



Ranch Roundup



Winter/Spring 2009

The ranch is open daily, 9:00 am to 4:30 pm. Summer hours, 9:00 am to 5:30 pm.

What's New And What's for You

April 25, Junior Ranger Day

Celebrate National Junior Ranger Day with fun children's activities at the ranch from 10:00 to 3:00. FREE

June 15 – 19, Annual Teacher Workshop

Open to all teachers, with an opportunity to earn 35 renewal units or two graduate level credits through the University of Montana. This year's workshop will focus on oral histories, livestock and grasses. The workshop itself is free, but the University charges for graduate level credits. Contact Julie Croglio, (406) 846-2070x226 or julie_croglio@nps.gov

Time Flies: Mark your summer calendar:

July 10-12 We'll have our chuckwagon down in Butte for the 71st annual National Folk Festival. The festival features traditional music, food, crafts and culture. Admission is free. www.nationalfolkfestival.com

July 25 Grant-Kohrs Ranch Day

July 26 Haying with Horses

Two days of ranch revels. Saturday features music, special programs and demonstrations, kids' games and wagon rides. Sunday, volunteer teamsters will arrive with their horses to help us put up hay the old-fashioned way.

Last summer, 2,400,000 acres of hay were harvested in Montana. At an average of 1.7 tons per acre, this totaled 4,080,000 tons. At roughly \$117 per ton, the value of the hay crop was \$474,160,000.



The archive at Grant-Kohrs Ranch contains over 1000 photos. If a picture is worth 1000 words, there are a million words waiting to be read in images of people, buildings, livestock and activities covering a century of ranch history. This recently-acquired 1930s photo of Conrad Warren showing his Belgian stud to FFA students adds another 1000 words - at least.

Putting the Picture(s) Together

A project to assemble a photographic history of the Deer Lodge Valley had unexpected benefits for Grant-Kohrs Ranch.

There is so much to tell about the ranch itself that occasionally we lose track of the fact that the main characters in our story were part of a much larger community.

We often tell visitors about an 1867 dam and diversion Kohrs and other investors built at Rock Creek Lake on nearby Mount Powell to take water to the mining districts of Pioneer, Yam Hill and Pikes Peak.

We had no photographs of the original dam, but one turned up in an album of the Higgins family.

The Wohlers' family album held wonderful images of hydraulic mining at Pioneer, as well as pictures of people who had only been names to us in the past, but who can now have a very real presence in our story.

More photos came from the Deer Lodge Chapter of the FFA, which has maintained annual scrapbooks since 1931.

Founded in 1928, "FFA" originally stood for Future Farmers of America, but in 1988 the name was changed to the National FFA Organization to reflect the expanding nature of agricultural careers.

The old FFA scrapbooks are filled with pictures of members who grew up to be farmers and ranchers in the valley.

There are also photos taken on FFA field trips to this ranch. Some show the original appearance of buildings which have changed over the years and for which we had no previous record.

No single picture can represent the whole story of a community. It's a complex mosaic, and we've just found a few more of the tiles.



Obviously, we don't keep the entire ranch in our museum collection, but preservation of our cultural landscape is as important to our future as the preservation of artifacts and archives.

The way our 1600 acres should be used, fenced, hayed and maintained has been evaluated in a newly-completed cultural landscape plan.

Without thoughtful, informed preservation, our cultural landscape could be lost. A road here, a fence there, a building put up where no building stood before; it all adds up.

The new plan provides the park with reliable guidelines to ensure we monitor change, replace original material with in-kind materials (i.e. the same "stuff") and minimize disturbance to the landscape.

As an example, it is important for visitors to look out and see how the old irrigation ditches were contoured to bring vital water to hayfields. Water is such a limited, valuable resource that if a rancher were walking along and saw a gold bar and a Water Right lying on the ground, the gold bar would be picked up second.

An uninformed decision to fill in old irrigation ditches and bring in a modern sprinkler system would change the scene and lose the history.

Cultural landscape plans are used throughout the national park system. Written to address each site's particular needs, the plans document maintenance objectives, provide technical information, and guide field operations to preserve the historic character and authenticity of the cultural landscape.

For more information, call Chris Ford, (406) 846-2070x242 or write chris_ford@nps.gov



Pasture / Hay Fields Component Landscape
Upland Pastures Component Landscape

Weaving through the Web

Every unit of the National Park Service has a website, and they're easy to work with.

The address for the Park Service home page is www.nps.gov.

From the main National Park Service web page, you can click on a U.S. map which will lead you to any park's home page.

And what will you find when you get there? Well, our website includes:

- Upcoming events
- Planning your ranch visit
- A virtual tour of the museum collection with splendid photos of some of our 36,000 artifacts
- Lesson plans meeting state curriculum standards on 30 different topics which can be used by K-12 teachers.
- Slide shows
- Job advertisements
- A web-based Junior Ranger program
- Hours of operation
- Nearby attractions
- Articles about ranching and ranch history
- How to contact us
- ...and more

Keep the Park Service website in mind. Next time you have a few minutes to fill in, instead of reading the latest pop-up advertisement on your computer, why not pay a "virtual visit" to a park you've never seen?

Is winter hanging on? Drop by sunny Pu'uuhonua O Honaunau in Hawaii (www.nps.gov/puho). Or maybe the weather is warming up a little too fast? Cool off in Aniakchak in Alaska (www.nps.gov/ania).

Are you beginning to notice a trend? That's right. Every park can be reached directly by adding a slash and a special four letter designation to the address. But you don't need to know all that. Just get to the main web page and you can reach any park without knowing the exact code.

It's fun to wander around the parks on the web, but be forewarned. A key word search for a park can turn up a lot of non-Park Service sites. A recent search for "Yellowstone National Park", for example, had 23 million "hits." Just look for the "nps.gov" and you'll be on the right track.

And after your website tour, come see the real thing. After all, "virtual" can only take you so far.

Imagine virtual chocolate.



Teamwork

The sound of sleigh bells is a well-known symbol of winter months, even to people who have never ridden on a sleigh.

But to ranchers and farmers who have been around working draft horses, there are sounds which conjure up even more memories.

With Dawn Kidwell driving and Jason Smith splitting bales and pitching out hay, our Belgian team, Duke and Duchess, pull the laden wagon across a frozen field.

Their harness doesn't need bells to jingle with every step. The silvery chime of chains is accompanied by the rumble of wagon wheels across rough ground. The squeaking and creaking of leather and wood, and the dry swish of falling hay add to the concert. If a storm is approaching, a chorus of mooing cattle is likely to join in.

Feeding with horses may not be as speedy as using a tractor or truck, but it's music to our ears.





Since the winter of 2006, Grant-Kohrs Ranch has been in partnership with the Beaverhead-Deerlodge National Forest.

Our visitor center was enlarged to include office space where locals can get permits, maps and information about the surrounding forest.

- Three new, plasticized maps of the Beaverhead-Deerlodge National Forest are available; the North, Central and South areas. They are \$10 each
- New firewood permits will be available April 1st.
- Schools and organizations seeking speakers on such topics as rangeland, soils, fires and timber are invited to call (406) 846-2070 ext. 301. Shawn Ward, Visitor Information Assistant, can connect groups with speakers on these and other topics related to the national forests.

A Grant-Kohrs Mystery

Did John Boardman, rancher and son-in-law of Conrad Kohrs, plan to hire a notorious gunslinger to stop rustling in eastern Montana, or did law enforcement authorities in Montana and Wyoming just use Boardman's name as a potential employer to lure their quarry into a trap?

Thanks to the popular 1980 movie starring Steve McQueen, the name **Tom Horn** conjures up the popular stereotype of big bad cattlemen versus valiant homesteaders.

If his bragging is to be believed, there was more than one crime for which Horn might have been charged, but it could be that the one for which he was hanged was one time he was innocent.

In 1901, young Willie Nickell was shot outside his Wyoming home. There were no witnesses and there was another likely suspect. However, it seems the law decided Tom Horn's time had come.

Letters to the Cheyenne, Wyoming sheriff from Montana stock inspector W. D. Smith stated Boardman wanted to hire

Horn as a stock detective. Horn came to the sheriff's office to talk about the job. A notorious braggart when drunk, what the inebriated Horn put forth as his "qualifications" was taken down by a hidden watcher and used as a confession in his subsequent trial. Convicted, he was hanged in 1903.

A mock retrial was held in 1993 in which he was declared innocent. *The New York Times* described the retrial in a headline which became famous; "Once Guilty, Now Innocent, But Still Dead."

Did John Boardman intend to hire Horn? Did he even know about the man, or did Smith and the Cheyenne sheriff simply use Boardman's name because he was a well-known eastern Montana cattleman?

The jury is still out on that one.



John Boardman



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

The United States Congress created Grant-Kohrs Ranch National Historic Site in 1972 to commemorate the open range cattle era of the American West. Covering 1,600 acres and preserving over 90 historic structures and many thousands of artifacts and historic records, the site tells the story of the western cattle industry from the 1850s through most of the Twentieth Century.

**Laura Rotegard, Superintendent
Grant-Kohrs Ranch NHS
266 Warren Lane
Deer Lodge, MT 59722**

Phone: (406) 846-2070
Fax: (406) 846-3962
Website: www.nps.gov/grko

From Grant-Kohrs Ranch Foundation Director Kirk Sandquist:

The Grant-Kohrs Ranch Foundation is 1 1/2 years old and growing nicely. Funds in the Park's endowment total nearly \$20,000 and the working board of nine members is strong and building capacity.

The Board includes: Kirk Sandquist, as Director, Joyce Scarf as Vice Chair, Tom Beck, Senator David Lewis, Errol Rice of Montana Stockgrowers, and Kohrs descendants Dr. Katherine Schwarzenbach, David Boardman Warren, and Patricia Nell Warren.

Additional National Advisors include: Greg Lane of Rock Creek Cattle Inc, Chris Schwarzenbach, Grant descendant Anita Grant-Steele, and Kohrs descendants Robert O. Y. Warren III and Dr. William Stuart Warren. Superintendent Laura Rotegard serves on the board ex-officio.



A *Friends & Family* letter campaign is currently underway and plans are being made for a September fundraising event in Deer Lodge and Helena that will feature performances by Theodore Roosevelt interpreter, Joe Wiegand. Also in the works is a brochure and a website.

If you wish to donate to the endowment fund, contributions can be made to the Grant-Kohrs Ranch Foundation, Box 22, Deer Lodge, MT. 59722, or online, through The Montana Community Foundation (MTCF) www.mtcf.org.

MTCF handles many charitable funds, so contributions to the Grant-Kohrs Ranch Foundation should be directed by name under the website's "Other" designation.

You may also contact Kirk Sandquist at K_SandquistPeoples@Bresnan.net



National Park Service
U. S. Department of the Interior



Grant-Kohrs Ranch National Historic Site
 266 Warren Lane
 Deer Lodge, MT 59722

www.nps.gov/grko/home.htm



The **Ranch Roundup** is published by Grant-Kohrs Ranch NHS. Our aim is to establish links to the community, other parks, museums and others whose interests and concerns are similar to ours. We hope this will not be a one-way communication, and welcome comments, suggestions and information from our readers.

Write: Lyndel Meikle, editor
 Grant-Kohrs Ranch NHS
 266 Warren Lane
 Deer Lodge, MT 59722

E-mail lyndel_meikle@nps.gov

Conrad Kohrs once noted that his Hereford cattle were good rustlers. Though it conjures up a picture of cattle-stealing bovines, he meant they were willing to go out and “rustle up” some feed when other breeds stood around waiting to be fed.



The dining room table in the ranch house is set as if for company. It may seem odd that the main course was turkey with lingonberry dressing instead of beef, but to a man who shipped 10,000 head of cattle a year to the Chicago Stockyards, home-grown turkey was special.