

EMPIRE RANCH FOUNDATION NEWS

P.O. Box 842 • Sonoita, Arizona 85637-0842 • (520) 881-1510

www.empireranchfoundation.org



The Roundup's Gathering! Join Us!

Empire Ranch c. 1889 (photo: courtesy BLM & L. V. Ingram)

Come to the Empire Ranch on September 11. Celebrate ranching life as it's been here for over 130 years. *Back to the Future* is our theme, and we'll have loads of events, demonstrations, and exhibits to highlight ranch history and cowboy lore, coupled with stories of what's been done and what's planned for the future to restore and interpret this historic ranch for the public.

Horse drawn wagons will carry you back to earlier times as you tour the old Empire Ranch House and surrounding corals and grounds.

Join us for Mariachi music and the dashing *Escaramuza y Charros Flor de Primavera* as they exhibit their fine horsemanship, harkening back to skilled Vaqueros of early ranching days on the Empire.

Watch real working cowboys of the area demonstrate local techniques and equipment—past, present, and unchanging—and also a guest demonstrator of hackamore use in the California Vaquero Style. Master craftsmen will display skills such as rope and reata making, leather

(continued on page 2)

Saddle Up & Sidle Over to the Roundup Art Show

Excitement is building in a big way for the Roundup Art Show and Sale at the Empire Ranch on September 11! Joan LaRue, renowned and internationally known impressionistic painter, has generously donated her delightful creation "*Ready to Saddle Up: Empire Ranch*" (see photo on p. 2), for a silent auction during the show. All proceeds will benefit the Foundation.

Joan's work has been a favorite at all of the Empire Ranch Foundation's shows held at the ranch and in Tucson. Recently



she has been featured in a beautifully illustrated book entitled *Enchanted Isle*, which gives a visual history of plein air painting on Santa Catalina Island.

Although Joan has painted throughout the United States, France and Italy, one of her favorite places is the Empire Ranch.

Roundup visitors may bid on the painting on the porch of the Empire Ranch House, which also functions as the entrance to the full art exhibit hung inside

(continued on page 2)

Counting, Counting and Counting

Membership Counts! As the Foundation approaches the end of the annual membership campaign for the upcoming year, July 1, 2004 through June 30, 2005, initial public responses signal a banner membership year. Over two hundred members, and counting, have mailed in replies for an annual Foundation membership. They will enjoy the benefits of membership all year long, among which is reading this quarterly newsletter! Coupled with new and renewing members at the membership Spring Trail Ride, the Foundation is well on its way to successfully reaching the big challenge...520 active members by June 30, 2005.

The Foundation's success depends on our generous members. You make possible our historic preservation work, public outreach, and educational programs. What makes an outstanding western heritage center? You do... So right now, if you have not done so, turn to the back of this newsletter and complete the membership form and mail it to the Foundation. Membership Counts.

Roundup (cont'd from p. 1)

working, horse shoeing, silver working, and more. Historical and natural resources exhibits will abound.

Take the kids to an expanded Kids Corral activity area where they can get into the action themselves as they try a hand at roping, don historical clothes and gear, learn about and sit in saddles from the past and the present, and stroke a gentle calf and lamb.



Beginning cowhand, from the 2003 Roundup (photo: R. Hyland)

All around the headquarters you'll find displays about the history of the ranch. Come learn about the future goals and plans for the BLM and ERF as we move ahead to turn the Empire Ranch Western Heritage and Education Center into a reality. Get involved by asking questions and making suggestions. We really want your input!

Of course, there will be plenty of great food and drink and areas for family eating. And echoing all of this color, history, and beauty will be the marvelous Western Art Show and Sale hung inside the historic Victorian Addition (see article). Be sure to come and bring the family for a great day of entertainment and learning. For more details, see the Roundup Program enclosed, or visit www.empireranchfoundation.org.

Gifts in Remembrance

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

Frank & Mary Boice,
Bonnie Donaldson, Richard Ewing,
Earl F. Glenn, Sally Grennan, Ken Hale,
Joan Hedgcock, Fay & Sam Hill,
J. Frederick Hoffman, Carey Ingram,
Laura ("Dusty") Vail Ingram,
Alice Marcher, Louis Sands,
Glenn Schorr, Herman Tuck, Al Vail,
Ralph Wingfield



"Ready to Saddle Up: Empire Ranch," valued at \$1,800, has been donated by artist Joan M. LaRue for silent auction at the Roundup Art Show and Sale, September 11.

Art Show (cont'd from p. 1)

the family residence portion of the ranch house. You will not want to miss this!

Art at the Empire has taken a prominent place in the Foundation's overall goal to provide youth with educational and western cultural experiences. So, it is not surprising that aspiring new talent will also be represented at the show. Through collaboration in a scholarship and mentoring program with Friends of Western Art in Tucson and the Tucson Plein Air Painters, the Empire is helping young artists.

Daniel Gonzalez, who won Congressional Art Awards two years in a row, is a prime example. Daniel, a figure painter, erected an easel on the Empire this spring to produce his first landscape. Recently he saddled up a paint horse for the May trail ride (see photo, p. 5) and ended the day singing and playing guitar with Sonoita's Andy Hersey. Daniel is already planning his entries for the Roundup show, which are likely to include subjects from Mexico.

Approximately 50 talented artists are creating pieces for the Roundup Art Show. Artists acquired entry information this year from art galleries in Patagonia, Sonoita, and Tubac as well as from the ERF website. This new approach was piloted to reach more southern Arizona artists and be completely open to the public. Entries for the show will

be juried by an expert panel to assure an exciting and high quality exhibition.

Many participating artists' names are familiar from our highly successful 2003 Roundup Art Show (see images of selected 2003 artworks on our website); other names are new; all promise another wonderful Western art experience that will benefit the Foundation and delight art patrons.

2004 Roundup Art Show Participating Artists

Yolande Adriaanse, Roger Alderman,
Bruce Andre, Tom Arndt, Tina Bartsch,
Darrell Bishop, Juanita Bostick,
Scott Brems, Karen Bright, Sandy
Brodie, C.D. Butsch, George Carey,
Cynthia Carlisi, Fred Collins, Bill Cook,
Linda Davidson, Mick Davidson,
Katheryn Drummond, Robert Goldman,
Daniel Gonzalez, Keri Jelks,
Stacey Hines-Holdcraft, Joan M. LaRue,
Lillian Leclerc, Mary Jo Lee,
Richard Marcher, Kevin McCain,
Paul Miller, Bill Moomey,
Armando Moreno, Fran Odum,
Faith Posey, Nancy Prevo, Hank
Richter, Ginny Reilly, Mark Rossi,
Bonnie Clute Ruddick, David Simons,
Donna Soest, Chriss Stange,
Charles Thomas, George-Ann Tognoni,
Jerry Vaughn, Elizabeth Wallace,
Peter Whitney, Sally Whitney,
Herb Wood



Membership Spring Trail Ride 2004...Fantastic!

What has 810 feet...540 eyes and travels at varying speeds? If you answered the Spring Trail Ride benefiting the Empire Ranch Foundation you're absolutely right. May 10th was indeed a record day as over 135 Foundation members followed the lead of head wrangler Steve Boice and took off across the Empire for an exhilarating jaunt through some of the most scenic territory in the southwest.



Between morning and afternoon rides, members enjoyed the best barbecue lunch south of the Gila and toured historic ranch buildings to see recent preservation work. At the end of the day, Andy Hersey serenaded the crowd with original western tunes in the stone corral and cooks served up a big feast.



Thank you trail riders...your membership is crucial to our on-going mission. And thank you Steve Boice and the team of volunteers and sponsors who organized the very best trail ride ever!

Trail Ride Volunteers and Sponsors

Steve Boice, Victoria and Eric Means, Steve Johnson, Richard Rodrigues, Walter and May Kolbe, Gerald Korte, Andy Hersey, Bud Strom, Dick Schorr, Al Nieto, Jim Patton, Billie Donaldson, Pat Haddad, Faith Boice, Terry Piper Moreno, William & Rose Piper, Ed Smedley, Morgan Smedley, Pat Rhea, Nan Walden, Terry Majewski



May 10th at the Empire Ranch and surrounding property: members of all ages enjoying the trail ride and some great home cooking at the ranch house, while western music entertains the crowd. (photos: Eric Means and Bruce Lehmann)



Major Adobe Haybarn Emergency Repairs Completed

This Spring, completing Phase 2 repairs for saving the Adobe Haybarn, the crew from Means Design sealed huge cracks in the Adobe Haybarn south and west walls by filling them with new adobes and mortar. More importantly, they righted and anchored the outward leaning west wall and gable and the southwest wall.

Part of the job required attaching the tops of the adobe wall to the wooden beams with 3 foot bolts, and straightening the walls using giant screws attached to the ends of steel braces. Some challenges presented themselves. Eric Means told us, "We had to borrow a 6-foot drill bit to go down deep into the walls to attach bolts. I think it's the only 6-foot drill in Arizona!"

In the process of repair, the Haybarn revealed some of its past history. In May the inside of the barn flooded with sunlight as the sides of the tin roof were removed to attach the walls. In the bright light, every mud brick revealed how it was made and stuck into place.

"One of the things we found out," Eric Means told ERF, "was that the west wall apparently collapsed when the barn burned in the 1890s. Then they used the same adobe bricks to build up the wall again but they did it in a hurry. You can see the adobes on the west wall stick out at angles and are not as carefully mortared into place as in the original walls. Some of the adobes have the fire-burnt sides turned to the outside now." Means said that the fire also burned the original door on the north side of the barn, and afterward the inside adobe walls of the horse stalls were taken out and the adobes used to fill in the gap where the north door had been.

By Fall we hope to have funds for the last last remaining emergency tasks to stabilize the Haybarn's northeast corner, and to finish the job for emergency repairs.

Empire Ranch Story on Your Newsstands

The National Historic Trust July/August issue of *Preservation* includes a glowing feature article on the Empire Ranch, and the Summer issue of *Range Magazine* contains a great Empire Ranch article by Betty Barr of Sonoita. Both are on newsstands now—don't miss them!

There's still major work after that, including seismic evaluation and retrofit, strengthening or replacing roof trusses, and other long term stabilization, before the building is ready for a barn dance. But ERF supporters can visit in small groups, and be proud that the Haybarn is saved from ruin and standing much stronger these days and for many decades to come.



BLM's Paul Kays inspecting work with Means Design staff (above); Means Design crew members at work inside barn (top right) and on roof straightening leaning west wall. (photos: L. Schupp and P. Kays)



Adaptive Reuse Planning Benchmark

This June, our contractor Statistical Research, Inc. (SRI) completed its final report *Adaptive-Reuse Plan for the Empire Ranch Headquarters* containing a wealth of background information on the ranch and a series of recommendations for a phased approach to preserve, adapt, and reuse the headquarters buildings, and transform them into the Empire Ranch Western Heritage and Education Center.

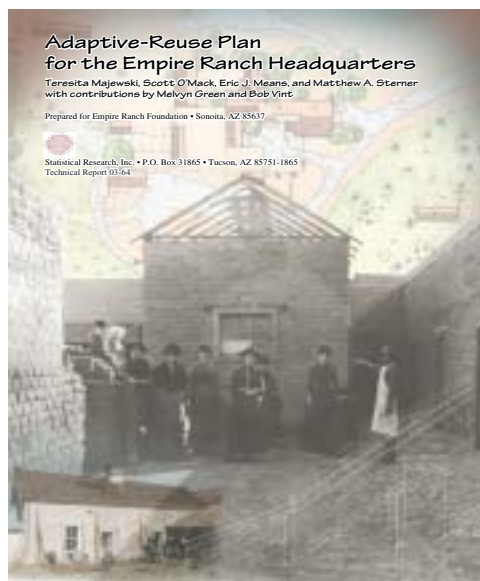
The report, authored by SRI's professional team led by Terry Majewski, pulls together and reflects extensive input from BLM, ERF, and the public, taken from past published reports, public meetings, and extensive review and comment on earlier report drafts by BLM and ERF.

On June 17, ERF board members met with key BLM staff, including Shela McFarlin, Manager of the BLM Tucson Field Office which includes Las Cienegas NCA, to confer on whether to adopt, revise, or defer action regarding specific report recommendations, particularly those related to our near term goal of creating a stabilized Historic House Shell and supporting infrastructure. Thanks to the highly collaborative genesis of the SRI report, the meeting was marked by strong unanimity

in consensus, and the thrust of our vision reported in previous newsletters was brought a step closer to reality.

Later this summer, BLM will issue a decision for the Adaptive Reuse Plan, based upon the report, the June 17 conference, and broader considerations of the Las Cienegas Resource Management Plan which was finalized in 2003.

Visitors to the 2004 Roundup will be able to visualize the plans in the context of the fine old buildings they seek to preserve and interpret.



Cover from SRI's June 2004 final report.

More of the Empire legacy...



"Harvey and Vail 1876 - An Empire Begins," an historically researched oil painting by Bruce Andre (2002) presents Empire Ranch House as it probably appeared when Hislop lived there. (photo by permission)

The English Boys' Outfit, Part 1

By Sinclair Browning

Walter L. Vail arrived in Tucson in the fall of 1875 eager to go into the cattle business, having visited the Empire Ranch the previous December. Not only did his uncle, Nathan R. Vail raise money to fund his nephew's venture, he also produced a ranching partner, Herbert R. Hislop, the young son of a wealthy English family.

Hislop arrived in Tucson on July 13, 1876. He was 24 years old and 8,000 miles from home. A little over a week later, he traveled to the Empire Ranch, 45 miles away. The trip, including an hour lunch break, took ten hours.

He wrote, "I like it very much. It reminds me of Brighton Downs, as it is much the same sort of country and there seems to be plenty of water about it." He then added, "The heat at Fish's ranch was not bad at all as I never felt it."

The two partners spent several weeks viewing other area ranches before buying the 160 acre Empire Ranch for \$2,000 in August of 1876. The following month they bought a second ranch about two miles away. That sale included 620 sheep which were traded, along with an extra \$14 per cattle head fee, for 800 Texas longhorns.

A few months after Vail and Hislop

went into partnership, a second Englishman, John N. Harvey joined them. Although Walter Vail came West from New Jersey, his family had originally settled in Nova Scotia. The locals were quickly referring to the Empire Ranch as the "English Boys' Outfit."

Much of Herbert Hislop's time on the Empire comes from his own words. While there he wrote letters to Nathan Vail, to his grandmother and to his sister, Amy. Twenty of the letters survived and were compiled in *An Englishman's Arizona The Ranching Letters of Herbert R. Hislop 1876-1878* (The Overland Press: 1965).

Clearly his time in America was an eye opener for the young Englishman. When he later ran into a poor Irish immigrant who had been in steerage on the same boat with him, the man stuck out his hand and wished him good luck. Hislop wrote, "I can tell you, one has to put their pride in their pocket here, all men are equal."

On his trip to Tucson he noted that none of the ranchers "seems to possess beds, everyone lies on the floor." Later he was amazed how everyone slept outside, but conceded that it was actually quite enjoyable and a lot cooler.

Manual labor was also apparently new to the well heeled young man as he wrote to Amy, "I do not think that any of you can imagine me with a pick and shovel working hard with it all day. I felt it at first but custom is second nature..."

Violence in the Territory

Apache raids complicated cattle ranching in the 1870's. Six days after his arrival Hislop wrote that the Indians had killed three men. Only two months later two more men were killed on the Babocomari River near the San Pedro. He penned, "It is beginning to look serious again but I hope that as we are now settled they will not disturb us there is safety in numbers." Still, revolvers were always at hand. The following May he listed six additional murders, although other sources show the number closer to eleven.

In one letter Hislop wrote, "The other day in Tucson a man was shot in the street, see how quickly everyone hops out of the way when they hear a pistol-shot...I can tell you this is a hard rough old county." In another, "it is a wonder you get any letters from me at all what with road agents alias stage-robbers and other thieves that seem to have the run of this country."

On at least two occasions the Englishman had a near miss with a rattlesnake. Baking bread one day he left the kitchen for a short time only to return and find a snake under the stove. Another time he found one coiled under a window next to a chair where he had just been sitting.

In February of 1877 he mentioned that "Small-pox and measles are epidemic in Tucson as well as California now."

Making an Empire a Home

When the partners bought the ranch, the four room house was unfinished, with dirt floors and no doors or windows. The men did the work themselves, saving the \$5 a day a carpenter would have charged. They also made most of their own furniture. And while they would have preferred board floors in the rooms, lumber costs were 12 cents a foot, so the dirt stayed. Hislop wrote, "which is rather miserable and awfully dirty, cannot keep anything clean, how I should appreciate a carpet or bare boards."

In spite of the hardships, the Englishman insisted on taking cold baths in a tin tub he bought in Tucson for \$10. He wrote

(continued on p. 6)

English Boys *(cont'd from p. 5)*

that he wanted to buy calico for curtains that he thought he could sew himself. Two Indians were hired to plaster the house as the partners "intend to live as comfortable as this country will let us."

The ranchers hired a 12 year old sheepherder and a Scotsman as their cowboy. Both were given food and lodging and the boy earned \$10 a month; the man \$40.

Into the Fire

Although all the men contributed to the cooking chores, Hislop did more than his share. He was proud of his skills judging from this excerpt, "I seem to think no one can make bread like me and my success at Yorkshire pudding has been acknowledged by all who have partaken of it as well as pastry."

In the warm weather, flies were troublesome. He spread treacle on a board and waited for the insects to land. He wrote Amy, "When it was full of them I had another piece of board the same size and brought it down quickly killing a great quantity at a time, thus thinned them considerably and it was a blessing as everything one ate was full of flies."

By December of 1876 Hislop was clearly missing England. He cooked Christmas dinner that first year. Unable to get a wild turkey he served four stuffed wild ducks (which had hung for more than a week), along with mashed potatoes, good coffee and two bottles of whiskey. Desert was plum-pudding although he had to make substitutions including mutton fat for beef suet and oranges in lieu of lemons. He wrote the familiar "Wishing you all a Merry Christmas" in English and also in Spanish

for the Mexican sheepherder. The pudding was surrounded with brandy and lighted.

And while he admitted that he hated cooking for Christmas, he was concerned that if he didn't do it the day would pass as any other. He wrote Amy, "with these dear old customs is brought some happy reminiscence of the old country which seems to cheer a fellow up in this wild, savage country." For his second ranch Christmas he added suckling pig to his menu and while he went on a turkey hunt, his success, or lack thereof, was not recorded in the letters.

End Part 1

Next time: Amusements, horses, cattle, sheep squabbles and disillusionment...

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

Working Calendar

August

21 Board Meeting

September

11 Empire Ranch Roundup Open House and Western Art Show and Sale

October

Ladies Trail Ride originally planned has been postponed to a later date (to be announced)

November

20 Board Meeting and Officer Elections

20 Members Potluck Lunch

January-February

Tucson "Empire 100" Art Show & Sale (date details to be announced)

Preservation Projects

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 Phase 2 emergency repairs to Adobe Haybarn (*complete*)
- 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 Zaguana/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 (*volunteer project; to be scheduled once plan completed & approved. Summer 2004*)
- Create plan for emergency repairs of Children's Addition floor framing and walls (*complete*)
- Repair Children's Addition floor framing and walls (*a priority item once funds are raised*)
- Create plan for adaptive reuse of ranch buildings (*complete; finalize summer 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: (____) _____

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.