

Daley Ranch News

Friends of Daley Ranch

Summer 2013

Help Send a Student to the Ranch - Rick Mercurio

Thanks to the generous grant from the Escondido Charitable Foundation, every seventh grader in Escondido's public schools was able to enjoy a full-day field trip to Daley Ranch this past spring. Because of the great success of the visits, FODR is anxious to put on a repeat performance for the 2013-14 school year, but we need your help.

Prior to this banner year, only one school per year was able to put together the resources to send their students. Therefore, the Foundation's one-time-only grant gave the school visit program a tremendous "shot in the arm" by treating all of the middle schools—including two that had never been able to visit-- to the outdoor learning experience at the ranch. With that inspiration, we are hoping that the momentum has been established to continue.

By far the biggest cost is the bus service. Even though the Escondido Union School District offers us their lowest possible price for the buses, it adds up quickly when we multiply the two needed buses per day times the 10 or 12 trips we hope to sponsor. Besides the buses, we need funds for our birds of prey learning station, which allows students to see live hawks, owls and falcons.

Other learning stops on last year's outings included Native American culture, the Escondido Charros with a live horse demonstration, native plants & biology, local history, and snakes, mammals, spiders and insects. The students and their teachers gave us high marks for the program. They enjoyed the exercise, fresh air, and cooperative learning, recorded in the packets that FODR provided.

Escondido City rangers worked hard to make the trips possible, along with countless hours donated by FODR Board members and other volunteers.

The bare-bones amount needed to fund the trips for next year averages out to **only eight dollars per child**. But since we want to send the full 1900 seventh graders, the scope of our funding needs becomes apparent.

Please consider donating to FODR to help us continue sending students to the ranch. Visit daleyranch.org where you may donate online with your credit card, or you may send a check to our post office address. All donations are tax deductible.

By exposing our youngsters to the wonders of Daley Ranch, we can ensure future generations will continue to value and protect our treasure in the hills north of Escondido.



Friends of Daley Ranch Contact Information

*PO Box 461173
Escondido CA 92046-1173*

*Fred Woods, President
760 745-4533*

*Mike Whalen Vice President
760 740-1370*

*Rick Mercurio, Secretary
760 751-2275*

*Rick Paul, Treasurer
760 505-9840*

*Carol Stanford, Communications
760 741-7122*

*Jerry Harmon, Member
760 480-9483*

*Dick Althouse, Member
760 741-7629*

*Jim Schafer, Member
760 746-0447*

*Don Piller, Webmaster
dpiller@cox.net*

City Contact Information

*Hike Schedule
www.escondido.org/daley-ranch-hikes.aspx*

*Ranger Station
760 839-4680*

*Tracking Team
Duane Boney 760 839-4345*

*Volunteer Coordinator
Sue Evarts 760 839-4680*

Daley Ranch is Falling Down—Dick Althouse

Let me see a show of hands: How many of you have walked past, ridden a bicycle past, or ridden a horse past the four nasty-looking old buildings located alongside the dirt road just north of the newly renovated ranch house, and said to yourself, “Wow, why are those old dilapidated things still there?”

Well, that is exactly what I asked myself in April 2010 when I was asked by the Friends of Daley Ranch, a non profit volunteer group, to go up there, assess what was there, and see if there was a way to “save” those four old falling down whatever they are. Bob McQuead was along. Bob had drawn the architectural plans for the restoration of the Santa Fe railroad depot located in Grape Day Park in Escondido. He also was involved in the plans for the restoration of the ranch house. I was known by some around town as a lover of old houses, having restored the Victorian home that I own in the Old Escondido Historic District, as well as the 1904 two-story house on the corner of 9th Ave and Maple St. Some of us in the “Neighborhood” had pet names for some of the houses located within the boundaries of the Historic District and I began to call the 9th Ave. house the “Wicked Witch On the Corner” because it was so nasty looking and run down before I bought it. Someone once overheard me talking about the “Wicked Witch” and asked if I was talking about my ex-wife. No, I replied and explained about the pet names of houses in the “District.”



Neglected, with grass growing on the roof.

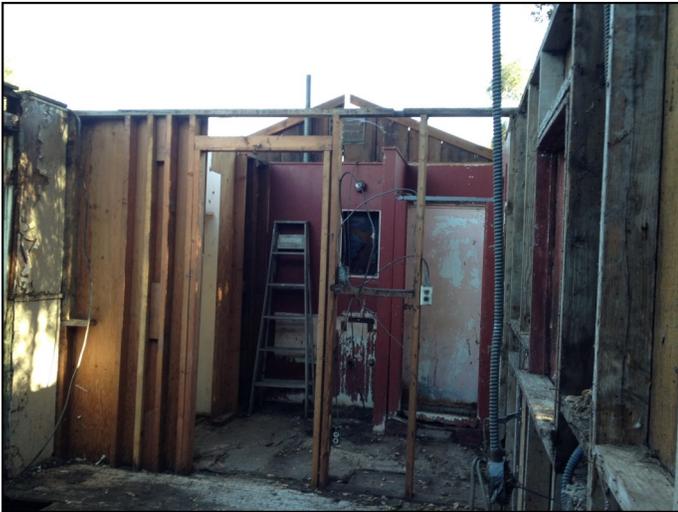
WELL, what to do with those four structures. My first thought was to get a bulldozer and make kindling out of them. They were pretty tired looking. At lunch that day I was beside myself as to how to tell the others that I was going to “pass” on their offer seeking my help. But I smiled, made small talk, and listened to the others for some hints on how to extract myself honorably. Next morning, I lay there in bed and said, “Self, let’s look at this ‘adventure’ from a different perspective. Why are there no examples of these structures located nearby for the next generation to look at? Well, dummy, it is because no one had the interest to preserve them and had made kindling from them, that’s why.”

So..... I have done some restoration work on the barn at Grape Day Park for the History Center, and restored the railroad car located in the park. Why not put some energy into another piece of the past here at the Ranch?

No one seems to know exactly when the four buildings were built or what their function at the Ranch was. Some call the building on the south the Foreman’s Residence. Quite spartan as far as accommodations go, but it appears to have been a place for someone to lay his head. One of our members quips that it is quite small to be a “FOURMAN’s” residence. Yeah, right! Building #2 (as you head north) seems to have been some kind of storage shed; #3 had fallen down on the right side, so we dismantled it and stored the exterior lumber inside building #2 for use when we “resurrect” #2 at a future date. And #4 seems to have been some kind of tool repair or tool

sharpening shed. In it we found a pulley wheel mounted to some kind of shaft located above a person's head that reminded some of us of some sort of belt driven apparatus, but too much is missing to arrive at a sound decision.

So... after three years of talking it over among ourselves and more than one meeting with the powers that be at City Hall, we decided to start our little restoration of the past with the best preserved building of the four. I drew up a set of plans, got a building permit, and we rolled up our sleeves and got out the crowbars and hammers. At this writing, the roof has been removed, the interior paneling removed, and thanks to Escondido Disposal's generous donation of some haul-away dumpsters, we are on our way.



Renovation underway.

Funds are very limited and the Friends of Daley Ranch hopes to secure donations of time, labor, perhaps some materials, and money to purchase materials that we cannot secure as donations. It is a slow process due to the fact that there are other things in one's life that require our attention, but we hope to finish the first phase of our restoration project within the next year. If all goes well, and the City Fathers are pleased with our endeavor, we shall begin plans to move on to building #2 and see if we can finish all four buildings to preserve a bit of the past for generations that follow, so that they might have a better appreciation of "life on a working ranch."

This and That Around the Ranch

Facebook is a great place to post your favorite Daley Ranch photos and learn about upcoming hikes. "Like" us at [Facebook.com/daley.ranch](https://www.facebook.com/daley.ranch).

The **Daley Ranch Tracking Team** is launching a new monthly tracking hike. If you are interested in tracking, check out the San Diego Tracking Team Speaker Series. Find out more at: [Facebook.com/pages/Daley-Ranch-Tracking-Team](https://www.facebook.com/pages/Daley-Ranch-Tracking-Team).

Friends of Daley Ranch endorses the proposed **El Caballo Park** (www.ElCablloPark.org). For the past two years the park has played host to the **Escondido Humane Society's Canine Good Citizen classes**. Volunteer dog handlers and trainers hold two group classes a week with dogs of their choice, teaching them the obedience skills they need to pass the AKC Canine Good Citizen Test. Dogs who pass are recognized as having the skills and manners needed to be a community member in good standing and a reliable family dog. Since the program's inception, more than 20 adoptable dogs have passed their tests with a licensed evaluation. Many of the dogs are happily adopted before they can take their test, but the training they receive helps build a strong foundation that they take with them to their new homes. They are less likely to be returned and are wonderful ambassadors for rescue animals.



"I Passed!"

The mission of the Friends of Daley Ranch is to:

- Support the protection, maintenance, and restoration of the Daley Ranch Conservation Bank, native habitats and wildlife
- Promote education about the biological and historic value of Daley Ranch
- Encourage responsible recreational use consistent with conservation of native habitats and wildlife

Volunteer Opportunities

Contact Sue Evert at 760 839-4680 to volunteer for **Bike Patrol, Horse Patrol, or Trail Maintenance**

Hike Schedule

Call Ranger Station at 760 839-4680 for the hike schedule and also to sign up for a hike. The schedule is also available at www.escondido.org/daley-ranch-hikes.aspx

Go Green

Email daley ranch@yahoo.com with FODR in the subject line to get this newsletter electronically.

Friends Of Daley Ranch Membership, Renewal and Donations

Friends of Daley Ranch is a 501c(3) non-profit, organization.

Your tax-deductible contribution will be acknowledged by mail.

Make check payable to Friends of Daley Ranch and mail to
PO Box 461173, Escondido CA 92046-1173

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Mailing Address: _____ City/Zip _____

Email: _____ Yes, email my newsletter

This is for Membership Building restoration

New Member Continuing Member

\$15 Senior/Student \$35 Contributing \$50 Sustaining \$100 Corporate \$500 Benefactor \$ _____

My primary interests are: Conservation Recorded History Natural history Hiking Mountain biking
 Equestrian Use Other _____

Volunteer Opportunities: Newsletter editor Fundraising Building Committee Education Committee
 Recreation Committee Other: _____

Friends of Daley Ranch
PO Box 461173
Escondido CA 92046-1173
www.fodr.org