

January, 2010
Sheri Zoch, Editor

JAILHOUSE NEWS



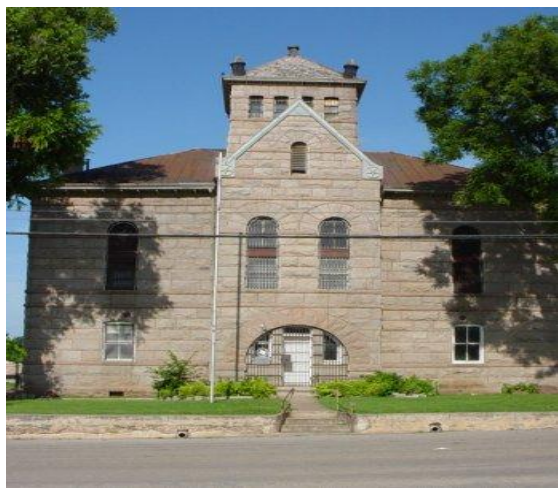
Happy Holidays, Friends.

You know, I don't get to say it enough. You are a great bunch of people and the BOD really appreciates all of the work and/or support that you put into our mission to restore our little Gem of the Hill Country, the Red Top! Hope you all have the greatest holiday season.

New Website: www.redtopjail.org

We have switched our website from the Main Street site to our own. Brian Coombs from the Cow'ographers is managing this website for free! Thanks, Brian! The site includes all of our newsletters, events, and sponsors. Please let us know what you think. Call Sheri for ideas and comments.

Texas Hill Country Trail. We are on the map! You can find us on the new www.txhillcountrytrail.com site, which is part of the TX Historical Commission Heritage Trails Program. Sheri attended a meeting at the Dabbs Hotel for this new trail, then gave a tour of the Red Top to Trail Board Members. Jaws dropped as they viewed the old jail cells and gallows! Duh! What else is new?



Grantwriting News.

Sheri submitted a City of Llano grant for \$115,000 total to the Texas Historical Commission Nov. 30. We are asking for \$30,000 to fund 32 pier pairs throughout the jail, both internal and external. This grant involves a lot of in-kind work by the City, Dr. Ned Woodall and the Friends, as well as some cash match by the City and the Friends. *This match from the Friends is why our Adopt-A-Pier Campaign was started.* Our goal was to match all of the cash for this grant, so that the City would not be liable for anything. We are still taking donations to meet this goal. Keep your fingers crossed that we get this grant.

Make the Red Top Jail Museum a Reality.

As you know, we won a very competitive grant from Preserve America for over \$40,000 hard cash to hire a museum planning consultant. Anne Toxey and Patrick McMillan gave a very exciting presentation of what they can do to design an interpretive museum for the Red Top. They originally worked for Disney and built a "castle" at one of their theme parks. They've since worked with numerous small museums throughout the states to build cost-effective "hands-on" kind of exhibits. They have a marvelous way to render drawings of planned exhibits by the computer. The Advisory Board met with this group and were so impressed, everyone attending the presentation signed up to be on the museum planning committee! **We need you to attend the City Council Meeting on December 20 at 5:00 to approve their contract. Toxey/McMillan will give another (brief) presentation.** Please come to show your support.

Oral History Project.

This year, Deidre Henderson's "Kaleidoscope" class is spearheading the oral history project. The students from this class toured the Red Top Jail with Mike Reagor. Once again, Mike sighed at the lack of Texas History these kids have absorbed. Nevertheless, these students are avid about the prospect of doing oral histories about the jail. Two curators (Suzanne Campbell and Shannon Sturm) from the Angelo State West Texas Collection came to Llano Dec. 3 to talk to the class about how to interview people for oral histories. The students were enthralled, believe it or not, and asked a lot of questions.

Because of the Preserve America Grant, we now have \$6500 for this class to buy digital recording equipment, video recorders, a laptop, cameras and large scanners to do this project professionally. Suzanne and Shannon taught the class what questions to ask and how to digitize and store key photos and artifacts.

This class will be integral to obtaining info for our museum. After the class gets some interviews under their belt, we plan to have a "Red Top History Nite" at Fuel, where students can interview former inmates or jailor's families and scan/digitize photos or documents related to the jail. They will also do some research...

Jail Log Being Digitized. Speaking of digitizing artifacts, Shannon and Suzanne took the 1947-1970 jail log leant to us by Ernest Ligon back to Angelo State to be digitized. They will provide us with a digitized version of each page *for free* so that we can re-create this manuscript into a new jail log book. Kudos go to Ray Theiss for suggesting this great collaboration with the Angelo State West Texas Collection.

Mrs. Henderson Class Oral History Project 2010 – LHS Student Essay:

Passing Time

In 1895, Llano constructed the Red Top Jail and it was put together with granite from Llano County. Since it had a Red roof, the inmates referred to their stay as staving in the Red Top.

However, not all the people that stayed in the jail were prisoners. Some jailers brought their families to live in the Red Top with them and many stories came from these stays.

These days Gene Hall recalls some of the stories that her mother would tell her about the "Red Top".

Gene Hall's great grandfather James Frank and his wife Anna Kendrick lived in the jail. They had six children, the oldest of which was Gene's grandmother who later had Anna Etta Moss. Anna Etta Moss is Gene Hall's mother. Anna Moss told her daughter Gene stories of when Anna was a kid and liked to play cards with the prisoners. James was a jailer, as well as the City Marshall. The jailers used the first floor for an office and living quarters. The second floor had four cells and two drunk tanks (where the intoxicated stayed the night). The fourth and fifth floors house the gallows.

By: Laura Ortiz & Nia Gibson

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: *Frank Rowell*

Secretary: *Sandy Shaw*

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Member: *Gene Hall*

APPLICATION 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 and the Doolittle Chapel/School. 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/painting) Fundraising

Historical research Newsletter Events Marketing

Assisting with bids for contractors Woodworking

Other _____

MEMBERSHIP DUES: (Check one and enclose \$\$\$\$)

Personal: Individual (\$20) Family (\$35)

Business: (Includes your business name on donor sign)
Silver (\$100) Gold (\$500) Platinum (\$1000)

Adopt-A-Pier (\$1200) (Your name on a permanent plaque)

Please print out this form, enclose a check and return to Sandy Shaw, 295 CR 306, Llano, TX 78643. Call Sheri Zoch at 325-248-0284 for questions, comments or ideas. THANK YOU