

EMPIRE RANCH FOUNDATION NEWS

P.O. Box 842 * Sonoita, Arizona 85637-0842 * (888)364-2829
www.empireranchfoundation.org

New Year's Greetings

Greetings to all our members and friends. I hope you all had pleasant holidays. I have been asked to stay on as president for another year and am looking forward to the New Year, with all its adventures and challenges. Funding to preserve the historic Empire Ranch is critically important and is not easy to obtain. That is why your membership and support is so important, and we really appreciate any and all contributions.

This newsletter issue provides an update on the Adobe Haybarn stabilization project (p.3) and invitations to two exciting ERF events—the Empire 100 Western Art Show & Sale and the Spring Trail Ride. Please plan to join us at one or both events.

Many of you had the opportunity to meet our great site host, Sam Camp, who embraced the Empire Ranch and has been so helpful. Sadly, Sam has decided to saddle up his horse Missy and explore new trails. Sam, you will be missed more than you know, and we can't thank you enough for all that you've done as a great host, friend, and horseman. We wish you the best of luck and happy trails.

I'm looking forward to a great 2015. Please stay in the saddle and thanks, ERF members, for all you do.

Ron Martin
President



“Empire 100” Western Art Sale Opens March 29

Quick, put this stunning art event on your calendar and plan to be delighted. Our much-anticipated Empire 100 Western Art Show & Sale showcases a juried selection of fine Western art from established and emerging artists. And it raises funds for preservation of the historic Empire Ranch Headquarters.

The 2015 show opens with a by-invitation-only Reception for Members and Friends on Sunday, March 29 from 2-5 pm at a new location, the Tucson Desert Art Museum. The 100 pieces selected for the show will include impressionistic and traditional Western art subjects, plein air landscapes, and colorful still lifes. Artworks inspired by images and scenes at the historic Empire Ranch are always crowd favorites.

We are honored that Doug Oliver is the show's featured artist. He has been a significant contributor to



the art of the American West for more than three decades, known throughout the contemporary art world for his landscape images of soaring skies and panoramic vistas (see above). A graduate of the prestigious Chouinard Art Institute and the University of Redlands, California, his early career was spent as an art educator. He began full time studio work in 1981. His work is included in some of the finest corporate and private collections worldwide, and in *Art of the West* and *Southwest Art* magazines.

The Desert Art Museum is located at 7000 E. Tanque Verde Rd, at the intersection of Tanque Verde and Sabino Canyon Roads in Santa Fe Square. The show will run through Sunday, April 19. The museum is open Wednesday–Sunday from 10am to 4pm. A portion of all sales supports the Empire Ranch Foundation's programs for preservation, interpretation, and education. Images of artworks selected for the show will be available for viewing on the Empire Ranch Foundation website after March 20, 2015.

Total Wreck Silver Mine Funded Empire Ranch Expansion in the 1880s

Discovery of silver in the nearby Empire Mountains by Empire Ranch cowboy and prospector John Dillon led to a mining venture that helped finance the significant early expansion of the Empire Ranch. Dillon and Empire partners Walter Vail and John Harvey filed a claim on three likely mining sites in 1879. One site, dubbed the “Total Wreck” due to its messy, rocky appearance, proved to have large concentrations of silver.



Mine scaffolding and ore transport car, ca 1883 (photo: D. V. Ingram)

For the next two years the partners were unable to fully develop the mine due to legal challenges on their claim. The disputes were settled in December 1881 and also resulted in a change in ownership—John Dillon sold his shares to Walter Vail’s aunt, Anna Vail, since he could not afford his share of litigation expenses, and later Walter Vail bought out Anna and Harvey’s interests. Anna’s husband, Nathan Vail was instrumental in establishing the Total Wreck Mining & Milling Company and securing investors to finance the development of the mine.

Walter’s brother, Edward Vail, became the assayer and superintendent of the Total Wreck, which included its own crushing mill. Water for the mill, which was fully operational by early 1883, was pumped from the Cienega Creek. The



Total Wreck Mining Camp, ca.1883 (photo: M.V. Woolley)

Total Wreck Camp grew to include over fifty houses and many businesses. Edward Vail noted that “The Total Wreck was a good little camp, notwithstanding its name, and a very healthy one.”

The mine produced significant income until late 1884, when the price of silver dropped. It was closed in 1887. During its short life the Total Wreck mine produced over \$500,000 in profit which provided critical funding for the expansion and improvement of the Empire Ranch.

Note: This brief article is based largely upon information documented by Gregory Dowell in his master’s thesis *History of the Empire Ranch (1978)*. The thesis in full is posted as a .pdf file on the ERF website, with permission. (See link under “Empire Ranch” / “History” / “Articles and Links,” or search the term “Dowell.”)

2015 Foundation Leaders

The following officers and members of the Board of Directors were elected at the November 15, 2014, board meeting.

•**President—Ron Martin** of Tucson was elected to his third term as President and third term as Board Member. He joined the board in 2008 and served as Second Vice President from 2009-2011. Ron is a principal manufacturing engineer with Raytheon Missile Systems Company.

•**Vice President—Carla Kerekes Martin** of Tucson was elected to a third term as Vice President. Carla served as ERF Treasurer (2007-2009) and ERF President (2009-2012). She is an executive assistant and office manager for an accounting firm in Tucson.

•**Secretary—Peggy Theibert** of Tucson was elected to a fourth term as Secretary. A retired attorney, Peggy is especially interested in ERF’s education and history and archives programs.

•**Treasurer—Gene Raymond** of Elgin was elected to a second term as Treasurer. Gene is a retired U.S. Army Lieutenant Colonel who retired from supervisory and engineering private sector positions in 2012. His expertise in managing the finances of various non profit organizations is proving especially helpful to the Foundation.

We are pleased to welcome three new Board members:

•**Kimberly Patterson** of St. David is a event planning professional, focusing on training programs for the hospitality and tourism industries. She recently launched her own online education company. Kimberly has been active in ERF as a volunteer and a docent. She loves to share the important history of the ranch house and its families, and get others excited about helping to preserve and protect the Empire Ranch.

•**Sally Reichardt** of Sonoita, works in real estate with her husband Bryce. A Tucson native, Sally enjoys traveling on motorcycle and photography. She is President of her homeowners association and volunteers for the Elgin Community Club, the Sonoita Rodeo, Sonoita Races, and the Santa Cruz County Fair. Sally’s photography skills are already helping ERF to document events and volunteer projects.

•**Anthony Sedgwick** of Nogales is Director of Operations at Summit Properties Inc., a telecommunications site. He is the coordinator of Youth Outreach for the Santa Fe Ranch Foundation of Nogales. A father of three youngsters, Anthony enjoys being outside, working with his hands, networking, and learning about the Southwest.

Steve Boice and Tim Vail were elected to third term and fourth terms, respectively, on the Board. Faith Boice, Bunker De France, Emil Franzi, Karen Kamp, Lucinda Iverson, Bill Schock, David Steele, Judith Williams, and David Yubeta also will be continuing on the board.

Distinguished Visitors

On December 9, ERF was proud to co-host with BLM’s Gila District and Tucson Field Office a visit to Las Cienegas NCA and Empire Ranch Headquarters by the North American Intergovernmental Committee on Cooperation for Wilderness and Protected Area Conservation. The group included BLM Director Neil Kornze and representatives from other land management agencies in the US, Mexico, and Canada.

The visitors experienced the beauty of the LCNCA on horseback, during a ride led by Steve Boice, with the assistance of Bill Schock and Ron Martin. After the ride they enjoyed tours of historic Empire Ranch House and a delicious BBQ dinner.

Adobe Haybarn Stabilization Underway

On-site work on the stabilization of the historic Adobe Hay Barn, which is being done under a Federal contract with Statistical Research, Inc., is well underway. The project has two primary parts:

- (1) creating a steel framework that will improve the stability of the roof and its attachment to the walls; and
- (2) repairing and strengthening the foundations and the soils around them.

In measures taken for the roof so far, steel members have been attached to the top plate (lumber that sits on top of the walls) and to the joists and rafters carrying the barn's roof. Many of those wood elements have also been replaced, or supported by bolting new lumber to the existing members. While the framework is not invisible, the metal has been painted and wood stained to blend the new elements in with the existing material.

The man on the left in the first photo is painting rafters that will be sistered (laminated) to the existing 2-by-6 rafters. The second photo shows the repair of two of the roof's trusses.



Stabilizing Adobe Haybarn roof (photos: Statistical Research, Inc.)

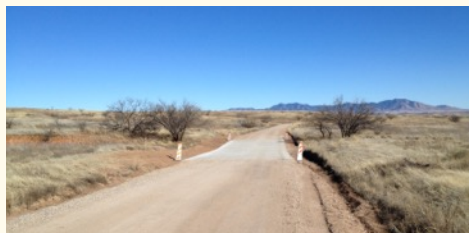
Work on foundations and surrounding soils has started along the barn's south wall. Following the removal of old concrete patching along the interior base of the walls, loose soil and deteriorated adobe masonry are removed down to solid, compact soil. The excavated areas

Las Cienegas Road Upgrades

Work to upgrade and restore major roads within the LCNCA is nearly complete. Once finished in March 2015, all 11 miles of the main BLM Route 6900 (Empire Ranch Road) will be significantly improved.

Upon completion, the 3-mile double lane portion of BLM Route 6900 from Highway 83 to the intersection of BLM Route 6901 (near Empire Ranch Headquarters) will have a new chip-sealed pavement surface, upgraded cattle guards, a new concrete low water crossing, and improved erosion control. The 8-mile single lane segment north of Highway 82 will get similar treatment, but feature a fresh aggregate surface.

Funding was secured through the Federal Highways Administration Federal Land Transportation Program. Aesthetic considerations were incorporated into the design process through the selection of appropriate colors for all road surfaces.



Improved low water crossing on Empire Ranch Road (photo: A. Bunting.)

were approximately one foot deep and about one foot from the original wall surface. The cavities were then filled with a consolidation mixture of Portland cement, hydrated lime, and a bonding agent. The fill was done in 4-inch lifts, each being vibrated to bring water to surface, then compacted during the drying process. This procedure was followed until the compacted soils level reached the height of the original grade.

Deteriorated adobes were replaced with cement-amended adobe bricks below and at grade, and with adobes made by contractor for use above grade. This multi-step procedure will insure a solid base for the building's future.

Prior to starting work, the adjacent area of barn floor is cleaned and swept to keep dirt and straw out of preservation materials. In one area near the north

(continued on p. 4)



Head Out to the Empire Ranch Spring Trail Ride!

Sign up soon to join us on Saturday, April 4, for our widely popular 2015 Spring Trail Ride and barbecue at the Empire Ranch. It's a once-a-year opportunity to ride or roll through the expansive grasslands and superb scenery of the Empire's landscape, while learning about ranch history from knowledgeable ERF volunteers.

Take your picks among morning and afternoon horseback rides and wagon rides. Hang out at the historic Empire Ranch House for informative guided tours and toe tapping western music. Savor a great outdoor hamburger lunch. Join us for horseback riding only, a wagon ride, or just the lunch and festivities—or enjoy all three!

Horseback rides are for three hours (one departs at 9am; the second one departs at 2pm). Bring your own horse, or make advance horse rental reservations through us (there's limited supply, please register early).

Wagon rides head out at 10am, 11am, and 1pm, and barbecue will be served from 12-2pm. House tours, music, and good fellowship are all day. See the enclosed flier for registration and more details. For more information, go to www.empireranchfoundation.org, or call 888-364-2829.

See you on the Trail Ride April 4!



Haybarn *(cont'd from p. 3)*

wall, two hardened surfaces were revealed, including one with small cobbles inset during surfacing, which may be the original floor (see photo below). These areas will be recovered after completing the stabilization work to preserve these features until project completion.

Once the foundation work is completed the steel framework (or "diaphragm") will be attached to the adobe walls, and diagonal elements added for greater stability. When completed, hopefully by the end of April, the Adobe Haybarn will be structurally sound, and safe for use by ERF and BLM for public events.



Section of cobbled floor in the Adobe Haybarn (photo: C. Schragger)

Gifts In Remembrance

The Empire Ranch Foundation gratefully acknowledges gifts recently received

In Memory of:

Rex Allen, Les Armour,
Mary Vail Boland, Eldon Corkill,
Johnnye Verle George, Nina Masek

In Honor of:

George Masek, David Yubeta



What is a Manta?

The preservation update in the last ERF News mentioned the installation by volunteers of a muslin manta across part of the ceiling in the Ranch House Room 6. Mantas were commonly used in adobe structures with earthen roofs to protect occupants from falling dirt from the roof. There is no historical evidence that a manta was ever used in this room, but other Ranch House rooms do have evidence of manta use. This manta was added to protect the Cowboy Life exhibit, especially the Hibbard, Spencer, Bartlett & Co. display case, from dirt which filters down from the original earthen roof above the ceiling boards.



Manta installation in process (above), and completed (below). (photos: A. Bunting)

Working Calendar

Location: Meet at Visitor Contact Station, Empire Ranch Headquarters, unless otherwise noted. To volunteer, or for more information, call (888) 364-2829.

March

- 1** Entries postmark deadline, 2015 Empire 100 Art Show & Sale
- 14** Docent-Led Tour of the Empire Ranch House, 11am, free, open to all.
- 21** ERF Board Meeting, 9am to Noon.
- 28** Docent-Led Tour of the Empire Ranch House, 11am, free, open to all.
- 29** Empire 100 Western Art Show & Sale Opens, Tucson Desert Art Museum, 7000 E. Tanque Verde Rd, Tucson. New location! **Show runs through April 19.** (see article on page 1)

April

- 1** Empire 100 Western Art Show and Sale continues through April 19th.
- 4** Spring Trail Ride, horseback and wagon rides including lunch, see insert and article p. 3.
- 11** Docent-Led Tour of the Empire Ranch House, 11am, free, open to all.
- 18** Volunteer Work Day, 8am-noon. All welcome! RSVP 888-364-2829.
- 19** Last Day of Empire 100 Western Art Show and Sale.
- 25** Docent-Led Tour of the Empire Ranch House, 11am, free, open to all.

May

- 9** Docent-Led Tour of the Empire Ranch House, 11am, free, open to all.
- 16** ERF Board Meeting, 9 am to noon. All welcome!
- 23** Docent-Led Tour of the Empire Ranch House, 11am, free, open to

2014/2015 Membership Reply

Yes, I want to help save the Empire Ranch for future generations!

Name: _____
(Please enter name(s) in your preferred format for acknowledgements.)

Mail Address: _____

City, State, ZIP: _____

Phone: (____) _____ Email: _____
 Check enclosed Charge to: MC Visa Discover This is a new address

 Credit Card Number Exp.Date CSV Code Signature

This donation is also in __memory/ __appreciation of: _____

This is a gift membership from: _____

EMPIRE RANCH FOUNDATION

- (\$50 & under) Homesteader
- (\$75) Total Wreck Miner
- (\$100) Wrangler
- (\$250) Vaquero
- (\$500) Jefe
- (\$,000) Patron
- (2,500) Majordomo
- (\$5,000) Cattle Baron
- (\$10,000) Territorial Governor
- \$ _____ Year-end Gift
- \$ _____ 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.

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