

EMPIRE RANCH FOUNDATION NEWS

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www.empireranchfoundation.org

Walter L. Vail Honored

On April 14, 2018, Walter Lennox Vail was posthumously inducted into the Hall of Great Westerners at the National Cowboy & Western Heritage Museum in Oklahoma City. The award is reserved for exceptional individuals who have made an indelible impact upon the history of America's West.



Walter's great-grandson, Dr. Tim Vail (below) accepted the award for the entire Vail family. Tim is a long-time board member of the Empire Ranch Foundation and was joined at the ceremony by ERF President Faith Boice and Vice-President Ray Patrone, as well as many Vail family members, including former ERF board member Susan Ingram Hughes.



Walter L. Vail (1850-1906) and partners founded the Empire Ranch near Sonoita, Arizona beginning with 160 acres in 1876. Under his leadership, the Empire Land & Cattle Co. expanded to become a successful operation with in-

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Beautiful Blue Skies and Vistas

The beauty of Las Cienegas National Conservation Area was on full display on Saturday, April 7th for the annual Spring Trail Ride. Sixty three riders participated in the two trail rides, enjoying the perfect weather, blue skies and beautiful vistas.

Steve Boice led the three hour ride on a route that went through five of the Empire Ranch pastures, twice crossing the Cienega Creek. Faith Boice led the shorter ride in a westerly direction on the road to the Empire windmill, returning along the ridge above the Empire Gulch. Twenty four wagon ride participants also travelled the road to the Empire windmill, learning all about the natural resources of LCNCA from docent Gail Corkill. One of the highlights of the ride was spotting several deer in a mesquite bosque.

While registering many riders enjoyed the coffee and biscuits at Rex Dalton's EZ Cattle Company chuck wagon camp, and watched the Dutch oven cooking preparations for lunch. Deli-

cious chuck wagon grub was ready when the riders returned, and was consumed in the Adobe Haybarn. Nine year old Cole declared that it was "the best meat I've ever eaten!" Nancy Elliott provided wonderful musical accompaniment to the meal. The ERF gift shop was a popular destination during the day, and sales of raffle tickets were brisk. Many enjoyed the docent tours offered by Chip Fears and Karen King.

We are grateful for the contributions of All Around Trail Horses, Rex Dalton and crew, Steve and Faith and other ERF board members, ERF administrator Lahsha Brown, and all of the volunteers that helped make the event such a success. Please plan to join us next year on April 6th.

(photos continued on p. 4)



Trail ride (above) followed by lunch in the Haybarn—perfect! (photos: C. Rogos)

Published by the Empire Ranch Foundation, a non-profit 501c3 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.

Vail Recognition (cont'd)



Motion picture celebrities Sam Elliot and Katherine Ross hosted the awards banquet.

terests in cattle, mining, oil, real estate and land development as Walter became one of the most prominent cattlemen in Arizona and California at the time. His civic contributions included time spent in the 10th Arizona Territorial Legislature (1878) and on the Pima County Board of Supervisors (1884) where he helped to bring about several measures modernizing the Arizona cattle industry.

Walter Vail expanded his interests in the late 19th century to California's rich ranch lands, acquiring land grants surrounding Temecula to form the Pauba and Santa Rosa plateau ranches, as well as the land grants for Santa Rosa Island near the Santa Barbara coast, which prospered so well through the late 20th century that it became part of the National Park system. Walter Vail was an uncommonly successful and visionary leader. This honor was richly deserved.

(photos: P. Busche)

Help Continue the Legacy

On April 14, 2018 Walter Lennox Vail was inducted into the National Cowboy and Western Heritage Museum. He joined Frank Seymour Boice who was previously inducted in 1958. Both these cowboy-owners of the Empire Ranch were honored as "Great Westerners" for their contribution to the settlement of the west and development of ranching in Arizona. The legacy of their work continues in the Empire Ranch Foundation.

You can become part of this legacy by including the Empire Ranch Foundation in your estate planning. That is what Howard and Barbara Lilley, long time supporters of the Foundation, did last year. They generously included a bequest to the Foundation in their will. Their



Mormon Trek Experience

Over 190 youth from the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints (Tucson South Stake) spent four days of their rodeo break re-enacting a Mormon pioneer trek on Las Cienegas. Between 1856 and 1860 three thousand Mormon pioneers, who could not afford to join wagon trains to travel to Salt Lake City, made the 1,100 mile trip on foot pulling handcarts carrying their belongings.

The trek re-enactment allows participants to experience the hardships and challenges encountered by their ancestors. Dressed in period clothing the youth pulled handcarts between four LCNCA locations (Cieneguita, Ag Fields, Airstrip, and Empire Ranch Headquarters) traveling more than 23 miles on foot and camping in below freezing temperatures. The trek ended at Empire Ranch Headquarters where they added cement blocks carried in the handcarts to build a "temple" structure. They were greeted with cheers and applause from their enthusiastic families and friends and enjoyed in a celebratory lunch before returning home.



Youth pull handcart to ER Headquarters (top); young pioneers in period clothing. (photos: A. Bunting, C. Rogos)

generosity will help us continue the legacy of the Vails and Boices and preserve our priceless western heritage. Ask your estate planner about how you can make a bequest to the Foundation to help preserve the legacy of the Empire Ranch and become part of our western heritage.

A Special Volunteer and Birthday



The ERF Volunteer Appreciation luncheon was held on Saturday, March 3rd at the Elgin Community Club. The lunch, prepared and served by ERF Board members, recognizes volunteers who have contributed significantly to ERF's mission during the past year.

Gerald Korte was honored, on the occasion of his 90th birthday for his outstanding contributions to ERF since its founding in 1997. Gerald was instrumental in the establishment of the Foundation and was its first President. Over the years he has served on the Board and Advisory Committee, has willingly shared his expertise as a speaker and tour guide, and has provided invaluable assistance in the development of ERF exhibits and publications. President Faith Boice presented Gerald with a framed photo of the Empire Ranch House (see photo above).

Other volunteers were recognized for their years of service or first time contributions. Several BLM staff attended the event to also thank to those who do so much to protect and preserve the Empire Ranch buildings and landscape.

(photo: J. Lowrey)

Gifts in Remembrance

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

Diego Cuevas,
Diana Cameron Graham,
Louise Cameron Graham,
Carey Ingram, Dusty Vail Ingram,
Dick & Eva Jimenez,
Patti Kelly,
Hans & Bea Schou,
John Wayne

Ranch House Stabilization and Volunteer Work Update

Much has been accomplished in the complex Ranch House stabilization project. Foundations under the walls of the original 1870 section and the Rear Addition have been exposed, repaired, and underpinned where necessary. Some parts of the floor in the Children's Addition were removed in order to build four reinforced concrete block stem walls, which will carry the weight of the wood-frame structure.



Delaminated cement stucco on exterior walls has been removed, and deteriorated adobe beneath it repaired (see top photo above). Several layers of mud plaster have been applied (see center photo), to be followed by a final coat of lime plaster. Sections of the cement stucco still well-adhered to the underlying adobe will be left intact.

A plywood diaphragm, metal framework, and replacement adobes have been installed above the ceilings throughout the house to tie the walls and

roof together. The current roofing will be removed from all sections of the house, and plywood sheathing installed or replaced where needed (see left bottom photo). The original 1870 section and the Rear Addition will have new rolled composition roofing. The Children's Addition corrugated metal roofing will be replaced; the same material will be installed over the Victorian Addition. Areas of the yard between the Victorian Addition and the Adobe Hay Barn have been re-contoured to provide positive drainage away from the Ranch House foundations.



Volunteers who attended the April 21st workday (shown above) mowed and cleared brush and weeds along the Heritage Discovery Trail, began repairs of the Covered Feed Trough, stacked salvaged wood and corrugated roofing from the Children's Addition, and cleaned and organized the Visitor Contact Station and gift shop.

A "Week Day Work Day" has been started during the months when a regular (Saturday) work day isn't scheduled. On March 19, volunteers Marty Maynard and Jack Blevins repaired the south corral gate, while Chris Schrager, assisted by John Weiss of the Friends of Kentucky Camp and UA graduate student Crystal Dillahunt, made repairs to the flooring at the north end of the South

(photos: A. Bunting and F. Boice)

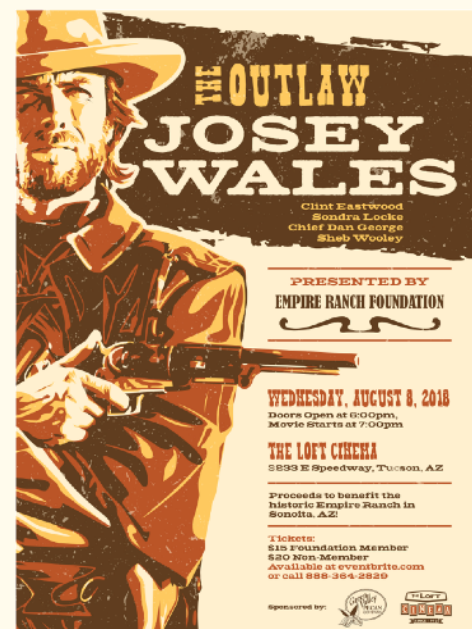
**Don't Miss the
Empire Ranch Cowboy Festival!
Saturday, November 3, 2018
10am to 4 pm**

Empire Ranch Headquarters

Formerly known as the Roundup and Open House, the Empire Ranch Cowboy Festival is a Western experience for the whole family, featuring Western heritage demonstrations, arena and livestock exhibits, cowboy cooking and entertainment. The 2018 preliminary program will be available in August on the ERF website:

www.empireranchfoundation.org

Coming August 8th!!



The Outlaw Josey Wales

The Empire Ranch Foundation is proud to present Clint Eastwood starring in "The Outlaw Josey Wales" as our 2018 Western Movie at the Loft Cinema in Tucson on Wednesday, August 8th. A panel discussion at 6:30pm precedes the 7:00pm show time.

Josey Wales makes his way west after the Civil War, determined to live a useful and helpful life. He joins up with a group of settlers who need the protection that a man as tough and experienced as he is can provide. Unfortunately, the past caught up to him and Josey is now an outlaw.

The movie is considered to be a "must-see" western, according to director and actor Orson Welles. It stars Clint Eastwood and Sondra Locke, who went on to work with Eastwood in six of his other movies. Another notable actor in the film is Shelby "Sheb" Wooley who worked with Eastwood in the late 1950s television western "Rawhide."

The film was selected by the U.S. Library of Congress for the National Film Registry and nominated for the Academy Award for Original Music Score. Portions of the 1976 movie were filmed on the Empire Ranch and in the Patagonia area. Arizona served as the primary location for the film. Ticket prices are \$15 for ERF members, \$20 for non-members.



Working Calendar

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

June 2018

9&23 *Docent-Led Tour of the Empire Ranch, 11am-12pm, free, reservations req. through ERF website or call 888-364-2829.*

16 *Volunteer Work Day, 8am-12pm.*

July 2018

14&28 *Docent-Led Tour of the Empire Ranch, 11am-12pm, free, reservations req. through ERF website or call 888-364-2829.*

21 *ERF Board Meeting, 9 am-1pm.*

28 *National Day of the Cowboy Event, presentations, demonstrations and ranch tours. All welcome!*

August 2018

8 *The Outlaw Josey Wales - Western Movie at The Loft Cinema, Tucson, doors open at 6pm, panel discussion at 6:30pm, tickets at door and at www.eventbrite.com (article p. 3)*

11&25 *Docent-Led Tour of the Empire Ranch, 11am-12pm, free, reserva-*

Come Celebrate!

National Day of the Cowboy
at Historic Empire Ranch Sonoita, AZ

July 28, 2018, 9am-1pm

FREE Family Event
Demonstrations, Presentations,
Ranch Tours
with Story of Walter Vail Reenactment

Empire Ranch Headquarters
Las Cienegas

National Conservation Area
off Scenic Highway 83,
East Empire Ranch Road
www.empireranchfoundation.org

tions req. through ERF website or call 888-364-2829.

18 *Volunteer Work Day, 8am-noon. We clean, sprue, dust, trim & have a great time! All welcome! RSVP 888-364-2829.*

September 2017

8&22 *Docent-Led Tour of the Empire Ranch, 11am-12pm, free, open to all, no reservations req.*

15 *ERF Board Meeting, 9am -11am. All welcome!*

Trail Ride (cont'd)

