

Saddle Up!

Oklahoma! Where the wind comes sweeping down the plains, and the 2008 Angus Foundation Benefit Auction and Gala promises to be a marvelous time for all!

by Kelli Armbruster



► “The End of the Trail,” the world-renowned sculpture by James Earle Fraser, welcomes guests as they enter the National Cowboy and Western Heritage Museum.

That Old West Magic—

A Saturday Night at Prosperity Junction” is the theme of the 2008 Angus Foundation Benefit Auction and Gala. True Western hospitality awaits you Aug. 30, as the world-renowned National Cowboy and Western Heritage Museum (NCWHM) in Oklahoma City, Okla., is the site of this event.

Bob Funk of Express Ranches, Yukon, Okla., will host and underwrite this fabulous evening filled with entertainment, an auction of exclusive items and a sumptuous dining

experience. Funk has also challenged event participants and Angus family and friends to raise \$250,000 the night of the event to support the education, youth and research activities of the Angus Foundation.

“The Angus Foundation invites all Angus breeders to the National Cowboy and Western Heritage Museum, a breathtaking, world-class museum,” says Milford Jenkins, Angus Foundation president. “Its exquisite art and artifacts, and cowboy and ranching heritage memorabilia make it the perfect place to hold our fundraising event.”

Founded in 1951 and located in the heart of

Oklahoma City, the museum has welcomed more than 10 million visitors from around the world. Sculptures, paintings, photographs and collections ranging from custom-made saddles to Native American jewelry grace its sleek, elegant interior.

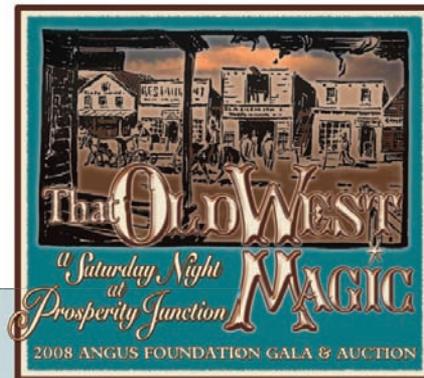
Prosperity Junction is among its most unique and acclaimed attractions. This replica of a turn-of-the-century cattle town was created in historic detail through the major underwriting support of Funk. With a livery stable, blacksmith shop, school, church, residences and other authentic buildings completely outfitted in turn-of-the-century characteristics, Prosperity Junction is one small town you’ll be glad you made a destination.

The Angus Foundation has made “magic” at two previous benefit evenings in 2004 at Summitcrest Farms in Ohio, and at Vintage Angus Farm in California in 2006. The Foundation’s magic wand will create “Old West” magic at the 2008 event.

On Aug. 30, for the first time in NCWHM history, the “people” of Prosperity Junction will magically come to life! You will be delighted by the spirited conversations and romantic musings of this storied period of American history, as well as by a lively troupe of Western musicians performing the songs of the early years of the 20th century.

“We are excited to host such a worthwhile event in the heart of Oklahoma,” says Jarold Callahan, Express Ranches president. “Oklahomans are known for their pioneering spirit, and we know our guests will be marveled by the spirit of the National Cowboy and Western Heritage Museum. We also hope that they will catch the spirit of giving as this event does so much to help fund the future of the Angus breed.”

Another famed attraction of the



Ways to participate

There are several ways you can play a part in “That Old West Magic — A Saturday Night at Prosperity Junction,” the 2008 Angus Foundation Benefit Auction and Gala that will take place Aug. 30 at the National Cowboy and Western Heritage Museum in Oklahoma City, Okla.

- Support the event as a Trailblazer Patron and you will receive an Angus bull bronze. Sculpted by Robert Taylor, this limited edition bronze was created under the personal guidance of Bob Funk and Jarold Callahan. Trailblazer Patrons will also be invited to a special pre-event reception and be publicly recognized at the event and in the program.
- Request your personal invitation and respond with a \$100-per-person donation. Invitations will be mailed mid-July. Please reply by Aug. 8.
- Seating is limited. The favor of a prompt RSVP will be required to guarantee your seat(s).

For more information about this one-of-a-kind event, contact one of these event organizers:

- Milford Jenkins, president, Angus Foundation; 816-383-5163; mjenkins@angusfoundation.org
- Julie McMahon French, event co-chair; 989-435-2599; juliefrench@nethawk.com
- Wynn Dalton Herbers, event co-chair; 434-384-3667; wynnherbers@verizon.net
- Jenni Beck Winegarner, auction coordinator; 806-683-4634; jdibeck@gmail.com

Log on to the Angus Foundation’s web site (www.angusfoundation.org), to obtain more information or request an invitation electronically.



► The official headquarters of “That Old West Magic,” the Skirvin Hilton Hotel located in downtown Oklahoma City will enchant you with its swanky elegance.

Oklahoma City area is the fabulous Skirvin Hilton Hotel, the headquarters hotel of “That Old West Magic.” This 95-year-old historic site underwent a multimillion dollar renovation to restore its original grandeur and now features reconfigured guest rooms and new elevators improving upon the original hotel design. Its elegantly restored lobby, signature restaurant and 225 exquisitely appointed rooms now have all the comforts and conveniences of modern hospitality.

Located just seven miles from the NCWHM, the Skirvin Hilton is also within walking distance of the Ford Center Arena, Bricktown Canal and Entertainment District, Bricktown Ballpark, Oklahoma City National Bombing Memorial, Oklahoma City Arts Museum, and Civic Center, and is just five minutes from the State Capitol. The Angus Foundation’s room block reservation deadline is July 31.

As a guest at “That Old West Magic” you’ll be whisked away from

‘Vision of Value’ sculpture

A notable feature of “That Old West Magic” includes the opportunity to purchase one of 50 limited-edition castings of the bronze Angus bull sculpture, titled “Vision of Value.” Commissioned and completely underwritten by Bob Funk, this modern Angus bull in bronze is yours to own by becoming a Trailblazer Patron of the event.

Guided by Express Ranches President Jarold Callahan, Robert Taylor is the renowned sculptor of this exquisite work of art. Taylor, a veterinarian by training, has been a full-time artist for more than 25 years. He sculpts all types of wildlife and specializes in eagles and other birds. His sculptures have graced the White House three times. His patrons include three presidents, two vice presidents and many other important collectors. Seven monuments and several corporate award contracts are to his credit, including the 15-foot eagle “Circle of Excellence” displayed at the headquarters of Express Personnel Services.

Pictured is the clay model of the actual Angus bull bronze being offered as part of the patron package. This clay model will be transformed into a bronze sculpture through several intricate steps of the “lost wax process.” A separate mold is made for each piece of the model. Molten bronze is then poured into the mold, thus creating the bronze statue. After several finishing steps and the addition of a patina surface finish, the exclusive edition of 50 Angus bulls will be presented for unveiling at “That Old West Magic.”



PHOTO ILLUSTRATION

Additionally, two artist’s proof bronzes of the same bull (larger in size and distinctively numbered) will headline the live auction Aug. 30.

If you’d like to own this limited edition Angus bull bronze or learn more about supporting “That Old West Magic” as a Trailblazer Patron, contact one of the event organizers. Call today as these are being offered on a first-come, first-served basis.

the everyday by Western hospitality, the authentic music and savory food, but don’t forget about the fabulous live and silent auction items that go along with the evening as well.

Adventure trips, furniture, art, jewelry, and fishing and hunting experiences are just a few of the unique items that will be available for attendees’ bidding pleasure and enjoyment.

“Our committee has worked hard to put together one-of-a-kind items, experiences on which you and your family can create memories of a lifetime and rare finds like this

year’s ranch horse from the famous remuda at the historic Four Sixes Ranch in West Texas. We hope you’ll take inventory of this year’s auction items. Even if you cannot attend, any one of our committee members will be happy to coordinate any absentee bids,” said Wynn Dalton Herbers, Angus Foundation volunteer co-chair of the event.

Not to be confused with Express Ranches

annual Labor Day weekend “Big Event,” which will be Sunday, Aug. 31 at the ranch, the Angus Foundation’s “That Old West Magic” is on Saturday night and will be at the museum.

“Bob Funk has absolutely pulled out all the stops in his gift, which underwrites this event,” says Julie McMahan French, Angus Foundation volunteer co-chair of the event. “We’ve been working with his top-notch planner in Oklahoma City, and she has left no design, culinary or hospitality detail untended.

“We hope our Angus Foundation guests realize that asking for a \$100-per-person donation to attend is meant to maximize Bob’s very generous gift to the Foundation,” French continues. “He has created an opportunity for all of us to enjoy each other’s company, first-rate entertainers and a lively, competitive auction for fabulous items. All contributions — from each person who attends, from the Trailblazer Patrons’ contributions, and from auction donors and buyers — will make a significant financial effect when they are combined.”

So saddle up your horse and polish up your finest Western attire; a night of fine cuisine and magnificent art and culture await you in Oklahoma City!



► Bob Funk’s fondness for Robert Taylor’s work is featured in this exquisite sculpture gracing the entry of the Express Personnel Services headquarters.

