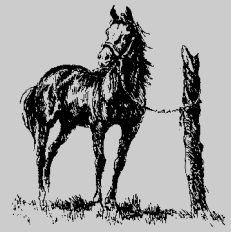




Roundup

Olaf Wieghorst Museum



MARCH 2002

OLAF WIEGHORST: PAINTER OF THE AMERICAN WEST

Olaf Wieghorst: Painter of the American West, featuring a collection of Wieghorst's paintings, memorabilia, and sculptures, opens May 3 at the San Diego Historical Society building in Balboa Park and runs through September 2.

The exhibition, which will begin with a reception on April 30, Wieghorst's 103rd birthday, is being organized in collaboration with the Wieghorst Museum in El Cajon, where Wieghorst lived for the last 43 years of his life and where he maintained his studio.

His paintings were last shown in San Diego in a major exhibition by the

San Diego Museum of Art in 1988, the year of Wieghorst's death at the age of eighty-eight.

"Wieghorst painted the West as it was coming to a close," observes Martin Petersen, curator of the 1988 show and today the consultant and cocurator of the forthcoming exhibition. "His attempt was to record it for posterity so people could see what it was like at the frontier at that time."

A number of the paintings in the exhibition will be on loan from Wieghorst's son, Roy, who is a founder of the Wieghorst Museum and who, with his wife, Barbara, produced a documentary of the artist's life.

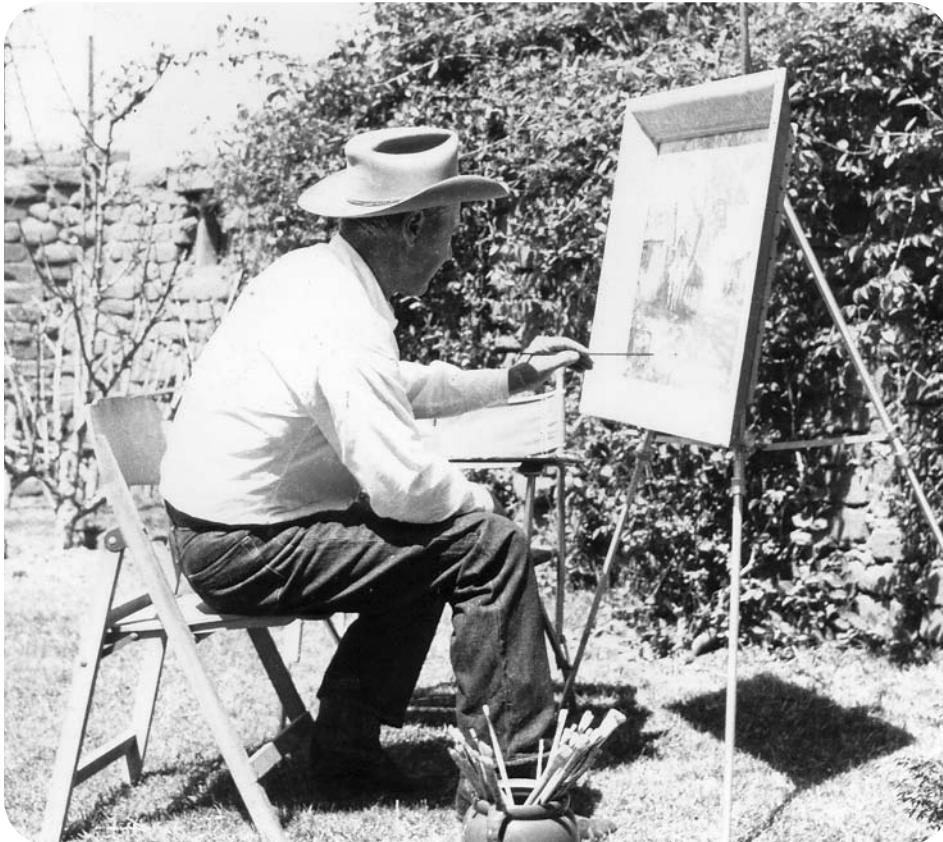
"Wieghorst's paintings are admired throughout the country and not just by devotees of Western art," said executive director Bob Witty. "There is a broad spectrum of collectors taken by the development of the West, a world of horses, cowboys, and Indians and the U.S. Cavalry, as well as aficionados of Southwestern landscapes.

"With memories of the old West now fading into history, we think this is an important reminder to San Diegans, and especially young people, of what the West was all about. Displaying Wieghorst's paintings can revive the spirit of the West."

Many regard Wieghorst in the ranks of Remington and Russell as artistic interpreters of the West.

"Since Wieghorst experienced the West first-hand—serving on border patrol for the U.S. Cavalry, working as a cowboy, and visiting Native American reservations—his paintings reflect a realism and historical accuracy not found in other artists' work," said Curator of Collections, Kathleen Zygmunt.

"As a historian, my approach in selecting and interpreting the paintings extends beyond the artist's biography, the appreciation of the artistic skill and paintings' aesthetic beauty to use the paintings and sculpture as a touchstone to discuss the history they portray: the value of the horse and mule in early transportation, the changing culture of the Native Americans and Mexicans in the western U.S., the role of the U.S. Cavalry, and the ranching industry,"



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2002 TO BE YEAR OF THE HOUSE

Several exciting activities now under way at the Museum and Western Heritage Center complex should have a major impact on our project within the next few months. The Board of Directors joins you, our members, friends, and newsletter readers in hoping 2002 will, indeed, be the year we renovate and reopen Olaf's house!

By the time you read this, we will have hired a San Diego area construction firm to undertake the structural and other work needed to bring the house back to its original appearance, allowing us to furnish it and reopen it to guests. The company—we'll tell you the name in our next newsletter—has had considerable experience with older buildings and is looking forward to helping us renovate ours. The work will involve coordination with several generous product donors, including El Cajon Roofing and the Nelson Hardwood Floor Company, which have joined the growing list of community groups and individuals who want to be involved with this terrific project.

One of the first assignments we have asked the construction company to complete is a detailed list of tasks and budgets for the renovation and reopening of the house, an effort which will make it much easier for us to raise funds, schedule work, and keep our supporters advised of our progress.

At the same time, our landscape architect, structural engineers, and other talented professionals—several of whom are donating some of their services—are working to complete a site design, irrigation and landscape plans, adobe wall design, and other specifics related to the complex. At the Board's direction, the house is our first priority and will be followed, as quickly as funding will permit, by the wall, the stable/cantina building, landscaping, and a large trellised area for outdoor public events. When finished, the entire complex will be attractive, comfortable, and easily accessible to any of our guests with physical challenges.

Donations of products, materials, and cash are always welcome, and a variety of recognition programs to be put in place as the work continues will acknowledge the contributions made by companies, individuals, and groups in the community. If you would like to be involved, please contact our museum office or talk to any of our Board members.

The Wieghorst Alley

Thanks to the City of El Cajon and the Downtown Management District, Daley Construction Co. has begun paving the alley south of the Wieghorst museum and Wieghorst home. The textured-concrete alleyway extends from Magnolia Avenue to Sulzfeld Way.



Outbuildings at the Wieghorst home circa 1950. The stable and cantina, including much of the original adobe walls, will be restored and re-assembled next to the museum building on Rea Avenue.

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Mark Your Calendar . . .

Wieghorst Exhibit at San Diego Historical Society, Balboa Park. May 3 through September 2, 2002. Wieghorst paintings, sculptures, and memorabilia.

Trail Ride and Barbecue June 2 at Rancho Samatagama near Guatay.

Day at the Races. August 25 at Del Mar. Seabiscuit Sky Room once again reserved for this event.

Annual Roundup. The date for the Roundup is not yet nailed down, but likely be in late August or early September. Stay tuned.

Museum Hours. Our current hours at the Museum are 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., Wednesday through Friday.

A Day at the Races

The "Pacific Classic" will highlight our "Day at the Races" outing at the Del Mar Racetrack on Sunday, August 25. The Seabiscuit Skyroom has been reserved, offering a spectacular view of the ocean and the races.

Note that the "Classic" is a well-attended affair during the racing season, so make your plans early. Call the museum for reservations; tickets will be on hand for pickup after June 1. The cost of \$55 per person includes an afternoon at the track, free programs, and a lavish buffet luncheon. Better still, proceeds will benefit the Olaf Wieghorst Museum Foundation.

Wieghorst Web Site

We're not quite ready for prime time, but our new web site will offer a host of new features. Included will be up-to-date museum activity schedules, Wieghorst artwork, links to publications featuring Wieghorst and other Western art, and an ever-changing display of information related to the museum. One feature being considered is a special link whereby board members can access meeting minutes and financial reports. For this work in progress we offer a tip of the Stetson to our site designer, Eric Fullerton.

Since individuals on the newsletter mailing list will be our primary users, we welcome your suggestions. What would you find interesting, valuable, important etc.? The e-mail address to offer suggestions is:
web_site@sbcglobal.net.

2nd Annual Trail Ride & Barbecue Set for June 2

Sunday, June 2nd, the Olaf Wieghorst Museum Foundation and the El Cajon Mounted Police, joined by the Rotary Club of El Cajon, will sponsor the 2nd Annual Trail Ride and Pit Barbecue to raise funds for the museum and the mounted police organization. The event will be held at beautiful Rancho Samatagama in Guatay.

Riders will set out at 10 a.m. for an escorted tour of some of the ranch trails accessible only on horseback. All riders must provide their own mounts and will find plenty of convenient parking on site for trucks and horse trailers.

The deep-pit barbecue, highlighted by plentiful food, cold drinks, auctions, raffles, live music, and a door prize, will begin at 1 p.m. Admission (partially tax-deductible) is \$40 per person or \$70 per couple. Children 12 and under may attend for \$20 each. Tickets will be available at the Museum, at East County Feed & Supply, and from members of the sponsoring organizations.

Again this year, the well-armed Winchester Widows will lend a hand with the chores, selling raffle tickets and riding herd on the more boisterous among us.

Wieghorst Board member and Mounted Police officer George Barnard and his committee will prepare the deep-pit barbecue. George's renowned barbecue (if you attended last year's feast, you will know what we're boasting about!) will include beef and pork cooked overnight, accompanied by salad, bread, and George's special cowboy beans. Last year, 40 gallons of the mouthwatering beans proved so popular we ran out before the last hungry wrangler was fed—this year, the lawmen in our ranks promise to read our cook not only his rights but the Riot Act should that happen again.

For tickets and information, call East County Feed & Supply (619-562-2208) or the Wieghorst Museum (619-590-3431). See you June 2nd!

Talk of Many Things . . .

New Web Site Coming Soon! The Foundation is fortunate to have received a generous donation of time and talent from a volunteer who offered to help us update our Internet web site. Find us at wieghorstmuseum.org (remember, the site is a work in progress). Soon, it will offer current newsletters, membership information, details about the San Diego Historical Society's summer-long Wieghorst exhibit, donation and involvement opportunities, construction reports, and more. The site will also include links to other Western art museums, several of which contain Olaf's art. Thanks, Eric Fullerton, for your creativity and hard work!

Gift Shop a Handy Resource. When you need a special gift for a special person, remember the items available in our museum gift shop—prints of a number of Wieghorst works, logo shirts in a variety of sizes and colors, commemorative knives designed for us by El Cajon's own Buck Knives, mugs and plates, and a selection of books including James Drye's recently published *Collector's Guide to the Prints of Olaf Wieghorst*.

Winchester Widows in Rose Parade. Did you see East County's own local ladies, the Winchester Widows, in this year's Rose Parade? National television coverage mentioned the Wieghorst Museum in El Cajon and spotlighted the talented women who have been part of so many of our museum events. Congratulations to all of you!

On the Border

Olaf Wieghorst considered his three years with the U.S. Cavalry—1919 to 1922—among the most important and influential in shaping his artistic career. He frequently portrayed historic cavalry figures, the Indian scout, and the field-wise sergeant of the mid-1980s.

He expressed his deep regret at the disbandment of the U.S. Cavalry

in favor of armored divisions by pointing out:

"You can't fall in love with a Sherman tank!"

Fifty years later, Wieghorst captured some of his Border Patrol experiences along the Mexican border in his painting, *Big Bend Patrol* (1974). Although he served three years patrolling the border on the lookout for incursions by Pancho Villa's revolutionaries, the most he saw of them were their campfires across the Rio Grande.

Olaf Wieghorst Retrospective, Tucson Museum of Art, 1981.

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OUR WISH LIST



Donations are the life's blood of our nonprofit effort to establish and continue to upgrade the Wieghorst Museum. We have purchased and installed a new computer, but we need ancillary equipment to bring our office up to speed. Items on our wish list include:

- Stand-alone fax machine, preferably a plain paper version.
- Laser or inkjet printer and copier.
- Desk/secretarial chairs.
- Free-standing display panels for our frequent exhibitions.

Remember, the Foundation is a non-profit organization; we will be delighted to supply receipts for your tax-deductible donations.



Mae and Olaf Wieghorst catch a few rays in the patio of their original home in El Cajon. During the Fifties and later, the patio and grounds often served as showcases for Olaf's artwork during his frequent public exhibitions. The restored building and grounds at the Museum site will be available for similar showings of western art.

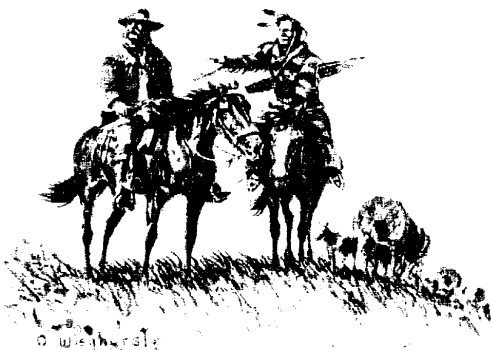
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