



Benson Beautification

What's Happening?

**Benson
Murals**

EDITOR—MARY JO MARTIN

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THE CATTLE DRIVE MURAL



Doug Quarles, our muralist, has completed the Cattle Drive Mural on San Pedro & 4th Streets. We began raising funds for this project in 2014. Our first large donation was \$2,300 from a parking lot “yard” sale by the Walmart Employees. Later came a \$4,000 grant from Union Pacific Foundation, and \$6,000 from co-sponsoring Butterfield Stage Days for two years. Even with additional fundraisers, we were still a long way from realizing our goal. We decided to follow the unique idea that Lake Placid, Florida used by selling cattle brand sponsorships. We took it one step further by encouraging family members to honor their ancestors by showcasing them atop a favorite mount. At long last, we reached our goal to complete this mural.

Take a look at that first steer. His eyes follow you wherever you go. I bet he’s saying, “This is my street, Bud! Move on!”

The first cowboy is Sonny Lawson riding for the **Spear 7** brand (the Lawson Family). Next is Rusty Glenn of the **Hollow T** brand (Link Glenn Ranch). Look for the horse with the **Pony Track M** brand. That’s George, who carries the mail for the Benson Pony Express. He belongs to our president, Cindy Allen. Then we have Juan Diaz Gamez with the X3 Ranch - that’s the Bernardo Gamez Ranch. Bringing up the rear—literally—is a horse with the brand of **MJM**. That’s me — Mary Jo Martin — atop the horse is a Vaquero, commemorating our earlier “cowboys”, the Mexican and Spanish Vaqueros. The chuck wagon is courtesy of Mahlon Mackenzie, of the Mackenzie Ranch.

In addition to the **FAMILY SPONSORSHIPS** on page 1, the following **BRAND SPONSORSHIPS** helped us reach our funding goal:

Mick Claves, Stacked Bar N; **JJ Kartchner**, K Mill Iron; **Farnsworth Tile**, F Triangle; **David DiPeso**, Branch D; **Link Glenn**, Buckhorn; **Sandra Gonzales**, Backward SB; **Baxter Black**, Open AZ; **Norm Bradley**, S over X; **Larry Dempster**, Hook Box C; **Larry Dempster**, Deep Sky; **John & Lyn Hasty**, JHL; **Tracy Merrill**, S Lazy D; **Tyler Basinger**, C Bar; **Charlie Ohrel**, SS; **Brenda Ohrel**, Quarter Circle Spear; **Laura Levy**, L Bar V; **John & Michelle Keith**, JK; **John & Marchille Keith**, Bar 21, **Carl Joy**, JPL.

FUTURE MURALS ON THE DRAWING BOARD

- ♦ Stagecoach and Buffalo Soldiers on the west wall of Sarge's Side Arms on 4th & San Pedro Streets
- ♦ Apaches, Pioneers and Buffalo Soldiers on the west wall facing the upper Circle K on 4th Street. (The Buffalo Soldiers had a prominent role in this area. One of the places they were posted was at Mescal Lakes.)

DID YOU KNOW.....that the area between 4th and 5th Streets, and San Pedro Street and Hwy 80, has been honored by being listed on the National Register of Historic Places? That is the noted Benson Barrio. Back in its heyday, this area was the place where Mexican-Americans lived. The men primarily worked on the ranches and farms in the surrounding area. This was a lively place; often 5th Street was blocked off and celebrations would take place. They celebrated every saint and religious event, Cinco De Mayo, and the 4th of July. Doug Quarles is negotiating with a building owner to paint a mural of this Barrio. I know it will not only be beautiful, but also a popular one locally. **OLE!**

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!! - Benson Beautification is hosting

Benson Pony Express Western Days Saturday, Sept. 22, 2018 - 9 a.m.—4 p.m.

(Previously Butterfield Stage Days held in October)

Tractor pulls, food, live music, vendors. Benson Pony Express Mail Run to Dragoon, "OPEN ALL YEARS" Car and Motorcycle Show. Entertainment all day. Vendor Applications are online at BensonAZMurals.org or call Cindy Allen at 520-631-5507. **YEE HAW!!**

We recently received the sad news that Doug and Sharon are closing Quarles Gallery, selling their home, and moving back to Tucumcari, New Mexico. We will miss them, but they've assured us that we only need to call and they will gladly come back to do our murals.