

**SPECIAL
EDITION!**

BABBITT TIMES REVIEW

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CO W ↔ LEARNING—UNDERSTANDING ♦ JOINING—SHARING ♦ BECOMING A PART ↔ V T

Cedar Ranch is Arizona's First Forest Legacy Project

Natural springs, highland forest, pinyon-juniper woodlands and historic resources are being permanently protected through a conservation easement. The easement, conducted in two phases, is comprised of 640 acres of Babbitt Ranches' Cedar Ranch known as Cedar Springs. This is the first Arizona project funded by the USDA Forest Service Forest Legacy Program, which helps preserve working forests that protect water quality and conserve wildlife habitat.

"Biologically diverse ranchlands like these are an important reminder of Arizona's rural history," said Gov. Janet Napolitano. "I am glad to see these iconic landscapes preserved for the enjoyment of future generations, and their resources protected for the public good."

The 800-acre ranch, north of

Flagstaff, has been used as a ranch headquarters for more than a century. The property's historic wells provide water for ranching and wildlife habitat on more than 350,000 acres of surrounding land.

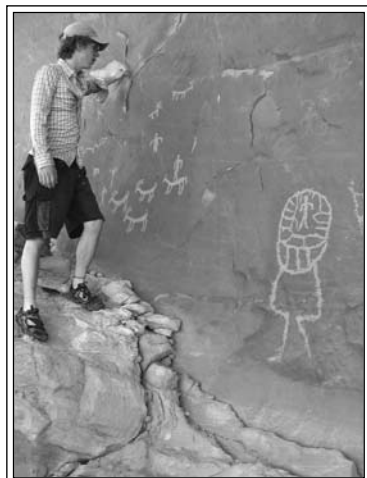
The property was homesteaded in the 1800s and contains a stretch of the Beale Wagon Road. It was traversed by the Grand Canyon Stage Coach line, which opened the Grand Canyon to the world, running from Flagstaff every summer from 1892 until the close of the 1900 season. It has been a working ranch since the late 1800s.

The ranch is surrounded by the Coconino National Forest, Arizona State Lands and Babbitt Ranches' CO Bar Ranch. "The project ensures this stretch of northern Arizona remains intact,

Cedar continued on page 7...

RIVERS, ROCKS AND RESTORATION

EMA offers Hands-on Learning, Research and Environmental Solutions



Ben Williams studies the petroglyph panel at Butler Wash during a week-long environmental sciences class on the San Juan River.

Northern Arizona University students are learning to be culturally sensitive river guides, documenting oral histories of homesteaders in Oak Creek Canyon, studying adverse impacts on the Verde River, and building sustainable bathrooms at the Grand Canyon.

These projects are just a few of many being facilitated by the Ecological Monitoring & Assessment Program that are involving departments across the entire university and cultivating partnerships with national and state parks, researchers and land managers.

Rivers continued on page 7...

Babbitt Cowboy Grateful for a Life on the Ranch

Sitting on a head of cattle, 30-mile-an-hour winds pounding him with red dirt, visibility so bad he couldn't see his hands, Harvey Howell asked himself, "why do I love it?" Then he draws, "I don't know why, but I love it."

After 35 years of pushing cattle and breaking horses on the Babbitt Ranches, Howell is every bit the lean, tall cowboy who visited the ranches for the first time in 1966.

He describes his career as a privilege. "I was awful thankful for the job I had." And he says the opportunity to have a role in Western ranching history is an honor.

"Once or twice a year, we'd have a thousand or more cattle in a roundup. That was an exciting thing to see, like going back 150 years."

For generations, the Babbitts and the Howells have gone together like Herefords and quarter horses. So it makes sense that Harvey describes his time on the ranch, "like working for family."

In fact, his older brother, Bill, was working for Babbitt Ranches in the '60s while Harvey was earning his animal science and business degrees at the Univer-



Harvey Howell can be found at Babbitts' annual Colt Sale.

sity of Montana. He visited his brother every chance he got.

After serving in the Marines, Howell returned to the ranch in 1968 to work for Frank Banks. "Frank was a great friend. He told me all kinds of things that happened in the '30s and '40s."

John Babbitt was overseeing the ranch operations at the time. "Mr. John Babbitt treated the help extremely well," said Howell. "He'd always say, 'how are your cattle doing?' He never called 'em *his* cattle."

Howell went to work for other Arizona ranches for awhile in the '70s, and when he returned, Janet Maben became as much a part of Babbitt Ranches as Harvey. The two married in 1972 and raised their boys, Todd and Dallas, at Redlands Camp on the Cataract Ranch.

"It was a wonderful life to live with my wife and boys on the ranch," said Howell. "They all had excellent horses and all kinds of work. The boys are extremely thankful for being raised on Babbitt Ranches."

Janet enjoyed riding and often led her young cowboys on horseback while the older ranch cowboys moved cattle. As teenagers, Todd and Dallas won saddles and trophies in rodeo competitions.

Meantime, Janet cooked as if caring for a huge family.

"In the spring we'd have 10 to 18 men that she'd cook for," said Howell. "She'd make bacon-powder biscuits, T-bone steaks, cakes and pies—and serve them right out of the oven—she is an excellent cook."

Howell retired this year at age 63. He and Janet now live in Paulden. He continues to do ranch work to stay in shape and likely will be found helping out at Babbitt Ranches during fall and spring cattle works.

"I enjoyed the roundups, working the cattle, the friendships with the guys, roping and branding, and the wildlife. I'm excited to have lived my life on Babbitt Ranches. Babbitt Ranches is a high class operation."

Article III Cowboy Essence

Cowboy Essence is peace of mind that is a direct result of self-satisfaction in knowing you did your best to become the best you are capable of becoming.