

The Sixth Annual
Clarence Burch Award,
The Quivira Coalition's
2007 Outstanding Leadership Awards
& Banquet

January 20, 2007
Marriott Pyramid, Albuquerque, NM



"Horse Training" by Andrew Chaves, Age 9, Anton Chico, NM

Those of us who knew Clarence were aware that, if you want action, you got Clarence involved. When he started on a project, things were going to happen. He had the will to win as an athlete, and he made things happen throughout life.—

"Clarence Burch, Diversified Activist"

in

Courageous Cattlemen

by Robert C. de Baca

The 6th Annual
Clarence Burch Award



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Clarence Burch

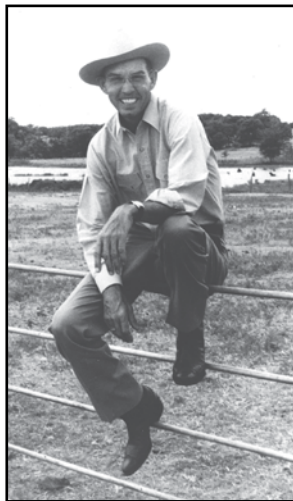
(1906-2000)

By all accounts, Clarence Burch was a remarkable man.

Rancher, teacher, conservationist, activist, international diplomat and public servant to five governors, Clarence Burch lived an enviable career full of innovation, dedication, curiosity, and good humor. He was a man very much of his time, and yet miles ahead of it as well.

The eldest of nine children, Clarence was born in Bromide, Oklahoma, in what was then Indian Territory. Raised on various farms and ranches, he developed a love of the land that grew to become a passion for a lifetime. "My grandfather had an innate sense for natural forces," says Andy Dunigan. "Land was in his blood. Every discussion always started with a question about the weather."

In high school, Clarence set records in track before working his way through Oklahoma A&M. Upon graduation he worked for a while as a teacher, coach, and county extension agent before scraping together enough money to buy a small ranch near Mill Creek. He settled into the ranching life with



his wife, Frances, and together they raised their children, Tom and Anne.

For a rancher, however, he had one unusual, and illuminating, weakness. "He was not mechanically inclined," says his son, Tom. "He couldn't fix the lawnmower. But he knew how to get you the right tool." His main talent, in other words, was working with people. "He was an educator all his life," says Tom, "and a problem-solver. He used to say 'there isn't a problem out there that can't be fixed.' And if he couldn't do it, he knew who could."

One area that Clarence applied his “can-do” attitude to was water. While serving as Director of the Division of Water Resources in the 1940s, he traveled to every seat of Oklahoma’s 77 counties to assess municipal and rural water needs. Shortly thereafter, with Clarence’s encouragement, and over the objections of the oil companies, Governor Roy Turner signed the state’s first groundwater restrictions into law.

“I made the statement then and still do that water is more important than oil,” Clarence said in an interview. “I think time will show me to be right in that.”

He was a careful steward of his own land as well. “He knew that all he had to sell on his ranch was grass,” recalls Tom. “So, he took care to do the job right.” His grandson agrees. “He understood that land has its limits,” recalls Andy, and he emphasized collaborative solutions to natural resource problems.”

In addition to conservation activism, Clarence was deeply involved in reforming the beef industry. Declaring that “we got a world to feed!” Clarence steered his fellow ranchers away from a professional infatu-

ation at the time with winning “blue ribbons” at county fairs, says his son, and toward the question of animal production and performance. He became the first president of the Beef Improvement Federation and helped found the Performance Registry International.

With typical zeal, he insisted that ranchers become note-takers too. “Records make history,” he says in *Courageous Cattlemen*. “Records direct the present. Records foresee the future. Records are the working man’s tools that have practical application. . .and add to the economics of the beef industry.”

This attitude, considered radical in its day, today dominates the industry, observes Tom.

For his energy and leadership, Clarence was honored in 1955 with inclusion in a group of American farmers and ranchers that conducted a ground-breaking tour of the Soviet Union during the depths of the Cold War.

Later, his advice was sought by his son-in-law, Pat Dunigan, who had recently purchased the 110,000-acre Baca Ranch, located in the mountains high above Los Alamos, New Mexico. Observing that the ranch

had been used pretty hard by its previous owners, Clarence's advice was twofold: quit the logging and cross-fence the property so that the cattle wouldn't overgraze any longer—advice that his son-in-law followed.

Clarence's people skills extended to his family as well. Andy remembers him as an "extremely warm, charismatic man who got along with people from all walks of life." Another son-in-law, Jim Wilson, says Clarence could "carry on a conversation on any topic" and did so right up to the end of his life.

Both Anne and Tom agree that family was their parents' highest priority. "The whole family went to everything," she recalls, "and he was always there for us as kids"—a point echoed by Tom who says his father "never missed one of my track meets." He had a wonderful sense of humor too, says Anne, "and an immense curiosity about the world." She also describes her parents' fifty-year marriage as a "real partnership."

Clarence's warmth and vitality were evident throughout his life. A few years before his death, his family brought him into the sale barn on his favorite chair and placed him in the center of the action, so he could inspect the animals and talk "shop" with the participants.

Tom remembers with wry amazement that his father's failing eyesight always managed to get better when they drove around the ranch. "He'd see a loose wire in a fence or ask about the condition of a cow at a distance," he says. "It was pretty incredible."

Perhaps Andy sums up his grandfather's qualities best: "Clarence embodied what we call today 'The Radical Center.' He was more than just a rancher. He was a public servant, an activist, and a man very concerned about the land and sustainable practices. He was a remarkable man."

We at The Quivira Coalition are proud to honor Clarence Burch with a \$15,000 Annual Award and thank Andy Dunigan for his support.



2007 Clarence Burch Award Winners

Ojo Encino Ranchers Committee

The Quivira Coalition is honored to present the 2007 Clarence Burch Award to The Ojo Encino Ranchers Committee who, under the leadership of Watson Castillo, and with the support of its growing membership, is setting an example of collaborative, innovative and progressive land stewardship on the Navajo Nation.

The Ojo Encino Chapter is located approximately thirty miles west of Cuba, New Mexico, and encompasses approximately 144 square miles of open rangeland. Once covered in grass, the land is now dominated by sage and bare ground with some significant exceptions. The Chapter also faces notable challenges, includ-

ing pervasive erosion, chronic lack of infrastructure, especially fencing and water sources, and ongoing overgrazing from feral and wild horses.

Additionally, the ranchers of Ojo Encino operate within one of the most complex land ownership structures found anywhere. The Committee members utilize land with eleven different official land status designations, which means collaboration is critical to the success of any endeavor.

In spite of these challenges, the progress of the Committee in restoring land health, in educating land users on how to use land sustainably, and in implementing improvements on the land has been exemplary.

Ojo Encino
Chapter
House





Ted Mace and Kirk Gadzia inspecting erosion control structures on Ted's allotment.

“Lots of groups have to get involved in everything we do,” says Watson. “These include BIA, BLM, State Lands, the Navajo Nation and the Chapter just to name the main ones. Partnerships, that’s how we need to do it.”

In 1999, eleven Navajo ranchers joined together to move land stewardship at the Ojo Encino Chapter in a new direction. According to Watson, the Committee’s president, the original goal was to “bring the land back so people could once again rely on it. We wanted to get things going in the community. We want to see something better for our community.”

Thanks to the efforts of a dedicated group of ranchers, a grazing and land stewardship tradition that was getting smaller each year is now growing. Seven years after forming the Committee, the membership has grown to twenty member ranches with a list of accom-

plishments and an ambitious agenda for the future. It shows no signs of slowing down.

In 2002, the Committee approached the BLM and Rio Puerco Management Committee (RPMC) to help fund a 10,000 acre sagebrush control project. It was the most ambitious project ever presented to the RPMC for funding. The grazing permittees signed a cooperative agreement to rest the treated lands from grazing for 43 months to allow vegetation to respond. Committee members also agreed that they would not reintroduce livestock to these areas until they had individual management plans in place.

In addition to removing invasive brush and enhancing grasses, the objectives of the project included reducing erosion and soil loss, re-establishing sustainable grazing management, and providing outreach to others in their situation. All of these objectives have been

met.

In addition to the 10,000 acre sage treatment, Ojo Encino members have installed 12 miles of boundary and cross fence, many one rock dams and erosion control structures, repaired or installed 25 earth stock tanks, installed new cattle guards and sponsored over a dozen training workshops through the NRCS, NMSU Extension, The Quivira Coalition's New Ranch Network, the RPMC, BLM and BIA.

To complement the sagebrush treatments, the Ojo Encino Committee has been relentless in its pursuit of funding for other management tools such as fencing materials so that ranchers could cross-fence their operations. For example, the BIA provided fencing and cattleguards while the labor was provided by the ranchers. Watson also saw a need to repair silted up stock ponds and worked with a BLM civil

engineer to plan what needed to be done, and acquired funding from RPMC for a three-year program to redevelop water sources.

Ted Mace, a Ranchers Committee member and former Chapter President, has led a summer youth project to control erosion for the past four years. Using Bill Zeedyk's low tech but labor intensive techniques to harvest water and sediment, the summer youth program has not only made a difference on the land, but has ignited interest in young minds. Graduates of this program have a new relationship with their land. Some have even developed an interest in careers in natural resource fields.

A key partnership has been with the Rio Puerco Management Committee, a collaborative, multi-party effort focused on the 4.5 million acre Rio Puerco watershed, located northwest of Albuquerque.

Grazing management workshop at Ojo Encino.

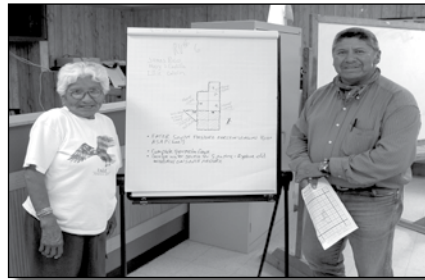


Once called the ‘breadbasket’ of New Mexico, the Rio Puerco watershed degraded so alarmingly over the decades, for a variety of reasons, that Congress officially authorized its restoration in 1996. Since then, the RPMC has employed a slate of innovative ‘Best Management Practices’ to revive the land and the people who depend on it.

be native grasses and springs in abundance, to protect the land, and to provide for its use by all living beings.”

With Steve Fischer’s (Bureau of Land Management, Albuquerque, NM) support and persuasion, the RPMC funded a \$91,000 sagebrush treatment at Ojo Encino in 2002. Steve worked with Watson Castillo

Mary Castillo and Watson Castillo with new grazing plan.



As part of their effort to realize their goals, the RPMC recently completed a vision for the watershed for the next fifty years. It reads in part:

“It is 2006, and we are a group of people learning how to live on the land. As residents in the watershed, we are working together to restore the land, to complete a transition from a wornout watershed to a healthy stream system, and to maintain a healthy way of life in harmony with the Earth... We want to build understanding of what a watershed is, how it works, and how it nourishes the community. The result will

and the Ojo Encino Ranchers Committee to develop a comprehensive plan of work that the RPMC could support. The RPMC has also funded summer youth employment projects for high school students to do erosion control at Ojo Encino and eight other Navajo Chapters.

As the first group of Ojo Encino ranchers return livestock to healthy land, they serve as role models not only to their neighbors but to the entire Navajo Nation. When this “class” graduates, the next group of new members will be ready to begin the process of creating a long term vision for

restoring and managing the productivity of the land and the economic health of the community.

Reaching the next generation of ranchers at Ojo Encino is even more pressing with the passing away of four of its original members. "I was very discouraged by not having these ranchers around any more to help support what we are doing here," said Watson. "I was encouraged by my family and other Committee members to pick it up and keep going."

The Committee is helping the next generation make the transition to land ownership," he continued.

"Parents and grandparents are passing their lands on to their children. We are helping them learn how to take care of their land. Some are taking an interest. They are noticing the difference and are getting the idea that with more grass you can graze more cows. When ranches get passed on to the next generation they are already improved. Then the young people have a chance to make something for themselves. Maybe our kids will be able to take over someday and then I can step aside."

"But in the meantime, Watson said, "there is still lots to do."

Ojo Encino Ranchers

- | | |
|-------------------|------------------|
| ☛ Barbara Antone | ☛ Ted Mace |
| ☛ Alice Castillo | ☛ James Rico |
| ☛ Mary Castillo | ☛ Cecil Sandoval |
| ☛ Watson Castillo | ☛ Henry Toledo |
| ☛ Lillie Calvin | ☛ Larry Toledo |
| ☛ John Cayaditto | ☛ Ray Toledo |
| ☛ Billy Chiquito | ☛ Bill Trujillo |
| ☛ Ignacio Lewis | ☛ Ross Willeto |
| ☛ Yazzie Lopez | |

We are also recognizing two individuals who are partners with the Ojo Encino Ranchers Committee and have made significant contributions to their success.

- Michael Benson - Navajo Nation Department of Water Resources
- Steve Fischer - BLM & Rio Puerco Management Committee

The Quivira Coalition's
2007
Outstanding Leadership Awards



To mark our 10th anniversary, we are very pleased to announce a new annual award dedicated to the “four legs” of The Quivira Coalition’s original “chair” – ranchers, conservationists, civil servants, and researchers. We wish to recognize those individuals in each category who have shown remarkable and enduring leadership in the difficult job of working in the radical center – the place where people are coming together to explore their common interests rather than argue their differences, as author and conservation leader Bill deBuys has described it.

We believe that the radical center is where real change happens – on the “actual landscape of the back forty” as Aldo Leopold put it. But change needs strong leadership, especially in this era of seemingly endless partisanship. We think the time is right to honor those who have advanced the cause of the radical center with integrity, vision, and determination – sometimes against long odds. On behalf of the Board and staff of The Quivira Coalition, we are honored to award the “Outstanding Leadership” Awards for 2007 to:

- *David & Kay James*
- *Curt Meine*
- *Dave Stewart*
- *Gary Paul Nabhan*



RANCHING:

David and Kay James James Ranch

Founded in 1961, the James Ranch is now multi-generational and is one of the last working cattle ranches in the Animas Valley, Durango, Colorado. The James Ranch supports a grass fed natural beef operation run by David and Kay James as well as enterprises for three of their five children. Oldest daughter Jennifer and her family have an organic vegetable farm; daughter Julie and her husband John along with their family run a tree farm on the ranch; and oldest son Dan and his family have a seasonal, grass-based dairy from which they make artisan cheeses. Pioneers in marketing direct to consumers, the family sells their products at the James Ranch Farmstand as well as at the Durango Farmer's Market in which they were founding members. The family works from a common goal for the James Ranch, enterprise autonomy and a delegated meeting process to streamline decision making and planning. This approach has led to multi-generational success. In 2005 the family was the recipient of the Durango Chamber of Commerce Green Business Award. Dave and Kay are frequent national speakers on family, grass fed beef and niche marketing.



CONSERVATION:

Curt Meine

Curt Meine is a conservation biologist and writer from Prairie du Sac, Wisconsin. He is a Senior Fellow with the Aldo Leopold Foundation in Baraboo, Wisconsin, and a Research Associate with the International Crane Foundation, also located in Baraboo. He earned his B.A. at DePaul University in Chicago and his graduate degrees in Land Resources from the Institute for Environmental Studies at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. His conservation work has involved projects throughout North America as well as Europe and East Asia. His books include the biography Aldo Leopold: His Life and Work (1988) and Correction Lines: Essays on Land, Leopold, and Conservation (2004). In 2004 he was named one of six recipients of the Bay Foundation's Biodiversity Leadership Award. He is active in his local landscape as a founder and member of the Sauk Prairie Conservation Alliance in Sauk County, Wisconsin.



CIVIL SERVICE:

Dave Stewart
Director of Rangeland Management
USDA Forest Service, Region III

David Stewart is the Director of Rangeland Management, USDA Forest Service, Southwestern Region. He has worked in a variety of positions with the US Forest Service since 1963. Most of his career has been spent addressing range management issues in Arizona and New Mexico with the exception of 4 years spent in Washington D.C. as a Rangeland Management Specialist. He has a B.S. in Agriculture from the University of Arizona, Tucson, AZ with a tri-major in Watershed, Forest, and Rangeland, Management. Dave received the Professional & Technical Guidance Award, given by the Arizona Section of the Society for Range Management, in 2006. He is also a co-recipient of the 4th Annual Clarence Burch Award (along with 7 others), given by The Quivira Coalition in 2005.



RESEARCH:

Gary Paul Nabhan, PhD

Director of the Center for Sustainable Environments

Gary Paul Nabhan, Ph.D., is the Director of the Center for Sustainable Environments at Northern Arizona University, where he also teaches in three programs. Organic Style magazine recently featured him as one of the top fifty “environmental powerhouses” in the world. An alumnus of the University of Arizona and Prescott College, Dr. Nabhan is widely recognized as being among the leading voices in ethnobiology and conservation biology in the America’s. He has worked with with more than a dozen indigenous communities on cross-cultural initiatives to protect endangered plants and animals, wild habitats, cultural landscapes and agricultural traditions. For this work and his related writings, he has received a MacArthur “Genius” award, a lifetime achievement award from the Society of Conservation Biology, and the John Burroughs Medal for nature writing. He has served as a member of the congressionally-appointed National Parks Advisory Board, and is a currently a Board member of the Seed Savers Exchange. Author of nineteen books and well over 200 articles and essays in publications such as Nature, American Anthropologist, Ecological Applications, Conservation Biology, Economic Botany, Conservation Genetics, Applied Geography, Ethno-ecologia, Journal of Ethnobiology and Human Ecology, in addition to op-eds, poems, and reviews. Dr. Nabhan’s work moves from policy to practice, as his founding of the Canyon Country Fresh Network of farmers and ranchers demonstrates. He and wife Laurie Monti raise Navajo-Churro sheep and native crops in the pygmy woodlands near Winona, Arizona.



Local Food - The Creation of Community

Creating a sense of community through shared meals is an ancient human activity. To honor this tradition, we went to our local Farmers' Market where we spoke directly to the people who grow the produce and we contacted ranchers who raise the livestock. We asked them questions and liked what we heard. Then we asked them to share their food with us. Now we would like to share their food with you. We invite you to taste these local foods, each prepared with care and creativity. Join in this creation of community.

This year's banquet theme is an "Old Fashion" Bar-B-Que Cookout. In the spirit of the cookout we have placed festive bandanas on the table for you to wear now (if you wish) and take home.

The evening's first course features goat cheese from Coonridge Organic Goat Cheese Dairy near Pie Town, NM, with fresh breads. Coonridge has been producing goat cheese made using the

milk from free-range goats since 1981. Besides promoting sustainable, non-chemical, non-factory farmed animal husbandry and cheese, they strive to always live in harmony with the natural world that supports us all. Phone: (888) 410-8433, wildsofnewmexico@yahoo.com, www.coonridgegoatcheese.com.

A fresh green salad will complement this first course with greens provided by Santa Cruz Farm, family-owned and operated certified organic farm, located in the Española Valley in northern New Mexico. The farm grows 76 different varieties of crops the entire 12 months of the year. Contact Don Bustos at (505) 514-1662 or visit their web page at <http://www.afsc-pswro.org/santacruzfarms/index.htm>.

Our main course consists of slow roasted Rowe Mesa



Bar-B-Que beef featuring the Marriott's own Chef Vinay's special sauce with hot biscuits and cornbread.

The grassfed/finished beef being served this evening is from The Quivira Coalition's own herd off the Rowe Mesa Grassbank. It was processed by Western Way Custom Meats in Moriarty, NM (505-832-8964). We became bonafide livestock producers in 2006. Although we don't know the exact diet and treatment before coming to the Grassbank in June of 2006, we know that they have been in cow heaven since. Low stress handling and ample grass supported healthy gains and lean, high quality beef.

Scalloped potatoes, provided by White Mountain Farm, and roasted vegetables will round out the main course.

White Mountain Farm is located in the San Luis Valley between the San Juan and Sangre de Cristo Mountains of the Southern Colorado Rocky Mountains. Their goal is to offer good tasting, high quality organically grown quinoa and potatoes at reasonable prices. (800) 364-3019, www.whitemountainfarm.com.

The meal ends with a delicious apple cream cheese tart with a pecan topping. The pecans are provided by Graham Pecan Farm a small family farm near Roswell, NM. In the late 1960's, the Graham Family received the Conservationist of the Year award from the Soil Conservation Service for the then innovative use of drip systems in orchard applications, (505) 627-6318.



"Grilling & Camping"

Stormy Bowekaty, Age 10, Zuni, NM

Enjoy the food and
the company, in the
spirit of an
Old Fashioned
Western Cookout!



The Quivira Coalition

Education, Innovation, Restoration...One Acre at a Time

The Quivira Coalition is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization incorporated in New Mexico on June 11, 1997, by two conservationists and a rancher. Our mission is to foster ecological, economic, and social health on western landscapes through education, innovation, collaboration, and progressive public and private land stewardship. Central to this goal is spreading the word that ecologically healthy rangeland and economically robust ranches can be compatible. We call this position The New Ranch.

We pursue our educational mission through a regular newsletter, workshops, conferences, lectures, site tours, websites, seminars, outdoor classrooms, publications, videos, collaborative management demonstration projects, monitoring, and scientific research.

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