

McCormick Ranch Women's Association



Our purpose shall be to promote community spirit,
encourage friendships, and offer activities for
the common interest of the members.

MRWA LOGO

*The McCormick Ranch Women's Association is an organization "which leaves a positive and humanitarian 'brand' on social and civic activities." **Its logo and meaning was designed by Mary Kay Singer in 1983 and updated by Lorraine Fischer in 2025.***

The "M" represents a mountain range and the "W" is the reflection of the many man-made water filled lakes on the Ranch, while the "R" stands for the range of "A" the activities and amenities that can be enjoyed both on the ranch and with the association.

"Fun Founding Fact" about our History

The first activity held by MRWA was
a "Meet Your Neighbor" luncheon
held on April 4, 1978 at the
McCormick Ranch Golf Clubhouse
at the cost of \$4.50.

Meet our namesake, Mrs. Anne McCormick



In 1943 Anne and Fowler McCormick were searching for a large acreage where they could raise horses and ride. They had spent several winters in Arizona and found that the dry weather helped Mrs. McCormick's arthritis. Their quest ended when they saw a beautiful stretch of land reaching beyond Pima Road on the east and across Scottsdale Road on the west.

These newcomers were a far cry from the usual desert settlers who scratched out bare livings from their lonely acres. Fowler McCormick's grandfathers were Cyrus H. McCormick, inventor of the mechanical reaper, and John D. Rockefeller, one of the country's wealthiest men. The couple also maintained homes in Quebec, Canada; Pleasantville, New York; Barrington, Illinois; and in Chicago, headquarters of the International Harvester Company.

Their first land purchase, 160 acres, spanned Indian Bend Road and fronted along the east side of Scottsdale Road. Over the next year or so they added more land until they owned 4,200 acres. Six hundred acres were devoted to crops of alfalfa, barley and oats. Other pastures held 350 head of prize-winning Black Angus cattle kept for show animals and breeding. The remaining acreage was left in its natural wild state. Coyotes, bobcats, an occasional deer or mountain lion, rattlesnakes, smaller animals and birds, including burrowing owls, occupied this pristine desert terrain.

The McCormicks' horses were the main attraction on their ranch, beautiful Arabians, including stallions imported from Poland and England, that took blue ribbons in horse shows all over the country. In the early years, Mrs. McCormick left during the summer months, but she grew to love her desert ranch and later remained year round. She was an active participant in managing her land, spending hours studying the bloodlines of her livestock, especially the horses. Although Fowler McCormick came whenever he could, the ranch was hers to run.

The McCormick home was located on the northeast corner of Indian Bend and Scottsdale Roads, facing east for a beautiful view of the McDowell Mountains. A large rose garden, individual guest houses and a distinctive round stable that held the stars among the prized Arabians clustered north of the house. The site now holds the Seville Center.

Mrs. McCormick enjoyed small gatherings of friends and family members. Four houseboys, a cook and a chauffeur took care of their needs. The ranch employees lived south of Indian Bend Road, where the Railroad Park is today.

In 1967 Scottsdale annexed McCormick Ranch, and the McCormicks donated 100 acres of land for the Railroad Park. In 1969 Mrs. McCormick died, and her prized Arabians were sold, her most valuable stallion bringing a hefty \$150,000. Fowler McCormick passed away in 1973.