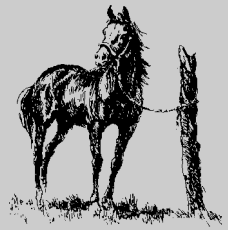




Roundup Olaf Wieghorst Museum



NOVEMBER 2002

Foundation Enjoys Major Success with House, Hires New Landscape Designer

The last several months have been busy ones at the Olaf Wieghorst Museum and Western Heritage Center. Thanks to a great number of suppliers, craftsmen, and other skilled professionals, the house, which will be a focal point of our complex once again, looks like a home people could comfortably live in.

Moved to its present site in October 1999, the building has had much of its exterior siding and interior wall covering replaced, its wood floors sanded and refinished, its fireplace and chimney rebuilt, its bathtub cleaned, and its windows and doors repaired. A beautifully authentic electric fireplace now fools the eye and warms the living room.

Our volunteer construction supervisor, Board member George Barnard, has been instrumental in soliciting dozens of generous donations of materials and services to help the Foundation stretch its modest budget.

We've been the beneficiaries of community support from a great number of people who knew Olaf, who appreciate his work, or who recognize his contribution to local history. The museum project continues to draw encouragement and participation from art lovers throughout the region and we look forward to continuing to work with an ever-widening circle of supporters.

Our next steps will include landscaping and the reconstruc-

tion of an adobe wall around the property, both of which will help provide convenient access to the home for visitors of all ages and physical abilities. The stable and cantina to be rebuilt between the house and the gallery building will not only recreate a piece of history but will provide a facility for museum use and for rental as meeting or reception space.

To design our landscape plan and to help us with some of our future efforts, the Board of Directors recently hired Dennis Torzeski, a local resident, artist, landscape and waterfall designer



All right, you guys! Once the Wieghorst home refurbishment was under way, a gang of Foundation Board volunteers pitched in to police up the inside and outside of the building. With Judy Moore as straw boss, there was very little leaning on shovels.

(Quail Botanical Gardens and a number of private homes/estates), furniture designer and builder, guitar maker, and dreamer. Many of you know Ski, or know of him, and will share our confidence that his contribution will be a creative one.

The gallery building continues to welcome visitors, many of whom are attracted because of their exposure to Olaf's art during the San Diego Historical Society's exhibit this summer at its Balboa Park museum. Others come to see the numerous Wieghorst prints currently on loan from Terry and Charlene Brown, Chuck and Dotty Hansen, and Terry Paik. We also have a Mark Martensen print on loan from Lee and Jo Ann Knutson plus a number of additional Wieghorst pieces recently framed for us by Silver Creek Fine Art & Custom Framing here in El Cajon.

Please stop by to help us celebrate the progress! The museum/gallery building is regularly open from 10 a.m. until 3 p.m., Tuesdays through Fridays. Groups and tours are welcomed during those hours and by special arrangement to fit specific schedules.

Winchester Widows

Winchester Widows are hard to ignore, whether garbed in black, turn-of-the-century attire as they ride their horses down the street, or, still in costume, pitching in at Wieghorst Foundation events.

Whatever the occasion, attendees find it difficult to refuse to buy a raffle ticket from a smiling woman clad in widow's weeds, particularly when the lady is packing a .45 and cradling a .30-.30 carbine on her arm.

As one of their promotional spiels goes: "These ladies represent women whose men met their fate as a result of the Winchester. They have banded together to stay alive . . . they can outshoot the best gunslingers and ride with the best horsemen."

Founded in 1987 as a group of five riders, the Winchester Widows began to ride in a few small, local parades. As their popularity grew, so did their parade participation and membership. Made up of women from all walks of life, the group now rides in some sixteen parades a year in San Diego, Imperial, and Orange Counties.

The group has ridden in three Tournament of Roses parades in recent years.

In an effort to represent the West as it really was, the Widows ride in authentic outfits of only natural fabrics, with no "modern amenities" such as synthetics and zippers. Befitting their status as widows, they wear predominantly back garb, including the obligatory hats and gloves.

Since 1991, the club agreed to sponsor fund-raisers benefiting YWCA Battered Women's Services. In addition to collecting clothing and other necessities for BWS, organize a yearly breakfast and take part in a large chili cook-off to raise money.

The Widows also raise funds by performing skits, running "jails," and lending "atmosphere" to various functions throughout the community. All proceeds are donated to underwrite programs for victims of domestic violence, including shelters, legal services, support, and counseling.

Funereal garb notwithstanding,

the Widows have for years been a welcome bright spot at trail rides and roundups sponsored by the Olaf Wieghorst Museum Foundation.

Museum Guides and House Docents

Twenty-some volunteers attended the first seven-week training course for volunteer duties at the gallery and museum: Don McLellan, Sylvia Smith, Virginia Stadtmiller, Bill Zook, Betty Schuh, Maril Platte, Mary Berry, Barbara Fischer, JoAnn Knutson, Juanita Griebel, Virginia Levenson, Jim Hunstock, Richard Pray, Bud Maultra, Doug Teasley, Ruth Weischedel, Susan Leonard, Judy Moore, Barbara Templeton, Lois Claussen, and Petra McGeary.

Those with perfect attendance received certificates. To receive their certificates, class members can watch missed sessions, which were commercially videotaped by Tom Black of Video-Technics. Extended training is provided at no additional cost.



Lori Roberts, a Winchester Widow and member of the Wieghorst Museum Foundation board of directors, put aside her Colt .45 long enough to pitch raffle items at the annual Roundup last summer.

The Wieghorst is exceptionally fortunate to have such qualified volunteers. They are contributing not only time but offering a host of interests, experiences, and expertise. One has offered to conduct research toward meeting museum needs. Others provide practical experience in everything from raising horses, computer skills, and teaching, to square dancing. We are fortunate to have attracted such enthusiastic and dedicated people. A second series of classes began on November 7.

Board Appoints House Curator

With the house exterior finished, the interior nearly completed, and noted artist/landscape designer Dennis Torzeski on the job, it was time to obtain a curator. Working with Curator Committee members, it is the curator's responsibility to survey and catalog the original house furnishings saved by Roy and Barbara Wieghorst. With that done, it becomes the curator's job to supervise the return those furnishings to their original places in Olaf, Mae, and Roy's first California home. Next comes obtaining appropriate substitutes for missing pieces.

Upon President Garrett's recommendation, long-time Knox House Museum curator and well-known East County author, Eldonna Lay, was invited to assume this role. Foundation Board Members Virginia Levenson and George Barnard round out her committee. This assures board members that - along with accomplishing the near impossible - there will be great measures of fun and laughter.

Already, research has begun materials are being accumulated. Next, Lay, Levenson, and Barnard will survey the Wieghorst's possessions.

2002 - What a Year!

*Judy Garrett, President,
Board of Directors,*

Olaf Wieghorst Museum Foundation

Another year draws to a close and, as we look back, we can all celebrate a remarkable number of accomplishments. With your continuing support, we made tremendous progress in renovating the Wieghorst home, held two successful fund raising events, hired a talented local landscape designer to help us with the museum complex's wall and grounds, enjoyed a successful summer partnership with the San Diego Historical Society, and trained our first class of docent volunteers.

If you haven't seen the house for a few months, you won't recognize it! Kirk O'Brien, an experienced preservation architect and owner of the San Diego firm of Aedifice Architectural, worked closely with Roy Wieghorst to restore the building's original appearance and to prepare it for tours as soon as the landscaping is installed and we're able to provide convenient access throughout the property.

Our construction boss, Board member George Barnard, succeeded in acquiring materials and labor at little or no cost from a great number of companies and craftsmen, including Copper Electric; W L Norris Painting; BUX, Inc.; El Cajon Roofing; and the San Diego Roofing Contractors Association. Those companies plus others involved at various stages in the creation of the museum complex will be acknowledged on a permanent donors wall on the grounds and on signs in the gallery building.

Custom Construction, brought in initially as a framing contractor, stayed on the job as our general contractor and worked closely with all of the other participants. Roy Wieghorst continued to be our main source of historical informa-

tion, providing a remarkable number of details about the house he lived in as a teenager. County Supervisor Dianne Jacob, the Rotary Club of El Cajon, and Viejas Enterprises provided generous donations of cash for the project.

Our 2nd Annual Trail Ride and Barbecue at Rancho Samataguma in June and our 5th Annual Olaf Wieghorst Roundup at the Ivanhoe Ranch in September brought new friends, new publicity, and new money to allow us to continue our work.

From May 1 through the Labor Day weekend, thousands of visitors enjoyed the Olaf Wieghorst exhibit planned and displayed by the San Diego Historical Society at its museum in Balboa Park. More than 30 original paintings, five bronze sculptures, numerous saddles and props, and a variety of other items helped bring our favorite artist to life for a new audience.

In October, we hired local landscape designer Dennis Torzeski to work with us to recreate, on Rea Avenue, the feel of the Wieghorst property at Sunshine and Renette in the late 1940s, when it was outside the city limits, at the corner of two dirt roads with no close neighbors, and an example of the modest western home Olaf felt an empathy for.

Also in October, we completed a series of workshops designed to train volunteers and docents or tour guides for the museum complex. More than 20 people participated in the seven weekly sessions and will soon begin spending several hours each month at the museum as our ambassadors to the visiting public. Several of them will also work with us early next year to develop and implement a variety of programs for children and families in the community.

We thank Eldonna Lay for coordinating the docent training program and, also, for having recently agreed to chair a Curator

Committee to help us locate and accept donations of items appropriate for the house as we refurbish it to look as it did when the Wieghorst family lived there.

We also extend our appreciation to Eric Fullerton, a very talented young man who spent the last few months revising and updating our Internet web site and giving us a beautiful window to the world for computer-savvy people looking for information about Olaf and the museum project. If you have Internet access, visit our web site at : www.wieghorstmuseum.org. We think you'll be impressed.

The Western Heritage Center portion of our dream has been the recent recipient of a number of books, magazines, and other items that will soon be available for reference and research. Many of the materials will be particularly helpful to us in the programs we'll begin to offer after the first of the year for children and adults in the community.

Participants in our docent training program have enjoyed listening to speakers who've shared their knowledge of art, of western life, of geography and geology, of hats and saddles, and of a variety of other fascinating topics - those and others are among the topics we plan to include in our upcoming series of community programs.

We'll also work with the El Cajon Historical Society to offer third-grade students participating in its annual essay contest an opportunity to tour our museum and to learn about our talented local artist.

We on the Foundation's Board of Directors are excited about the museum's potential as a gathering place, an educational facility, and a tribute to one of the world's foremost artists of the American West. We look forward to your continued participation!



Mae Wieghorst, shown here some thirty years ago, displayed some of her extensive collection of Indian jewelry. Items from her collection are customarily auctioned off at our Museum-sponsored trail rides and Roundups held annually at historic ranchos and ranches.



ROUNDUP

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