

February,
2011
Sheri Zoch, Editor

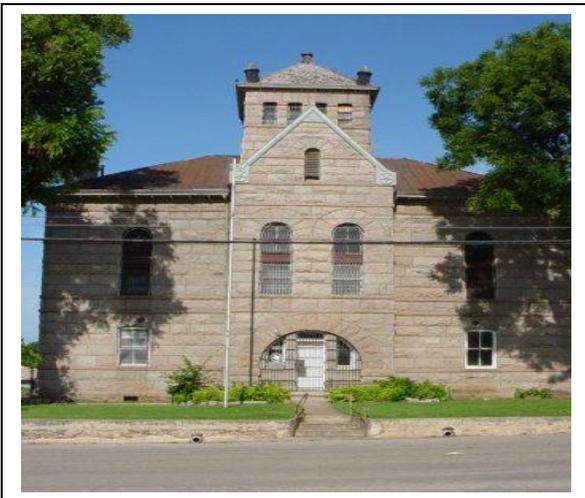
JAILHOUSE NEWS



What a difference a month makes! We had some major events happen at the Red Top, some good, some very, very bad. We'll start with the good:

The Daytripper TV show films at the Red Top Jail. The KLRU produced show "The Daytripper" filmed here on Sunday, Feb. 20 with Mike Reagor as the tour guide. Chet Garner and camera crew filmed around town, then stopped by the Red Top to get locked in jail. They all thought this was a cool place. I'll keep you posted on air time. See picture on page 2.

The Good, the Bad and the Ugly.... The Texas Historical Commission approved our grant for the piers and grading the site, *but....* you guessed it, the money may not be there to give. As your grantwriter, this breaks my heart. Please write to your congressman to keep the THC alive. It appears that the THC will not have money for an additional 2 years. There is still a spark of hope that the THC will come through this year, but no promises.



OK, the REALLY UGLY! Right after the big 3-4 day freeze, the thawing of the ground around Friday, Feb. 11 saw major movement at the jail. There must have been an awful groan as the central core *sank*. Walls cracked, the cement floor in the booking room buckled, and debris flew everywhere. The big crack on the north jail cell area got so wide that the monitoring meter broke. It stopped at about 8 mm, so it might have moved an *inch!* According to the Pat Sparks Engineering group, this happened suddenly.

The catch-22 about this whole situation is that we cannot start the project on the grading or the construction of piers until the THC tells us that the project is funded. Sparks Engineering is preparing a report that underscores (no pun intended) the need for piers. I'm afraid that our Adopt-A-Pier Campaign only raised enough for 7 piers. This was because the estimate for each pier had to be raised because Sparks now thinks that we need double piers, at a cost of \$2,000 apiece. The City and the Friends have been on the horn to the THC to see if we can at least begin the project.

We need your dues!! This is a reminder for those friends who have not yet updated their dues for 2011. This is our first year we have revised our books and asked for all dues to be paid in January. We very much appreciate the many of you that have jumped on this wagon, and don't want those who haven't, to miss the opportunity. We have had a few setbacks lately and of course we love our FOLRTJ, and we love your timely dues also! Please use the last page of this newsletter to mail in your dues.
Sandy Shaw, Treasurer

TOWN HALL MEETING TO DISCUSS THE RED TOP JAIL MUSEUM:

Thursday, February 24, 5:00, City Hall

Please plan to attend this important first meeting inviting all Llano County Residents to provide input into the theme of the Red Top Jail Museum. I have heard all kinds of ideas for a museum at the old jail, from a geology museum to an outlaw museum, to a Texas History museum, etc., etc. We hired a museum planning consultant firm, the Toxey/McMillan Group, and they will be on hand to lead the discussion. Your Board of Directors and Advisory Board have met with this group and thought hard about the most natural use of this space. Ned Woodall and Dave Franks prepared a focus statement that sums up what we are thinking. We hope you like it. If you do or you don't, please come to the town hall meeting and speak up!



Mike Reagor, our most persistent advocate for the Llano Red Top Jail, talks up the history of this state and national landmark to Chet Garner from *The Daytripper* KLRU program.

LLANO RED TOP JAIL MUSEUM FOCUS STATEMENT

The Hoodoo War with its dark period of neighbor against neighbor was over; Johnny Ringo, the embodiment of frontier lawlessness, had moved on to Tombstone and his date with death; the once open prairies were now bisected and held prisoner by strands of barbed wire; the Llano iron ore boom with its shady characters and "salooned" streets was about to reach its fateful climax: the Wild West was waning and Civility was rising.

Against this background, in 1895, the Llano Red Top Jail came into being. Like the Llano County Courthouse which preceded it by two years, the Jail physically reflected Llano's transition from a society based on personal relationships and shared cultures, where law was found in a fist or the barrel of a gun, to a society based on written rules and society norms where law was found in a courtroom or a jail cell.

It is the objective of the Red Top Jail Museum to introduce museum goers to this period of tumultuous transition through interactive experiences, reenactments and physical structure and to develop within them an understanding and appreciation of the relationship of structures to society: a relationship which both reflected and precipitated the demise of the Wild West and the establishment of the authority of Law in Llano, Texas.

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

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