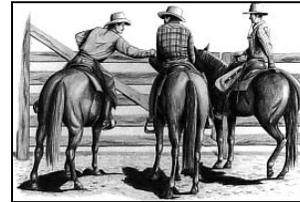
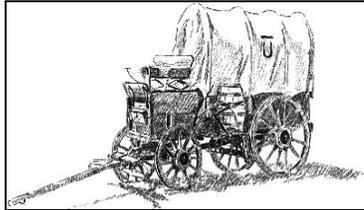


FRIENDS OF THE BAR U HISTORIC RANCH ASSOCIATION

Box 82, Longview, AB, CAN T0L 1H0

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PRESIDENTS REPORT - Avril Chattaway

Another season has now passed and I can reflect on what all happened and get it down on paper for you. The site opened in May as usual and seemed incredibly busy all year especially with the bus tours stopping in every second day. The special event that really stands out this year is the Stampede's 100th anniversary and how we were involved. It all started back at the Stockmen's Dinner in January with having the VP of the Stampede, Bob Thompson, speak at our dinner with the importance of the long association between the Stampede and the Bar U. From that the Bar U staff that was in constant contact with the Stampede for some major planning of events. In preparation for our entry in the Stampede Parade we had George Lane's hitch wagon replicated so we could transport George Lane descendants along the route. Of course, plans were changed a bit and our wagon, with Ross Fritz and Donny Wilson as teamsters, was used to convey a family descendant of each of the Big 4. The wagon is absolutely beautiful and is now on site for all to enjoy. Along with the parade the Bar U staff were very busy with Draft Horse Town again this year at the Stampede. Round Up of Memories day fell on the last Sunday of the Stampede and we were fortunate to be able to host the Lane Family Reunion that same day with approximately 75 descendants enjoying a full day at the Ranch. But the day before, some of us directors along with Lane descendants were at the High River Cemetery dedicating a new bench along side George Lane's gravesite. Over the week I met many members of the Lane family and thoroughly enjoyed being involved in all the gatherings and events.

The Ranch Rodeo was another successful day with many spectators watching the teams participate for a chance at winning buckles and to also represent the Bar U at the Heritage Ranch Rodeo in Edmonton in November. Soderglen Ranch took top honours and I am looking forward to cheering them on in Edmonton. We have been seeing some changes take place this year with Parks announcing cutbacks and some of our staff have been affected. Some positions were terminated and some staff had their hours shortened so the Site was quite sparsely staffed by the time it closed on Sept 30. Also our wonderful Gift Shop manager, Shirley Hitchner, is leaving us after nine years and we will sorely miss her. Good luck with your retirement Shirley and enjoy your travels. And too, we will miss our Kitchen manager, Sharon Brown and her staff who kept everyone well fed with delicious food.

Once again I want to thank our Board of Directors and all our volunteers for their support in helping us make the Bar U Ranch the success it is today. The attendance has gone from 7000 to 17,000 over the years and I believe it is because of the dedication and hard work of our volunteers to our western heritage. Cheers!

Earnings from the Stockman's Dinner, Trail Ride, memberships, and our calf crop were sufficient to meet our operating costs.

Casino money was used for fencing, and corral repairs. The casino was held on March 19th and 20th, 2012; a big thank you to our volunteers.

A grant was received from the Alberta Community Spirit Program, and was used for advertising - the large billboard on Highway 22, and an ad in the magazine Cowboy Country – and also to help pay for our insurance costs.

Income from the Bar U Legacy Fund was used to purchase prizes for the Ranch Rodeo.

Special thanks to Maxine Nelson & Carole Hergert– Friends; Rose Dayment – Payroll; Liz Hergert bookkeeping; and Steven Muth – accounting (Muth & Company donates half their fee every year).

Thank you Parks Canada for allowing us to use the Pierson House as our office - and all the staff for mowing, shoveling, and other maintenance.

ALBERTA COMMUNITY SPIRIT GRANT PROGRAM

We received a grant again this year - this amount matches \$ for \$, the donations we received to the Bar U Legacy Fund, for weddings held at the Bar U, at the annual Stockman's Dinner (\$14 donation eligible for a tax receipt), and the annual Trail Ride (\$45 donation eligible for a tax receipt).

Great News for donors!

The charitable tax credit applies to Canada Revenue Agency-registered charities such as the Friends of the Bar U, which is eligible to issue official income tax receipts.

Including the federal tax credit, you now receive a 50-cent non-refundable tax credit for every dollar donated over \$200.

For example, if you donate a total of \$500 to four or five charities throughout the year, you would receive a combined federal and provincial charitable tax credit of \$200. This means that the donations would cost you about \$300, which is the equivalent of donating 82 cents a day.

Cattle Committee: Brian Garstin

The shorthorn bull arrived on the 27th of June. 23 calves were branded. Total herd consists of 31 cows, 10 of which are longhorns, 20 shorthorns. There are a total of 27 live calves. By the end of October approximately 5 or 6 longhorn cows will be sold, as they are too old to be productive. With the culling of the herd, there will be adequate feed for the rest of the herd. There is no need to buy any hay.

Volunteer - Rosemary Brocklebank

I would love to thank all the volunteers for once again answering their phones or emails and whenever possible, giving me an enthusiastic YES!! There were two less big events this year, so the calls were somewhat less frequent but you really do fill an important role in the increasing visitor numbers that we are experiencing.

The year 2012 was another great year for us. As usual we all look forward to our visits to the site, and we pretty well attended every 2nd Wednesday, starting early in May, with a bit of a gap through July, and well into the end of September. All of us felt some doom and gloom, with the cutbacks initiated by Parks Canada. We welcomed another newcomer to our group, Murray Phillips.

The men took on the task of doing a considerable amount of painting on the site, especially all the picnic tables and buildings surrounding the Saddle and Draft Horse barns. Kudos to George Morgan for his diligence with the picnic tables. THEY LOOK REALLY NICE!!! We women, didn't have a lot to accession, however, under Ken Pigeons guidance, a decision was made to do a major clean up of the artifacts building. Meaning that he, we, realized that there were many items in the building that were in very poor condition, duplicated and accumulating mould. Although not quite finished, we made a major dint. Many items were set aside as Ken was having people from Parks Canada make the final decision as to their demise.

Once again many thanks to our committee: Nora Tettensor (the cleaner) Mary Robson (the record keeper) Roger McDonald, Frank Bedu, George Morgan, Lorne Fuller, and Murray Phillips.

Gift Shop – Rose Dayment

The gift shop this past season was busy with an increase in bus tours and visitors from all over which certainly helped increase our revenue! The display of the variety of items offered for sale received many compliments throughout the summer. A lady on one of the bus tours came in, wandered through and remarked that she had been involved with retail for many years and this was one of the best that she had ever seen. With it being the 100th anniversary of the Calgary Stampede the few items in the shop commemorating this event were popular. A group of native students from a northern community visited the site as part of an educational tour and purchased quite a few of our local native items; they were a great group to have. Two new volunteers, Donna Wyatt and Kathie Novak joined the regulars, Rose Dayment and Erica Smith, and their assistance was greatly appreciated by Shirley who thanks them all for their help. Again Shirley capably managed the gift shop and it is with regret that the Board members have accepted Shirley's resignation, as it is her wish to retire at this time. The members extend to her many thanks for her dedication and interest in making the shop such a success and wish her, and her husband, a well-deserved and happy retirement.

BAR U TRAIL RIDE - Tony Webster

The Bar U Trail Ride, August 4, took place under blue, Alberta skies. Approximately 65 riders including 16 riding with the Bar U wagon enjoyed the tour accompanied by 7 outriders. They left the polo field north bound and turned westward over a high ridge with spectacular views across traditional cattle rangeland following fence lines and an old ranch trail. Many riders have been with the ride on previous years plus a few new faces from as far away as Ontario. Information about this region was provided by various local participants on the ride regarding the Bar U as well as the development of the ranching industry in Alberta. Details regarding harmful and often fatal weeds that have colonized our rangeland were discussed while some are native, many are unwanted alien invaders.

Wildlife observed over the 16 km ride included 3 moose, several whitetail, hawks and a bald eagle. Lunch was provided midway and Cowgirl Poet Doris Daley presented some of her poems for good entertainment.

Special thanks to the Bar U neighbors, Alex Robertson, Bruce Chernoff and the Nelson Brothers, who allowed us access to land which had been under control of the Bar U at some point in the past 120 years. Also to Ross Fritz, Wagon-driver for his competent handling of the team, the Friends of the Bar U board members and volunteers for setting up the ride and providing their own time and experience. See ya next year!

Site Managers Report – Ken Pigeon

This year, the Bar U Ranch was proud to help the Calgary Stampede celebrate its 100th anniversary as the “Greatest Outdoor Show on Earth”. The Lane hitch wagon was donated to the site by the Friends of the Bar U who received generous funding from Legacy Oil for the manufacture of this wagon. It will be used for many years to come as a symbol of our connection to the Calgary Stampede. Thank you to the Friends and Legacy Oil for turning this idea into a reality.

We celebrated the Stampede’s centennial throughout the season at our special events but more specifically, the Chuckwagon Cook-off. The Stampede entered two teams and the Stampede Centennial committee took home the People’s Choice Award and one of our local teams, Marj Bird & Janie Pighin, cornered the judge’s award. The Stampede Cake Posse was on hand to give out centennial birthday cake with homemade, horse powered ice cream.

The Artist Ranch Project was hosted at the ranch in 2011 and the artists created 10 art pieces each for presentation at Stampede’s Western Showcase. They thoroughly enjoyed their experience at the Bar U and we have created a partnership to host a new group of artists every second year. They will be joining us for the Chore Horse Competition in 2013.

In September, we had the opportunity to host a group of International Chefs from around the world as part of the ‘Canada Meatball Tour’. The Bar U was the first stop on their itinerary as they made their way through southern Alberta to learn about the ranching industry. They definitely left the site with a new appreciation of ranching and the Canadian Cattle Industry.

Thanks to the Friends financial contribution, we were able to restore the feedlot located east of the working corrals and replace the roof on both the Chicken Coop and the Slaughter House. We have now reached a point where most of the historic buildings have been re-shingled and the corrals and fence lines have been replaced or repaired. Our partnership with the Friends of the Bar U has allowed us to move forward with site restoration and much has been accomplished. This fall, the Parks Canada carpenters will be back at work repairing the Visitor Center roof and replacing the shingles with tin. They will also be working in the interior of the Dairy Barn as well as the interior of the Log Cabin throughout the winter.

New staff this year included Marcie Jeffers from west of High River, Patricia Curry from Brant and Shane Hickey from east of Longview. Marcie did a great job in the Cookhouse and Tricia helped out with various positions including the front desk. Shane took over the Saddle Horse Barn and also lent a hand at Roundup Camp.

A big thank you to everyone...staff, volunteers and special event participants for your commitment and enthusiasm. You make the Bar U Ranch a great place to be.



The Bar U “Special Events” were well attended by the local community and we'd like to send out a big thank you for all your support for the past year. The Calgary Stampede celebrated their 100th anniversary this year and in conjunction with that historical event, the Bar U celebrated the centennial this year by including the Stampede in all our events.

One of the most memorable was the “Roundup of Memories” held on Sunday, July 8, when the extended George Lane family joined us at Roundup Camp for an afternoon of music, storytelling and poetry. Many of the Lane family members recited stories of their great grandfather and described his many contributions to Alberta's economy and the ranching industry as well as his involvement in the first Calgary Stampede.

The Calgary Stampede also had representatives at the June 10th Chuckwagon Cook-off. Stampede Royalty also joined us for the “Old Time Ranch Rodeo,” Sunday August 12. This event was well attended with the stands full and the overflow sitting on the hill to watch the competitors. The results were:

1st: Soderglen Ranch, Airdrie 2nd: Rocking P, Nanton 3rd: Bluebird Valley, Nanton
Top Hand – Jared Sherman of Soderglen Ranch

Soderglen Ranch won the Silver Buckles by Ralph Nelson and the right and sponsorship to represent the Bar U Ranch at the Heritage Ranch Rodeo in Edmonton November, 4th, 5th and 6th. Second place sponsor was Cowboy Country Clothing in Nanton followed by Cattleman’s Corner Nanton. Once again Rod Bergevin gave his time to announce the Rodeo and generously donated the Silver Bit for the Top Hand. The Bar U would like to thank all the volunteers who helped at the Rodeo and the sponsors for their continued support.

The seasons events closed with the Chore Horse competition. Results were:

1st: Dale Befus – Indus 2nd: Gary Johnson – Claresholm 3rd: Tom Christensen - Standard
People's Choice: Gary Johnson- Claresholm

A new event started this year was the 'Farming at the Bar U' program which brought out teamsters from the area to help break, seed, cut and harvest our first oat crop. We're hoping to continue with the program next season and get a bigger and better crop and keep our heavy horses working. Looking forward to the 2013 season’s events!

FRIENDS OF THE BAR U BOARD OF DIRECTORS FOR 2012 – 2013

President – Avril Chattaway 403 646-5577	Secretary – Rose Dayment 403 558-3936
1 st Vice Pres – Renie Blades 403 646-5753	Treasurer – Doug Longson 403 395-3336
2 nd Vice Pres – Roger McDonald 403 652-2198	
Lory Moore 403 646-0057	Rick Smith 403 558-0101
Roy McLean 403 395-2154	Tony Webster 403 646-0151
Brian Garstin 403 558-2219	Rosemary Brocklebank 403 652-7656
Bette Muren 403 601-6858	Bruce McNeil 403 650-5167

REMEMBER TO CHECK OUR WEB-SITE www.friendsofthebaru.ca

STOCKMEN'S DINNER: The 14th annual dinner will be at the Highwood Memorial Center in High River on Saturday, Jan 26, 2013. Tickets are \$50 available at VJV Auction, Stavely, Classic Rodeo in Nanton and Bat Sheba Gifts in HR, also from directors. Rick Smith is in charge of tickets and booking tables for 8 and can be reached at 403 558-0101. Families honoured this year: Descendants of the William & Nettie Rogers family, High River, the Einar & Edith (Brandham) Nelson family, Lundbreck, and the George & Verena Pharis family, also of Lundbreck.

HERITAGE RANCH RODEO: was held Nov 4,5,6 2012 and the results from a great rodeo are in: 1st- Northfork Grazing, Maycroft, AB. 2nd-Mesabi Ranch, Nanton, AB. 3rd – Quill Ranch, Cowley, AB. Top Hand – Dustin Sippola, Bluebird Ranch, Top Bronc Rider- Rem Holowath, Mesabi Ranch, Top Working Cow Horse – Clint Swales, Roseburn Ranch. The Bar U was represented by Soderglen Ranch who made it to the finals but had some tough luck there. We appreciate all your hard work, thanks!

MEMBERSHIPS: expire Dec 31/12. Your membership is important to this association to help preserve and protect the values of our ranching heritage for the benefit, education and the enjoyment of present and future generations. Individual memberships are \$10 each, corporate \$25. Mail to Friends of the Bar U Ranch, Box 82, Longview, AB, T0L 1H0. Also available at the Stockmen's Dinner and AGM.

AGM: Sunday March 3, 2013 at the Bar U Visitor Center at 1:30pm. All are welcome.

Bar U Legacy Fund 125th Anniversary

The Bar U Legacy Fund is an endowment fund managed for us by The Calgary Foundation. The **income** from this fund will be used to support the Heritage Ranch Rodeo (prizes, advertising) - our main event - which showcases historical ranching practices.

An endowment fund is a registered fund that never spends the capital contribution, but generates income through investments. Annually, a percentage of the income is distributed to the **Friends** (\$914 this past year), and the balance is re-invested in the fund. This way the fund continues to grow, and the gift keeps on giving in greater amounts every year.

The fund, currently in excess of \$21,000 is managed by The Calgary Foundation, a non-profit foundation that currently manages over 100 funds for charitable organizations. This ensures that only the income will be available to the **Friends**; there will **never** be access to the capital in the fund.

Ways to give:

- Tax deductible charitable gifts – small or large, one-time or ongoing. Donations can be made on line at www.thecalgaryfoundation.org
- Designations in wills or trust.
- Bequests of life insurance policies, real property, stocks and bonds.

Contributing to the **Friends** of the Bar U Historic Ranch Legacy Fund now, means you will be a supporter of the Historic Bar U Ranch **forever**. For Further information please contact Rosemary Brocklebank at 652-7656 or Doug Longson at 395-3336 or write to us at P.O. Box 82 Longview AB T0L

