

March  
2013



# JAILHOUSE NEWS

Editor: Sheri Zoch

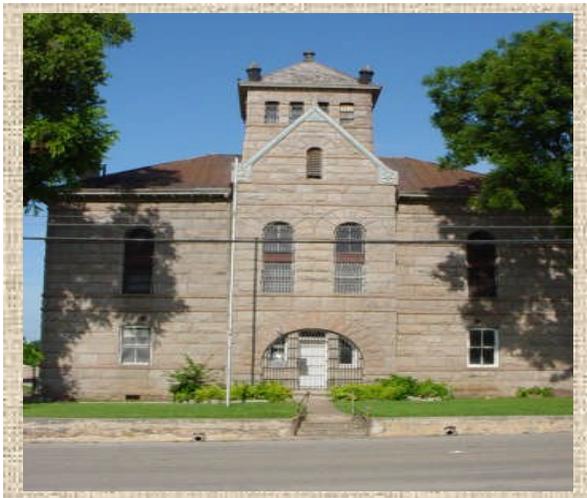
Dear Friends,

We are trying to beat a deadline of May 1 to spend money given to us by the TX Historical Commission.

Here are the monies raised by the Friends for piers and masonry work:

- \$25,000 from the THC
- \$10,000 from the Summerlee Foundation
- \$5,000 from the Texas Historical Fdn.
- \$15,000 in contributions. Some of this is from the Adopt-A-Pier campaign. Some is from all of the hard work that we have put into our various fundraising efforts.

**Adopt-A-Pier: There's Still Time!** This may be your last chance to get your name on the ground floor of the Red Top Jail. \$1200 buys a pier with your name engraved on it and on a permanent plaque at the future Red Top Jail Museum. Show you care about the Red Top, one of Texas' Most Endangered Places. This jewel in the rough will someday soon be one of Texas' most celebrated museums. Isn't it worth it to donate now to our 501c3 by tax time?



**Bids for Piers in Progress.** As of this writing, Bids for the piers, either all or part of the 32 piers needed, have been advertised in the papers. A mandatory pre-bid meeting with Sparks Engineering is on March 20. This time, the City of Llano will provide a lot more help. The City workers have already removed the concrete ramp on the north side of the building. They will also remove the concrete flooring in the booking room and the floor in the central tower. The landscape rocks in front of the jail have been moved, as well as the concrete steps. The City will provide a digger truck for the outside piers to be removed. Bids for piers must be turned in by April 1 and money spent by May 1, so keep your fingers crossed that all goes well.

**Hard Work by Friends Volunteers Reveals Problems.** Frank Rowell and Dave Franks removed floor joists in the southwest bedroom. On viewing the stonework, the stability of the building was questioned. Our engineer, Pat Sparks, toured the building and stated that he thought that it was in better shape than he previously expected. So, floor joist removal continued.

Frank Rowell and John Newell removed the rest of the floor joists. John will be making benches and tables for sale for jail restoration out of this wood (see inventory below). More structural woes were found, some of which were quite disturbing. A 2 inch crack in the stonework below the joists appears to have happened recently, going all the way down to the dirt. This is in the north bedroom. Also, the kitchen near the back door is leaning inward quite precariously below the floor line.

Let's hope that the stonemason can correct these and other problems. The mason will also fill gaps between the stones caused by crumbling mortar. New soft mortar will be prepared with Llano River sand as to specs.

Thanks so much to Frank, Dave and John for all their hard, backbreaking work getting out these joists. They saved the City big bucks by volunteering their time. Frank was paid for some of his labor. The Friends are on top of it.

### **Floor Joists for New Furniture Construction**

The inventory from John Newell is as follows:

- 1 only: 12' long x 1 3/4" x 12" wide with the Woodward Bros markings -- this will be part of the main table for use inside the renovated jail.
- 15 each: 14' long x 1 1/2" to 2" thick x widths 9 1/2" to 11 1/2" with most in the 10" width. Approx. 210 linear feet
- 10 each: 12' long with the same various dimensions. Approx. 120 linear feet
- 20 smaller pieces that might total 60 linear feet

The total is close to 400 linear feet of boards.

Next step here is to do some furniture plans for simple tables and benches. We should be able to build 5 or 6 tables and 20 benches with these materials. We will be able to use scrap pieces for "paperweight" type items for sale.

The floor joists are not suitable for reuse as joists because they had a lot of termite and water damage and are now much shorter. The City approved the use of these boards as items for the jail museum or for sale for future restoration efforts of the Red Top at their council meeting on March 4.

**Where is Jail Buck?** Our permanent inmate has been paroled to the pocket park beside Enchanted Rocks and Jewelry. This is for his own safety during the renovation. He seems happy in his new locale, eating grass and enjoying the spring! He'll come back to finish his life sentence at the Red Top once the renovations are completed.

**What's Next?** The bids for the piers will likely be greater than the \$40,000 from the Friends, \$25,000 from the THC and the \$18,000 that the City has dedicated for this project. The Friends plan to approach the Mary Phema Moore Foundation and the Meadows Foundation for additional funds to meet the accepted bid price. Things will be happening in rapid succession in April and May, so we may need to do some creative fundraising in a short period of time to meet the goal.

The good news is that we have a lot of hard-working people in our group who are dedicated to getting this project done. Please be ready to volunteer some time or money on short notice if needed.

**Things Found in the Dirt.** As expected, there is a lot of granite that was chipped off during the construction of the façade. This is currently being cut into thin sections by Frank Rowell and analyzed microscopically by Walt Zoch to determine which nearby quarry provided the material. Preliminary guesses is that it is Oatman Younger granite: precisely what the jail sits on. We also found some old playing marbles, old glass, a child's metal ring with a horse's head on it, ornate metal parts of an old wood stove (?), lots of corn cobs, some old coke cans and an old tree that was cut off at the floor joists! Honestly! These are all being stored safely for the museum, except the tree?

**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 76885. THANK YOU.**