

January
2013

JAILHOUSE NEWS

Editor: Sheri Zoch



Dear Friends,
Though the jail remains closed for tours, we have not forgotten the Red Top Jail. In fact, we've been busily working on it. Things have been happening so fast, it was hard to find time to sit down and collect all the info. I'll try to condense it all here.

2012 General Meeting. New officers were elected (see list, end of this newsletter) thanks to the hard work of the Nominating Committee. Turns out, we weren't quite sure what offices were open, but the committee came up with the vacancies and a slate of candidates. Thanks to Mike Reagor and Dave and Inell Franks for this tough job. We will soon form a bylaws review committee soon to clarify some discrepancies in the bylaws so this doesn't happen again. If you want to be on this committee, contact President Frank Rowell.

Thanks also to all who planned and prepped for this meeting. The tamales and chili were great, as well as the guacamole and sides. It was a nice night and we enjoyed visiting.



Deer Season at the Red Top: Our dear deer in front of the jail was kept warm over the holidays with a scarf and hat knitted by the ladies of the knitting circle. He was also in the Christmas Parade and at the booth on Market Day (see below). Jail Buck gets around!

Christmas Parade. Several of us got to ride a decorated wagon drawn by Gail Sawyer's beautiful Percheron horses during the Christmas Parade this year for the Friends. Thanks to Patti Felts, Marina and Sheri Zoch for decorating the wagon, and Myrna Mund, Gene Hall, Sheri Zoch and Bonnie Woodell for donations of the decorations. In addition to our deer, Jail Buck, we also carried royalty from the Llano Rodeo. Yeah, we were stylin'!

Booth at Market Day. Kim Webb manned a booth with Jail Buck the same day as the parade. We are trying hard to maintain a presence, even though people can't tour the jail. Thanks, Kim.

Oral History Project Wrapup. After 2 years of interviews at Llano High School in Deidre Henderson's community service class, Sheri has finally compiled an oral history compendium of jailors at the Red Top. The interviews were videotaped and written up by the students. This was funded by the Preserve America grant that we got to start planning for the museum at the Red Top. This oral history will be published and available for purchase in the near future. If you have any stories, photographs or news articles about the jail, please call Sheri at 248-0284.

New Website: redtopjail.com. Frank Rowell has worked hard to put together an outstanding website for the Friends that will supercede all others in existence now. This site has all the information you need about the Red Top Jail: event calender, contact info, volunteer and donation opportunities and more. Your feedback on the website is welcome.

Museum Interpretive Plan Completed. Anne Toxey and Patrick McMillan finished the lengthy Llano Red Top Jail Interpretive Plan and Conceptual Plan for the future museum. The plan calls for a reconstruction of the jailor's quarters to show how people lived there during the 1900s and beyond. Tricks with lighting, blasts of cold air, audio recordings and smells will harken the visitors to life at the jail. Pepper's Ghost, a technique involving a glass screen and a video projector, will bring life to the jail cells. In addition, the third floor will be dedicated to ghostly findings at the jail by paranormal societies (yes, they say the jail is haunted). This plan will be available for you to download from the website, once it is fully up and operational.

Visual Representation of the Piers. As you probably have heard, we need 32 piers to stabilize the foundation of the jail. Martha Rowlett put together a fabulous graphic rendering of how the 32 piers will look underneath the Red Top Jail. She shows how they are all double piers, one on either side of a wall, that are linked together by stainless steel rods. These concrete piers will be drilled and poured to bedrock, which can be as much as 14 feet below grade, according to the geotech report obtained in 2010. This Power Point document will also be available on the website for your perusal.

Stonemason bid update. 4 bids were received by the City for stonemason work on the interior of the Red Top Jail. The inside stone walls need more soft mortar and patching before we start work on the piers. This is so the walls do not collapse while doing the underpinning. The bids are being reviewed.

Retro Red Top News: *This Dec. 27, 1962 Llano News article was found by Frank Rowell. It's a hoot!*

Nine Spend Christmas in Llano Jail

Nine people ate their Christmas dinner in the Llano County Jail this year, Sheriff L.B. Turbiville reported. Mrs. Clive Stovall served them turkey with dressing and trimmings.

Two of the jail's inmates had been married only a few hours and were picked up by highway patrolman Bill Shipp Saturday night when he found them fighting on the highway. They were still in jail Wednesday.

Sheriff L.B. Turbiville jailed a couple for being drunk on a public road when he found them parked in the middle of a highway. They paid a \$69 fine and were released.

Four hunters were brought in by the game wardens over the holidays and were fined \$81.20 each for their illegal sport of hunting at night.

But no traffic deaths, or even accidents had been reported in Llano by Wednesday afternoon, Sheriff Turbiville said, which kept Christmas merry in that respect for Llanoans.

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

President: *Frank Rowell 247-4137*

Vice President: *Sheri Zoch 248-0284*

Secretary: *Kim Webb 247-2233*

Treasurer: *Ovetra Hartman 247-3188*

Historian: *Sarah Franklin 423-0014*

Member: *Dave Franks 423-0192*

Member: *Inell Franks 423-0192*

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.