

# EMPIRE RANCH FOUNDATION NEWS

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

[www.empireranchfoundation.org](http://www.empireranchfoundation.org)

## President's Message

Dear Friends of the Empire Ranch,  
It's been an incredible year because of you! Your support has brought improvements to the Empire Ranch that will last for generations to come. The stabilization of the 1870s Empire Ranch House is complete and a major accomplishment.

Join us to celebrate on March 23, 2019. We are partnering with the BLM for a Milestone Celebration, a grand re-opening of the house with new exhibits, tours, and more, plus special remarks by former Representative Jim Kolbe, Pima County Supervisor Steve Christy, and BLM leadership. Humanities Scholar Robin Pinto will give a presentation on the history of the Empire Ranch. The event is free and all are invited! Please provide your RSVP on our web site.

Our traditional Spring Trail Ride is April 6, 2019 and benefits the ERF (see article p. 2, and enclosed registration form). Why not join us for a Volunteer Work Day? We'd love your help on the first Saturday of most months. The working calendar on page 4 lists upcoming dates. Volunteers are treated to a delicious lunch after lending a hand with various projects for all abilities and ages.

Thank you for your year end gifts and membership renewals. ERF's ability to help the Empire Ranch depends on you – our donors, volunteers and advocates – and we are truly grateful. If you are not yet a member, please join the Foundation today to help preserve and protect the Empire Ranch.

Sincerely,  
Faith Boice  
ERF President



*Loads of Christmas cheer and crafts greeted all, plus a gift ornament from Santa to take home (photos: F. Boice, C. Rogos)*

## Christmas at the Ranch

On December 9, 2018 ERF celebrated Christmas at the Ranch with over 240 excited and enthusiastic guests. Everyone admired the Ranch House holiday decorations while enjoying Christmas cookies and warm drinks of coffee, tea or hot cocoa. Santa was a big hit with children of all ages stopping by to tell him their Christmas wishes and get their picture taken. His gift to all was a beautiful Empire Ranch Foundation ornament.

The "make and take" Christmas ornament room was busy all afternoon, and from the sounds of laughter it was clearly a fun project. In the Adobe Haybarn Jana Segal told Sharlot Hall's Christmas story, and Jon Ritchins provided musical entertainment and an opportunity to sing-along.

Many got a head start on their Christmas shopping at the 14 vendor tables offering a wide variety of wares, and at the silent auction and raffle tables. Our thanks to all of the volunteers who helped decorate the Ranch house and grounds, bake cookies, and help on the day. We can't do it without you! Planning for the 2019 Christmas at the Ranch is underway—we hope you'll join us!



*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.*

## Introducing the 2019 Board and Officers

We are pleased to welcome four new members elected to the ERF Board of Directors at the November 17, 2018 annual meeting.

•**Don Butler**, of Tucson, graduated from the University of Arizona with a BS in Agriculture. He worked in banking (livestock), for the Coronado Cattle Co. (1970-2003), and as Director of the Arizona Department of Agriculture (2003 – 2013). Don has served as an officer and on the boards of many organizations including the Arizona Cattle Feeders, the National Cattlemen's Association, and the National Public Lands Advisory Council.

•**Dave Daiss**, of Sonoita, is a retired builder who now owns a cattle ranch. He served on the ERF Board from 2006-2008 helping with the Empire 100 Art Show and Sale. Dave was a part owner of True West magazine and is active in many Sonoita area organizations such as the Santa Cruz County Fair and Rodeo Association.

•**Christine Haaksmá**, of Sierra Vista, has held multiple positions including bookkeeper for various industries in the Tucson area. For over 20 years she served as a patient advocate and liaison between tax accounts and their clients. Christine has been an active ERF volunteer for the past several years, providing outstanding support for ERF events and outreach efforts.

•**Joanne Triplett**, of Tucson, has degrees in education and management and has worked in elementary education and staff training for museums, private foundations, and Pima County. Prior to her retirement she was the Environmental Educator at historic Agua Caliente Park. She became an ERF docent in 2011, and is an avid rider who enjoys exploring Las Cienegas National Conservation Area on horseback.

Officers elected were: Faith Boice, President; Ray Patrone, Vice President; Sally Pyne, Secretary, and Gene Raymond, Treasurer.

Faith Boice, Kathie (Schindel) Maynard, and Bill Schock were elected to additional terms on the Board. Continuing Board members include Steve Boice, Beth Borozan, Marti Conroy, Jim Cosbey, Dave McNamara, Ray Patrone, Kimberly Patterson, Therese Perreault, Sally Pyne, Gene Raymond, Cheryl

Rogos, Peggy Theibert, Kristin Tomlinson, and Tim Vail. Carol Boice Barleycorn resigned from the Board and joined the Advisory Committee.

We are most grateful for the time and support provided by these valuable volunteers.

## Special Thanks to David, Bunker, and Harry

In 2018 Harry Alexander, Steve "Bunker" DeFrance, and David Yubeta retired from the Board of Directors. Special thanks are in order for the exceptional support they've provided ERF over a cumulative fifteen years!

David joined the Board in 2010 after a long career with the National Park Service. An expert in historic preservation of earthen resources, David (shown left in photo below) played key roles in the Foundation's preservation efforts in chairing the Preservation Committee, and in training ERF volunteers in adobe repair.



Bunker (on right, above), a retired actor, stuntman and double, and film historian, joined the Board in 2012. He actively assisted in just about every ERF event and volunteer work day and entertained and educated youth and adults alike with western tales and poetry.

Harry (on left) joined the Board in 2017 after a long career in the news and radio industry. He coordinated the Western Movies at the Loft events and helped publicize and promote ERF events in print media and in the Voices of the West radio broadcast.

We are delighted that David and Bunker have joined the ERF Advisory Committee and look forward to working with them for many years to come.



## Saddle Up for the Spring Trail Ride!

Saturday, April 6, 2019

Join us for an authentic Western experience Saturday, April 6, 2019. Tour the beautiful rolling grasslands of Las Cienegas National Conservation Area (LCNCA). Enjoy guided horseback rides, a 3-hour at 9 am or a 1.5-hour at 10 am. Or, choose a horse-drawn wagon ride. All options include a catered Chuck Wagon lunch. Come on out and enjoy western heritage activities, ranch house tours, music and more.

The 3-hour ride is guided by Steve Boice, who was born and raised on the ranch. The 1.5-hour horseback ride is guided by his daughter and ERF Board President Faith Boice. Both know a great deal about the history and landscape and will lead you through some of LCNCA's stunning scenery. You can rent horses through ERF, or bring your own.

Registration is easy on our website at [www.empireranchfoundation.org/ranch-events/trail-ride/](http://www.empireranchfoundation.org/ranch-events/trail-ride/). Or use the form included in this newsletter. Registrations are due no later than March 22, 2019.

## Dedicated Gifts

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

Jimmie Bevill, Bob & Mary Bowman,  
Eldon Corkill, Emil Franzi,  
Snuff Garrett, Don Gray,  
Bob & Sally Grennan, Marion Hyland,  
Dusty Vail Ingram,  
Walter & Helen Kolbe,  
Ferne Kemp Lewis,  
George A. Masek, Sr.,  
Dennis R. McCarty

*In Honor of*:

Christine Auerbach,  
Susan Vail Hoffman, Gerald Korte,  
Teresita Majewski

## Getting the Word Out



The Foundation's outreach volunteers had a busy 2018 staffing booths at a variety of community events. Over 800 individuals learned about the historic Empire Ranch and the Foundation at events including the Cochise County Cowboy Poetry & Music Gathering (Sierra Vista); the Dave Stamey Concert (Sonoita); Heritage Day at Fort Huachuca (Sierra Vista); the International Wildlife Museum (Tucson); the Sonoita Rodeo; the Santa Cruz County Fair (Sonoita); the historic Canoa Ranch Anza Days; and The Fox Theater (Tucson) during a special TMC showing of Rio Bravo.

ERF speakers also provided presentations on the history of the Empire Ranch and movies filmed at the Empire Ranch to audiences at Voyager Park and Agua Caliente Park.

During 2019 the Outreach and Education committee hopes to participate in community events monthly, and provide more presentations to local audiences. If you have events to suggest or want to request an ERF speaker for your group or organization contact Marti Conroy by email: [Wrangler4504@gmail.com](mailto:Wrangler4504@gmail.com) or phone: (520) 247-6097.



ERF outreach volunteer at Canoa Ranch Anza Days (top) and Rio Bravo screening (bottom) (photos: F. Boice)

## Snobbery in Arizona Brains Not Dress

Such was the headline of an article in *The Williams News* (Williams, Ariz.) on August 03, 1901...

"Arizona, the land of free speech, free thought, and free dress, is changing. There have been several scenes in one of the leading hotels of Tucson this week which might have resulted in several funerals had the participants been more sensitive and less gentlemanly."

"It seems that there is a rule that no person shall eat at the dining table unless he wears a coat. There are a great many of the best men in Tucson who do not wear coats, not because they do not possess them, but for the reason that there is more comfort without them. George Scholefield and Ed. L. Vail seldom wear coats. Mr. Scholefield was refused permission [by an eastern hotel clerk] to enter the dining hall of the hotel in question because he did not wear a coat; E. L. Vail, one of the wealthiest cattlemen in Arizona, came to town this week without his coat, as he always does in summer, and he, too, could not enter the same dining hall. He explained to the clerk that

he had eaten there without a coat for sixteen years, and he was too hungry to return to La Osa ranch for his coat."

The coatless E.L. Vail was Walter Vail's older brother, Edward, who came to Arizona in 1879 to partner with Walter in Empire Ranch and Total Wreck Mine operations. Ed owned several other ranches including the VR in the Rosemont Valley, northwest of the Empire, and the La Osa Cattle Company near Sasabe. George Scholefield ranched in the Santa Rita Mountains and was an Arizona cattle inspector by 1900.

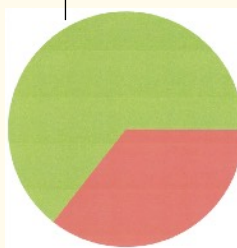


Ed Vail (l) and George Scholefield, circa 1890s. (photo: Whitney Wilkinson)

### Empire Ranch Foundation Financial Summary: January through December 2018

#### Income by Source of Funds: \$114,910

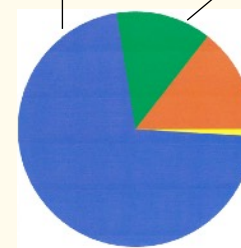
Outreach Events & Other - 64% (\$74K)



Member Donations 36% (\$40.9K)

#### Expenditures, by Use of Funds: \$119,447

Outreach & Education 71.5% (\$85.4K)



Administration 13% (\$15.6K)

Fundraising 14.4% - (\$17.2K)

Preservation & Adaptive Reuse 1% (\$1.2K)

Income during FY18 totaled \$114,990—64% from outreach events and other sources, and 36% from member donations. Expenditures during FY18 totaled \$119,447—72% for outreach and education programs; 14% for fundraising; 13% for general administration; and 1% for preservation and adaptive reuse projects.

Not reflected in these figures is the more than 7,930 hours of labor contributed by ERF volunteers, valued by BLM at \$185,792 for grant matching purposes. Also not included is the \$1,000,000 expended by BLM from deferred maintenance funds for the Ranch House stabilization project.

End-of-year assets totaled \$125.2K, comprising \$50.1K in BLM grant funds (fully obligated); \$25K in the Vail endowment and 11.4K in other ERF restricted funds; 20.9K in ERF unrestricted funds obligated for preservation, education, and interpretation; and \$17.8K in ERF unrestricted unobligated funds.



## Working Calendar

*Note: Please check our website to confirm event details ([empireranchfoundation.org](http://empireranchfoundation.org)). 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](mailto:admin@empireranchfoundation.org)*

### March

**2 Volunteer Work Day**, 8am-2pm. To volunteer call 888-364-2829 or email [admin@empireranchfoundation.org](mailto:admin@empireranchfoundation.org)

**9&23 Docent-Led Tour of the Empire Ranch House**, 11am-12pm. Free, open to all, no reservations req.

**22 Spring Trail Ride registration closes.**

**23 Milestone Celebration**, 10am-1pm. Grand Re-Opening of Empire Ranch House, new exhibits, talks, tours & more.

### April

**6 Spring Trail Ride**, 9am-2pm. Experience the beautiful grasslands on a guided horseback or wagon tour. Lunch, music, raffles, tours and more. Fun for the whole family.

**13&27 Docent-Led Tour of the Empire Ranch House**, 11am-12pm. Free, open to all, no reservations req.

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

### May

**4 Volunteer Work Day**, 8am-12pm. To volunteer call 888-364-2829 or email [admin@empireranchfoundation.org](mailto:admin@empireranchfoundation.org)

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

### June

**1 Volunteer Work Day**, 8am-12pm. To volunteer call 888-364-2829 or email [admin@empireranchfoundation.org](mailto:admin@empireranchfoundation.org)

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

**15 ERF Board Meeting**, 9am-11am. All welcome! Call 888-364-2829 for location.



## Boice Family Legacy at Empire Ranch Begins



2019 marks the 90th anniversary of Frank and Mary Boice's move to the Empire Ranch in 1929. Their two young sons, Frank Jr., known as Pancho, and Robert, known as Bob, were almost 4 and 2 respectively. This charming photo from Mary Boice's photo album shows a lighthearted family moment about that time.