



FRIENDS OF PAWNEE BILL RANCH ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

Friends of Pawnee Bill
Ranch Association

Volume 18, Number 3
July 2010

Wild West Show Cast Rides Again Despite Budget Cuts and Heat!

We weren't sure that we could pull off a Wild West Show this year that could match the excitement and grandeur of the past, but we were wrong. This year has seen much talk of the dire situation of the state budget cuts, and the Ranch has experienced some major changes, but we were lucky enough to pull off a Wild West Show that provided a memorable experience for a fun-loving audience.

The Wild West Show experienced good crowds, but the hot weather did seem to result in lower attendance. The crowd may have been smaller, but they were as enthusiastic as ever



Children young and old join the Native American dancers in the arena for a friendship dance.

Hats off to first-time show director Anna Davis. She put in countless hours working to ensure that the show would go on!

The Staff of the Ranch could not possibly put this show on by themselves! The staff owes a tremendous debt of gratitude to the BEST museum Friends group in the state of Oklahoma—the Friends of the Pawnee Bill Ranch Association. If we don't say it enough—you are our backbone. We appreciate ALL of our volunteers.



Wagon Train Boss Calvin Buchanan hauls precious cargo in an act.

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The Ranch Association Board of Directors regularly meets on the second Thursday of each month at 6:00p.m. in the museum conference room. If you would like to attend the Board meeting or put an item on the agenda, please call us at (918) 762-2513. Items usually discussed include the financial reports, special projects, Ranch needs, and fundraising opportunities. Any ideas are welcome from the PBRA at large.



Oil Capital Questers Volunteer to Beautify Pawnee Bill Ranch

The Pawnee Bill Ranch is a place that matters! The Tulsa-based Oil Capital Chapter of Questers International is working in conjunction with the National Trust for Historic Preservation to identify and improve historic facilities. Four women from the Tulsa Questers came over to the Pawnee Bill Ranch on May 21 and planted roses, cleaned out flower beds, trimmed shrubs, and filled up planters. The results are impressive; the grounds look better than they have in years. The Questers have been long-time supporters of the Ranch. In the past, they have donated funds to repair the ceiling in the dining room of the mansion, and repair and repaint the interior of the mansion.



They have also decorated at Christmastime. We thank the Questers for their dedication to the Pawnee Bill Ranch and for their commitment to historic preservation.

HeadCount

April

We were visited by people from 48 towns in Oklahoma, 5 countries, and 15 states. The countries were Italy, Australia, Switzerland, Germany, and Mexico. The total visitation was estimated at 1015 people!

May

We were visited by people from 39 Oklahoma cities, 29 states, and 7 countries. The countries were Thailand, Mexico, India, Singapore, Seychelle Islands,

Germany, and Belgium. The total visitation was estimated at 1027 people!

June

We were visited by people from 80 Oklahoma cities and towns, 24 states, and 6 countries! The countries were Costa Rica, India, Mexico, Brazil, Australia, and Singapore. The total visitation was estimated at 2997.

Beat the Heat and Cool Off at the Pawnee Bill Ranch!



Our attendance gets a boost this quarter from school groups and the Wild West Shows. **The visitation totals represent museum attendance only!**



Cowgirls are Wild West Show Attraction— Then and Now!

Women in the Wild West Shows were one of the most popular attractions. They were a huge draw and attracted a lot of media attention whenever a Wild West Show traveled. In the early years of the Wild West Shows, women were actors in scenes and scenarios depicting raids or attacks, and Indian women were seen in scenes such as camp life. Some of the most popular acts for women were the Square dance on horseback and relay races.

In 2010, women riders still thrill audiences with those same acts. Roughly half of the drill team (square dance on horseback) and half of the participants in relay races are women.

The first cowgirls broke the rules, and they acted outside of convention. They were adventurers and they liked the sense of freedom and accomplishment. They were confident and independent. They were inspiring, unpredictable and uniquely American—just like our cowgirls today!



Cowgirls are all in the family! From left to right: April Buchanan, Amanda Sullins and Cara Buchanan. Amanda and Cara are sisters and April is married to their brother Will Buchanan.



Teresa Black entertains the crowds on Blue Hawk Peak during the Wild West Show.



Cossacks and the crowd enjoy the grand finale—beautiful fireworks!

Thank you to everyone who helped make the 2010 Wild West Show a success. We couldn't have done the Show without the dedicated and talented cast and the dozens of volunteers who worked in the heat. It was a great show season and we appreciate everyone!



Pawnee Bill Ranch
PO Box 493
Pawnee, OK 74058
918-762-2513

CURRENT HOURS OF OPERATION

Open Sunday and Monday
1:00-4:00 p.m.
Tuesday-Saturday 10:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.

UPCOMING EVENTS!

If you have an idea for an interesting workshop or clinic, contact the Ranch hands to get yourself on the list!

We have many activities and programs scheduled for the upcoming quarter! Please see the article below for more information.

MEMBERS NEEDED!

We are still in search of more members to join the PBRA, so if you know anyone interested in the Ranch or the Old West, clip this out and have them send it to us. Thank you for your support and help! Enclose the clipping with membership fee and remind them they get a copy of the newsletter plus a 10% discount in the museum store.

NAME _____ DATE _____

ADDRESS _____

PHONE _____

AMOUNT ENCLOSED _____

Single \$15.00 USD Business \$75.00

Family \$25.00 USD

MAIL TO: Pawnee Bill Ranch Association
PO Box 493
Pawnee, Oklahoma 74058

Busy Upcoming Quarter at the Pawnee Bill Ranch

Just because the Wild West Show is over, doesn't mean that we slow down at the Pawnee Bill Ranch! We have some of our most popular programs scheduled in the next three months.

Martha Ray continues to teach a **quilt block of the month class** in the museum conference room. The class meets on the second Tuesday of each month at 6:30 p.m. The usual cost of each class is \$5.00, but some projects require a higher class fee occasionally. The next classes scheduled are for August 10, September 14, and October 12. The ladies in the quilt class have made some beautiful works of art!

Several of their quilts have

been exhibited in our **annual quilt show**. This year's show is from October 1-31 in the museum building. We need quilts to exhibit, so please let us know if you have a quilt you would like to share with the public. Many people visit the Ranch just to see the quilts in October, so we appreciate all those who make it possible.

On October 2, we will offer an **Introduction to Blacksmithing Class** from 9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. and then a more hands-on advanced class in the afternoon from 1:00-4:30. The class will take place in the original Ranch blacksmith shop. Andy Martin will teach the class and has demonstrated blacksmithing at the Ranch for years. The fee is \$20.00 per

session.

On October 2, we will also host a **Mansion Centennial Style Show**. Pawnee Bill and May's dream home is 100 years old this year and we want to celebrate! The Centennial Style show will be on the porch of the mansion from 2:00-4:00 p.m. and the cost to attend is \$5.00.

One of most popular events is in October—our **Ghost Story Tours** in the mansion. On October 23, from 6:30-9:00 tales that tingle the spine will be told in the rooms of the mansion by experienced story tellers. It is always a fun and spooky evening!

All of our events require pre-registration. Please call (918) 762-2513 for more information.