighty head of horses along on the roundup drives. We'd point out a hill several miles away to the horse wrangler (a less experienced cowboy) and he'd take the horses to graze there all day. Eventually we'd show up.

During roundup the cowboys would camp out three days at the Rosemont and six days at what was then called The Farm, now known as the Cienega, then we'd head back to the headquarters for the remaining time.

[To hear more of Gerald's stories about cowboy life on the Empire Ranch be sure to attend the Fall Roundup, October 1. Gerald has been most generous with his time and knowledge and gives tours of the ranch. They are not to be missed!]

EMPIRE RANCH ROUNDUP

IS COMING!

"HOLLYWOOD ON THE EMPIRE"

Saturday, October 1, 2005



John Wayne and Boice family while filming on site at the Empire, c. 1948. (photo: courtesy S. Boice)

Did you know she is a real live Hollywood movie star...featured in many a big time film? Yep, she is...see the marquee list below.

Mark October 1 in your calendar now, and plan to visit the home of a star—the Empire Ranch—for a full day of family fun, education, music, food and exhibits. The Empire Ranch Roundup Open House and Western Art Show will have it all. Show time starts at 10:00 AM!

Learn and share stories about Hollywood westerns filmed on the Empire Ranch and environs. In addition, the Victorian wing of the Empire Ranch House will be packed with an array of fine art, *all for sale*. Guided tours of the historic buildings and property will enchant you. Explore the western demonstrations and exhibits before feasting on an outdoor barbecue lunch.... and of course, see the star on film.

No admission fee, lots of parking, food served at reasonable prices! More details to come in our August issue.

WESTERNS FILMED IN EMPIRE TERRITORY

Many well known western movies and TV series were filmed on or near the Empire Ranch. They include:

- **Red River** (1), John Wayne, 1948
- **Red River** (2), James Arness, 1989
- **Oklahoma**, Gordon McRey & Shirley Jones, 1955
- **Duel In the Sun**, Gregory Peck & Joseph Cotton, 1948

(continued on page 4)

Westerns (cont'd from p. 3)

- *The Big Country*, Gregory Peck & Charlton Heston, 1958
- *Gunman's Walk*, Van Heflen & Tab Hunter, 1958
- *3:10 To Yuma*, Glen Ford & Van Heflin, 1957
- *Broken Lance*, Spencer Tracy & Robert Wagner, 1954
- *Hombre*, Paul Newman, 1958
- *The Hard Men*, Charlton Heston
- *Monte Walsh*, Lee Marvin, 1970
- *Young Pioneers*, TV series, ca. 1976
- *Gunfight At O.K. Corral*, Burt Lancaster 1958
- *War Arrow*, Charlton Heston, 1953
- *Last Train From Gunhill*, Kirk Douglas & Anthony Quinn, 1958
- *Young Riders* TV series, 3 years,
- *Night of The Lupus*, Rory Calhoun, 1972
- *Bonanza*, TV series, several Shows
- *Gunsmoke*, TV series, several Shows
- *Tom Horn*, Steve McQueen, 1982
- *The Cowboys*, John Wayne, 1970
- *Winchester 73*, James Stewart, 1953
- *The Furies*, Walter Houston & Barbara Stanwick, 1951
- *The Rovers*, William Holden, 1960
- *Pocket Money*, Paul Newman, 1959
- *Hour of the Gun*, James Garner, 1959

More Information Sought...

Do you have information, memories or photographs from filmmaking in the Empire Ranch area? Were you or a family member part of a production, or were you told stories about it? We'd love to know about it and add to information we're compiling.

Please contact Sarah Miller (520) 237-3801 or Billie Donaldson (520) 455-4603.

Education by Experience



Robert Boon and students explore roping on Legacy Day, 2004 (photo: B. Lehmann)

Legacy Day, to be held this year on May 17, 2005, hosting pupils from the Elgin School District, is unlike any other classroom experience in the country. Our classroom is 44,000 acres and represents the best of mergers between academics and real-life experiences. Legacy Day is inspiration day. Thank you Dick Schorr and the Education Committee.

Working Calendar

April

- 14 Vernacular Architecture Forum Tour and Dinner at Empire Ranch
 - 30 Artists' Photo Shoot at the Empire
- ### May
- 17 Legacy Day, Empire Ranch
 - Spring Trail Ride will not be held this year

July

- 4 Patagonia Parade

August

- 20 Board Meeting

October

- 1 Empire Ranch Roundup Open House and Western Art Sale

Preservation Projects

Summary

Preservation of the Empire Ranch House and other buildings is a primary mission of the Foundation. Projects recently completed, underway, or scheduled are noted below. Projects we have previously shown as complete are not repeated here.

To see a list of preservation projects completed to date, visit our website at: www.empireranchfoundation.org.

- Execute emergency repairs to Adobe Haybarn NE corner (*Summer 2005, fully funded*)
- Determine and correct causes of apparent moisture infiltration to Victorian Addition Master Bedroom walls and floor (*complete*)
- Create plan and stabilize Adobe Haybarn for the long term (*priority item once funds are secured*)
- Stabilize lintel over south entry of Zaguam/ Breezeway for the long term (*plan complete; funding redirected in deference to other emergency repair needs*)
- Execute emergency repairs to Ranch Hand's House (*Phase 2 is a priority for funding*)
- Straighten & stabilize leaning concrete garden wall (*plan approved as non-volunteer project; priority item once funds are secured*)
- Emergency repairs to Children's Addition floor framing and walls (*a priority item once funds are secured*)
- BLM final approval of adaptive reuse plan for ranch buildings (*complete*)

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: (____) _____ FAX: (____) _____

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.