



# EMPIRE RANCH FOUNDATION NEWS

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

[www.empireranchfoundation.org](http://www.empireranchfoundation.org)

## Red, White, and Blue All Over



Parade decorators at work. Photo: P. Kays

Thanks to volunteers who began working before day break on July 4th, the ERF/BLM wagon and team (provided by Steve Boice) made it to Patagonia, AZ, 20 miles south of the ranch house, to join the traditional Patagonia Fourth of July Parade.

Bill Gourley hauled the wagon and with the appropriate "gees and haws" handled the team of Percherons in the parade; Dick Daggett transported the horses.

Jacque McNulty decided on a change in decorations this year, so she brought red, white, and blue bunting and ribbons, which drew approving reactions from parade spectators. Paul Kays represented BLM on the wagon, and his boy Paul Michael, age 7, represented the next generation. A proud American Day was had by all.



On parade July 4. Photo: L. Wilkening

## September 14 Empire Roundup To Be the Best Ever!

Be sure to join us at the Empire Ranch Headquarters, in the heart of the Las Cienegas National Conservation Area, 12:00 noon to 5:00 PM, **September 14!**

You'll see first hand demonstrations of current and historic ranching skills, as dogs and horses work, mules are packed, horses are shod, brands are scorched (on wood shingles), and lariats and saddles are made right in front of your eyes.

Enjoy live cattle and wild horse exhibits, and spend time browsing Empire Ranch and regional historical information displays.

All this, along with wagon rides, roping and special crafts for the kids, food, and live music and dance, will fill your afternoon, while views of surrounding mountains will take your breath away.

But that's not all! Feast your eyes on the enticing Western Art Sale on display in

*(continued next page)*



Leatherworking will be but one of the crafts demonstrated.



Conestoga wagon rides will be fun for all.



Thrill to lively Hispanic dancing.  
All photos from Roundup 2000: M. Witkind

**Andy Hersey**, popular composer and performer of country and blue grass music, and friend of the Empire Ranch, will entertain in the Breezeway. Andy also has first hand experience with ranching in southern Arizona.

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. \_

## 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.

- Stabilization of stone corral (*work underway; completion August 2002*)
- Emergency shoring of adobe haybarn walls (*complete*)
- Create plan and stabilize adobe haybarn (*priority item once funds are raised*)
- Complete plan and stabilize lintel over south entry of zaguan (*complete plan August 2002; partially funded; begin work summer/fall 2002*)
- Emergency treatment plan for Ranch Hand's House (*fall 2002*)
- Emergency treatment of Ranch Hand's House (*a priority item once funds are raised*)
- Emergency shoring of leaning concrete garden wall (*complete*)
- Straighten & stabilize leaning concrete garden wall (*September volunteer project once plan done & approved*)
- Repair ranch house windmill (*funded; summer 2002*)
- Emergency relocation underground of overhead electrical cables (*early fall 2002*)
- Create plan for repair of Children's Addition floor framing and walls (*September 2002*)
- Repair Children's Addition floor framing and walls (*a priority item once repair plan approved and funds are raised*)
- Plan for adaptive reuse of ranch buildings (*funded; ongoing through 2002/03*)

## Members— *We Still Need You!*

We are very grateful to the many individuals who have already responded to our FY02 membership drive and have renewed support or joined us for the first time. Members are the all important factor in making the Empire Ranch an outstanding western heritage and educational center.

However, we hope to sign up many more past friends of the Empire Ranch that we know are out there and reading this newsletter. We still need you, but regret that newsletter costs are such that we must eventually deactivate distribution for inactive supporters.

For those of you who still have ERF membership on your "to do" list, please let us hear from you soon—we really appreciate and need your support. A reply form is included on the last page of this issue.

## Welcome Aboard

While ERF board members and volunteers handle the bulk of Foundation work, we are pleased to have recently contracted for the part time services of:

- Deana DeWolf, resident of Sonoita and co-owner of Top Stitch of Sonoita, who will function as our Administrative Assistant, and bring her extensive office and computer skills to bear on ERF data and correspondence.

- Leslie Schupp, resident of Patagonia, and trained anthropologist and teacher with historic preservation experience, who will function as our Contract Administrator handling day-to-day oversight of our contracted historic preservation projects.

We warmly welcome these colleagues and are delighted to have their expertise.

Their support replaces services until recently supplied to ERF by Stuart Leidner, who found it necessary to withdraw in order to devote more time to another client. We wish to thank him for the many benefits to ERF from his professional efforts and his contributions as a volunteer.

## Fire Is the Watchword

As has been reported in the national news, wildfires this year have reached historic proportions in Arizona, brought on by extreme drought.

Mercifully, the Empire Ranch Headquarters and nearby communities have been spared disaster, but fires have raged on Cienega Creek in the Las Cienegas NCA, Gardner Canyon just west of the NCA, and in the Canelo Hills, Mustang Mountains and Huachuca Mountains several miles south.

On June 29, because of the extreme fire risk, the Las Cienegas NCA and Empire Ranch Headquarters were temporarily closed to the public for visiting, pending arrival of expected rains. (Supervised activities under permit, such as preservation work on the Stone Corral, were allowed to continue.) Those restrictions have since been lifted, but fire remains a paramount concern.

BLM also has undertaken advance fire mitigation actions, including supervision of Youth Corps removal of brush around headquarters buildings, and erection and refurbishment of fire danger signs



*Youth Corps team poses in "before" photo,*



*"After" photo following brush removal east of BLM field house located north of ranch house. Photos: M. Adler, BLM*

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

the historic Ranch House, and enjoy fascinating conversations and photos at the Generations Table (see additional articles, p. 3)

The Roundup flyer enclosed with this issue gives details on all the activities, as

well as driving directions. No matter what your pleasure, plan September 14 as an afternoon of fun. Event sponsors Arizona Historical Society and Sonoran Institute join the BLM and the Empire Ranch Foundation in welcoming you to this treasured

place in Arizona's heart.

As always, admission is *free*, but donations and new members are warmly welcomed (see membership form on p. 4).

See you at the Empire Ranch Roundup, September 14!

## Louise Serpa Joins Generations Table

This year's Roundup theme *Generations of the Empire* is all about people— people who have worked the ranches of southern Arizona.

We are providing a special table to meet and visit, swap stories, view photographs, and renew acquaintances. We hope that in addition to the scheduled participants, many old friends will spring up like grasses after the monsoon rains to add to the ERF's oral history and the photo collections. The Arizona Historical Society, Arizona State Museum, and the Bureau of Land Management will help record information.

LOUISE SERPA, legendary rodeo action photographer, is a guest of honor at the Generations Table. Like John Donaldson, her good friend and lease holder of the Empire Ranch lands, she was eastern born but broke and ran where her heart led her, to the Southwest.



*Louise Serpa at work capturing rodeo action. Photo: S. Van Alsborg*

Louise worked as a wrangler in Wyoming and then owned her own ranch in Oregon before she moved to Tucson in 1959. Her first experience shooting junior rodeos led the way to amateur, collegiate, and high school arenas. Who would have imagined that an Argus C3 camera from the drug store and a closet darkroom would spawn the first woman sanctioned by the Rodeo Cowboys Association?

Louise, internationally acclaimed for  
*(continued next page)*

## Easels on the Empire

If you have been out to the Empire Ranch headquarters lately you have seen more than horses, cows, trucks, and cowboys. For the past several months, easels, straw hats, and the intense faces of painters have dotted the landscape as artists prepare for the upcoming Roundup Art Show and Sale on September 14.

These talented individualists will offer work in oil, water color, pastel, wood, and bronze for lookers and buyers. All are professional artists, and some know ranch life on a visceral level as horse trainers, cowboys, and land stewards.

One mystery celebrity will offer a "quick draw" painting that will be produced right on the front porch during the afternoon.

Come and meet the following artists who will delight you with their talent:

Roger Alderman	Keri & Rukin Jelks
Deb Allen	Mary Jo Lee
Bruce Andre	Deezie Manning-Catron
Lou Apperson	Regina Medley
Roberta Aylward	Sue Minnick
Jill Babcock	Wanda O'Dell
Bob Begier	Nancy Prevo
Juanita Bostick	Mark Rossi
Staphanie Carlton	Donna Soest
Greg Clyne	Joe Staheli
Bill Cook	Chris Stange
Dana Cude	Charles Thomas
Mick & Linda Davidson	Don & Doris Wenig
Samuel Donaldson	Peter & Sally Whitney
Ramona Dow	Herb Wood
Katheryn Drummond	
Katie Hazen	



*"Calla-Skull" watercolor by Deezie Manning-Catron*



*"Back to the Herd" bronze by Joe Staheli*

## Facelift and Restoration Ongoing for Stone Corral

There comes a time in everyone's life that we reach a "certain age," and we may need some reconstructive surgery, not to mention some cosmetic repairs. The Stone Corral at the Empire Ranch has been around for a century or so, and in the skilled hands of the restoration crew of Means Design and Building Corporation (a subcontractor to ERF's preservation contractor Statistical Research, Inc. [SRI]), it is finally receiving some attention.

First, the facelift. The photo to the right shows one of Mean's crew working on one of the huge cracks in the corral's stone wall. This worker is a member of the Tohono O'Odham tribe, people who have been building with stone and adobe in south-



ern Arizona for hundreds of years, including the famous San Xavier Mission. As with San Xavier, the stone corral suffers from

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## Stone Corral (cont'd from p. 3)

earlier attempts to patch the walls with cement that didn't match the original mortar, which only accelerated deterioration.

The crew's first step was to gouge out the old crumbling mortar with pick hammers and drills. They then use a flexible funnel-shaped bag to squeeze in new mortar, this time a special mixture of lime, a little cement, a little dirt to match the old color, and PVA for stabilization.

You can just feel the old wall saying,

thanks, these botox treatments are just the thing for my wrinkles!

Then comes foundation support for the wooden columns along the north side of the stone corral. At times the crew had to lie on their backs to dig holes below the original rock foundations, pound rebar into the rocks, then pour new cement around them.

SRI archaeologist Amelia Natoli can be seen in the photo below next to a pile of dirt, sifting for historical period artifacts. Once in a while a crew member

will bring her a rusted bolt, a nail, or an old piece of glass as she monitors ground-moving activities.

Next up for the corral will be roof and beam repairs, and two of the wooden columns will be replaced. All repairs will be done with materials that look like the originals, to preserve the rustic flavor of the stone corral.

Meanwhile, the Adobe Haybarn and the Concrete Wall have been shored up for safe keeping, and are awaiting their turns for repairs.



Preparing for new column foundations (top), and sifting dirt for artifacts (bottom). All photos: L. Schupp

## Generations Table (cont'd from p. 3)

capturing the action of the rodeo arena, prides herself in staying out of the way of the riders and the animals, but admits suffering kicks from broncs, a rope around her neck, stomping from a bull, and being knocked flat by a steer wrestler.

She has a long string of one-woman

shows, magazine and newspaper articles, books, and awards to her credit. Watch to see if she wears one of her proudest awards—a buckle for *Best Action Photo of 1982* from the Pro Rodeo Cowboys Association.

This kind of spirit, shared by many

Louise would say, will be honored at the Generations Table. Louise happily joins descendants of the three Empire Ranch operating families and many other invited guests, to host the table. This is one feature of the Roundup that you will not want to miss. It's all about people!

## 2002/2003 Membership Reply

*Yes, I want to be a member!*

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Street/P.O. Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, ZIP : \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_(\_\_\_\_)\_\_\_\_\_ FAX: \_(\_\_\_\_)\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_I do not wish my name to be given to like-minded groups

\_\_\_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

**Bring to the Roundup September 14, or 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.*