



Photo: Ken Lara

Celebrating Hawaii's First Lady of Ranching

ANNA LEIALOHA PERRY-FISKE

The namesake of Anna Ranch Heritage Center in Waimea was a real cowgirl. After the death of her father in 1939, she divorced her first husband and took over the family ranch, which had fallen on tough economic times. Anna herself worked six days a week, riding, roping and even slaughtering her own cattle to save money. When absolutely necessary, she hired ranch hands to help move cattle or help with the branding. Once she had paid off her debts and the ranch was working efficiently, she set about using her riding skills—and her flair for showmanship—to support other worthy causes in Hawai'i and beyond. She also married her second husband, a part-Hawaiian gentleman, James Lyman Perry-Fiske, who shared her love of horses and riding.

From 1964–1983, Anna put on the elaborate “Old Hawai'i on Horseback’ Pageants,” making more money for the American Heart Association than any other individual in the United States for several years.



©Anna Perry-Fiske Charitable



Photo: Ken Lara

An avid horsewoman throughout her life, she trained and rode race horses in Hawai'i in the 1920s and 30s, gave riding lessons (\$1.00 per hour) and became known as an exceptional pa'u rider. Pa'u riding is a uniquely Hawaiian equestrian style, now seen mainly in parades in the Islands. It is named for the pa'u, an elaborately draped cullotte-type skirt made from yards of material, originally worn by women on long horseback rides to protect them from branches, mud and the like. In modern times, Pa'u riding evolved into an elaborate ceremonial display in which garlanded women demonstrated their skilled and graceful horsemanship. Anna introduced pa'u riding outside Hawaii, riding in both the Pasadena Tournament of Roses and the Calgary Stampede in Canada. By the time of her death in 1995, the Anna Ranch had become a symbol of cowgirl strength, style and spirit, which it continues to this day. *

To learn more about Anna Ranch Heritage Center, visit annaranch.com or call (808) 885-4426.

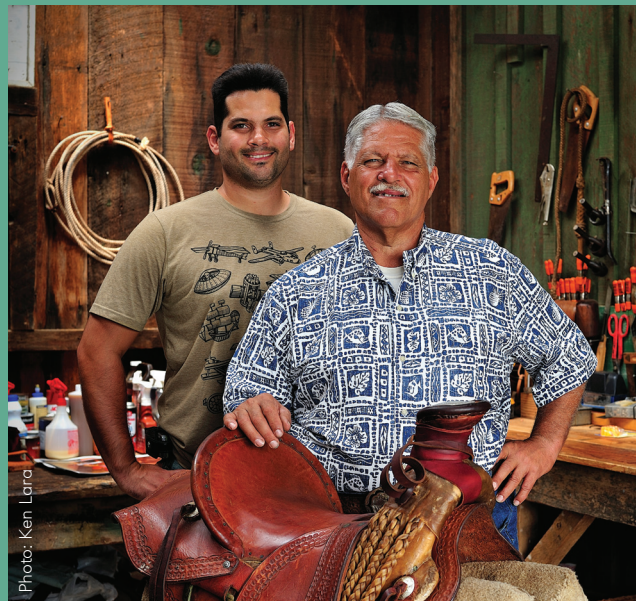


Photo: Ken Lara

Hawaiian Saddlemaker's Art at Anna Ranch: Albert Moniz Jr. and Son

The first thing you notice at Anna Ranch is the elegant white ranch house surrounded by gardens tucked up against the verdant Kohala mountains. The second thing is a clump of little outbuildings on the property here. After you have toured Anna Perry-Fiske's home with Executive Director Kay Kammerzell and become enraptured by Anna the iconic COWGIRL of the last century, pop over to the building housing saddlemaker Albert G. Moniz Jr.'s saddle shop and learn about the art of Hawaiian saddle making from a master.



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Moniz Jr.'s saddle shop and learn about the art of Hawaiian saddle making from a master.

Hawaiian saddles are constructed differently than Western saddles and are inherently stronger creating longevity. "Instead of the Western stock saddle rigging held in place to the tree by screws,"

Mr. Moniz Jr. says, "the Hawaiian saddle is wrapped around the tree and there is nothing to stress the grain fibers in the wood." Albert also developed a comfort feature for his saddles by using a leather ground seat. His son Joseph working alongside him, cuts the high quality leather, combines striking color variations and creates many of his own tooling designs. Master Saddlemaker Moniz and Son will explain the art of their craft and can create a custom saddle for you, just stop by after your tour of Anna's. Visit annaranch.org for more information.