



# FRIENDS OF PAWNEE BILL RANCH ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

Friends of Pawnee Bill  
Ranch Association

Volume 17, Number 4  
October 2009

## October Is Busy Month for Pawnee Bill Ranch

With the exception of the busy days of the Wild West Show in June, October has turned out to be our busiest month of programming. Our annual quilt show continues to be a popular exhibit and this year's show brought in more quilts than we ever remember having. We have both heirloom and modern quilts on exhibit.

In conjunction with the quilt show, the quilt block of the month class is starting a new series of

projects. Their first meeting was October 13 and they continue to meet on the second Tuesday of each month.

Ghost Stories is always one of our most fun programs—for staff and visitors alike! If you've never seen the mansion during the Ghost Story Tours, you have missed out!

In addition to these programs, we have had school groups, cub scout camp-outs and even a wedding!

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### The Friends of the Pawnee Bill Ranch Board of Directors is as follows:

#### President

**Larry Troxell**

#### Vice President

**Wayne Spears**

#### Secretary

**Kathy Sullivan McKinis**

#### Treasurer

**Vi Wills**

#### Members:

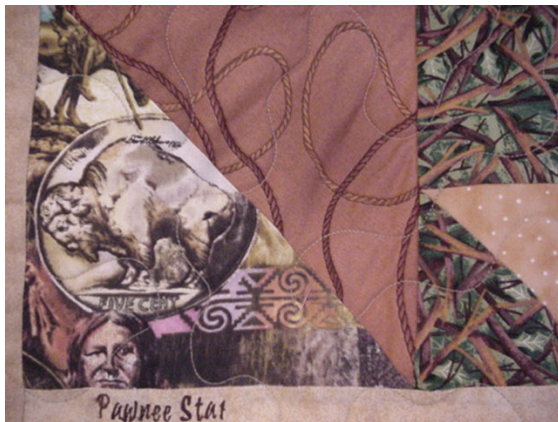
**Mona Denney**

**Darrel Gambill**

**Amy Funkhouser**

**Gary Vance Jr.**

**Thanks for all you do for the Pawnee Bill Ranch.**



Left: Pawnee Star block from Road to Oklahoma Quilt by Martha Ray Below: Indian Girl Quilt by Deline Frick Cleveland.



## Ranch Association brings on New Board Members

At their October board meeting, the directors welcomed Mona Denney, Amy Funkhouser, and Gary Vance Jr. to the board. These folks have committed to volunteer their time to help ensure that the Ranch continues to be successful. We appreciate the sacrifice that comes with volunteerism and we cannot say enough how much our Ranch Association does for the site in terms of fundraising and event hosting. Thank you new and established board members, for all that you have done and continue to do.



# Ranch Update

Moving into our slower season always allows for us to tackle new projects. The guys in the **maintenance department** (Kevin, Stu, and Colby) have been busy painting the interior and exterior of the blacksmith shop and working to extend the exhibit pasture fence out north. We are hoping to start work to stabilize the cabin very shortly.

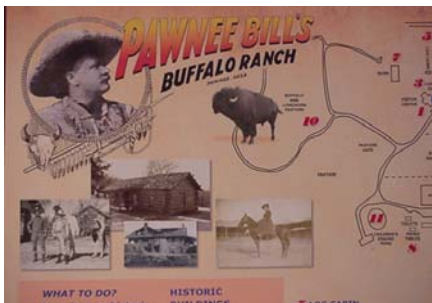
We have struggled with the central heat and air at the mansion the past few months. A new A.C. unit had to be installed at the mansion, so it was certainly a challenge to give tours in the heat. Now, the heating units are out. We have gone from one extreme to the next! As we wait for the State to allow the work to be done, our employees at the mansion are doing their best to stay warm while giving tours.

Starting in November, we will move into our **winter hours of operation**. We will be closed on Mondays and Tuesdays through March. Should you need to book a group on a day we are regularly closed, please give us a call!

Since Brandon has been transferred to the Peter Conser Home, we have hired two **new 999 employees** to help us cover the bases. Kelilah Stout started on September 1 and Laura Sayre started on October 1. We are thrilled to have both women here and they are doing great! Stop by and say hi!

The Ranch Association's **Annual Meal and Meeting** is scheduled for December 19th. A short business meeting is planned at 11:30 a.m. followed by a meal at noon. The Annual Meeting is planned in conjunction with our **Holiday Open House** and a **Santas of the World Tour** in the mansion from 1:00—3:00 p.m. Put the 19th on your calendar now. It promises to be a fun day at the Pawnee Bill Ranch.

## HEAD COUNT



### July

We were visited by people from 65 towns in Oklahoma, 5 countries, and 31 states. The countries were Germany, China, Denmark, France, and Australia. total visitation was estimated at 1,828 people!

### August

We were visited by people from 70 Oklahoma cities, 27 states, and 9 countries. The countries were China, Thailand, India, Kenya, North Korea, Ethiopia, Spain, Germany, and the U.S. Virgin Islands. The total visita-

tion was estimated at 1,797 people!

### September

We were visited by people from 44 Oklahoma cities and towns, 25 states, and 7 countries! The countries were England, Germany, Australia, Canada, Venezuela, India, and Mexico. The total visitation was 1,370.

Here is last quarter's head count of visitors! These numbers are for the museum only. We stay steadily busy through the summer with our regular tourists.





## Pawnee Bill Inducted into National Cowboy Hall of Fame

Gordon W. "Pawnee Bill" Lillie has been unanimously selected to be inducted into the National Cowboy and Western Heritage Museum's Hall of Great Westerners. The formal inducted will take place at the 49th Annual Western Heritage Awards to be held Saturday, April 17, 2010 at the Oklahoma City Museum.

Induction into the Hall of Great Westerners is reserved for exceptional individuals who have made an indelible impact upon the history of the United States. Pawnee Bill will join Theodore Roosevelt, Willa Cather, Ronald Reagan, Charles Goodnight, Dwight Eisenhower, Meriwether Lewis, and more than 200 great men and women of the American West.

The nomination was completed in 2007 and Pawnee Bill was inducted in his first year of eligibility after the nomination was completed. We thank all of you who supplemented our nomination with your letters of support.



Pawnee Bill by  
Tracey Harris

## Pawnee Bill's Portrait to Hang in State Capitol

Former State Senator Charles Ford has commissioned Oklahoma artist Tracey Harris to paint a portrait of Pawnee Bill that will hang in the Oklahoma State Capitol. The official unveiling of the portrait will be sometime this spring, but a sneak preview is available on this page!

Senator Ford is President of the Oklahoma State Senate Historic Preservation Commission and has raised millions of dollars for historic preservation. He has also raised money to hire Oklahoma artists to paint significant figures and events in Oklahoma history to hang in the capitol.

We think that Ms. Harris did an exceptional job and we are excited to see the real thing!

We are so grateful that Senator Ford chose to honor Pawnee Bill during the same year as his induction into the National Cowboy Hall of Fame. Thank you Senator Ford.

We have also heard that a portrait of May Lillie is also in the works. We are hoping that becomes a reality in 2010. It would be great to see the great pair side by side at such a significant Oklahoma institution.





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**UPCOMING EVENTS!**

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

**November 8, Buckskin Making Workshop, 1:00—3:00 p.m. \$10.00**

**November 10, Quilt Block of the Month Class, 6:30 p.m. \$5.00**

**December 8, Quilt Block of the Month Class, 6:30 p.m., \$5.00**

**December 5th, Children Story time and Crafts**

**December 19, Santas of the World Tour and Ranch Association Annual Meeting**

**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

**New and Recently Renewed Ranch  
Association Members**

We are so thankful for the continued support from our members. We are always excited to see people join this organization as well. Your support is vital:

Recent Renewals and New Memberships include:

- Armstrong Bank
- Lynn Atterbery
- Carol and James Belk
- Don and Joyce Brown
- Jr. and Cheryl Bryant
- Collett Campbell
- Carl and Dana Hicks

- Keith and Amy Funkhouser
- Melvin and Pat Goff
- Kirk Lewis
- Pawnee Marble and Granite
- Glenda McFarlin
- Kathy Sullivan McKinnis
- Desiree Michaelson
- Jo and Jack Morris
- Pawnee Bill's Indian Trading Post
- Pawnee Chief
- Snak N Pak and BJs
- Barbara Walker
- Retha Wegmiller
- Lynn and Carolyn Wells



Bonnie Wilson  
Jimmy and Victoria Wheeler

**Attention Social  
Networkers!**

The Pawnee Bill Ranch is now on Facebook. Become our fan to keep updated on our most recent activities!!! Our name on Facebook is **Pawnee Bill Ranch and Museum.**