

EMPIRE RANCH FOUNDATION NEWS

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www.empireranchfoundation.org

A Big Thank You

Dear Friends and Family,

A nice firm hand shake, a direct look in the eye and a tip of a hat to YOU! I can't thank you enough for your generous support over the last year. Your gifts to the Empire Ranch Foundation have been nothing short of amazing! Over \$10,000 was raised, thanks to your year-end donations and membership renewals. The Empire Ranch continues to be a source of hope and inspiration for generations past, present and future due to your continued investment.

I am so excited for the stabilization of the main Ranch House! It will be completed before the end of 2018, so keep in contact for special announcements and grand re-opening celebration. Come on out and experience the beauty of the ranch for yourself. Our bi-monthly docent tours, volunteer work days, and special events are listed on the calendar on the back page of the newsletter.

The Empire Ranch Headquarters are really something to see, but the BEST way to get out and really SEE the ranch is from horseback or a horse drawn wagon. You won't want to miss our annual Spring Trail Ride, April 7th, 2018. I would personally like to take you for a ride of a lifetime. Let me show you why my family owned the Empire Ranch for generations. A registration form is included inside. New attractions, family fun, friendly faces and tons of fun await you!

Faith Boice
ERF President



Walter Vail and John Harvey—Good Citizens



John H. Harvey, Edward L. Vail, & Walter L. Vail, 1879, (photo: W. Wilkinson)

In October, 1878 Walter Vail and his partner, John Harvey, undertook an important mission for the community, as reported in the *Arizona Daily Star*:

“Walter L. Vail, Esq. came to Tucson last Monday having been in Sonora about three weeks trying to secure the murderers of Adams and Finley... Mr. Vail left his ranch in company with Mr. Harvey, who was the duly authorized agent to receive the prisoners... soon after it was known that the criminals were in Sonora.” [Oct. 5 1878]

Captain J.H. Adams and Cornelius Finley, who were managing a mine in the area, were murdered in Davison Canyon,



John H. Harvey with his horse Billy in the Empire Ranch House corral, circa 1880. (photo: D.V. Ingram)

north of the Empire Ranch, on Sept 2, 1878. The murderers managed to escape across the border, where they were captured in Santa Cruz, Sonora, Mexico.

By the time Vail and Harvey arrived, the prisoners had been moved to Magdalena. The Prefect of Magdalena would not hand them over without an order from the Governor of Sonora. Vail and Harvey rode 150 miles to Urea to petition the Governor who “... said he could do nothing without authority from the supreme government of Mexico...” A letter was sent to Mexico City but since a reply would take at least a month the “extradition” party returned to the U.S.

Six months later the *Arizona Citizen* reported:

“It is the impression... that the murderers of Adams and Finley will never be given up to the United States, but that, on the contrary, they will be put through a trial at Guaymas, and, if not found guilty they will then be set free.”

[Mar. 21, 1879]

(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.

Good Citizens (Cont'd)

Apparently the Mexican government would not release the prisoners except in trade "...of some of our army officers who have been engaged in the Texas border movements against Mexican bandits."

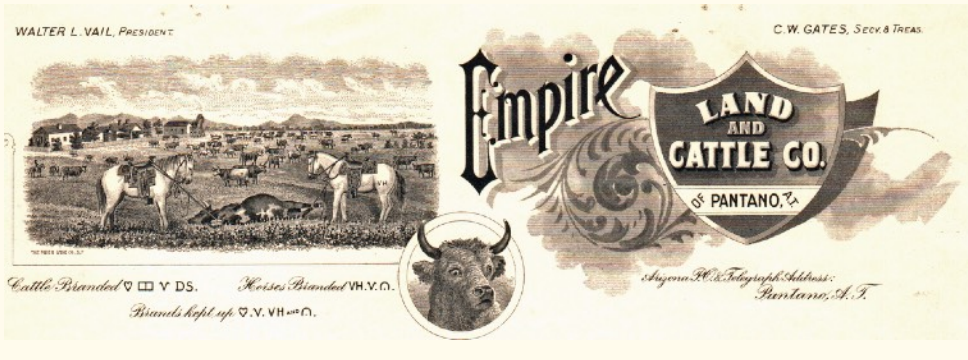
Though not successful in their quest, Vail and Harvey did receive accolades in the *Arizona Daily Star*:



"These gentlemen, as is well known, are engaged in a business that demands their entire attention and in which they have invested a large amount of money. They have had not a bit more interest in the capture of the perpetrators of the devilish crime in Davidson's canyon, than have good citizens had generally, and yet ever since the very day of the murder they have not only given their own time, but that of men in their employ, their horses and wagons, and paid expenses out of their own pockets." [Oct. 5, 1878]

We do not know if the call to reimburse their expenses was heeded.

(Left) Photo of cowponies holding roped steer that inspired image for Empire Land & Cattle Co.'s engraved letterhead (below) (photos: D.V. Ingram)



2018 Board and Officers

A total of 21 enthusiastic volunteers now comprise the Empire Ranch Foundation's Board of Directors as a result of elections at the November 18, 2017 board meeting. We are happy to introduce four new members:

•**Marti Conroy** of Sonoita is semi-retired from the University of Arizona where she works part-time in the Anesthesiology Department. She began volunteering with ERF in 2012 as a docent and volunteer at events and work days. She is a dispatcher for the Sonoita-Elgin Fire Department and also volunteers at the Amerind Museum.

•**Sally Pyne** of Tucson hails from Michigan where she volunteered for Portage State Park and served on the Portage Parks & Recreation board. She and her husband Doug have been ERF volunteers since 2011. She registers/greets visitors at events; has conducted several restoration projects in the Ranch House; and is responsible for most of the addition of

period staging items to Ranch House rooms.

•**Cheryl Rogos** of Sonoita operates the Hacienda de Sonoita B&B with her husband Tom. An avid and talented photographer, she loves photographing working cowboys, rodeos, and ERF events. Cheryl is an ERF docent and also volunteers with the Bowman History Center at the Santa Cruz County Fairgrounds.

•**Kristin Tomlinson** of Sonoita owns and operates Vera Earl Ranches, Inc., along with her husband Ian and daughters Marin and Addison. Her extensive volunteer work includes the Junior League of Tucson, the Santa Cruz County Fair and Rodeo Association Board of Directors, chair of the Sonoita Labor day Rodeo, and chair of the Sonoita Rodeo Royalty Committee. She organized the silent auction at the 2017 Roundup.

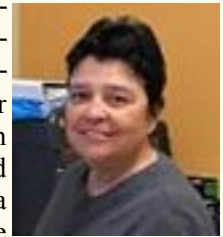
Steve Boice, Ray Patrone, Kimberly Patterson, and Tim Vail were elected to additional terms on the Board. Continuing Board members include Harry Alexander, Carol Barleycorn, Faith

Gila District Welcomes Two New Managers

The BLM Gila District recently welcomed two new managers to the Tucson Field Office: Field Manager Jayme Lopez, and Assistant Field Manager Margarita (Margie) Guzman, who fill vacancies from the departures of Melissa Warren and Karen Simms.

Jayme transferred from the BLM's D.C. office where he served as the BLM's National Solar and Wind Energy Program Lead. While in D.C., he led the development and implementation of updates to the BLM's Land Management regulations for rights of way under the Federal Policy Act and the Mineral Leasing Act.

A graduate of New Mexico State University with degrees in Wildlife Biology and Criminal Justice, Margie has over 30 years' experience in the BLM. She started her BLM career as a Coop student at the Las Cruces District BLM office. Margie has worked for the BLM in law enforcement, wildlife biology and rangeland health, and has an extensive background in fire management.



Gifts in Remembrance

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

Diana Cameron Graham,
Dusty Vail Ingram

Boice, Beth Borozan, Jim Cosby, Bunker de France, Dave McNamara, Therese Perreault, Gene Raymond, Kathie Schindel, Bill Schock, Peggy Theibert, and David Yubeta.

Officers for 2018 include Faith Boice, President; Ray Patrone, Vice President; Peggy Theibert, Secretary, and Gene Raymond, Treasurer.

Preservation AROUND the Ranch House

While work continues on the stabilization contract for the historic Empire Ranch House, other preservation opportunities abound at Ranch Headquarters. Some are continuations of efforts already underway; others are new projects that have been waiting for enthusiastic volunteers to tackle them.

Ongoing projects include continuing repairs of posts and rails around the corrals east and south of the Ranch House and repairing the Covered Feed Trough in the corral east of the Adobe Haybarn using weathered historic wood.



New projects to be tackled are the stabilization and rehabilitation of the historic Howe scale at the shipping corrals; reconstruction and re-hanging of the rolling door on east (front) wall of the Adobe Hay Barn; repair of the wood floor of the room at the north end of the South Barn; making small repairs to the two rolling doors on the Feed Barn; and moving salvageable materials (wood & corrugated metal) from Feed Shed to the South Barn.

And, we've begun planning for projects that can be undertaken once the Ranch House is stabilized later this year. Some suggested efforts include rebuilding the lower section of the partition wall at the end of the corridor outside the Family Kitchen; replacing the manta in Room 6 with heavier material; continued wood trim preservation on the Ranch House doors and windows; and repairing or replacing several screen doors.

At the scheduled February 17th Volunteer Work Day we plan to make progress on the ongoing projects above in addition to cleaning and organizing the Visitor Contact Station (Huachuca House) and the Tack Shed, cleaning the panels of Cowboy Life exhibit in Adobe Hay Barn, and general landscaping and gardening. Plan to join us at future work days, scheduled for Saturdays – April 21, June 16, and August 18.



Volunteer stains replacement corral posts (left); the covered feed troughs (top); Adobe Haybarn east door (center); and Howe scale at shipping corrals (bottom) are next in line. (photos: BLM and S. Reichardt)

Special Gift



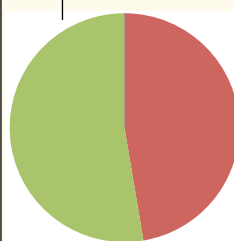
Bunker de France & Gene Raymond with Arizona Cowboy Symposium check (photo: F. Boice)

We are most grateful for a generous donation from the Arizona Cowboy Symposium Association, Inc., a non-profit organization that produced a Western music and poetry festival at the Santa Cruz County Fairgrounds for several years. The Association recently ceased its operations and donated the balance of its funds on-hand to ERF.

Empire Ranch Foundation Financial Summary: January through December 2017

Income, by Source of Funds:
\$94,091

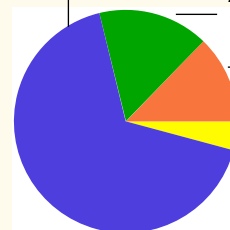
Outreach Events & Other - 53% (\$49.5K)



Donations
47% (\$44.5K)

Expenditures, by Use of Funds:
\$114,726

Outreach & Education
67% (\$76.9K)



Administration
16% (\$18.4K)

Fundraising
13% - (\$14.6K)

Preservation & Adaptive Reuse
4% (\$4.8K)

Income during FY17 totaled \$94,091— 53% from outreach events and other sources, and 47% from member donations. Expenditures during FY17 totaled \$114,726—67% for outreach and education programs; 16% for general administration; 13% for fundraising; and 4% for preservation and adaptive reuse projects.

Not reflected in these figures is the more than 6,394 hours of labor contributed by ERF volunteers, valued by BLM at \$154,351 for grant matching purposes. Also not included is the BLM's 2017 funding provided for the Ranch House stabilization project. The total amount expended will be reported at the end of the project.

End-of-year assets totaled \$129.5K, comprising \$53K in BLM grant funds (fully obligated); \$25K in the Vail endowment and \$6.5K in other ERF restricted funds; \$21.5K in ERF unrestricted funds obligated for preservation, education, and interpretation; and \$23.5K in ERF unrestricted unobligated funds.

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 2018

- 10&24** *Docent-Led Tour of the Empire Ranch*, 11am-12pm. Free, open to all, no reservations req.
- 17** *ERF Board Meeting*, 9 am to 11am. All welcome!
- 23** *Spring Trail Ride* registration closes.

April 2018

- 7** *Spring Trail Ride*, 9am-4pm. Ride through the rolling hills and spectacular scenery of Las Cienegas NCA
- 14&28** *Docent-Led Tour of the Empire Ranch*, 11am-12pm. Free, open to all, no reservations req.
- 21** *Volunteer Work Day*, 8am-12pm. To volunteer call 888-364-2829 or visit empireranchfoundation.org/involved

May 2018

- 12&26** *Docent-Led Tour of the Empire Ranch*, 11am-12pm. Free, open to all, no reservations req.
- 12** *ERF Board Meeting*, 9 am to noon. All welcome!

Don't miss the Spring Trail Ride Event, Saturday, April 7, 2018



Join us for a fun, family-oriented, morning at the Empire Ranch! Two fabulous trail rides will be offered in the morning, a 3-hour and a 1.5-hour guided ride through the beautiful rolling grasslands of the Las Cienegas National Conservation Area. If you would rather ride along in a horse-drawn wagon for a

June 2018

- 9&23** *Docent-Led Tour of the Empire Ranch*, 11am-12pm. Free, open to all, no reservations req.
- 16** *Volunteer Work Day*, 8am-12pm. To volunteer call 888-364-2829 or email admin@empireranchfoundation.org

guided tour of the spectacular scenery, we will have that available as well. Registration for all three options includes a catered chuck wagon lunch, music, docent tours, hands-on activities, western demonstrations and lots more!

Don't worry if you don't have a horse. We provide the horse rental and everything you need to make it an enjoyable day. Or, just come out for the activities and a real chuck wagon lunch!

Enjoy the rich history, tall tales and stunning scenery that captivated so many western movie audiences. Registration forms are included in this newsletter and are due no later than March 23, 2018. First ride is at 9 am, shorter ride and horse-drawn wagon ride at 10 am. Lunch at noon. Activities will be available from 9 am – 1 pm. Once you register, an information packet will be mailed to you. Or register on-line, via our web site at empireranchfoundation.org.

