

EMPIRE RANCH FOUNDATION NEWS

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www.empireranchfoundation.org

Thanks for All You Do

First, I want to welcome our newest board member, Jim Cosbey of Sonoita; we look forward to your contributions. We are so excited that our Roundup & Open House was such a success! With the help of some very dedicated board members we raised \$6,300 in cash donations to support the event, and our members and volunteers have done even more. Did you know that the amount of time contributed by our volunteers this year was valued at over \$100,000 by our partner, BLM?

In 2017, the stabilization of the historic Ranch House will begin (details p. 3). We are developing new tours and interpretive signage that will focus on other Headquarters buildings and trails. Our Trail Ride event is just around the corner - you will NOT want to miss it!

Included with this issue is a letter requesting a year-end contribution to help us do even more next year. If you haven't renewed or joined, please do so now using the enclosed envelope. If you are interested in becoming involved, sign up at www.empireranchfoundation.org/involved/volunteer, and follow us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/EmpireRanch.

There are many wonderful things happening at the Ranch - keep watching, keep visiting, keep sharing the good words, and most of all keep in touch!! We succeed because of you and are so thankful to have you in our neck of the woods!!

See ya at the Ranch!

Faith Boice, President



Roundup highlights (photos: S. Reichardt)

Life on Empire Ranch Roundup, Steak Fry, Barn Dance and More!

The 16th Annual Empire Ranch Roundup & Open House started out in fine style on Friday evening, November 4, with a steak fry and dance on the newly installed flooring (see article p. 3) in the Adobe Haybarn. After a delicious meal of steak and fixins, the lucky guests listened and danced to Tohono O'odham Waila music (a hybrid music style in which polkas, cumbias, two-steps are given a Native American twist) performed by the Lopez Band. Thanks to the Chuckwagon Restaurant for the great dinner and Tom and Cheryl Rogos for the very popular peach and apple cobbler!

Bright and early on November 5th over 2,000 eager visitors began arriving for a day of fun and learning at the Roundup. Riding in on horse-drawn wagons provided by All Around Trail Horses, people were transported to the past! The main and field arenas featured military riding demonstration by B Troop, 4th U.S. Cavalry (Mem.), mounted shooting by the Tombstone Ghost Riders Cowboy Mounted Shooters, and horsemanship by the Arizona Ghostriders.

Music everywhere added to the festivities with performances by Scattered Grass Bluegrass; Mariachi Alegre; Slim & Young; Nancy Elliott; Janice Deardorff; and Wilford Kennedy. The Old Pueblo Gunfighters kept busy all day teaching quick draw skills. Opportunities to meet ranch animals up close were provided by Horse'n Around Rescue Ranch (Theresa Warrell & Steve Boice); Jabez Ranch

(continued on p. 2)

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.

Roundup (Cont'd)

Horsemanship (Bruce Norton); Therapeutic Ranch Animals for Kids (TRAK); Sierra Vista 4H; and S & N Ranch.

Attentive audiences filled the Cowboy Conversation venues to hear from Don Collier, Marty Freese & Bunker de France (stuntmen in Westerns and movies in/around Arizona); Van Fowers (Meet Doc Holliday and the Story of Walter Vail); Scott Dyke (Wyatt Earp and His Wives); Gary Turner (Thomas Jefferson Turner—A Great American Cowboy); Dane Johnson (Buffalo Bill); Steve Boice and Faith Boice (The Boice Family Legacy); Ian Tomlinson (Current Ranching Practices); Barb Jackson (Women and Ranching); Susan Vail Hoffman/Carla Martin (Vail Family Vignettes); and Eddie Gardner (the Gardner/López connection to the Empire Ranch).

Important ranching skills were demonstrated by Casey Abbs (black-

smithing); Ben Claridge (leather carving); Rex Dalton (chuckwagon cooking); Carolyn Dumler (dutch oven cooking); Byrd Moss (bits & spurs); Bill Schock (branding); Dick Schorr (reata braiding); and Louis David Valenzuela (wood carving).

The Adobe Haybarn proved to be the ideal venue for this year's Silent Auction—the bidding was hot and heavy throughout the day. Western authors and ERF's non-profit partners enjoyed meeting and sharing information with everyone. The girls and parents of Sierra Vista Girl Scout Troops 104, 419, 1224 provided outstanding assistance throughout the day.

The Roundup would not be possible without the invaluable contributions of our presenters, volunteers, and the BLM; and the generous financial support of the Roundup sponsors and silent auction donors. We are so grateful!

See you next year!

Roundup Sponsors: **Majordomo (\$2500+):** Jack Furrier's Western Tire Center
Patrón (\$1000-\$2499): Arbuckles' Coffee Roasters. • Branches Event Services
Jéfe (\$500-\$999): All Around Trail Horses • Anonymous • Arizona Roofing Solutions • Hamstra Heating & Cooling • Jem's Feed • Roberts Alexonis • Schouten & Sullivan

Vaquero (\$250-\$499): 3-Strand Construction • Arena-Quirt Financial • Susan Barrable • Bogutz-Gordon • Capital Wealth • Honorable Ray Carroll • Essential Pest • Susan Vail & Ron Hoffman • Old Pueblo Theatrical Solutions • Santa Cruz County Fair and Rodeo Association • Southern Arizona News Examiner • Statistical Research, Inc. • Benny & Bobbie Young

Wrangler(\$100-\$249): Jim & Ginny Cosbey • Great American Adventures • Steve & Patricia Hazen • Home Projects, LLC • Portapots • Bill Radcliffe • Trifam

Silent Auction Donors: Alfonso Gourmet Olive Oil & Balsamics • All Around Trail Horses • Anonymous • Arizona Cabinets and Counter Tops • Arizona Roofing Solutions • Arizona Theater Company • Christine & Gary Auerbach • AZ Hops & Vines • Larry Becker • John Benedict • Faith Boice • Murray Bolesta • Jon & Jennifer Bollin • BriarPatch Marketplace • Buffalo Gals of Sonoita • Jerry Bukowski • Alison & Wade Bunting • Callaghan Vineyards • Chris Bubany Studios • City of Tucson • CMar Photography • Ginny Cosbey • Bunker deFrance • Desert Legacy • Susan & Tim Dickens • Dillard's Department Store • Dos Cabezas Bed & Breakfast/ Sam & Dorothy Lagge • Empire Ranch Foundation • Maria Felisha • Deborah & Fred Fellows • Feminine Mystique Gallery • Fleming's Steak House • Hamilton Distillery • Heart of Gold Antiques/ Patricia Rorex • High Noon Feed & Tack • Holy Hammer Ironworks • Hotel Congress/Aalt Brouwer • Paul Hopman • Susan Hundt-Peterson • Hydra • Jeanne Peterson Insurance • Jon Wolf Photography • Keif-Joshua Vineyards • Kim Yubeta Designs • Last Stand Guest Ranch • Laurence Lof Financial Advisors • Anne Lawrence • Mark Lehman • Susan Libby • Lightning Ridge Cellars • Carlos Lopez • Neal Lutyens • Madaras Gallery • Many Horses Trading Company • Irene Martinelli • Marty Maynard • Pat McNamara • Joann Moody • Bruce & Cathy Norton • Raymond & Carol Patrone • Brenda Peo-Ohrel • Platinum Fitness • Penny Pointer • Glenn Powell • Doug & Sally Pyne • Gene & Sharon Raymond • Sally & Bryce Reichardt • Doris Rickard • Ron & Natalie Riddick • Ron Roncone • Rush Truck Centers of Arizona • Santa Cruz County Fair and Rodeo Association • Kathie Schindel • Dick & Leonor Schorr • Sherry & Nelson Secor • Karen & Jeff Simms • Brett Smith • Rebecca Smith • Sonoita Inn • Sonoita Vineyards • Stage Coach Bags • Margo Susco • The Café/Adam Puckle • The Loft Cinema • The Red Door Spa • The Steak Out • Nancy Thornes • Tohono Chul • True Foods Kitchen • Susan Vail & Ron Hoffman • Louis Valenzuela • Michelle Wilson • Dee & Larry Winter



Boice Family at Sonoita Rodeo
(photo: B. Young)

Boice Family Honored at Sonoita Rodeo

The 101st Annual Sonoita Rodeo, held September 3-5, 2016 was dedicated to the Boice Family for their continuous contributions to Arizona's livestock industry since 1908 and their support of the Santa Cruz County Fair and Rodeo Association. During the dedication ceremony the descendants of Frank and Mary Boice rode in a wagon driven by ERF Board Member and Past President, Steve Boice. ERF President Faith Boice accompanied the wagon on horseback carrying Frank Boice's American flag.

ERF congratulates the Boice Family for this well-deserved recognition!

Gifts in Remembrance

The Empire Ranch Foundation gratefully acknowledges gifts recently received
In Memory of:

John Paul Andree, Les Armour,
Fred Baker, Mary Vail Boland,
Eugene Dembowski, Bessie Nix George,
Earl F. Glen, Jr., Marion Hyland,
Carey Ingram, Dusty Vail Ingram,
Neil Juhan, Earl Kern, Patti Kelly,
Joseph Loblillo,
Ed & Mary (Browning) Vail,
Sandy & Virginia Wilkinson,
Jane Woods

In Honor of:

Margaret King Atkerson, Jim Kelly

National Public Lands Day Celebration

On September 24, 2016, a mix of first-time visitors and longtime admirers participated in National Public Lands Day at the historic Empire Ranch. The day started with an Adobe Workshop led by Chris Schrager, BLM Historic Preservationist, who taught adobe brick making and the art of tuck pointing in the Adobe Haybarn. Next, Gail Corkill conducted a docent-led tour of the Ranch House with additional commentary provided by former cowboy Gerald Korte. During lunch and dessert everyone had the opportunity to "Meet and Greet" the Empire Ranch Foundation Board Members.

Another docent-led tour preceded the final event of the day—a Landscape Photography workshop led by Frank Gohlke, a University of Arizona photography professor and famous landscape photographer. Everyone left the Ranch engaged, enthralled and excited!



Photography advice from Frank Gohlke grabbed the group's attention. (photo: S. Reichardt)

Top Award for Historic Landscape Survey

The Historic American Landscape Survey (HALS) for the Empire Ranch conducted earlier this year has been selected by the National Park Service as the winner of the 2016 HALS Challenge.

Twelve University of Arizona students prepared a preliminary survey document which was finalized by landscape architects Helen Erickson and Gina Chorover and landscape historian Robin Lothrop Pinto and submitted to the National Park Service in July 2016. The report will be cataloged in the Library of Congress and will be digitally available to anyone interested in historic landscapes or ranching history in the southwest.

Empire Ranch House Stabilization Begins

Major changes to Empire Ranch Headquarters will take place in 2017. The BLM has awarded a contract for stabilization of the historic Ranch House to Statistical Research, Inc. (SRI). SRI has a long history of stabilization projects at the ranch, most recently at the Adobe Haybarn, a project which received a 2016 Governor's Heritage Preservation Honor Award from the Arizona State Preservation Office. The Haybarn made its public event debut as the site of the Barn Dance and Silent Auction during the Empire Ranch Roundup. ERF purchased and installed the temporary flooring that protected cultural resources on the floor surface during the events.

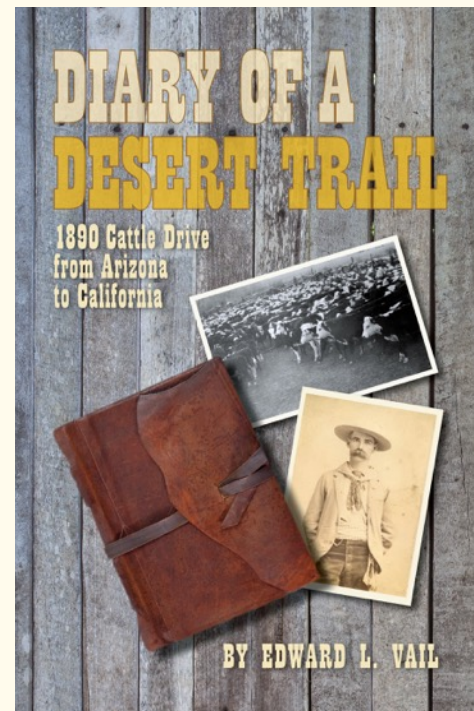


Temporary protective flooring for stabilized Adobe Haybarn. (photo: S. Reichardt)

The Ranch House stabilization will include reinforcing the foundations in several areas; securing the tops of the walls for structural strength; repairing interior and exterior wall surfaces; replacing the roof on the Victorian Addition; rehabilitating the Children's Addition to make it safe for visitors; and contouring work around the house to improve drainage.

To assure public safety the Ranch House will be closed for most of the year. As a result, ERF will focus preservation and interpretive efforts on other parts of the Headquarters complex, and an alternative docent-led tour will be developed.

The Visitor Contact Station will remain open during most of the Ranch House stabilization. It will be closed to install a heating/cooling system, and to replace the front porch and walkway to make them safe and ADA-accessible.

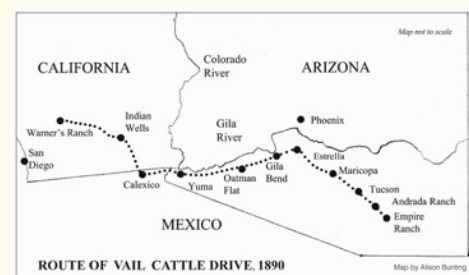


Diary of a Desert Trail: 1890 Cattle Drive from Arizona to California

To celebrate the 140th anniversary of the founding of the Empire Ranch ERF has republished Edward L. Vail's *Diary of a Desert Trail*, illustrated by photos from ERF's archives and other library collections. Vail first shared the colorful story of the 1890 cattle drive from the Empire Ranch to California's Warner's Ranch through a series of articles in the *Arizona Daily Star* in 1922.

Vail and Tom Turner, six cowboys of Mexican descent, and one Chinese cook, drove 900 cattle over 500 miles through the Sonoran Desert in Arizona and California and across the Colorado River. The story, based on a diary kept by Vail during the two month and ten day trip, recounts their adventures and hardships including stampedes, the scarcity of water and feed, the arrest of two horse thieves, difficulties crossing the Colorado River, and an unwelcome tax collector.

Copies (\$15) can be purchased from the ERF gift shop at the Empire Ranch or from Amazon.com.



Desert Trail map illustration.

Working Calendar

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

December 2016

- 10** *Cowboy Christmas at the Ranch*, 11am-3pm. Docent-led tour (11am), singing, holiday treats, card making, bring the family! Celebrate the holiday with us! Free, open to all.

January 2017

- 14&28** *Docent-Led Tour of the Empire Ranch*, 11am-12pm, free, open to all, no reservations req.

- 21** *ERF Board Meeting*, 9am-12pm, location TBA. All welcome!

February 2017

- 11&25** *Docent-Led Tour of the Empire Ranch*, 11am-12pm, free, open to all, no reservations req.

- 18** *Volunteer Work Day*, 8am-noon. To-volunteer call 888-364-2829 or visit empireranchfoundation.org/involved

March 2017

- 12&26** *Docent-Led Tour of the Empire Ranch*, 11am-12pm, free, open to all, no reservations req.

- 19** *ERF Board Meeting*, 9 am to noon. All welcome!

2016 Roundup— Outstanding Family Fun & Education

