

EMPIRE RANCH FOUNDATION NEWS

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

www.empireranchfoundation.org



Empire Ranch and Adobe Haybarn viewed from the West, c. 1880 (photo: courtesy L. V. Ingram)

Membership Makes a Difference

Message from the President

Members are the heart of the Empire Ranch Foundation. Through members' financial support and volunteer efforts, we're steadily moving towards saving a wonderful place for future generations to enjoy. But we need your help. Now, more than ever, your membership makes a difference.

Your support has enabled major strides, for example::

- Adobe Haybarn emergency repairs are now complete, saving this historic structure from ruin and permitting public access for enjoyment and for public events such as the Roundup's Hollywood cinema showing
- The Empire Ranch House is stabilized, and front and screened porches sport fresh paint and carpentry repairs, done by volunteers.
- Our annual Fall Roundup Open House and Western Art Show continues to open the headquarters and ranch history to hundreds more visitors each year, providing

fresh educational and family experiences for members and new friends (article, p.3).

- Legacy Day, which annually brings local school children to the ranch for a day of hands-on ranching education will take place again this May, and we also anticipate presenting a pilot five-day program this summer with the help of a special BLM grant (article, p. 3).

- Our winter "Empire 100" Art Show reception in Tucson, Art Photo Shoot in May, and Roundup Western Art Show have been embraced by the art and art loving community, which has joined our cause as members and supporters (article, right).

- Our visitor roster shows the Empire Ranch is big on the map as a model public/private partnership for successful historic preservation.

This year, with your help:

- South Barn emergency repairs will be completed by June (article, page 4).

- Throughout the ranch house we will repair and maintain all doors and entrances, and in the Victorian Addition's family area

(continued on p. 3)

Empire 100 Art Show Sets New Records

When the ever-loyal staff of Northern Trust Bank in Tucson closed the doors on February 25, contented smiles beamed on their faces. After two exciting receptions followed by four weeks of display, Artists' donations from the show's sales garnered over \$14,200 for the Empire Ranch Foundation, a new record. Individual sales ranged from \$300 to \$5,200.

The Native American theme was highly popular among visitors, as always. Paul Miller captured the People's Choice ribbon for his dramatic *Hopi Dancer*, one of the largest pieces in the show. And silent auction of Louis Maestas' donation *Cherokee Maiden* boosted proceeds considerably. His unique oil rub out technique brings repeat admirers annually.

The crowd was awed by the painting *Rawhide Braider*, created by Chauncey
(continued on page 2)



People's Choice winning painting Hopi Dancer, shown with artist Paul Miller (photo: P. Erskine)

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 (cont'd from p. 1)

Homer, the signature artist for this show, and featured on the invitation card. The model for the painting was our own Dick Schorr making a reatta in the Empire corral. It was no accident that a number of paintings featured the Empire's people. About forty artists visited the ranch for the spring roundup last year and walked away with cameras full of resource material for future paintings.

Mexican themes, and, as always, ranch work scenes, horses and riders, cattle and ranch buildings, pleased the viewers. About a fourth of the artists this year were new to the show. Tom Black's fetching miniature of a cottontail bunny attracted numerous admirers, as did January Jorgenson's splashy *Fancy Rooster*. We hope to see these newcomers become regulars at Empire shows. Representing favorite veterans were Jessica and Buck McCain, Charles Thomas, Michael Ewing, Tom Dorr, Bill Moomey, Bill Mittag to mention only a few.

The ever-popular best seller, Santos Barbosa will be the signature artist for next year. You can be sure that the announcement card for the show will be full of color and action as only he can do it. He paints often at the Empire Ranch and was featured with several other artists in a splendid TV vignette by Tucson public television station KUAT that aired on *Arizona Illustrated* to promote the show.

And for another new record... By popular demand, we are planning a professional artists' photo shoot this spring at the ranch, by invitation only—the first bonafide professional art photo shoot in Arizona. It will include eighty models from southern Arizona ranches and historic clubs in period and contemporary dress, a chuck wagon and all manner of ranch life portrayals, available for the lenses as resource material for the artists to paint from in the future. The art and ranch relationship just keeps going and growing at the Empire.

Photos from top: Marion Hyland, Show Foreman, welcoming new participant Linda Dobkin; Sarah Miller, ERF president, chatting with guests; reception visitors touring galleries; artists Tom Dorr and Bruce Andre discussing plans for spring photo shoot. (P. Erskine)



Interior Department Deputy Secretary Visits the Empire Ranch



Deputy Secretary Scarlett (r), reviewing the scene with ERF President Sarah Miller (l), and BLM Archeologist Max Witkind (c). (photo: courtesy BLM)

Our Special Thanks To

Northern Trust Bank
... an Empire Builder

Your long-standing tradition of community support continues.

Thank you for sponsoring and nurturing the *Empire 100* Western Art Show and Sale.

Empire 100 proceeds support the mission of the Empire Ranch Foundation.



On February 21, 2006, Deputy Secretary of the Interior Lynn Scarlett toured parts of southeast Arizona with BLM officials. The focus of her visit was to learn about border issues, and how illegal immigration is affecting the management of BLM lands. However, the day-long tour of visits ranged beyond this.

Her trip included an informative visit to the San Pedro Riparian National Conservation Area, and concluded with a visit to Las Cienegas National Conservation Area and a tour of the Empire Ranch Headquarters.

There she received a briefing from BLM Archeologist Max Wikind about the value of BLM work in partnership with the Foundation and the Sonoita Valley Planning Partnership. She also met with Empire Ranch Foundation President Sarah Miller to discuss the BLM/ERF partnership's achievements, needs, and long term vision for the Empire Ranch Headquarters.

The Deputy Secretary is an avid birder and loves the outdoors. She commented that she would like to return to the area in the future just to explore the area and enjoy the natural resources.





Legacy Day Learning

On May 3, the Empire Ranch Foundation is hosting its eagerly anticipated Legacy Day—a definitely “not your average” school day. The Elgin School sixth, seventh, and eighth graders will attend classes having a hands-on curriculum covering:

- Range-management and grassland survival in drought times, taught by a professor from the University of Arizona;
- The art of roping livestock, taught by a cowboy/educator in our area;
- The making of adobe bricks, with students actually using the ancient methods that were used to make adobe bricks for the buildings on the Empire Ranch;
- The making of Native-American pottery, taught by noted potter Susan Folwell.

Lunch will be made using Dutch ovens much like the methods used on ranch roundups throughout the West.

We expect to host as much fun and new learning experiences as in past years, as Legacy Day has grown from a pilot project into a local institution.

Looking beyond Legacy Day, plans are underway for a new pilot education program for local youths. Selected students will be able to attend a hands-on education program this summer in coordination with the BLM. The program is planned for a five-day schedule at the ranch headquarters. An educational grant, applied for through the BLM, will provide partial financial support. More information will follow as the program unfolds.



Legacy Day, 2005. (photos: B. Lehmann)



The Empire Ranch Roundup is Coming! Saturday, September 30, 2006!

The annual Empire Ranch Roundup Open House and Western Art Show and Sale is heading into the Sonoita Grasslands on September 30!

In addition to demonstrations of Western skills and crafts, historic tours and exhibits, gorgeous Western art and lively musical entertainment, the spotlight will be on “Western Ranch Life: Women on the Empire.”

We'll feature stories of the old timer and modern day gals who make ranches working enterprises and comfortable homes. Some unusual Western decorated

homes on wheels will have an “open house”. The Ranch Store will be open for shoppers! As always there will be fresh air, blue skies, waving grass and trees dotting the wide open landscape.

The Empire Ranch Roundup Open House is a day for the whole family and the price is right: FREE!

Of course, there will be food for purchase, free parking, and much to see and do. More details will appear in the August Newsletter. Put it on your calendar today! Saturday, September 30, 2006, 10:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.



Empire Ranch and Adobe Haybarn viewed from the West, 2004 (photo: TuleReedPhotography.com)

Membership (cont'd from p. 1)

we'll remove and replace old rugs, refinish walls, and add new electrical outlets to the extent consistent with historic preservation.

- New interpretive pamphlets and exhibits will be added to existing displays, both for special events and for daily visitors.

And that's not all. Large scale adaptive reuse construction, which is to be heavily underwritten by funding appropriations to our partner the BLM, is moving forward as well:

- A new well and water system is nearing completion, to replace the old well water which had become unpotable.
- Public restrooms and handicapped parking plans will be finished this Fall, with construction to follow.

- Budgets for follow-on phases of major adaptive reuse construction throughout the headquarters have been prepared during the past year and accepted, subject to availability and distribution of appropriations.

Times are tight for federal funding, but our cause is strengthened by your volunteer work and by ERF's cost sharing for major projects, thanks to your support.

The Foundation's partnership efforts of the past seven years have brought back the Empire from ruin to rebirth. We are growing our community enrichment programs alongside of the rebuilding efforts, and want to do more. Membership makes a difference! Please send in your reply and become a current-year member.

Thank you! Sarah Miller, President
Empire Ranch Foundation



South Barn, viewed here from corral west of Adobe Haybarn (photo: courtesy TuleReedPhotography.com).

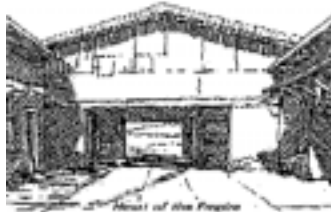
South Barn Repair Plans and Schedule Revised

Due to unforeseen circumstances, work has been delayed for emergency repairs to the South Barn, originally planned to be performed by BLM construction teams in March.

Our preservation specialist contractor, Statistical Research, Inc., and subcontractor Means Design, Inc., have been engaged to fill the breach and have agreed to do everything possible to prepare necessary

plans and complete the work by June.

We are thankful that grant funds originally scheduled to fund the BLM crews will be transferred to the Foundation to help fund the work. We are also grateful that the Emergency Repairs Fund that has been set aside from member donations is available to assure we are ready to contract for this important work and to handle additional problems that may arise.



Working Calendar

April

29 Artists' Photo Shoot at Empire (by invitation only)

May

3 Legacy Day, Empire Ranch
20 ERF Board Meeting
 -- Spring Trail Ride will not be held this year

July

4 Patagonia Parade
15 ERF Board Meeting

September

16 Board Meeting
30 Empire Ranch Roundup Open House and Western Art Sale

2006/2007 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.

[M06]