

Sept./Oct.,

2011

Sheri Zoch, Editor

JAILHOUSE NEWS



General Meeting Saturday, October 1. With free Cooper's Bar-B-Q and free beer from Ben E. Keith, the Friends met for their annual meeting. The most important changes are that The Executive Board was increased by 3 extra members and we have a new President. Sheri Zoch stepped down and handed the keys over to Tom Dalrymple. He will focus on getting the piers completed this next year. Sheri will remain on the board as a grantwriter, tour guide and director of the oral history project. We also added a historian position (Steve Roberts) and a Membership Chair on the board (Kim Webb). Other positions remain unchanged. Thanks to Cheryl Crabtree, Dave and Inell Franks and Kim Webb for serving on the nominating committee.

Thanks to all who have served the Friends during the past few years. Your ex-Pres. knows the amount of effort that all of you have put into our cause, and it shows!

Sheri Zoch, Past President



The Incarceration of Jail Buck. The painted deer was arrested by Officer Lance Idol, scolded and handcuffed to the flagpole at the Red Top Jail on August 27. Sheri Zoch showed up with a leg cast, wrist splints, knee brace, back brace and bandages resulting from Jail Buck's assault. Officer Idol said he was arresting the deer for assault with a deadly weapon, his antlers! The bad buck got what he deserved, life in prison (or outside of it). If you haven't seen him, take some time to swing by the jail. See if you can spot all 3 of his tattoos!

Sadly, some dastardly devil lifted the handcuffs (seriously!), so Jail Buck is now chained to the handrail. His ball and chain are still intact, however.

Check out the YouTube movie: Jail Buck.wmv. It will make you laugh.

Advisory Board Learns About Legacy Giving. Attorney Tim Cowart met with the Advisory Board to discuss how to set up a will to include the Red Top Jail. Tim asked to become a member of the Friends, and said that he will modify anyone's will to include the Friends of the Llano Red Top Jail *for free!* This is an incredible offer of generosity and you should think about it. It's a great way to give back to the community and keep our historical heritage. Please call Tim Cowart at 247-5486 to schedule an appointment. It doesn't take much time, but it can greatly improve our success in the restoration of this Texas gem. Remember, the Red Top was named one of 7 of Texas' Most Endangered Places last year by Preservation Texas.

Heritage Days October 14-16 at the Red Top. This was the biggest, baddest festival at the Red Top since the Friends were formed! Steve Roberts took on the event chairmanship for this festival and it was a huge success! The Badland Texas Rangers (funded by Llano Main Street) performed numerous skits outside of the jail on Saturday and Sunday and were a big hit. We sold food for the first time: sausage wraps and beverages. We gave tours every half hour for as long as we could stand it, and the tours were packed with people. Unfortunately, people did not give as many donations as last year (blame the economy!), but the attendance was definitely 3+ the amount from years before at the Red Top. We see this as progress.

The Celtaire String Band played all day Saturday thanks to a grant from Humanities Texas. They played on the front lawn of the jail to tons of people. Remember this group, with their limberjack dancing dolls and period instruments? The Celtaires also performed on Friday, October 14 at both the Llano Junior High School and the Llano Christian Academy. The kids *loved* them, and brought their families back for the Saturday performance at the Red Top. Sheri Zoch put them up at M&M's B&B for this event, which the Celtaires raved about.

In addition to the Badland Texas Rangers, the Celtaires and Jail Tours, there were lots of other activities for Heritage Days at the Red Top. We had an hour of ghost stories given by Derek Gibson and a Halloween Costume Making Class directed by Binky and Ron (Binky La Faye Antiques). In fact, Binky spent hours decorating the purple room, converting it into the "Ghost Room". The room contains antiques and spooky stuff, including a mummified cat donated by Steve!

THANKS TO EVERYONE WHO PARTICIPATED IN THIS EVENT. The list of people involved is too great to list here, but please know that your work was greatly appreciated by the Friends. In particular, we thank Steve Roberts for orchestrating the most-attended and most vibrant event that we have had at the Red Top. Well done, Steve!

Haunted Llano Tours in October. Every weekend in October the Llano Historical Ghost Society conducted tours of known haunted places in Llano. On both Saturday and Sunday evenings, interested people met at the Red Top Jail, where they learned about all of the haunted activities at the jail. After the Red Top, the Llano Haunted Tour walked people to the Dabbs Hotel, the Badu House, Binky La Faye's building, and the Haynie Hotel above Stonewall's Pizza. The docents (Ron Anderson, Kenny Hare, Derek Gibson and others) told about hauntings at each location. A portion of the \$10 fee will go to the Red Top.

Grant News: We submitted a request for inquiry for \$12,500 to the Summerlee Foundation in Dallas to help match our \$25,000 grant from the Texas Historical Commission. We've not heard back as of this date. We also plan to ask for \$5,000 from the Texas Historical Foundation to assist us with this pier project. Both organizations seemed eager to help us. Like I say, you don't ask, you don't get.

Piers Coming! Finley and Tom are working hard to select bidders and work with the engineer (Pat Sparks). Pre-bid meetings have been held and we have several interested bidders. Start looking for changes in November!

THANKS FOR ALL YOUR SUPPORT FROM THE "FRIENDS OF THE LLANO RED TOP JAIL" BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

President: *Tom Dalrymple*

Vice President: *Frank Rowell*

Secretary: *Sandy Shaw*

Treasurer: *Ovetra Hartman*

Historian: *Steve Roberts*

Membership Chair: *Kim Webb*

Grantwriter: *Sheri Zoch*

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