

Sheri Zoch, Editor  
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# JAILHOUSE NEWS

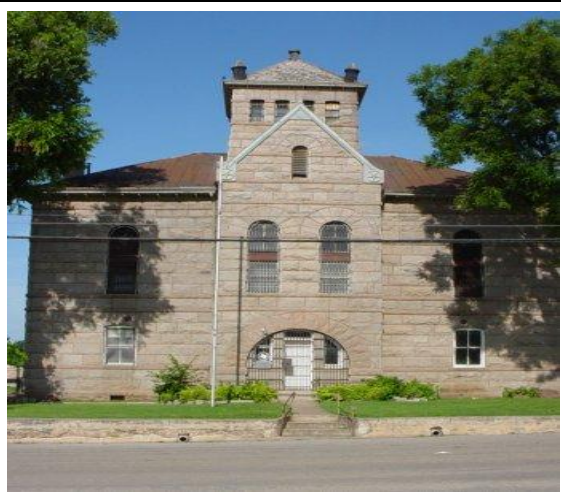


## **Buckle up. It's time for a new era of the Friends...**

We got a grant from Preserve America (part of the National Park Service) to start planning for a great new museum at the Red Top. We've also formed a great Leadership Advisory Board full of enthusiastic members. Get ready for a whole new thrust of activity with the Red Top. We're on a roll and not stopping...

## **Jail Log Found!!!!**

Talk about a holy grail! Ernest Ligon presented a Red Top Jail log from 1947 to 1970 to the Friends at our last General Meeting. This jail log chronicles everyone during that era who "stayed at the Red Top", their offense, who bailed them out, etc. It's a beautiful piece of history that we will treat with respect. Our goal is to reproduce the pages, have them bound and return the book to the Ligon family. We are working with Angelo State University West Texas Collections to preserve this piece of history. Ray Theiss is a master's student there and is helping to coordinate this project.



## **3<sup>rd</sup> Annual General Meeting.**

Since the venerable Tom Dalrymple stepped down as vice president (thank you, Tom for your 2 years of service), Frank Rowell was voted in as VP. Earl Theiss became our board member to replace Frank's former position. Thanks to everyone on our Board who gave so much to advance our group these last two years. You probably don't know how much our board members have worked to make this effort happen. I do. And I appreciate them all.

**No Haunted House this Year.** The Llano Volunteer Fire Dept. decided to have their 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary haunted house at their fire house this year. Boo Hoo! We hope that they will consider having their haunted house at the Red Top in the future. If you can help out at the Fire Hall, please do so. It's for a good cause.

## **GARAGE SALE SAT., NOV. 20.**

Save your stuff for us to sell. Our last garage sale paid for a whole pier! Ask any of the board members for access to the jail to store your "priceless items" for the sale. Of course, we will need volunteers for this event – call Sandy if you can help with pricing or selling. As we get closer to the date, we will remind you.

**Leadership Advisory Board Meeting Tues. Nov. 16.** For those of you on this board, please save that date. We will be interviewing Anne Toxey and Patrick McMillan from Toxey/McMillan Design Associates to plan for our new museum at the Red Top. As you know, we applied for a \$80,000 planning grant from Preserve America (part of the National Park Service) and GOT IT!

**Heritage Days a Big Hit.** We gave jail tours on Saturday and Sunday, Oct. 16 and 17 with some great new tour guides. Thanks go to Derek Gibson and Ray Theiss for helping both days. Ray dressed in his Yankee uniform, but we welcomed him anyway! The Brazos Bottom Cow'ographers gave knockout shows both days, including the breakout of Johnny Ringo. That dude just keeps reincarnating! Great gunfights and acting – if you haven't seen this skit, you are missing out. Great job, Cow'O's. We applaud our new ambassadors!

**What's next for the Red Top restoration?**

Sheri is writing a grant to the Texas Historical Commission, due end of November. Focus is on the foundation. We fixed the Red Top roof, so now it's time to grade the grounds to below crawl space and build those 32 piers. From our great "Adopt-A-Pier Campaign", we have amassed \$10,000 in donations for this. We hope to get another pier out of the upcoming garage sale (our last rummage sale paid for 1 pier). The grant is for \$60,000 total. The Friends will match as much as we can, but the City of Llano will do the grading for free – an in-kind match! The City provided a geotechnical soil analysis and survey, and is obtaining plans from Sparks Associates for the piers. Thanks to Llano for their support.

**Fundraising raising its "\*&%" head!!!!**

For those of you who have actually read our architectural master plan, the amount of money that it will take to restore this gem is, well, pretty pricey. As your grantwriter, I have been pretty successful at getting little grants. *HowwHowwHowww*. However, it seems that we need at least \$1.5 million (the master plan recommended \$2.1 million) to get this baby done. If you can concoct that this money is all going to come from small grants or money raised from tours, etc., I'd like to hear your plan. But from my end...this is how I see it.

Bottom line is that we need to hire a professional fundraising group that can help us raise the necessary money to turn our jail into a major tourist attraction. I've been talking to Tom Mucks, from Fundraising Solutions in Austin. He has some sound ideas, like forming our Leadership Advisory Board. Suggestions?

**What's up with the Oral History Project?**

With the grant from Preserve America, we now have some teeth into this project. We can now buy the Llano High School students \$6500 worth of audio/visual/computer equipment to help document the Red Top's history. Our hero teacher, Deirdre Henderson, has a class called Kaleidoscope, which focuses on, among other things, community service. This year-long class will help the Friends of the Llano Red Top Jail collect oral histories of people who have an experience with the old lockup. As part of their arsenal, the class will also have the tools to digitize some of our artifacts, including the old brass keys (that still work), old jail logs, etc.

We are paring up LHS with the West Texas Collection at Angelo State, where Ray Theiss is doing graduate work. They are excited to come to this class at LHS and teach the students how to interview and digitize items for our posterity. Part of the reason that we got the Preserve America grant is because we are pairing high school kids with senior citizens to be interviewed. The kids get to learn from these people and the adults get to tell their stories. A win-win situation.

**A Fun Idea.** Some members of the Advisory Board have thought of having a reverse B&B at the jail. You bring your own bedding and breakfast, but you get to stay in the jail overnight. We could get some hammocks made up and charge people a lot of money to experience the ghosts, cold, creepiness, etc. Let me know what you think.

**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*

**Treasurer:** *Ovetra Hartman*

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