

July 2009



JAILHOUSE NEWS

FRIENDS OF THE LLANO RED TOP JAIL

HAPPY BIRTHDAY FRIENDS!

Guess what? We made it through our first year! WooHoo! Here's what we've done:

1. Fixed and painted the roof, and stabilized the gables to boot
2. Recorded an oral history of Doris Revada
3. Researched County Commissioners Court minutes related to the jail
4. Obtained an architectural Master Plan (see below)
5. Sponsored several paranormal societies visits to the jail
6. Put on a lot of events, including:
 - LVFD Halloween Haunted House
 - Heritage Days jail tours
 - 1st General Meeting/Birthday Party
 - Rock'N River Fest jail tours
7. Got 2 grants totaling \$29,000 (with matching money from the City)
8. Toured the entire 3rd grade Llano class

This would not have happened without your support. Please congratulate yourself on the success of your efforts. I especially would like to thank those who gave time, money and energy into this project. You are all special!



1900's RED TOP PHOTO FOUND!!

Larry Jones, who bought the house due east of the jail, purchased a photo on EBay of the old Red Top Jail from around the 1900's. Two little girls are standing out front – daughters or granddaughters of the jailor?



Lawrence T. Jones III collection

There is a large woodpile to the right of the building, consistent with Charles Baldwin's recollections. If you were at the July 12 "Friends" Birthday Party, you will know that Charles is the grandson of jailor Sid Smith, a jailor in the 1940s. Charles actually lived in the jail (the "yellow room" or southwest bedroom) from 6-13 years of age.

GARAGE SALE COMING UP!

Save your junk for a Red Top garage sale to be held in September. ALL proceeds will go to the Red Top restoration. This is something that all of our members can participate in. I know you have something you no longer need.... Call Sheri or any board member for your contribution.

FIRST ANNUAL BIRTHDAY PARTY.

We had a blast at the first birthday party for the Friends, even though it was hot. The hamburgers, fish, sausage and bread pudding were scrumptious. Many thanks to Steve's Liquor and Frank Rowell for donating the beer. I can't thank enough all who helped, including Frank, Tom, Mike, Ovetra and Sandy, as well as Jim Ives and Tommy Nelms (and who else did I forget?). Also thanks to Cheryl Quallenberg for the great invitations and Allan and Courtney Reed for their awesome free concert. We're a fun bunch, don't you think?

The event started out with a breakout of Johnny Ringo by the Brazos Bottom Cow'ographers (once again). This time, the glass did not break with the detonation! It was very realistic and we love having them here. We hope to have many more collaborations in the future. Following the scrumptious meal, Mike Reagor gave jail tours while Allan and Courtney Reed entertained us with music.

The highlight of the meeting was the appearance of Charles Baldwin, grandson of Sid Smith, a jailor in the 1940s. He had a lot of good stories and we will get an oral history from him soon.

ADOPT-A-PIER CAMPAIGN

Sheri and Walt Zoch started off this campaign by donating \$1200 for a pier. According to the preliminary structural engineering report, we need 32 concrete piers to stabilize the structure for another 100 or so years. Dennis Masterson estimated that these will cost about \$1200 apiece. If you (or a group of you) donate a pier, you will get your name on a permanent indoor plaque in the jail. Come on, be put in jail, permanently!!!

COMMITTEE MEMBERS NEEDED

1. Events coordination
2. History (incl. oral histories)
3. Media (advertising and news)
4. Tours
5. Fundraising

The Board can't do it all, or we will burn out. We need YOU!
Call Sheri, 325-248-0284

DOOLITTLE CHAPEL/SCHOOL NEWS

Scanned (reproduced) pictures of black cowboys that were donated by Dale Fry are on display in the Doolittle Chapel room of the Red Top. These photos show Llano black cowboys exhibiting their lariat, horseshoeing and other horsemanship skills. We are proud to display them in our jail until the Doolittle Chapel can be recreated. The originals are in a safety deposit box.

THE FRIENDS OF THE LLANO RED TOP JAIL MISSION STATEMENT

The Friends of the LLano Red Top Jail was established to assist the City of Llano with the restoration of the old Llano County "Red Top" Jail and the Doolittle Chapel/School. As stewards, our goal is to help the City of Llano with fundraising, historical research, community awareness and definition of an appropriate function for these two historical structures.

ARCHITECTURAL MASTER PLAN

A first draft of the Komatsu Architecture Master Plan is available. Please contact Finley DeGraffenreid for details. This plan will direct all of our efforts for restoration of the Red Top. The next steps are grading of the land and stabilizing the foundation (see the Adopt-A-Pier Campaign). Thanks to the National Trust and the City of Llano for funding of this plan. It will carry us through all of our fundraising efforts in an orderly fashion.

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

President: *Sheri Zoch 325-248-0284*

Vice President: *Tom Dalrymple*

Secretary: *Sandy Shaw*

Treasurer: *Ovetra Hartman*

Member: *Frank Rowell*

Member: *Gene Hall Miller*

