

EMPIRE RANCH FOUNDATION NEWS



P.O. Box 842 • Sonoita, Arizona 85637-0842

www.empireranchfoundation.org

Empire Ranch Comes Alive for Roundup Open House



The ranch windmill, formerly broken and still, turned and sparkled in the sun, responding to a gentle breeze under perfect skies. This first sight greeted visitors arriving September 14 and heralded the Empire Ranch's lively Roundup scene.

Up closer, the activities, sounds, and sights grew richer. Over 1,000 visitors enjoyed dozens of fascinating ranching skills demonstrations and engaging musical performances around the corrals and nearby arena. In the zaguan and adjoining ranch house rooms they eagerly toured informative historical and natural sciences exhibits, and joined conversations with "Generations of the Empire"—individuals related to the history of the Empire and ranching. Quietly they wandered the colorful spectrum of original western art hung throughout the ranch's Victorian Addition.

Youngsters reveled in the "Kids Corral" crafts and roping activities, while adults signed up for guided tours replete with stories about the past on the ranch and information on the preservation construction underway and planned.

Food was delicious and bountiful, with plenty of places to just sit in the shade, eat, talk, and watch the goings on. It was a day packed with fellowship and fun, generously accommodated by the 130-year-old Stone Corral and ranch house which were made safe just this past year through extensive repairs and preservation work.

It was a great day of coming alive. Our deepest thanks to the over 130 volunteer demonstrators, performers, workers,

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Action abounded at the house corral, the arena, Stone Corral, and Kids Corral.



Adobe Haybarn awaits its turn for repair (Photos: T.Jover, L.Schupp)

Adobe Haybarn Target of Year-End Appeal

As we celebrate the restoration of the Stone Corral, we are taking a deep breath and stepping up to the Foundation's next big project—the Adobe Haybarn. Early this Spring it was apparent that the historic haybarn's foundations were shifting (undermined in part, we have learned, by burrowing rodents, with the west wall leaning over 5 inches out of plumb), and that rapid erosion and cracking were occurring on the southeast corner as well.

Limited emergency funds from a past grant from our partner BLM were used to contract for critical shoring to be erected prior to the July rains, but this was only a temporary holding action as erosion and

(continued on page 2)

Roundup *(cont'd from p. 1)*



cooks, artists, and exhibitors, whose personal contributions made the Roundup possible. Our sincere thanks also to the 21 organizations and individuals who provided direct support, and particularly to the event sponsors, the Sonoran Institute and Arizona Historical Society, and to our tireless partner, the BLM.

Lastly, our thanks and welcome to the visitors who came and gave the Roundup its heartbeat and community spirit. We hope you enjoyed the day and will continue to join our efforts to keep alive and strong the Heart of the Empire.



Guided tours, and horsehair ropemaking, and blacksmithing in action. (Article photos: S.Hughes, T.Jover)



Busy stone corral work crew, and other volunteers on 9/11 work day. (Photos: L. Schupp)

Group Effort Completes Stone Corral Repairs

Welcome helping hands gave the final push needed to complete repairs on the Stone Corral this September. In remembrance of the anniversary of September 11, the BLM Tucson Field Office declared an all-employee “work day” on September 11, to perform repairs and improvements at the Empire Ranch Headquarters.

About 30 BLM staffers participated in the day-long effort, joined by 10 members of the Youth Corps of Southern Arizona (YCOSA), several additional volunteers, and a crew of workers from subcontractor Means Design and Construction Corp.

While others tackled a wide range of cleanup, maintenance, and preservation chores, a group of about 10 people, directed by Eric Means, toiled mightily to complete grading and compacting of the floor of the Stone Corral.

They manned hand shovels to dig out the dirt around the columns and the walls to a depth of about four inches, then picked

out and removed organic matter (including quite a bit of, shall we say, “organic” horse-related refuse), mixed a non-toxic liquid stabilizer into the soil, and leveled and compacted the entire area. This final smoothing and stabilizing will be very important to halting future erosion.

At her public debut, the now fully repaired Stone Corral sheltered demonstrators of ropemaking and leather working skills (photo to the left), and looked like a carefully preserved “woman of a certain age”—you could tell the years had gone by, but she wore them with dignity. The replacement beams, rafters, and columns (artfully “aged” to blend with the braced and reinforced originals), firmly supported the old tin roof which had been lifted back in place, slightly straighter than before. Wandering cracks had all been repaired in the massive wall, which now probably looks as it did when built well over a century ago.

Haybarn *(cont'd from p. 1)*

undermining continued.

Additional emergency repairs are critically needed. The BLM has stretched to provide an additional \$12,000 for the Empire Ranch Foundation to begin repairs, but we know that will not be enough. At a minimum, we need to match that amount in additional funds.

Hence, our appeal for year-end contributions to provide funds needed to make these essential repairs as quickly as possible. We need support from both existing and new members to be able to stay ahead of the ravages of nature and time.

If we are fortunate enough to raise funds in excess of need for the barn, they will be applied to other urgent needs now

awaiting action, including the Children’s Addition, the Ranch Hand’s House, and the zaguan lintel.

We can assure you all donations will be put to work effectively and meaningfully. During the fiscal year ending June 2002, 90% (\$235,000) of the Foundation’s total expenditures, were used for preservation and restoration work. (Of the remaining 10% in expenditures, 2% was spent for educational, outreach and historical projects; 5% for administration; and only 3% for fundraising.)

We will greatly appreciate whatever support you can provide. A reply card and envelope was mailed with this issue. Or, mail your contributions to Empire Ranch Foundation, P.O. Box 542, Sonoita AZ 85637. Thank you!

Picture Perfect

A small group of interested viewers gathered on the front porch of the Empire Ranch House on September 14 before the clock struck high noon, signaling the opening of the 2002 Roundup and Art Show. As the busy committee under the chairmanship of Keri Jelks added the final touches, several eager buyers lined up with check books and credit cards to secure their choices. This enthusiastic beginning portended a day full of admiring visitors and hopeful community artists.

The visitors, estimated at over 1,000, were spellbound first by Robert England's *Mystic Bull*, a 48" x 48" painting of a single large Brahma looking straight into the eyes of the onlooker, ruling the living room like range royalty.

Not to be outdone was Bruce Andre's dramatic painting entitled *Harvey & Vail—1876, An Empire Begins* showing both artistic skill and scholarly historic research. This was just one of many pieces inspired by the Empire Ranch and its generations. People commented gleefully as they recognized familiar local landscapes, buildings, and friends dotting the walls in all of the rooms. Not everyone took a serious approach. The first painting sold was Peter Whitney's *Walter Vail & John Donaldson Talkin' Cows and Such* to Vail descendent, Susan Hughes.

While most of the 116 offerings by 47 artists valuing almost \$90,000 were watercolor, oil, or acrylic, three-dimensional work also reigned. The unquestionable whimsical showstopper was Greg Clyne's well-executed ceramic and wood sculpture, *Checkmate*, of two coyotes playing chess. Joe Staheli debuted with two handsome bronzes in the traditional western style. The large variety of media, style, mood, size, and contrast created an exciting show. One buyer, Susan McDonald, exclaimed the feelings of many, "Today, this house has really come to life again!" The exhausted workers met the goal of grossing 10% of the show's value in sales and contributions. A total of seventeen pieces sold, with artists donating 25% to 100% to the ERF.

Elated with the results, Marion Hyland, ERF president who initiated the Empire art shows three years ago with the late Dee Bryers, sees the benefits beyond the bottom line: "The Empire belongs to all of us.



"*Harvey & Vail—1876, An Empire Begins*," (Photo: Bruce Andre)

The Foundation is about honoring the western culture. These community artists have done just that. The most challenging thing that faces us now is including all of the artists who are interested in the next show. I think a tradition has been established!"

Indeed, another opportunity beckons: The Empire 100 Western Art Show at Northern Trust Bank in January and February 2003. The venue expands to nationally acclaimed talent, but the purpose is the same—to help the Empire Ranch Foundation move another step closer to its lofty purpose of saving the headquarters for posterity.

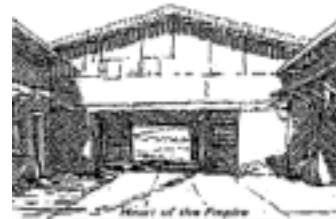
Please see specifics in the announcement to the right, and mark your calendars. You may also stay abreast of art and the Empire by visiting our website: www.empireranchfoundation.org.



Art tempted everywhere throughout the Victorian Addition. (Photos: S.Hughes)

THE EMPIRE 100 WESTERN ART SHOW AND SALE

Benefiting the
EMPIRE RANCH FOUNDATION



Sponsored by Northern Trust Bank and
the Arizona Historical Society

January 7- February 15, 2003

At Northern Trust Bank

Tucson, Arizona

3450 E. Sunrise Drive,

10:00 A.M. - 3:00 P.M.

Monday through Friday

**One hundred exceptional
original works in oil,
water color and bronze by
nationally known
painters and sculptors**

Meet the artists at a reception on
February 7, 2003

at Northern Trust Bank

4:30 P.M. until 6:00 P.M.

R.S.V.P. to Carol Goddard (520) 615-2319



Participating Artists:

Santos Barbosa, Dan Bates, Duane Bryers,
John Burr, Jim Butler, Bonnie Casey,
William H. Cook, Glenn Dean, Gwen Dean,
Vic Donahue, Tom Dorr, Michael Ewing,
John Fawcett, Deborah Copenhaver
Fellows, Fred Fellows, Clair Goldrick, Jim
Gruzalski, Tom Haas, Ray Harm, William
Hook, Richard Iams, Robert Kembel, Earl
Kuhn, Frank Lalumia, Steven Lang, Joan
Marron LaRue, Lawrence Lee,
John Lightfoot, Thomas Lorimer, Louis
Maestas, Jessica McCain, Bill Mittag,
Ruben Nieto, Darcie Peet, Nancy Prevo,
Owen Rose, Mark Rossi, Sarah Schmerl,
Bob Shufelt, Rogue Simpson, Michael
Stack, Paul Thornburg, Laurel Thornburg,
Bernard Vetter, Mary Wyant

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 the Foundation website at: www.empireranchfoundation.org.

- Stabilization of Stone Corral (*complete!*)
- Repair ranch house Windmill (*complete!*)
- Plan and execute emergency repairs to Adobe Haybarn (*top priority, late 2002, subject to funding*)
- Create plan and stabilize Adobe Haybarn for the long term (*priority item once funds are raised*)
- Complete plan and stabilize lintel over south entry of Zaguan/Breezeway (*plan complete; partially funded; work postponed in deference to haybarn emergency needs*)
- Emergency treatment plan for Ranch Hand's House (*Fall 2002*)
- Emergency treatment of Ranch Hand's House (*a priority item once funds are raised*)
- Straighten & stabilize leaning concrete garden wall (*volunteer project; to be scheduled once plan completed & approved*)
- Emergency relocation underground of overhead electrical lines (*plan complete; work scheduled Fall 2002*)
- Create plan for repair of Children's Addition floor framing and walls (*late 2002*)
- Repair Children's Addition floor framing and walls (*a priority item once repair plan approved and funds are raised*)
- Create plan for adaptive reuse of ranch buildings (*funded; ongoing through 2002/03*)

Errata:

The photo of Andy Hersey on front page of August 2002 issue should have included photo credit to S. Johnson. Our apologies for the omission.

"The Hall" Visits the Empire

On Monday, September 23, the Empire Ranch came to life in a special way. The National Cowboy Hall of Fame and Western Heritage Museum board of directors arrived at the headquarters at 10:00 a.m. for a day of exchanging mutual interests, stories, and memories about their favorite subject—the western way of life.

This famous organization, affectionately referred to as just "The Hall" by the old timers, had its annual board of directors meeting in Tucson this year. They rotate meetings among Oklahoma City, their permanent home, and other cities of their board members. The group came from all over the United States—Oklahoma, Texas, California, Illinois, Nevada, New Mexico, Arizona, Wyoming, Kansas and Nebraska.

Excited ERF board members welcomed these friends and started the day with ranch tours by Mac and John Donaldson, present operators of the ranch, and house tours by Gerald Korte who worked on the Empire during the Boice family era.

Meanwhile, Steve Boice and volunteers fired up for lunch consisting of shrimp, steak, beans, coleslaw, salsa, and tortillas. Dick Schorr made double use of his time. He prepared an old-fashioned Dutch oven peach cobbler and home made ice cream, and then demonstrated the making of reatas while the big cast iron pots baked the dessert in buried coals.

It was as much fun for the hosts as for the guests. Mac and John enjoyed the savvy folks on the ranch tours who asked all the right questions about the grasses of this area, the one herd rotation concept, and the particular cross-breed of cattle that the Donaldsons graze.

Old friendships were renewed as well. Steve Boice delighted in the enthusiasm expressed by Linda Davis of New Mexico about her days spent at the Empire when Steve was just a youngster living and working there with his family.

Sonoita's Dick Bryers, who has several paintings in The Hall, and photographer, Louise Serpa, most recently in-

ducted into the Cowgirl Hall of Fame in Fort Worth, added to the festivities by joining in the fun.

When the vehicles pulled away with the satisfied guests, big smiles remained on the faces of all who helped. "It was like being with family," someone said.



Guest Linda Davis (r) chats with ERF board members Jane Woods and George Masek



ERF Board member Dick Schorr, hard at work on vittles. (Photos: M.Hyland)

Working Calendar

November

16 Board meeting and officer elections

December

Happy Holidays!

January

7 Opening, "The Empire 100" Western Art Show and Sale, Northern Trust Bank, Tucson

18 Board meeting

February

7 Artists' Reception, "The Empire 100" Western Art Show, 4:30-6:00p.m. RSVP Carol Goddard (520) 615-2319

15 Closing day, "The Empire 100: Western Art Show, Northern Trust Bank, Tucson