



EMPIRE RANCH FOUNDATION NEWS

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

www.empireranchfoundation.org

Trail Ride & BBQ Draw Happy Crowd

The day dawned overcast and wet. Occasional showers dampened the enthusiasm of the horse provider who didn't show. Our heroes Mac Donaldson and Steve Boice rode to the rescue, filling the gap with seven gentle horses and a mule so that everyone who wanted to ride did so. The morning group was only eight, but they were eager. They reported a great time with Trail Boss Steve, who took them through the Empire Gulch, up the Oak Tree Canyon, and across to North Canyon. They moseyed back across the air strip to the headquarters, tired but happy.

Meanwhile back at the ranch, the Boice wranglers served hamburgers and hot dogs at the stone corral for the weary morning riders and early afternoon arrivals.

The day turned gorgeous, offering warm sun alternating with cool shadows cast by billowing clouds in the stunning Sonoita Valley sky. By afternoon the number of riders had swelled to 22.

Back in the saddle again, Steve took riders through the Empire pastures and

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Riders gather to hit the trail. (Photo: L.Wilkening)

"Generations of the Empire"

Empire Ranch Roundup Set for September 15

Pull on your cowboy boots, put on your hat, and head to the Empire Ranch on Saturday, Sept. 15, 12:00 noon to 5:00 PM, for the 3d Annual Empire Ranch Roundup Open House and Western Art Show.

This event is packed with activities for the whole family and, as always, admission is FREE; however donations to support the restoration of the ranch house will be gratefully accepted. This year the Roundup and combined Art Show are co-sponsored by the Arizona Historical Society, the Sonoran Institute, and the Northern Trust Bank of Arizona.

Folks who have ranched on the Empire will be featured this year with genera-

tions of families present and participating in the afternoon's events. Historic photographs of ranching life on the Empire will be on display. Bring yours! For newcomers and old timers this will be a chance to hear it like it was or catch up with some of your old friends.

Headlining the livestock demonstrations in the arena will be Dodie Green and her champion working collies working three kinds of livestock, and Kattle Kate Ladson and her favorite stallion Monta Docs Otoe. Arena announcer Jim Koweek and the Busted Cowboys Band will keep you entertained between demonstrations.

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Roundup Art Show Celebrates Western People

The Empire Ranch Foundation Western Art Show and Sale, scheduled from Aug. 15 through Sept. 15, 2001, will be an outstanding regional art event. The success of last year's smaller exhibition of fine western art encouraged us to expand this year to feature more artists, more paintings, more bronzes, more ceramics, and more purchasing choices for Foundation supporters.

Over 40 artists from all over the country are bringing their work to Tucson and to the ranch. Participants were chosen by the artists who exhibited last year, so the list of names is impressive. Arizonans are sharing space with talent from Colo-

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"Estoy listo," by Joan Marron-LaRue, one of the Art Show's participating artists. Reproduced by permission.

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 site and educational center. Donations to the Foundation may be sent to: P.O. Box 842, Sonoita, AZ 85637-0842. _

Working Calendar

August

- 1 Board releases Request for Proposals for preservation contract
- 15 Western Art Show Opening Day at Northern Trust Bank of Arizona, Tucson
- 18 Board Meeting

September

- 8/9 Clean-up days at Headquarters for Roundup preparations — Volunteers Wanted! Contact Billie Donaldson (520/455-4603)
- 13 Western Art Show & Sale last day at Northern Trust Bank of Arizona, Tucson
- 15 Fall Roundup Open House and Art Show — Volunteers wanted! Contact Marion Hyland (420/455-4699)

October

- 1 Action Plan preservation projects underway
- 20 Board meeting

November

- 1 Fall Fundraising Appeal mailed out
- 17 Board meeting

Ongoing

Volunteer for historic preservation projects at the Empire. Contact Steve Boice (520/889-3451) for more information.

Muchas Gracias!

Our heartfelt thanks to the 28 individuals who donated \$3,755 to the Foundation from Jan. 1 through June 15.

Contributions included generous gifts in remembrance of William Banning Vail, Sr., and Carey Ingram, and most welcome special gifts for the ranch windmill repair and for the Fall Roundup.

We would also like to thank the Northern Trust Bank of Arizona, which will publicize and host an advance exhibition of the Western Art Show and Sale in Tucson; the Arizona Historical Society which will sponsor a reception, exhibits, and tours at the Roundup Open House and Western Art Show at the ranch; and the Sonoran Institute, for its support of the Roundup as part of its partnership with us in promoting the Las Cienegas National Conservation Area.

Preservation Update

Articles in past issues have focused on the preservation process, on the newly completed Action Plan, and on various emergency treatments or repairs to the ranch house. This article is meant to provide an update on overall plans for moving ahead with preservation work (as distinct from the restoration, interpretation, and public education programs envisioned in the Foundation's Master Plan).

Preservation efforts at the Empire Ranch Headquarters are managed roughly within three categories: "emergency fixes," "big fixes," and "unfunded fixes."

All preservation efforts, of course, are addressed within a continuous preservation process requiring: 1) problem identification; 2) development of recommended treatments meeting the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties; and 3) reviews and approvals by the Foundation, other preservation experts, the BLM (ultimately responsible for decisions), and the Arizona State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO). All this must occur before an actual treatment is applied.

To oversee much of the work and specific contracts, the Foundation's Construction Committee meets on a regular basis. Representatives of the BLM and of Statistical Research, Inc. (SRI) (the historic preservation firm under contract with the Foundation) participate in these meetings.

Emergency Fixes are highest priority, needed for safety or to arrest serious deterioration. In June, the committee revisited the basic problem identification stage; that is, the Construction Committee reviewed all previous preservation studies and recommendations made between 1994 and 2000. The goal was to assure that all recommended treatments, especially highest priority emergency fixes, were either completed, identified as part of the 2001 contracted work with SRI, or encompassed into the Action Plan for the next contract.

The review showed that we are making progress on all recommendations that fall under emergency fixes, even though some are not yet complete. Some plans are still being formulated (e.g., plans to stabilize the Stone Corral); some are behind schedule (e.g., Hay Barn drainage); and some await a separate contracting process

(e.g., BLM will be working with its hazardous removal contractors to remove remaining contaminated soils in ceilings above some rooms). These and other emergency fixes are targeted for completion by Fall 2001, primarily by our current contractor SRI.

Big Fixes generally refer to major repairs to correct the foundations, roofing and walls of the Ranch House, as outlined in our Action Plan for long term stabilization. Funding is now available for this.

Funds include the Millennium Grant received through the Save America's Treasures program (\$95,300), the remainder of the matching funds the Foundation raised (\$36,000), and deferred maintenance funds from the funds appropriated to the BLM (over \$200,000). (For preservation and repair work, the BLM may transfer such funds to the Foundation under terms of an Assistance Agreement that is part of the BLM/Foundation partnership. The Foundation manages these funds and issues contracts or contract modifications to ensure that the work is completed.)

This summer, the Foundation anticipates issuing a Request for Proposals for preservation work to be performed over the next 3 to 5 years. Responders will be asked to bid on the Action Plan and for a range of future preservation work ranging from assisting the Foundation on grant applications to preservation planning and treatments. When the Action Plan work is completed under this contract (work should take place between Oct. 2001 and Mar. 2002), the ranch house rooms can then be finalized for public uses and interpretation. Any funds left over from the "big fixes" will be then be available for emergency fixes or unfunded fixes.

Unfunded fixes include treatments for the Stone Corral, Hay Barn, Ranch Hand's House, and associated historic features. Through BLM deferred maintenance funding, emergency fixes for these buildings will be completed to stop deterioration. The estimated costs for stabilizing the Hay Barn and Ranch Hand's House, however, range from \$30,000 up. The Foundation will continue fundraising activities for these treatments, and the BLM will also address them within its annual budgeting cycle.

We summarize the status of important individual projects in each issue (see p. 4).

Supporters Spotlight

This issue includes a list of names of individuals and organizations who have given financial support, volunteer effort, or other in-kind support during our past fiscal year, July 2000 through June 2001.

We are only as great as the cumulative sum of our supporters. Thank you!!!

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

Come at noon to catch all this action!

Ranching crafts and skills such as horseshoing, branding, reata making, rope making, mule packing, and more will be demonstrated by local masters of these arts all afternoon. There will also be a chance to visit with renowned boot maker Paul Bond and western photographer Louis Serpa who will be among our special guests.

We are delighted to announce that music will be provided by the young musicians of Mariachi Juvenil Batiz of Nogales and the old musicians of Busted Cowboys Band of the Sonoita area. We will also feature our most famous local country and western crooner, Andy Hersey, and the smooth-talking and singing Bruce Andre.

The crowd-pleasing dance group from Tucson, Danzarte Grupo Folklorico Regional, is returning by popular demand. You won't want to miss southern Arizona's traditional dances as performed by these talented and colorfully costumed young folks.

Especially for the younger generation we will have wagon rides, kids' roping, and nifty old stuff.

Exhibits and tours will highlight ranch history, preservation plans, and the natural resources of the Las Cienegas National Conservation Area.

To whip up enthusiasm for the drive home, Fred and Debbie Fellows will conclude the day's programs with their electrifying bull whip demonstration.

Food and beverages will be available at nominal prices throughout the afternoon. There will be a concession area selling souvenirs related to the Empire Ranch.

And this doesn't even cover the expanded Western Art Show and Sale that will be on display in the historic ranch house (see companion article on p. 1 for details).

Hope to see you there!!!

Internet Debut for *empireranchfoundation.org*

There's a new web site on the World Wide Web this August, telling the world about the Empire Ranch and about the Empire Ranch Foundation.

The site features include historical information as well as current news, of use both to long term Foundation supporters and to potential new members, travelers, history buffs, and art enthusiasts.

Please check us out at: www.empireranchfoundation.org, and tell us what you think!

Trail Ride & BBQ *(cont'd p. 1)*



Participants enjoyed a barbecue repast on the zaguan. (Photo: S.McFarlin)

around the west side of the ranch. They enjoyed the ride on a cooler-than-usual May afternoon with the dust conveniently settled by the early morning showers.

Gerald Korte was occupied nonstop giving his colorful, in-depth tours of the ranch house. By the time he paused to eat, he allowed as how he probably wouldn't be able to talk for a week. But there he was after the barbecue with 12 more folks hanging on his every word.

Sherry Boice Buzzard presided over the barbecue in her usual delicious way. The barbecuers, brothers Bill and Bob Fee out of Tucson, did a tasty job, and there was plenty of beef per head—per person that is. Sherry provided beans, rolls and cornbread, and three salads, topped by dessert.

About 100 lucky folks partook of this great grub in the lovely setting of the zaguan or breezeway of the old ranch house.

Everyone seemed pleased with the leisurely mood that prevailed on a beautiful afternoon in Arizona ranch country.

Guided tours of the historic ranch house were a big hit. (Photo: L.Wilkening)

Foundation and BLM Receive Historic Preservation Award

The Tucson-Pima County Historical Commission (T-PCHC) has awarded the Foundation and the BLM Tucson Field Office a historic preservation certificate to honor their "collaboration for long-term preservation and interpretation of the Empire Ranch through volunteer participation in preservation tasks; fundraising; public outreach, education, and events; development of a newsletter and web site; and collection of oral histories and photographs."

Max Witkind of the BLM accepted the award in Tucson on May 20 at an awards ceremony held in the historic Smith House.

The 23-member T-PCHC is the city and county's official preservation commission, formed to advise city and county government about issues pertaining to historic preservation in its broadest sense, including architecture, history, and archaeology.

Each year the commission receives nominations and makes awards to individuals, firms, groups, and organizations for significant contributions to preservation, conservation, or interpretation of local history, architecture, or historic preservation. This award is generally given to those whose contributions have an impact at the community level or beyond. (as is the case with the Foundation and BLM).

The Awards Subcommittee was particularly impressed with the success of the Foundation and the BLM in creating and maintaining a private/public partnership for preserving the resource and educating the public about ranching history in Arizona.

The Foundation and BLM received a framed certificate. Keep an eye out—it just may be displayed at the Roundup!





“The Cowboy,” by participating artist Jack Dolan. (Reproduced with permission.)

Art Show *(cont'd from p. 1)*

rado, Texas, Oregon, California, New Mexico, Wyoming, Virginia, and Kansas. Over 140 selections will be available for viewing and purchase to benefit the Foundation.

In addition to public interest, the show's expansion is attributable to sponsorship from two outstanding institutions: The Northern Trust Bank of Arizona, and The Arizona Historical Society. Both sponsors are hosting receptions for the public to meet the artists. Invitations will be mailed to ERF members and other guests.

Art will be displayed and sold at the Northern Trust Bank (3450 East Sunrise Dr., Tucson) from Aug. 15 until Sept. 13 during business hours. A reception at the bank will culminate the Tucson portion of the show and sale. All art will be trans-

ferred to the Empire Ranch Headquarters where the show and sale will continue as part of the Empire Ranch Roundup Open House on Sept. 15.

The Roundup theme, “Generations of the Empire,” honoring people of this part of the country, has inspired the entries. The artists' works include studies of western characters of all ages and ethnic backgrounds. Some of the work is actually based on real-live people from this area; other work is strictly fictional.

What better way might the ERF interpret the culture of the west than through the eyes and hands of top-notch artists who capture our imaginations and give us a glimpse into the hearts of the people of our great heritage! Perhaps you will find your own favorite artist among the following list of those who will be exhibiting.

— Art Show 2001 Participating Artists —

Santos Barbosa
James Bayer
Keith Bond
Juanita Bostick
Duane Bryers
John D. Burr
Bonnie Casey
Steven Devenyns
Jack Dolan
Vic Donahue
Tom Dorr
Curtis Dykes
John Fawcett
Deborah Copenhaver Fellows

Fred Fellows
Claire Goldrick
John Hampton (Cheraux)
Edna Harper
Tom Hill
Barbara Hill
Richard Iams
Earl Kuhn
Steven Lang
Lawrence Lee
Thomas Lorimer
Joan Marron LaRue
Louis Maestas
Jessica McCain
Susan Minnick

Bill Mittag
Nancy Prevo
Ron Riddick
Mark Rossi
Loren Schmidt
Louise Serpa
Jerry Shanafelt
Bob Shufelt (Shoofly)
Paul Thornburg
Laurel Thornburg
Anthony Watkins
Herb Wood
Mary Wyant
Harland Young

Preservation Projects Summary

Preservation of the Empire Ranch House and other buildings is a primary mission of the Foundation.

In each issue of this newsletter, we update our readers on the status of various preservation projects underway at the Empire Ranch.

Preservation projects recently completed, underway, or scheduled are noted below. Projects previously shown as complete are not repeated here. Major work on the ranch house will start after the September Round-Up event. The chimney stabilization project and other emergency repairs (as needed) will be completed this summer.

- Remove contaminated soil above ceilings (~80% complete; more work in Fall)
- Improve drainage conditions around foundations (*partially complete; more work in Fall*)
- Plan for emergency stabilization of stone corral (*report anticipated in July 2001*)
- Complete emergency drainage improvements around adobe haybarn (*Summer 2001*)
- Complete emergency repairs to adobe haybarn foundation (*Fall 2001*)
- Begin roof system repairs to the ranch house (*Fall 2001*)
- Begin wall system repairs to the ranch house (*Fall 2001*)
- Manufacture adobe for use in 2001 preservation projects (*Summer/Fall 2001*)
- Complete emergency stabilization of ranch house chimneys (*Summer 2001*)
- Create plan and stabilize the Ranch Hand's House (*a priority item once funds are raised*)
- Repair/replace lintel over south entry of Zagan (*Summer/Fall 2001*)
- Repair ranch house windmill (*after review of plan completed*)