

Oct. 2008

JAILHOUSE NEWS



MICROCAP: This month has been a lot of fun and work, all mixed together. The LCRA sent a cherry picking bucket truck so that we could snoop around the roof. Some of the Friends got to go up in it! We also had two work parties to clean up the jail, and it is spotless! At Heritage Days we will have jail tours, some of us as reenactors. The big news is the annual Haunted House hosted by the Llano Volunteer Fire Dept. Auxiliary will be held at the Red Top. Check it out...

LCRA DONATES BUCKET TRUCK USE: As you know, the LCRA granted us \$24,000 for restoration of the Red Top Jail roof. In the last newsletter, we told you about the composition of the roof, but what about the gallows? Our problem was how to get up there to get a sample of the gallows roof. The LCRA graciously sent a bucket truck to help us get samples of the gallows for microchemical analysis and to inspect the roof. We called two roofers with a special interest in historical preservation, Irvin Roofing and Nixon Roofing. They both came out, rode in

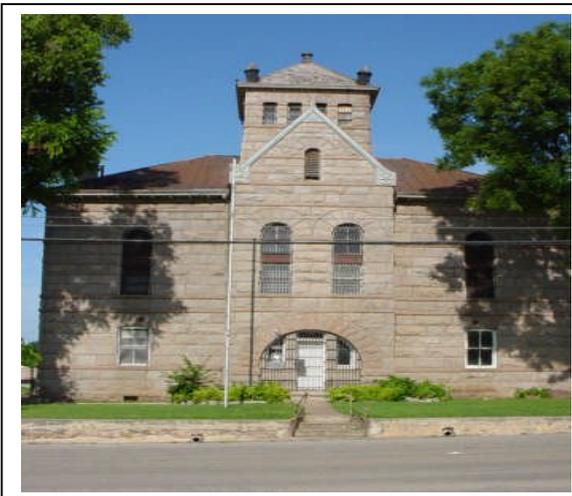
bucket and gave us their opinions, which will be discussed at the next city council meeting (Oct. 23).

Frank Rowell got some great photos of the roof, the Llano bridge and the courthouse from above the Red Top! When he pulled up some of the roof to expose some areas, Frank found out that the roof was actually a day-glow orange. Coolest thing is, he found about 20-30 bullet holes in the west side gutter of the gallows tower. How they got there is a matter of conjecture. We have some theories, like the sheriff shooting pigeons....

Ever wonder about those 4 round decorative thingies on the gallows tower? Turns out they are made of solid granite, capped with metal and painted black. The northeast one was leaning, so someone put metal pipe underneath to stabilize it. Go figure! Thanks, Frank, for your great photos!

TOUR GUIDE TRAINING AND MORE: Thanks to all who came to learn how to give jail tours. We will soon have a sign outside the jail telling visitors that if they want a tour during a weekday, they can call a central number. We will have a phone tree for people who can give the tour. Visitors stop by all the time for tours. Great idea, Tom!

WORK PARTIES: This is truly a hands-on group, as shown by the number of volunteers who showed up for our two work parties. The first "party" involved cleaning out the old Purple Room. It may have been the nursery of the jailor's quarters, since we found a scratched out rendering of "Joe", a robot??? Who knows what other treasures lie underneath?



JAIL FINDINGS, CONTINUED:

Mike Reagor, Frank Rowell and Tom Dalrymple took off part of the false ceiling to reveal the glorious original ceiling. It looks much like the courthouse ceiling, corrugated metal with cement poured on top of it. The purple room also exposes the original rock wall interior of the Red Top in areas.

Special thanks go to Charles Slocum and John Nelms, who outdid themselves vacuuming the jail and gallows. The City of Llano renovated the bathrooms, which are now functional (thanks to Eugene Long and guys!).

I'm astounded by all of the love shown to this building by so many people. Thank you, Sandy Shaw, Julie Woodall, John Nelms, Charles Slocum, Ovetra Hartman, Gene Hall Miller, Frank Rowell, Mike Reagor and... (add your name here next time, teehee!)

GRANTS: The bad news is that we received notice that the grant that we wrote to the Texas Historical Commission (\$30,000) has been put on hold due to Hurricane Ike. This was not a good year to ask for money from Texas, due to the hurricanes. However, I recently submitted a grant to the San Antonio Conservation Society (\$13,000, for bracing of the west gable) and the National Trust (to fund an architectural master plan). I will submit grants in the next year to the Texas Historical Foundation (Ted Lusher is a trustee) and others for the Red Top.

The City of Llano is starting to pay attention to our efforts and is ready to chip in. I feel that we are well on our way to achieve our plan to stabilize and renovate this jail to it's original glory. This group is the impetus for the restoration of this great old building. I can't thank you enough for supporting our efforts. You are the heart of this effort to renovate the Red Top!

UPCOMING EVENTS:

HERITAGE DAYS: Sheri, Mike and Tom will give tours of the Red Top from 10-2 or so Oct. 18. I play the jailor's wife, Mike and Tom are the sheriff and deputy.....

HAUNTED HOUSE: The Llano Fire Department Auxiliary puts on the annual Haunted House. This is the first year that it will be held at the Red Top Jail. There will be a little kids area (the purple room) for the meek at heart.

You all know how scary the jail is during the day, but how about at night? I won't divulge anything about the experience, but I am sure that your kids or grandkids have never experienced anything like this before. We have so many scary, fun things planned that I think we will rival any other Haunted House in Texas for spookiness and fun.

WORK PARTY: November 6, 10:30-???
Focus on first floor ceiling and walls.

CAN YOU DONATE ITEMS FOR THE....

Kitchen:

- antique kitchen stove
- antique kitchenware

Bathrooms:

- toilet paper holders
- pictures (see the new curtains)
- potpourri and old stuff

Yellow Room:

- Confederate memorabilia

Respectfully,
Sheri Zoch, President (325-248-0284)

THANKS FOR ALL YOUR SUPPORT FROM THE "FRIENDS OF THE LLANO RED TOP JAIL" BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

President: *Sheri Zoch*

Vice President: *Tom Dalrymple*

Secretary: *Sandy Shaw*

Treasurer: *Ovetra Hartman*

Member: *Frank Rowell*

Member: *Gene Hall Miller*

APPLICATION FORM FORM
FRIENDS OF THE LLANO RED TOP JAIL

The Friends of the Llano Red Top Jail is a nonprofit organization dedicated to the restoration and preservation of the Llano Red Top Jail, as well as to determine a function for the structure (i.e., some kind of a museum). Members are encouraged to assist in the restoration projects and attend an annual meeting to elect directors and discuss projects.

Name(s): _____

Email: _____

Address: _____

Phone numbers: _____

Could you help us with: (circle one or more)

Jail tours Work parties (cleaning) Fundraising

Organizing meetings Painting and repairs Accounting

Historical research Newsletter

Assisting with bids for contractors

Other _____

Our current membership dues are \$20 individual and \$35 family (household). Please enclose money order or a check made out to Friends of the Llano Red Top Jail and send to Sheri Zoch, 700 E. Green, Llano, TX 78643. You will receive a membership card. Questions, call 325-248-0284.

Thank you!