

EMPIRE RANCH FOUNDATION NEWS

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www.empireranchfoundation.org

Yesterday, Today, and Tomorrow Meet at Empire Ranch Roundup Open House

Over 1,700 visitors made the scenic drive to Las Cienegas NCA on September 11, and stepped back into the past as horse and tractor drawn wagons carried them the final distance to the Empire Ranch headquarters.

Once there, they found new interpretive signs throughout the headquarters. Together with informative guided tours, the signs told as never before the stories of the history of the ranch, progress that's been made so far to preserve it, and current goals for completing restoration and developing the future Empire Ranch Western Heritage and Education Center.

Throughout the day special events and living demonstrations brought those stories and ideas to life. Expert demonstrators of blacksmithing, rope and reatta braiding, leatherworking, and branding afforded a close-in view and a chance to ask questions.

At mid-day, eagerly anticipated *charros* riders rode in dramatically from the east, (continued on page 2)



New interpretive signs were only a part of the Roundup's many treats. See p. 2 for more. (photos: S. Miller and S. Hughes)



Free Lunch At The Ranch

Well almost free...bring your family's favorite dish, and enjoy the delights of fifty others at the annual Membership Pot Luck Buffet. Here are the details for a real ranch social for you and the kids or friends:

Saturday, November 20, 2004 -- Noon to 2:30pm

At the Ranch Headquarters --Guided Tours Available

Dine in the casual elegance of the Victorian Wing while chatting with other members and directors of the Foundation.



Look for your personal invitation & RSVP card in the mail by November 12.

Save the Date!

Year End Financial Support Critical

Success breeds enthusiasm, and with 2004 just about put to bed, the Foundation is looking to 2005 with great enthusiasm. We've made enormous progress during 2004 and prior years, and 2005 will be even better. But again, we need your help!...

*Continued on p. 4, together with
FY03/04 Financial Report*

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.

Open House *(cont'd from p. 1)*

to perform thrilling drills of horsemanship in full Vaquero dress. The crowd loved every minute..

Mid-afternoon, area cowboys and their mounts (together with cattle conscripts) showed eager onlookers their expert timing, teamwork, roping and riding skills, as a narrator explained how their techniques related to handling cattle effectively.

Fascinating historical and natural sciences exhibits, great home cooked food, music, exciting raffle prizes, and special kids activities, together with a visit to the beautiful Western Art Sale (see separate article, p. 3) filled out the day's opportunities to satisfy a huge variety of interests.

Our heartfelt thanks go to the more than 200 volunteers, exhibitors, demonstrators, and artists whose dedicated efforts were so stunningly successful, and in particular to Billie Donaldson, Sarah Miller, Steve Boice, Keri Jelks, and Bruce Lehmann who planned and coordinated.

Special thanks to our partner, the BLM, for help in all aspects, and to Statistical Research, Inc. (SRI) for special help with signage. We are also very grateful to the following major financial sponsors whose support helped make the day's events affordable:

- Sonoran Institute
- Buffalo Gals of Sonoita Hardware
- Schouten, Klein & Sullivan, PC
- The Stockmens Bank
- Arbuckles Ariosa Coffee
- Parties Plus
- Manuel Modiano and Patricia Plezia
- Jack and Aline Goodman

Last and most important thanks go to the throngs of enthusiastic visitors. You reinspired the Foundation's membership and many of you joined it. Thank you one and all!

Gifts in Remembrance

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

- Walter Armer, Sr., Todd Bogers,
Frank & Mary Boice,
Fern & Stone Collie, Burton Gordon,
Tom Hislop, Carey Ingram,
Laura ("Dusty") Vail Ingram,
Julia Scribner Ruch, Wag Schorr,
John J. Woolley, II



Roundup Western Art Sale a Huge Success

True to expectations, the Roundup Western Art Show and Sale hummed with appreciative visitors all day September 11. It also rang with delighted purchases, well beyond expectations. In all, 17 artworks were purchased, and over \$5,000 in artists donations was added to the Foundation's program funds. Truly a huge success.

The Roundup Art Show and Sale was juried this year for the first time and the results were nothing less than spectacular. The original ranch home made a wonderful backdrop for the display of pieces by over 40 artists and sculptors, many familiar in the local area and several newcomers showing great talent.

A real crowd pleaser was "Dusk," a late afternoon scene of a galloping herd of approaching horses. One of the first sales of the day, the painting is the creation of Daniel Gonzalez of Douglas. This young artist won the Jim Kolbe Congressional Art Competition in 2001 and 2002 and has recently been awarded a scholarship to Pima Community College by the Friends of Western Art. His love of horses shines through his work – a love that comes naturally. His father has worked as a cowboy all over the state and Daniel and his brother, a bulldogger, grew up participating in all aspects of ranch life.

Roundup visitors were encouraged to vote on their favorite pieces and the results were very close. Peoples' Choice in the hotly contested painting category went to Bill Moomey for his "Any Shade in the Shade," an oil portraying cattle resting under a large tree. Henry and Laurie Amado not only voted for this beautiful work of art, they couldn't go home without it, and are now the proud owners of the piece.

In the sculpture category the voting was also neck and neck. Mark Rossi's pieces were very popular, two of them sold during the afternoon, but the nod went to Jerry Vaughn for his bronze, "In the Moment," a graceful recreation of a young girl sharing a loving moment with her horse.

A percentage of all proceeds from the art sales is donated by the artists to benefit the Foundation.

Joan LaRue's "Ready to Saddle Up: Empire Ranch," was generously donated by the internationally acclaimed artist as a



Artist Daniel Gonzalez with "Dusk," a late afternoon scene of galloping horses.



Artist Jerry Vaughn won the Peoples Choice in sculpture with charming piece "In the Moment." (photos: B. Barr)

silent auction piece, with full proceeds to benefit the Foundation. Charles Strub of Tucson placed several bids on the painting during the day, and regretfully had to leave before the bidding was closed. He was so delighted to learn that his was the winning bid that he added several hundred dollars to his bid as an extra donation.

Keri Jelks and Marion Hyland chaired the western art show event, and once again attracted and displayed works that delighted one and all.

[Editor's Note: Attending the Roundup show was area journalist Betty Barr, who has featured the Empire Ranch in numerous news and magazine articles. Most of the article above and all of the companion photos are reprinted, with thanks, from her published comments.]

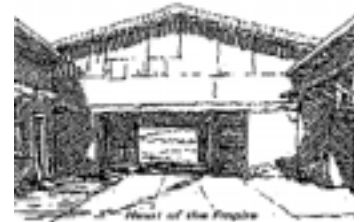


Henry and Laurie Amado of Patagonia purchased the Peoples' Choice winner, "Any Shade in the Shade," by artist Bill Moomey.

What's Next?

THE EMPIRE 100 WESTERN ART SHOW AND SALE

Benefiting the
EMPIRE RANCH FOUNDATION



Sponsored by Northern Trust Bank and
the Arizona Historical Society

January 11-February 25, 2005

At Northern Trust Bank

3450 E. Sunrise Drive,

Tucson, Arizona

8:30 A.M. - 4:00 P.M.

Monday through Friday

A juried exhibition of one hundred
exceptional original works in oil,
water color and bronze by
nationally known painters and
sculptors.

A Private Viewing and Reception for
Foundation Members Only
will be held **January 10, 2005.**

Members, please save the date and
watch for your invitation in the mail.

For a list of participating artists
(available after November 15),
please visit:

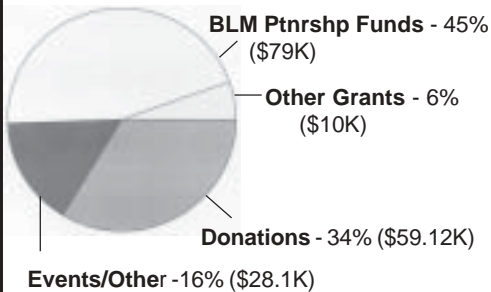
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Empire Ranch Foundation Financial Summary FY03: July 2003 through June 2004

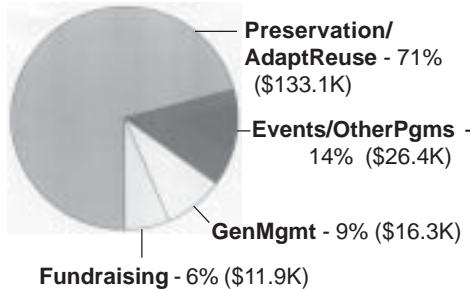
Foundation income more than doubled in FY03, reflecting increased private donations and grants, and a significant cost share grant from our partner BLM—major achievements in a difficult economic environment. Thank you!

Program expenditures (85% of costs during FY03) remained focused on preservation work (71% of costs), but reflected our increased emphasis on educational and outreach program development (14% in FY03, vs. 6% in FY02). Total General Management and Fundraising costs remained modest, but increased from 9% to 15% of total costs, reflecting our needs for membership and program development.

Income, by Source of Funds
\$176,200 Total



Expenditures, by Use of Funds
\$187,800 Total



End-of-year assets totaled \$85K, comprising \$30.9K in BLM partnership funds (fully obligated); \$23.1K in Foundation preservation funds (\$20K obligated for contracted preservation work); \$2.2K in restricted 2004 Roundup sponsorship funds; and \$28.9K in Foundation unobligated funds.

Background on Historic Preservation Repairs

This summary reviews the planning and execution phases we follow in order to professionally preserve buildings on the Empire Ranch. Readers will find them reflected in our news articles and in the “Preservation Projects” summary included in each issue (see p. 6).

Emergency Repairs

The Haybarn (and other) emergency repairs first and foremost prevent the structures from immediate collapse, assure safety for limited use, and arrest further deterioration. However, we undertake them in a deliberate, phased approach, to assure that to the greatest extent possible we make permanent rather than temporary repairs and we retain historic values consistent with the *Secretary of the Interior’s Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties*. These phases involve:

- First, an **assessment** by historic preservation specialists of emergency work required to keep a situation from worsening by removing agents of damage (such as water, wind or pesky rodents), to stop the deterioration of original materials, or to strengthen or support weakened structures.

- Second, a **plan for treatment**, involving: a written *technical approach* formulated by experts consistent with the Secretary’s Standards, and subjected to outside review by the State Historic Preservation Office and BLM; the *securing of funding* to cover costs for repairs, for required “before and after” documentation, and for contingencies (unforeseen problems frequently found as repairs reveal inner layers of construction); and, finally, *contract arrangements* or other plans for executing the work.

- Third, there is the actual **treatment phase**, in which planned repairs are executed, inspected, and documented.

Long-term Stabilization Repairs

After the emergency treatments are completed, our focus turns to long-term stabilization and larger scale efforts to further treat buildings or features so that these remain standing and may adaptively be used to support public purposes.

Long-term stabilization efforts also have assessment, planning, and treatment phases, as whole structural systems are repaired and restored to use. For example, in

Year End (cont’d from p. 1)

Our continuing first priority is emergency repairs needed to save the Empire Ranch’s historic buildings. We’ve almost finished saving the Adobe Haybarn, but we still need to repair cracks, crumbling adobes, and the roof at the northeast corner. This must be done soon, and we’re depending upon members’ year-end generosity to assure funding. We’ll use your donations to fund these and other repairs directly, and also leverage them with matching grant support—such as an \$80,000 BLM cost share grant now under review.

But preservation is not our only priority. Our mission is also to engage and excite the young regarding their western heritage. We want to build and expand on our exciting 2004 initiative “Legacy Day,” which brought Tucson school students to the Empire to learn about Arizona’s history. Your funding support will directly affect the pace at which we can roll out and enhance such programs.

When you look at our FY04 Financial Summary, you’ll see that 85% of our funds go directly to preservation and to outreach and education programs, and that doesn’t include the thousands of volunteer hours that your support enables and inspires.

Please make a year-end contribution and help make 2005 an even greater success story than 2004. Thank you!

2000-2002, an extensive *Action Plan for Repairs to the Empire Ranch House* was prepared and then was executed that corrected foundations and roofing; the next effort will be to plan and execute the stabilization of walls and ceilings.

Similarly, long term stabilization treatments for the Adobe Haybarn will be required some time after emergency repairs are complete. Following that, we plan to be able to use the haybarn for exhibits, music, demonstrations, and in a myriad of ways just to have fun.

A success story in long-term stabilization and return to full use is the stone corral which was a focus for the Foundation’s repair attention and funding in 2001/02, and now is used for everything from meetings to demonstrations during the fall Roundup.

Long term repairs are also guided by eventual use decisions under our Adaptive Reuse Plan completed this year.

More of the Empire legacy...

The English Boys' Outfit, Part 2

By Sinclair Browning

Twenty-four year old Englishman Herbert Hislop arrived in Tucson in July of 1876. Eight thousand miles from home, he partnered with Walter L. Vail on the Empire Ranch. A few months later a second Englishman, John N. Harvey joined them.

During his time in Arizona, Hislop wrote many letters home. Twenty of them survived and were compiled in *An Englishman's Arizona The Ranching Letters of Herbert R. Hislop '876-1878* (The Overland Press: 1965). This continues a two-part article sampling his reflections.

Tucson Heat

Like many of his modern day counterparts in the Sonoita area, Hislop noted the climate differences between Tucson and his ranch. In September of 1876 after being ill for several days he wrote his sister, "I foolishly traveled all night on horseback over 30 miles in order to get away from Tucson, as I never feel well there. It is too hot, over 100 degrees in the shade...whenever I am at the ranch I feel very happy and when in Tucson I feel miserable."

Amusements

Sundays on the ranch were reserved for rest. If the day was cold, Hislop enjoyed nothing more than curling up in front of a fire and devoting his day to reading and writing. He fancied himself a graphologist, and asked his sister to send the book *Character Indicated by Handwriting*. Once it arrived, he critically examined every letter he received to discover the character of the sender.

Cavalry from Camp Lowell camped on the Empire Ranch at least twice during Hislop's time there. For amusement the ranchers and the soldiers would have shooting contests. The ranchers did well as Walter Vail wrote to his brother, "We often shoot with them and we have never been beaten though we don't any of us pretend to be good shots."

Although mail and newspapers from England were eagerly awaited by the young Hislop (who picked them up in Tucson) he often complained about his mail not getting through. In one letter he wrote, "the



John Harvey with his horse "Billie", in house corral east of rear addition, ca. 1880. (photo: courtesy L. V. Ingram)

stage throw the mail-bags out to fill a hole or lighten the load."

The Opposite Sex

There's no doubt that Herbert Hislop was interested in the opposite sex. Three months after arriving in Arizona he wrote that he was "rather spooney" over a newly married girl in Tucson and was also going to try to "put in my claim" for a very nice widow. The following year he was again "spooney" over two more girls. "One is a Castilian. A pretty little peach, most beautiful eyes and a figure most beautiful to behold and as lively as a cricket and able to talk English."

He wrote his sister Amy that he was sure if he just had a "nice little wife" he would be the happiest man in the world. But he also acknowledged that it would be one woman in a hundred who would "come to such a place as this" and first he wanted to get a comfortable home for her.

After visiting a beautiful marble quarry on the Happy Valley Ranch, he penned that if he had a "nice girl with me instead of a rough old ranchman there, I should have proposed to her or felt inclined to do so, but this rough country does not put much romance in you."

The lack of female companionship was probably a contributing factor to Hislop's leaving the Empire after only two years. On his voyage home, he met the woman he would eventually marry.

Livestock

Herbert Hislop was clearly impressed with the tough Arizona horses (which cost \$40). After visiting the Empire for the first time, he wrote, "The horses we rode to the ranch

and back, 104 miles, only had grass to eat and one day to rest so you can judge what wiry little horses they are." After that he became accustomed to routinely riding to Tucson in a day, a distance of some 50 miles without stopping.

Later, after getting bucked off a ranch horse, he stated, "This country is famed for bucking horses and no others can buck like them...I am not anxious to get on one again as I am not quite tired of my life."

Hislop was taken with a little mustang mare he named Madge. He wrote about her stamina and also noted that the horses "are never groomed and when you come in with your horse all hot and steaming just turn it loose as it is."

He also liked the neck reining he found in the western horses. "They will go which ever way you press so you never use the bit like you do in England. I rather like it better as they are so easy to turn."

The range supported both sheep and cattle. A cow cost \$12 a head, even if she had a calf by her side. By May of 1877 the partners had 800 cows and Vail had gone to New Mexico to buy 40 bulls. They also had 20 brood mares, 16 horse and mule colts, yearlings and 9 saddle horses. With the anticipated colts, they expected their horse herd would grow to 50. Livestock was kept in the corral at the back of the house at night to keep the Indians from stealing the animals.

Sheep Squabbles

Herbert Hislop and Walter Vail were both upset when a neighbor refused to keep his sheep on his own range. The Englishman

(continued on p. 6)

English Boys (cont'd from p. 5) demonstrated his prowess with a rifle and revolver one day, hoping to earn the neighbor's respect. Later after Hislop confronted the neighbor about the sheep, he wrote, "his mouth was filled with personal abuse against me, and as things were I thought it better to leave than to be insulted by a common low-born swindling Yankee...I do not intend to talk to him on the subject of his sheep. My partner Vail has just returned from New York and is very hostile on the subject. I think it needs an American to talk to another American and he means war to the knife...my hair is turning gray."

Disillusionment

Just two months after buying the Empire Ranch, Hislop was calling his corner of heaven "this forsaken country." The following February he was having "awful fits of the blues" and while he generally found the ranch life monotonous, he also acknowledged the danger. "When one gets up in the morning," he wrote, "he does not know whether he will be killed during the day or not by these murdering, plundering Apache Indians or Mexicans."

The young Englishman also felt that the glowing accounts of the West he had heard in London and the real place were as "different as chalk from cheese." He wrote, "take a man who is unbiased in opinion and he will not speak so well of this country if he speaks the truth. The hackneyed lies that appear in the newspaper now have made many a poor man repent the day he left his home."

He regretted the lack of beer along with everyday amenities. "I do not know how long it is since my bed was made," Hislop

wrote. "You must remember this country is not civilized."

The English Boy's Outfit did not have a long life. With pressing family financial matters at home and disillusioned with his ranching endeavors and Arizona, in June of 1878 Herbert Hislop sold Vail his interest in the ranch and returned to England. In 1881, John Harvey also sold out and moved to New York.

Under the Vail-Harvey ownership the ranch thrived. By 1880 it grew to include three additional ranches and a silver mine and supported 5,000 head of cattle, an impressive number considering a short 20 years earlier the census had counted slightly over 5,100 cattle in all of the Arizona Territory.

[Sinclair ("Zeke") Browning is a member of the Empire Ranch Foundation Board of Directors and a professional writer.]

Working Calendar

November

- 20 Board Meeting and Officer Elections
- 20 Members Pot Luck Lunch, 12:00-2:30, Empire Ranch Headquarters (see article, p. 1)

January

- 10 Members Reception, Empire 100 Art Show & Sale, by invitation, Northern Trust, Tucson (see notice, p. 3)
- 11 Empire 100 Art Show & Sale open to public, Northern Trust, Tucson (see notice, p. 3)
- 15 Board Meeting

February

- 10 Closing day, Empire 100 Art Show & 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 (Fall 2004)
- Create plan and stabilize Adobe Haybarn for the long term (priority item once funds are secured)
- Stabilize lintel over south entry of Zaganu/Breezeway for the long term (plan complete; funding redirected in deference to 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 raised)
- BLM final approval of adaptive reuse plan for ranch buildings (fall 2004)

2004/2005 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: _____



- \$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.