



## **FALL NEWSLETTER**

*Published by the Friends of the Bar U with headquarters at the Bar U Ranch NHS  
Box 82, Longview, AB. T0L 1H0*

*November, 2022 Issue 36*

## **PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

*By: Ken Chatel*

2022 saw the Bar U reopen fully with all events running. We hosted the Ranch Rodeo and the Chore Horse Competition, and both were great events with lots of guests coming to watch.

The cattle committee continued to build our herd and we had a successful year with the calves netting a good price at auction. We had a set of twins born and one was raised by Parks staff and became a favourite with all the kids. It will remain at the Bar U and become part of our herd.

Our main fundraising event, the Stockmen's Dinner, was planned for, but had to be cancelled again due to covid rules. But on January 28<sup>th</sup>, 2023, we will be hosting the Stockman's Dinner in High River and hope everyone comes out for a great night. We were drawn for a Casino in Calgary Feb. 14/15, 2022, it was a good fund raiser, and we thank all the volunteers that came to help.

We were fortunate this summer to have local rancher Tamara Garstin join the board. She has taken over the role of chairing our advertising/social media/signs committee. She also enjoys helping out at our events like ranch rodeo. She is a great asset to our board.

The past couple years have been challenging in my role of President, but we weathered the covid storm well and have continued to build our Association and the experience at the Bar U. It has only been possible by having excellent Board members, staff, volunteers, and Bar U Employees. I thank each and every one for all that they have done this past year to make the Bar U such a special place to visit. I'm looking forward to an even better year in 2023. See you at the Bar U.

## **STOCKMEN'S DINNER REPORT**

*By: Karen Ritchie*

The 2023 Stockmen's Dinner is a go this year! This year will mark our 22<sup>rd</sup> dinner. It will be held at the Highwood Memorial Centre once again on Saturday, January 28. This year's honoured families are the Adams/Paul family, the Dayment family and Dingreville family. Hansel and Gretel will be catering the fine Prime Rib dinner once again.

For ticket sales, we are doing something a little different this year. We will be selling tickets online through Eventbrite. However, we will also have tickets available through Sobey's in High River, Sandul's Pharmacy in Black Diamond and The Hive in Nanton. We already have some fantastic items lined up for our silent auction. If you have any items you would like to donate, please contact Ev Steele at [evsteele4@gmail.com](mailto:evsteele4@gmail.com).

## **TREASURER'S REPORT**

By: Linda MacDonald

Due to Rose Dayment's retirement from the Friends, I have taken over the payroll duties which has been a challenge. On our payroll last year we had 7 employees throughout the summer. Thank you to Rose for the great training!

As we approach our year end for the Friends, I have to say that financially we have had a successful year. In February, we were lucky enough to have a Casino. Thanks to a small and diligent group of volunteers we netted almost \$32,000. This money will come in handy to support our cattle operation and our ranch rodeo.

Another source of income was our Pioneer Histories book which continues to sell. We did a third printing in the spring and have great local businesses that carry our books for us. Our cattle operation was strong this year and proceeds were close to 30% higher than 2021. We also received a grant from our Bar U Legacy fund which continues to grow and our grants are more each year. This year we received \$12,102.

We also received a FCSS grant from Foothills County to enhance our volunteer program.

Our major expense continues to be hay for the cattle. Fortunately, we have a great partnership with Parks Canada and they help us with this cost.

Once again, I would like to thank Kathy Hergert our office manager, Carole Hergert who looks after the Gift Shop, and our accountants Liz Hergert and Steven Muth at Transcend LLP.



## **BAR U LEGACY FUND**

The Bar U Legacy Fund is an endowment fund managed for us by The Calgary Foundation. The income from this fund is used to support the Ranch Rodeo - 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, 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. 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 **LINDA AT 403 – 816 - 9636**, or write to us at:*

**FRIENDS OF THE BAR U, P.O. BOX 82 LONGVIEW, AB T0L 1H0**

## **VOLUNTEER REPORT**

By: Lynne Steele

We had a few new volunteers for the 2022 season, but the extremely hot weather played a role in their availability to help out. We had a smaller Pekisko Creek Craft Market this year with only 6 vendors participating, but they all seemed to enjoy the day. All the volunteer help at the Ranch Rodeo was greatly appreciated.

**IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO KNOW MORE ABOUT VOLUNTEERING AT THE BAR U,  
PLEASE CONTACT:**

**LYNNE STEELE**    **403 – 933 - 4119**    or email her at: [matildafarm@shaw.ca](mailto:matildafarm@shaw.ca)



*Enjoy the winter and we will see you all  
in the spring!*



## **RESTORATION COMMITTEE REPORT**

By Evelina Steele

A big thank you to Patrick, Shane, Wayne, Paul, and everyone else who does so much to keep our equipment functioning - you are all very appreciated.

The Mercury Truck had a new starter installed which didn't last too long and it is in the process of being replaced with a somewhat revised version which hopefully will last longer. Sixty-year-old parts are hard to come by nowadays but where there is a will there's a way! The Merc also needs a spring replaced on the frame and both it and the Dodge need maintenance done, all of which should happen by next summer.

We have a volunteer that would help with the assembly of the TD14 International Bulldozer this winter, the same volunteer helped Shane with the disassembly for a day last year along with sourcing parts. A pump stand for the newly restored clearview Wayne Fuel Pump will also be a winter project for Patrick.

Maintenance has been done on the 930 Case Tractor but it still has some leaks that need repair. A new water pump was put on the firewagon and the water truck will be needing a new pump as well. The bunk car needs a tin roof and a drip edge to reduce maintenance caused from moisture. The individual doing the repair on the Maytag Washing Machine is unable to continue so he is labeling and bagging the parts and sending a jump drive showing the disassembly of the washer. We have a volunteer to overhaul the Maytag gas engine, but still need a volunteer for the remainder of the restoration.

Wayne and Paul rebuilt one cattle oiler, the stone boat, and the blue wagon. There are two more wagons slated to be repaired next season. Still on the wish list is a bigger gooseneck trailer and the repair of the single stroke engine (needs a gas tank), which could be put on a flat deck to run a buck saw, cut wood and other projects, more interesting ranching history for visitors to view. Thanks again restoration crew, for all you do! Keeping all the equipment in working condition requires a lot of maintenance.



## **CATTLE COMMITTEE REPORT**

*By: Steve Fisher*

We started the year with 32 cows and one bull. We ended up with a set of twins, 33 calves in total. One of the twins became orphaned and under the care of Patrick, Parks staff, Megan and her two children, "Touques" has become a star attraction at the Bar U. Touques will remain under the care of the Parks staff and continue his role welcoming all visitors to the Bar U.

Our calves sold at the Fort Macleod Auction on September 29th. 32 calves were sold, as compared to 29 in 2021, which showed a 10% increase in the herd. Average weight: 543 lbs., up 15lbs from 2021 - 3% increase from 2021. Average price/head: \$1386, up \$309 from 2021 - 27% increase. Average price/pound \$2.55, up .51 from 2021 - 25% increase. Net Proceeds - \$44,950 vs \$32,224 in 2021 - 39.5% increase



We preg tested cows on October 11<sup>th</sup>. We had three open cows out of 32. We will ship open cows this fall and possibly replace them with either heifers or second calvers depending on prices. We will keep the herd close to 30 head.

### **Hay:**

The dry weather continued into 2022, however we did get some much-needed moisture early in the spring which helped with our overall yield. The Bar U baled

110 bales of hay this year. The Friends get half, which is 55 bales. We had a carryover of 65 bales from last year, and we purchased another 126. Total bales going into winter 246. We also purchased 42 bales of straw.

### **Farmland:**

The Parks farmland is coming on 8 years old next year and producing less each year. Our plan is to break up around 90 acres late next year after haying and following up with seeding and fertilizing in the spring of 2024.

We would like to thank Patrick Davis and the Parks staff for all of their hard work looking after our herd this year. Special thanks to Megan and her two children for taking such great care of the calf, Touques.





## **SPECIAL EVENTS REPORT**

*By: Marian Anton*

### **RANCH RODEO**

The Ranch Rodeo was very successful once again this year, and many thanks go out to all who made it possible:

- \* Patrick and his crew from Parks who took such good care of the livestock and the arena, and helped to keep things running smoothly, and Sandra and her gang for printing and folding our programs, and Megan for ensuring our teams who came from far away had a safe place to camp for the weekend.
- \* All of the board members who helped in so many ways: from setting up and making plans the day before; getting things going the morning of; helping with paperwork; making sure all our info got advertised on Facebook, and that our program looked wonderful; keeping the show organized the day of; supplying awesome refreshments and lunch for the volunteers; organizing the stick horse race at half time and the finals at the end; handling the finances so willingly and well; working the cattle so efficiently; and all the other things that need to happen to make the event a success – **THANK YOU!**

We also sincerely thank our wonderful volunteers who come every year to help, including our 7 judges: **Roly Sippola, Paul Phillips, Ben Herr, Peter Swales, John Hunt, KC Hunt, and Ryley Millar!** You all did such a great job, and we truly appreciate your time and expertise. Many thanks to our announcer, **Cody MacLean** for stepping in at the last minute and doing such a great job! Also, thanks to our terrific scorekeeper, **Carol Lyall**, and to our timers, **Jessica Manning and Karen Ritchie**, as well as to all the behind-the-scenes helpers! You keep the show running so smoothly!

To Longview EMS, who faithfully bring medical support every year, and thankfully haven't had to attend any serious injuries – thank you once again!

### **SPONSORS AND CONTRIBUTORS**

The Friends of the Bar U, and the Ranch Rodeo Committee in particular, extend a huge thank you and shout out to our loyal sponsors and contributors who step up every time they are asked with prizes and sponsorship money:

**PRIMROSE COWBOY TRAPPINGS; WESTERN SPECIALTIES PRO SHOP (Maureen McHugh); HIGHWOOD VALLEY RANCH, EARL RANCHES AND OXYOKE RANCH; RIMROCK FEEDERS; THE MILL STORE; LONGVIEW LEATHER; THE WILDIES; DISCOVERING THE HORSE; MATILDA FARM; RICHARD BROOKS SILVER; & KIM ANTON LEATHERWORK**

The support from these businesses and individuals is so appreciated by all of the Friends of the Bar U, as well as our competitors, every year.



We were lucky to have some members from The Wildies in attendance at the rodeo this year once again, and they were a colorful addition to the Grand Entry along with our young Stick Horse Racers!

### **OUR INTERMISSION ENTERTAINMENT –Kids' Stick Horse Race**

The crowd at the 2022 Ranch Rodeo was entertained by a fun new event put on by our wonderful Board Members, Shelagh Weston and Evelina Steele! The Kids' Stick Horse Race was so much fun, with youngsters from the audience as well as from the rodeo competitors' families entering the event in two different ages groups. Prizes were sponsored by The Wildies, which was greatly appreciated!





### THE RANCH RODEO WINNERS



Our winning team this year was the YU Cattle Company from Twin Butte  
– Wacey Marr, Dustin Sippola, Ryan McGlynn and Liam Morris

In 2nd place was Parkview Farms from Wetaskiwin

- Mike Schmidt, Austen Schmidt, Tony VanDenBrink, and Chris Klatt



In 3rd place was N4 Ranch from Clavet, Saskatchewan

- Devin Neill, Lawrence Gareau, Kevin Grant, and Braden Bernier



and in 4th place was The Quill Ranch from Cowley

- Brian Delinte, Cord Delinte, Stephen Hochstein, and Tyler Ritchie

### AWARDS:



The Top Hand Award of a Richard Brooks Silver Bit, sponsored by Rimrock Feeders, was won by **Cord Delinte of The Quill team**



The Top Cowgirl Award of a Silver Bracelet from Richard Brooks, sponsored by Bryanne Doyle of Discovering the horse, as well as a Leather Headstall from the Mill Store, was won by **Priscilla Keates of the Sleepy Springs team**



The Top Horse Award of a snaffle bit, headstall, and mecate reins sponsored by Maureen McHugh was won by **Wolter VanDerKamp of the Benchmark Angus team.**



## **CHORE HORSE COMPETITION**



The winner of the 2022 Chore Horse Competition was Mike Hopp, last year's defending champion, driving Daisy and Dolly!



In second place was Aiden Hopp, driving Ripley and Winston.



And in third place was Kelly Shroeder driving Abe and Baker.



The winner of the Peoples' Choice award was Aiden Hopp. We had nearly 80 votes to count, so it is certain that this is a popular part of the event. The Prize for the Peoples' Choice was once again donated by Bernie Brown Artwork! We are so grateful to Bernie for donating his beautiful framed print of a workhorse team.



## **GIFT SHOP REPORT**

*By: Shelagh Weston*

The gift shop was back in full swing this past season, with Vicky McGonigle at the helm once again. Because of Vicky's efforts along with the assistance of Grace, Skylar and Kellie, the shop was open 7 days a week for the entire season, despite the ongoing challenges due to COVID concerns.

Being open 7 days a week, along with the return of the bus tours from the U.S., ensured that we had a profitable year, with books continuing to be our best-selling items.

The final inventory has been completed for the season, which will help to determine what items should be purchased next season.

As part of the renovations currently taking place in the Visitor Centre the gift shop will be moving to the area known as the "Gallery" in 2023. The space is smaller, so a great deal of planning will be required to maximize our displays, as well as determining what items will be sold.

The Board would like to thank Vicky for her management of the gift shop as well as keeping us updated with her monthly reports, which is greatly appreciated. We would also like to thank Carole Hergert for ensuring that the gift shop accounts were accurate and up to date, as well as assisting with the "day sheets" when necessary.

I would also like to personally thank Rose Dayment for her guidance and ensuring that the gift shop ran so smoothly for so many years. You have left big shoes to fill, Rose!

## **SITE MANAGER'S REPORT**

We kicked off the 2022 season with our new Visitor Experience & Site Manager, Megan Hjørleifson. Megan came to us from the Cave and Basin, has worked with Parks Canada since 2009, and started her Parks career as a student interpreter here at the Bar U Ranch National Historic Site in 2000.

Highlights of the season:

Parks Canada - Blacksmith Workshop took place here at the Bar U Ranch in early May. Terry Danyleyko, Historical Restoration Craftsperson, led the workshop for many of the Bar U Ranch staff. They learned how to run a coal forge, make coke out of coal, square nails, hooks, fire pokers, and other giveaways. Thank you to Patrick Davis for putting the workshop together.

One of the most important events of the season was the Historic Site and Monuments Board of Canada and the Government of Canada recognition of John Ware as a person of national historic significance with a plaque unveiling on June 6, 2022.

National historic designations encourage us to acknowledge both the triumphs and the struggles that have led us to the Canada of today and help us reflect on how to build a more inclusive society for today and future generations.

The Honourable Randy Boissonnault, Minister of Tourism, Associate Minister of Finance, and Member of Parliament for Edmonton Centre, announced the designation of John Ware as a person of national historic significance under the National Program of Historical Commemoration, on behalf of the Honourable Steven Guilbeault, Minister of Environment and Climate Change and Minister responsible for Parks Canada. The designation was commemorated with a special ceremony to unveil a plaque at Bar U Ranch National Historic Site.

Canada honours the resilience, innovation, and determination of black people and recognizes the major contributions they have made, and continue to make, in all sectors of society.



### ***John Ware (ca. 1855 – 1905)***



John Ware was a black cowboy who forged a successful ranching career despite racism, rough frontier conditions and having been enslaved. After entering the District of Alberta in 1882 on a trail crew driving thousands of cattle to the site of the Bar U Ranch, he wrangled the herds of large ranching outfits before building his own ranch with his wife Mildred and their children. He achieved success in a white-dominated industry largely controlled by well-financed corporations. Ware's generosity and superior skill as a cowboy earned him an enduring reputation and a prominent place in the mythology of the Canadian West.



John Barlow, MP Foothills, hosted a Canadian Citizenship Ceremony on Saturday, August 13 at the Bar U Ranch. There were over 200 guests with 50-plus people becoming Canadian Citizens. They couldn't have picked a more wonderful day at the Bar U! We look forward to this being an annual event in the Foothills!

## **COLLECTIONS COMMITTEE REPORT**

*By: Ken Chatel*

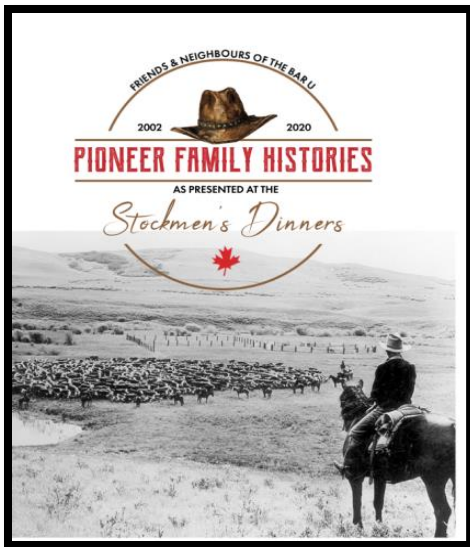
It has been a quiet year on the donation front but what we did receive were unique artifacts. Our focus continues to be on artifacts that represent the ranching life here on the prairies. The Friends' Collection currently has over 3000 items donated by 230 donors. We have placed some of these donations in 31 different places on the Bar U property. These donations help the Bar U tell the story of the ranching history in Alberta.

In 2022 we received: A Horse drawn hay press; restored gas pump; a pump organ owned by Pat Burns; a Fresno; a Munson Metal Cutter; a 4-horse eveners; a sheepherder's saddle; and several other small items.

The gallery in the Visitor Orientation Centre was set-up with numerous paintings, model trains and a saddle from the Roland Gissing estate. It was a great display that was enjoyed by all our visitors. Several of the prints and paintings have been donated and will be available at our Stockman's Dinner silent auction in January, 2023.

Over several years we had recorded interviews with families and early pioneers on what their lives were like. These old tapes have been digitized with help from the Glenbow Museum and the University of Calgary. We are now looking at getting them transcribed so the histories can be accessible to anyone doing research or interested in our pioneers.

We thank all our donors for thinking of the Bar U for their special items. Please contact us if you have items that represent early ranch history, we would love to see if they would help tell the story of ranching at the Bar U.



**FRIENDS & NEIGHBOURS OF THE BAR U  
PIONEER FAMILY HISTORIES AS PRESENTED AT THE  
STOCKMEN'S DINNERS**

**The History books are still available at the  
following local stores:**

Because I Said So - **Nanton**

The Hive - **Nanton**

Museum of The Highwood – **High River**

Walkers Western Wear - **High River**

Blue Rock Gallery- **Black Diamond**

Millarville General Store- **Millarville**

**On behalf of the Friends of the Bar U,**  
**we wish you all a**  
**Happy and Healthy Christmas and all the best in the**  
**New Year!**

