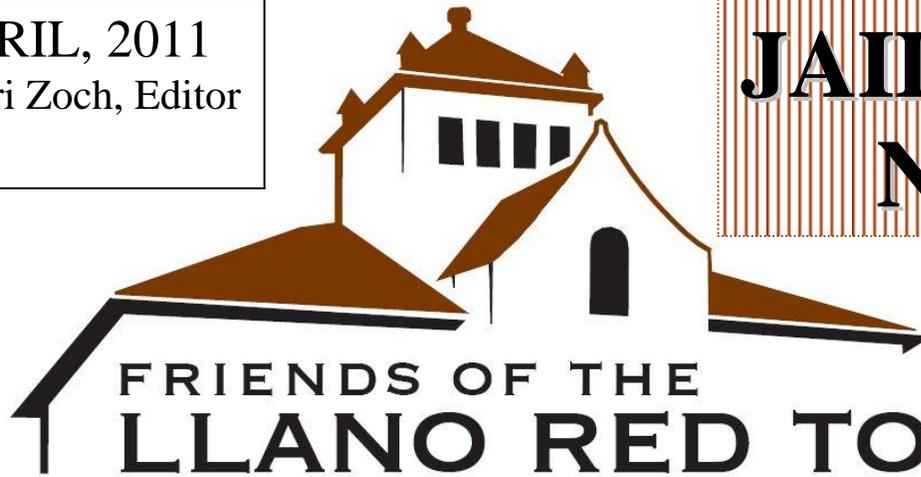


APRIL, 2011  
Sheri Zoch, Editor

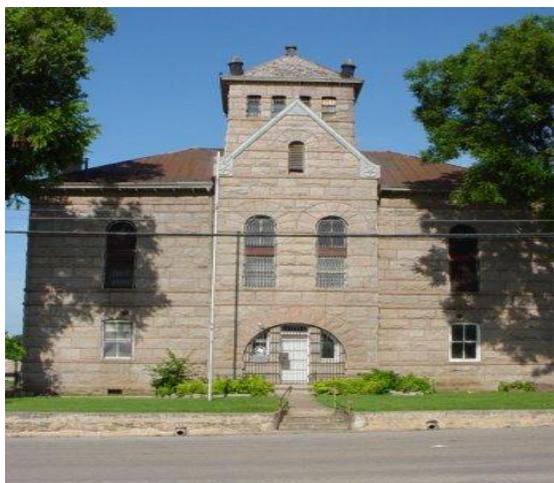
# JAILHOUSE NEWS



Dear Friends,

With a very heavy heart I report to you that one of our dear Friends has been tragically killed in a car accident. Brenda Reagor was a very generous, caring person and will be sorely missed. She and others in the Friendship Quilters made a quilt that was raffled off to benefit the Red Top. Because of this effort, they were able to “buy” a pier. Our hearts go out to Mayor Mike and his family. The Friends expressed our support with a wreath.

**Funding Updates.** Michael Heaston gave another very generous donation to the Friends. Thank you, Michael. The City of Llano approved the Texas Historical Commission’s grant of \$25,000. While this is not enough to pay for the 32 piers, it’s a start. Thanks to everyone who showed up to support this City Council action. Sheri will write grants to the LCRA and the Summerlee Foundation to try to match this funding. The Friends Board of Directors has already approved \$14,000 to commit to the piers. A “Pier Group” is forming, so let me know what you can give.



**What’s Next?** The City will entertain bids for the project. Some preliminary work will need to be done, including an asbestos abatement. Some of the floor is covered with tile that had asbestos in the mastic. We have obtained an estimate for this and it is a little over \$1000. I’ll keep you updated on the progress.

**Ghosts.** The Llano Hill Country Paranormal Investigators came to the jail and did an investigation last week. It always takes a long time to process their results, but they said they experienced some things. I’ll let you know. I’ve also been contacted by the TV show “Ghosthunters”. They are looking to do a show in Texas and may include us!

**Jail Tours.** Kim Webb, Derek Gibson, Mike Reagor, Isabella Revada and Sheri Zoch have been giving tours every Saturday. These tours are yielding a little over \$100 each day, between tours and T-shirt or key sales. Not bad for a few hours work. Little 8-year-old Izzy gives great tours and really nets the donations! The tourists love her! Thanks to all.

**Oral History Project.** This thing is taking on a life of its own! Glenn Smith, who was actually born in the jail in the 1930s, and his niece Cynthia Darwin came to town to talk to the LHS students about early days in Llano. Glenn traveled from San Antonio and Cynthia and her husband came from Galveston. Gene Hall very graciously put them up at her Century Ranch. Thank you, Gene. Glenn gave the Friends a “thumb-cuff” that was used in the same way as handcuffs, but was easier to carry and just as effective. (Continued)

**Oral History Project, Cont.** The students loved the stories about Glenn's Grandfather, who was the sheriff and jailor at the time (Sheriff Dan McDonald). Glenn's mother, Maxine Smith, was the sheriff's daughter. Glenn brought some photos, including one of the sheriff in front of the jail. These were scanned by the students. Cynthia also brought and donated photos, some showing family members (young kids) in front of the jail. This information will be part of our upcoming museum at the Red Top.

Our collaborators in the oral history project from the Angelo State West Texas Collection, Shannon Sturm and Suzanne Campbell, came to help the students during this important interview. The Friends bought box lunches for all who helped with this interview, then gave them a tour of the Red Top Jail.

The students will write up these stories and publish them in the newspapers. Upcoming interviews are with Sandra Overstreet and Larry Stovall, members of jailor's families.

#### **MORE LHS PROJECTS:**

**Short Film About the Red Top.** In connection with the newly formed Llano Film Society, the high school students in Mrs. Deidre Henderson's Kaleidoscope class are making a short film about the Red Top. Spearheaded by Steve Roberts and Marion Bishop, the students have already come up with 3 scenes for this short. Both Steve and Marion have talked to the students about how to make a film and the kids are very excited about this project. The Friends bought box lunches from Burger Bar for the kids to come to the jail to plan their scenes. The next step is to start scripting and form film crews. The film will debut at the June independent film showing by the Llano Film Society.

The first scene of the film will focus on students at the Llano Library who want to know more about that interesting building with a red roof next to the library. Another scene shows last jailor Betty Graham beating a prisoner with a pool cue who is trying to escape down the staircase. The third scene is still up for grabs, I think.

W.C. Jameson is writing songs for the score of this movie! We all know that it is hard to complete this project in the time that we have left in the semester, but we are thinking that we would rather have a rather amateurish movie that the kids can be proud of than a polished product that could take years to complete. The kids have movie equipment and computers from the Preserve America grant, but we need things like a tripod and lighting. Can you lend us these items? Call Sheri Zoch.

**W. C. Jameson is Writing a CD About the Red Top.** Yes, W.C. is madly writing songs about the Red Top Jail to be included in a CD that will benefit the restoration. I think he already has 4 songs written, including one about Llano's most notorious inmate, Johnny Ringo. We will try to include students from LHS who can play an instrument to assist with this project. They may also get involved with the recording and sound editing. W. C. also suggested that we have a concert at the LanTex to kick off this CD, the proceeds to benefit the Red Top. Great idea!

**Website up and running.** Just to remind you, we have two websites available. The websites have the newsletters, info about grant awards, links to our friends and info on how to donate. [www.redtopjail.org](http://www.redtopjail.org)  
[www.Llanomainstreet.com/redtopjail](http://www.Llanomainstreet.com/redtopjail)

**Trail of the Deer Coming to the Red Top.** One of Robin's deer will be donated to be permanently displayed at the Red Top. Call Sheri or Robin (247-4963) if you can donate either painting skills or money to this project.

#### **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*

**Member:** *Earl Theiss*

**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**

**Grantwriting assistance (gathering letters of support, writing the budget, obtaining necessary documents, etc.)**

**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**