

EMPIRE RANCH FOUNDATION NEWS

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www.empireranchfoundation.org

A Splendid Ride A Picture Perfect Day

Over 90 enthusiastic riders returned from the April 4th Spring Trail Ride inspired by the exceptional beauty of Las Cienegas National Conservation Area. "I was captivated by the incredible vistas, the lush grasses, and the beauty of the Cienega Creek." Others were delighted by the sighting of a white tailed deer that cleared a nearby fence with room to spare, and the opportunity to view the LCNCA prairie dog colony.

After the horseback riders departed the wagon rides began, providing an opportunity to view the area surrounding Empire Ranch headquarters and enjoy the tall tales told by ERF board member and former stuntman, Steve "Bunker" de France. Docents led tours of the Ranch House, and Gerald Korte described his experiences working as an Empire Ranch

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Fifteen Years of Glorious Western Art

The 15th Empire 100 Western Art Show & Sale opened on March 29th with a spectacular array of Western art at an outstanding new venue—the Tucson Desert Art Museum. Over 350 excited guests attended the opening reception to view the work of the seventy-two artists whose work was selected for this premier juried show.

The "Best in Show" award was presented to featured artist Doug Oliver, for his magnificent landscape entitled *Cathedral Sky* (shown below). In a post-event note Mr. Oliver commented that "...the show itself was the best ever along with huge crowds and super interest that was demonstrated by all." Santos Barbosa was awarded the "Best of Empire Inspired Art" ribbon for *Awaiting*

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Join Us as a Member!

Howdy folks—I'm excited to bring you news about many positive changes at Empire Ranch. The road from route 83 to the ranch has been paved, thanks to our partner the BLM. The project is almost completed; by the end of May the pavement will sport a top coating that blends into the surrounding landscape. The road improvements will bring more visitors to our historic ranch and make our docent tours more popular than ever. If you haven't taken a tour or would like a private tour please let us know.

The Adobe Haybarn seismic renovation will finish in May. Plans for a "Grand Reopening" are in the works. Watch for more details about this exciting event.

For all that has been accomplished, there is still so much that needs to be done. May marks the start of our membership drive for the Foundation's 2015-2016 membership year. Please use the enclosed form to renew your membership, or join for the first time. Your generous support and sustained membership are so important to the continued preservation of this special place. Good things are happening at the Empire Ranch and together we can accomplish so much more.

Stay in the saddle and happy trails....Ron Martin, ERF President

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.

Art Show (cont'd from p. 1)



Cowboys. The painting (see above) features cowboys and horses in front of the historic Empire Ranch's Adobe Haybarn.

Special thanks are due to Empire 100 Chair, Laura Davis, for her leadership of this important fundraising event for the Foundation. We gratefully acknowledge the contributions of the many volunteers who helped with the jurying, the show hanging, and the opening reception. And as ever we thank the talented artists (listed on the right) whose creations made this show a delight.

The show remained on display through April 19th. At closing, 17 art works, valued at over \$16,000 had sold. A portion of all sales supports the Empire Ranch Foundation's programs for preservation, interpretation, and education at the historic Empire Ranch House and Headquarters.

It's not too late to purchase any of the unsold artworks. Images of all art may be viewed on the Foundation's website empireranchfoundation.org. Contact ERF Administrator Ali Boelts to inquire (phone (888) 364-2829, or email admin@empireranchfoundation.org).



2015 "Empire 100" Western Art Show & Sale

Featured Artist Doug Oliver
Chair, Laura Davis

Participating Artists

Geri Acosta • Kim Adams
Susan Adler • Chuck Albanese
Roger Alderman • Carol Alleman
Carol Amos • Carole Andreen-Harris
Skip Bailey • Santos Barbosa
Joan Bartlett • O.P.A. Bautzmann
Claire Bistline • Jackson Boelts
Garnet Buster • Palmer Butler
Stehanie Campos • Betty Carr
Howard Carr • Virginia Carroll
Don Carter • Judy Choate
Rose Collins • Barbara Conaway
Sean Conrad • Milard Davidson
Mia DeLode • Robert Deurloo
Linda Dobkin
Mary Frances Dondelinger
Deborah Fellows • Bonnie Gasior
Terri Gay • Johan Gericke
Al Glann • Annette Grantham
Alice Gunter • Faye Gustafson
Caroline Hawley • Ron Himler
Jim Hollon • Iwona Jankowski
Keri Jelks • Vaeriy Kagoukin
Susan Libby • Lisa McLoughlin
Debbie Meyer • Paul Miller
Bill Moomey • Leigh Morrison
Judi Nakari • Fran Odum
Doug Oliver • Sarah Phippen
Anita Pinkerton • Hank Richter
Kathy Robbins • Owen Rose
Barry Sapp • Brenda Semanick
Eric & Marlene Slayton • Marla Smith
Judy Sprague • JM & Tod Steele
Carol Swinney • Jan Thompson
Cecy Turner • Sandra VanderWall
Sarah Webber • Laurie Williams
Larry Wollam • Wendy Zachau



Visitors of all ages enjoyed the Empire 100 exhibition (above); Best in Show winner and Featured Artist Doug Oliver, with show Chair Laura Davis (photos: Sally Reichardt)

Trail Ride (cont'd from p. 1)

cowboy in the late 1940s. The tasty BBQ hamburger/hot dog lunch sated appetites stimulated by the day's activities.

Special thanks are due to Steve and Faith Boice, the father/daughter team who led the trail ride, to Sally Reichardt for photographing the ride on horseback, and to the volunteers who handled all the logistics, cooked lunch, and made the day possible. We enjoy sharing the beauty of LCNCA in this special way with our friends and supporters. Plan to ride with us next Spring!



Rides through LCNCA grass lands, Cienega Creek, and cottonwoods and a tasty lunch filled a great day. (photos: Sally Reichardt)

Adobe Haybarn Is Stabilized & Ready for Finishing Work

The primary phase of stabilizing the historic Adobe Haybarn structure is complete! In early April, Statistical Research Inc. completed their contract work and removed interior scaffolding and bracing from the structure. The exterior security fence has also been removed.

As a result of this phase, voids in the foundations from erosion and animals have been filled, using a combination of erosion-resistant amended adobes below-grade, and hand-made mud adobe bricks where repairs are visible. A metal diaphragm of threaded steel rods and angle iron now provides a framework to stabilize movement at the tops of the walls. The diaphragm was secured to the walls and top plate by using bolts set within the walls; the sub-roof structure is tied into the framework as well. Full-length wood members were attached to the existing joists and rafters to provide support for the original lumber, which in many cases had been constructed with shorter pieces, nailed together. This had allowed for sagging of the ridge, and added to the forces pushing the walls outward.

There are still tasks to complete before the Haybarn is ready for ERF and other events. This work will be undertaken by ERF volunteers and other partners:

- Remaining holes and gaps in the masonry are being addressed by a group of post-graduate students from the Historic Preservation Certificate Program at the University of Arizona.
- Volunteers will expose the original floor surface, so that it can be documented before any new floor treatment is undertaken to make the building usable for large-scale events.
- The two large rolling doors on the south wall need to be re-installed once their roller tracks are inspected and strengthened to support the doors' weight. The door on the east wall (the primary entrance) is onsite but will require extensive repair or reconstruction.

These and numerous other projects provide opportunities to help with the preservation of Empire Ranch. We appreciate everyone who helps at our volunteer workdays—upcoming ones are scheduled for June 27 and August 15.



Low visibility supports and repairs completed to stabilize Haybarn roof & walls (top); barn exterior as it appeared in 1994 (bottom). (photos: A. Bunting, BLM).

No Place Like Home



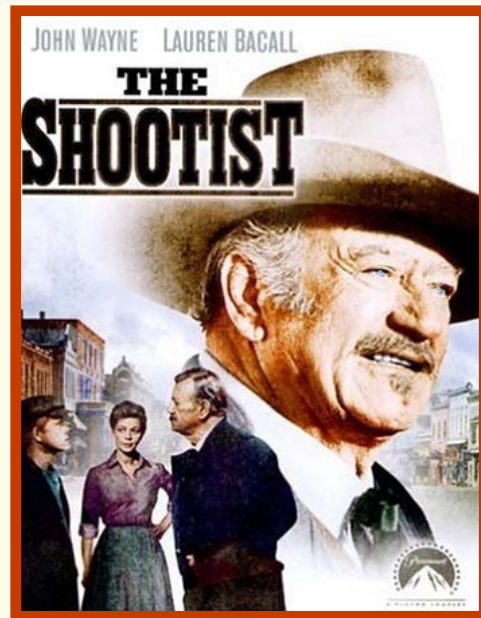
Herbert Hislop's drawing of original Empire adobe house's 4 rooms with corridor between and corral in rear. (Reproduced from An Englishman's Arizona, 1965)

Letters written by Walter Vail and Herbert Hislop provide valuable insight into the conditions and challenges they faced establishing the Empire Ranch. The 160 acre homestead they purchased in 1876 included an unfinished four-room adobe house with corral (see above) which became their living quarters. Herbert Hislop, in particular, worked hard to make his room at the Ranch House homey.

Hislop described his efforts in letters to his sister Amy. "In my room I have a table, stool and bed and towel-horse, which I made and a bath but no basin, as I indulge in a cold tub every morning...I am going to try and buy some calico or stuff in Tucson to make blinds with, I

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**Coming August 12 —
Don't Miss it!**



**Reception & Special Showing
6:00 p.m., Tuesday, August 12th
at The Loft Cinema
3233 Speedway Blvd, Tucson**

Save the date, Tuesday, August 12, 6pm, and don't miss the Foundation's 5th annual "Western Movies at The Loft Cinema," a fun Hollywood entertainment fundraiser held in Tucson.

Our featured movie this year is John Wayne's last movie, *The Shootist*, co-starring Lauren Bacall, James Stewart and Ron Howard, and directed by Don Siegel. Filmed in 1976 John plays an aging gunfighter, with terminal cancer, seeking a way to die with dignity.

The lobby reception begins at 6pm, followed at 7pm by a presentation from our special guest. Miles Swarthout, son of Glendon Swarthout who wrote the novel on which the movie is based. Miles wrote the screenplay for *The Shootist*. Miles has also written the sequel, *The Last Shootist*, telling the story of the Ron Howard character. The *Last Shootist* is ready to become a TV miniseries. Miles will be available during the reception to sign copies of *The Last Shootist* and his other books.

Tickets are \$20 for ERF members, \$25 for non-members. Call 888-364-2829 to purchase, or to buy online visit www.empireranchfoundation.org. We hope you and your friends will join us for this special evening with "The Duke."



Mark Your Calendar!

You Won't Want to Miss It
2015 Empire Ranch Roundup
Saturday, November 7th,
10 am to 4 pm
Empire Ranch Headquarters



Home (cont'd from p. 3)

think I can sew well enough for that..."(10-22-1876). A month later he writes, "I have also made some blinds for my room and next time I go to Tucson I intend to buy some stuff for curtains, as my maxim is, a fellow may as well live comfortably while he can." (11/25/1876)

It appears that Hislop took some good natured ribbing over his "nesting" from Walter Vail, and perhaps their third partner, John Harvey. In a letter to his fiancée, Maggie, Walter noted, "We were all chafing Hislop this evening about fixing up his room so much he says that he intends papering the walls & if he can find them he is going to put curtains to his windows which is a good deal of style for Arizona."(1/2/1877)

Departed Friend

George Masek passed away on April 6, 2015 at his home in Sonoita. George attended the Arizona School for Boys and the University of Arizona, where he was a team roper and the Boss of the Rodeo Team. As secretary of the Old Tucson Development Co. he worked with Bob Shelton and Jack Goodman to develop an old movie set into an Old West attraction.



George and his wife Nina moved to Sonoita in 1967, where they established Grass Ridge Farm. Starting in 1968 they held the Grass Ridge Horse Trials at the farm—the final event took place in 2014, several months after Nina's death.

George was on the ERF Board of Directors (2000-2006) and served as Vice President from 2004-2006. George was respected and admired by his fellow board members who always appreciated his calm demeanor and problem-solving approach.

Riding Mower Needed

Do you have a riding lawn mower that you no longer use? ERF needs one to help keep the grounds at Empire Ranch headquarters looking great for our visitors. Please contact Ali Boelts, ERF Administrator, by email or phone (admin@empireranchfoundation.org or 888-364-2829) if you can help.

Working Calendar

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

May

- 9, 23** Docent-Led Tours of the Empire Ranch House, 11am, free, open to all.
- 13** "Legacy Day at the Empire Ranch" outreach for Elgin & Patagonia schools
- 16** ERF Board Meeting, 9 am to noon. All welcome!

June

- 13, 27** Docent-Led Tours of the Empire Ranch House, 11am, free, open to all.
- 27** Volunteer Work Day, 8am-noon. All welcome! RSVP 888-364-2829.

July

- 11, 25** Docent-Led Tours of the Empire Ranch House, 11am, free, open to all.
- 18** ERF Board Meeting, 9 am to noon. All welcome!

August

- 8, 22** Docent-Led Tour of the Empire Ranch House, 11am, free, open to all.
- 12** "The Shootist" fundraiser at The Loft Cinema, 3233 E. Speedway, Tucson, 6pm. (see article p. 3)
- 15** Volunteer Work Day, 8am-noon. All welcome! RSVP 888-364-2829.

2015/2016 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 Billing ZIP Code

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
- (\$1,000) 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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