

July  
2012

# JAILHOUSE NEWS

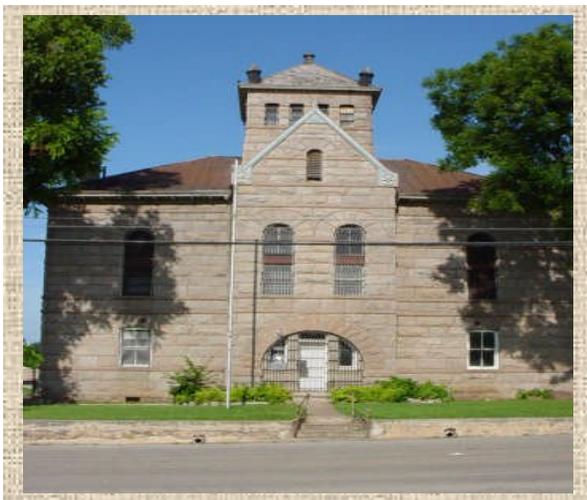


## **RED TOP JAIL IS FLOORLESS!**

That's right, we have successfully removed most of the floor on the first floor. Read on for how we did it. Also, get ready for the next garage sale and other volunteer activities...

**Citywide "City Pickers" Garage Sale Sat., August 4, 9-4:00.** The Friends will be co-hosting the garage sale at the Llano American Legion Hall with Llano Main Street. Please drag out those treasures to donate and drop them off to Kim at the Llano Chamber. We will need volunteers to man our booth as well as to help sell tickets, so please keep that day free. If you can volunteer some time, call Kim at the Llano Visitor Center: 247-5354.

**TJ Smith at the Lantex Theater August 18, 7 PM.** Concession stand proceeds go to the Friends of the Llano Red Top Jail. TJ is a vocal impressionist with a wide repertoire of music: Willie, Ozzie, The Beatles, etc. It'll be a hoot. Please call Kim Webb if you want to help sell popcorn and drinks at this concert.



## **Bluebell/Bluebonnet Festival and Rockin' River Fest.**

Kim Webb organized volunteers to man booths at both events, which got the word out about the plight of the jail. We handed out applications to join the Friends and took donations for the restoration. People enjoyed posing for pictures in front of Jail Buck, who was paroled briefly for these events.

Thanks to Kim and all who volunteered at these booths.

## **Museum Plan First Draft Delivered.**

Anne Toxey and Patrick McMillan created a first draft of an interpretive plan for the future Red Top Jail Museum. This draft (75 pages, without pictures) is the result of an incredible historical research effort by the consultants involving the Friends, the Llano Museum and the Llano County Library. It lays down a concept for the jail (centered around the early 1900s) and gives good insight into what life was like in Llano at that time. It brings out not only Llano history, but the history of Texas and the US migration to the west, as well as a great discussion of the history of law enforcement and the penal system.

This draft does not include a discussion of exhibits – that will come in a later draft. If anyone is interested in obtaining the draft, email Sheri at [swzoch@gmail.com](mailto:swzoch@gmail.com). We particularly need comments on this document, so let Sheri know what you think.

## **First Floor Removal.**

After 3 work parties, the Friends and others have managed to remove ¾ of the first floor tongue and groove boards. The wood is presumably longleaf pine and is original to the building.

### **A. Work Parties**

The first work party focused on clearing out some room at the Llano Chamber of Commerce storage unit for our stuff. We moved almost all of the furniture either to this unit or upstairs at the jail.

At the second “party” we removed all of the tongue and groove from two former rooms of the jailor’s quarters. This was lots of fun in the heat!

The third party was also all about tearing out floors: the remaining large room and part of the hallway were removed.

All of these volunteer efforts were accomplished through the help of many Friends and some newcomers who saw the call for help in the newspapers. Perhaps our most “notorious” helper was **James Bond** – no lie! This 87-year old volunteer came with a homemade tool he made for this work and single-handedly tore out half of the hallway! He told us that he plans to go skydiving for his 88<sup>th</sup> birthday in September. I no longer have sympathy for anyone else who can’t volunteer to do at least something!

Thanks to all who came to help.

**Next Work Party Thursday, August 2.** We still need to remove the floor in the two bathrooms and the remainder of the hallway. If you can spare an hour or two, we can use your help. First, we must move more furniture items to our storage unit. In addition to tearing up the floorboards, we need people to haul them piles outside, clean up, etc. Anything you can do is appreciated.

## **What did we find?**

You may already know that Frank found an old chisel that was probably used to shape the stone at the jail. This is on loan at the Llano Museum until our museum becomes a reality. We also found a handmade wooden spoon and some old Coke cans. The latest work party revealed a tree stump under the floorboards. Also, at least two of the fireplaces got out of control, as evidenced by replaced floorboards and charred beams underneath. The Red Top could have burned down! Walls, or in this case, floors, can talk!

## **Asbestos Abatement Done.**

The City hired an asbestos abatement company to remove tiles covering the concrete portion of the booking room and central core on the first floor. These tiles were laid with an asbestos adhesive, so this had to be done professionally.

## **What’s it look like?**

Removal of the floor allowed us to see how the building was constructed. The outer granite stone facade is only 6-8 inches thick. The inner part consists of a variety of rock types. The rocks are stacked on top of each other and in some places were cemented together.

**Get your Pier NOW.** You still have time to buy a pier for \$1200. Your name will be engraved on a permanent plaque and a pier at the Jail for posterity! Fill out the form below and send it in to Kim. Just DO IT!

## **THANKS FOR ALL YOUR SUPPORT FROM THE "FRIENDS OF THE LLANO RED TOP JAIL" BOARD OF DIRECTORS: (phone nos. 325 area code)**

**President:** *Tom Dalrymple 423-2516*

**Vice President:** *Frank Rowell 247-4137*

**Secretary:** *Frederica Dreyer 512-497-6095*

**Treasurer:** *Ovetra Hartman 247-3188*

**Historian:** *Steve Roberts 248-5000*

**Grantwriter/Editor:** *Sheri Zoch 248-2084*

**Membership Chair:** *Kim Webb 247-2233*

**Member:** *Gene Hall 247-4074*

**Member:** *Martha Rowlett 248-3299*

# 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. 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)**

Work parties (cleaning/painting/demolition)      Fundraising

Historical research      Newsletter      Events      Marketing

Assisting with bids for contractors      Woodworking

Masonry

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 made out to the Friends of the Llano Red Top Jail and return to Kim Webb PO Box 5613, Valley Spring, TX 78885. THANK YOU.**