

January, 2011
Sheri Zoch, Editor

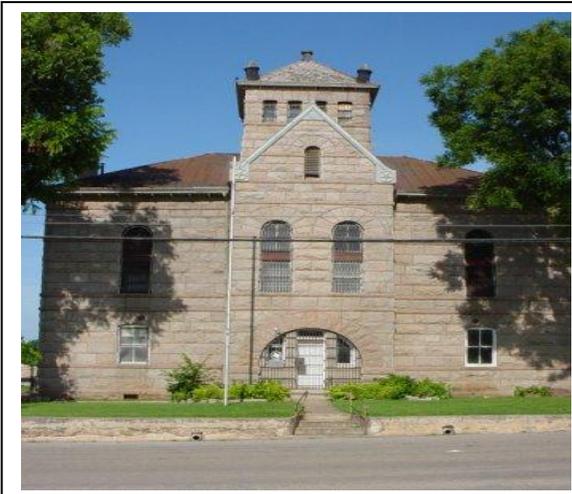
JAILHOUSE NEWS



Greetings for 2011.

It's been 2 and a half years since the Friends started, and we've gotten a lot done since then. We have over \$14,000 in our coffers, most of which will be used for piers. This money will be used to match a grant pending with the Texas Historical Commission. The decision date for this grant is Feb. 14, so keep your fingers crossed.

WATCH AMERICAN IDOL AT 7:00 ON THURSDAY, JAN. 27. Seriously, the Red Top Jail may be shown on it. Corey Weaver from Hill Country Paranormal Society investigated the jail one week before he won a slot as a singer on American Idol. I gave a tour for the Idol production crew last fall, then they filmed him doing an investigation at the Red Top. This was that big hush-hush secret I wrote about earlier. Can't guarantee they will show this film clip, but we can dream, can't we? If Corey gets promoted, the film clip may be shown at some later point. He's a real cute 20-something – worth watching anyway!



Preserve America Grant Update.

I. Museum Planning

As you know, we won a \$80,000 grant from Preserve America to start planning for a museum at the Red Top. Thanks to a big showing of support at the City Council during their presentation from the Friends, the Anne Toxey/ Patrick McMillan group was awarded the contract to plan this museum. I appreciate all of the people who showed up at their presentations. This museum planning firm specializes in creating small museums that are highly interactive and visually exciting. Their ability to create a virtual tour of the proposed museum is unbelievably realistic. We look forward to working with them.

You may ask why we are planning for a museum when we don't even have an acceptable building. Valid question. Truth is, it's much easier to plan for the electrical, HVAC and other requirements for a museum with the floors torn out, walls disassembled and ceilings exposed.

II. Oral History Project

The other part of this grant was to enable the Llano High School students to create oral histories of people who have stories about the Red Top Jail. The City of Llano just handed over a check for a little under \$6,000 to Mrs. Deidre Henderson's "Kaleidoscope" LHS class to buy voice recognition software, a laptop, scanners, voice recorders, video cameras and other stuff for this project. They have learned how to interview people and will start this project as soon as the equipment arrives. If you know of anyone who either "stayed at the Red Top" or were jailor's family members, please call Sheri Zoch (325-248-0284). The students want to talk to you.

Friends Help Main Street Sponsor Citywide Garage Sale.

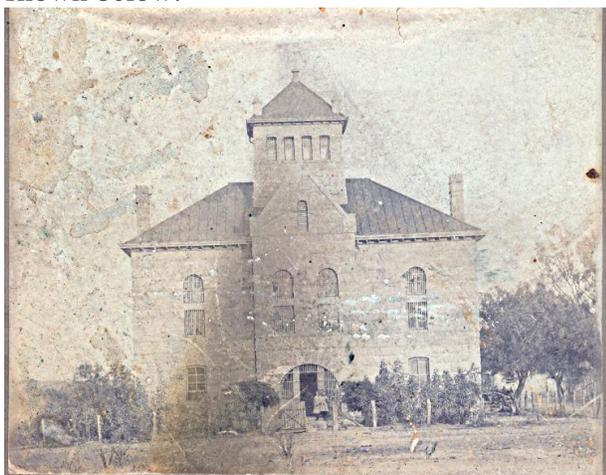
Saturday, Jan. 22, the Friends of the Llano Red Top Jail helped sponsor the Citywide Garage Sale with Llano Main Street. We had a lot of stuff left over from the garage sale held at the jail last November, which we sold again at the citywide sale. The Friends had two booths and helped sell tickets at the entrance. Special thanks go to Friends' volunteers Derek, Sandy, Kim, Ovetra and Carol, as well as others. The sale was a success and essentially brought over \$400 in free money. Between the two garage sales, we bought another pier! Thank you, all.

ADVISORY BOARD MEETING TUESDAY, JAN. 25, 5:30 AT RED TOP.

If you are on the Friends Advisory Board, please plan to attend our meeting at 5:30. The agenda includes plans for fundraising, marketing and updates on events.

LHS Oral History Project Interview of David and James Morris. This report was made by high school students in Mrs. Deidre Henderson's class last spring. The Morris brothers graciously came from Brownwood to talk to the students. They left us with pictures of the first jailor at the Red Top, Barry Russell and his family. Note that while Barry was thought to be a sheriff by this family, there is no record of this in the roster of sheriffs from 1887 on. It is more likely that Barry Russell was a jailor while N.R. Porter was the sheriff.

Nevertheless, two of the 10 children may be represented in the photo owned by Larry Jones shown below.



David and James Morris

When David Morris was 12 years old, his grandfather told him the Russell family history as it related to The Red Top Jail's history. The information that David and James shared is important because early county records were destroyed by several fires at the Llano County Courthouse, including one on January 22, 1892.

Back in those days the Red Top housed inmates, but it was also home to the jailers and their families. While the men guarded the inmates, the women of the house did the cooking and cleaning, but were not allowed to see the prisoners.

Life was hard. There was no plumbing in the Red Top, and water had to be drawn from a well. Their food came from a garden. Their only transportation was horses and wagons.

Babies were born, and family members of the jailers died in Red Top. David and James Morris' great-great-grandfather, Barry Russell, fathered 10 children. A couple of those children were born in the jail. Barry Russell's wife, Julie, died in the Red Top. Barry Russell served as Llano County Sheriff for 25 years.

One of Barry and Julia's children was Dolly Russell. Dolly was David and James' great-grandmother. She married Allen Morris. Tom Russell was a star athlete. He went to Elk City Oklahoma and played football. Tom was paralyzed from the waist down playing football.

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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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