

March 2009

JAILHOUSE NEWS



Texas Proud Festival Happenings at the Red Top. Another *BIG* event is scheduled at the Red Top for Memorial Day weekend. The Friends of the Llano Red Top Jail are sponsoring the Brazos Bottom Cowagaphers this year. They will set up a "town" east of the jail and entertain crowds with old west skits. There will even be a jailbreak on Sun.! 35-50 of the Cowagaphers will arrive Friday night and perform on Saturday and Sunday. They will camp out behind the facades. We will be responsible for all of their meals, so we will need lots of volunteers to help serve and even prepare some. Keep the date open!

We will also have the Celtaires play their traditional/Irish/Gaelic music just east of the jail. This band is paid for by your volunteer hours at the LanTex showing of Gran Torino. The Celtaires will play from 10-6 on Saturday, in between skits of the Cowagaphers.

This is going to be a fun weekend. If you can, please dress in period costume. Go to Colonel Crows or have one made!



Roof restoration update. We ran into a SNAFU with the Texas Historical Commission regarding restoration of the roof, but this seems to be resolved. The THC was concerned that the roof should not be restored until the foundation was stabilized. As you know, there are serious cracks in the jail due to subsidence of the foundation. However, our roof contractor, Dennis Masterson, will be repairing flashing and other areas that need immediate attention due to rain POURING into the attic. He will not be altering the placement of the roof. Many thanks go to Sarah Franklin for dealing with the THC on this issue, and to Tom Dalrymple, Mike Reagor and everyone else behind the scenes making this restoration project work.

If you want to see the original color of the Red Top roof, check out the piece sitting in the "yellow room". It's dayglow orange!

LCRA Coastal Expo. Many, many thanks go to Mike Reagor for championing our booth at this festival on March 7. He purchased a dutch oven and cooked delicious jalapeno cornbread and awesome cowboy beans over an open fire. Bob Sewell made delicious sausage wraps and Sandy Shaw helped sell the goods. Thanks to everyone who helped out. We made around \$200. Oh, and the Zoch's dog Scamper won Best Dog of the Parade! He ate a sausage and kindly licked the toes of some of those being served! Guess he's our group mascot?

Events like this are fun, but they also get the word out that our group exists and we really care about restoring this great old jail. You guys make it happen.

Jail trivia dug up by Ned Woodall.

Before the Red Top was built, a jail called the Calaboose was built in 1882 on the SE corner of the square for \$7,600.

The jail was moved from the courthouse square by court order on Jan. 11, 1894. Decision affirmed on appeal Jan. 2, 1895.

In Feb., 1895 the land was bought from John W. Simpson for \$475.

Plans for the Romanesque Revival jail were accepted on Feb. 27, 1895 from F.B and W.S. Hull, agents of The Pauly Jail Building and Mfg. Co. of St. Louis, Mo.

John Goodman was appointed construction supervisor in March for \$75/mo.

The building was started in June or July. Goodman began receiving pay in late June.

Construction was completed Dec., 1895 for \$11,500.

In 1911, \$17 was spent to repair and repaint the roof. Owen and Stanley did the work.

The first toilets (steel stools) with flushing devices were installed in 1917 and connected to the city sewer.

In 1948, \$23,056 was spent for major repairs to the jail, including patching cracks in the walls and new flashing on the roof. 23 strips of steel were put in the defective parts of the wall in the mortar line.

Gas heaters were installed on the second floor in Nov., 1950.

The county's prisoners were housed in the building until 1982 (from Wayne Brascom).

The jail was put on the National Register of Historic Places in 1977 and became a Texas Historic Landmark in 1979.

The Llano Chapter of the Daughters of the Republic of Texas had their office in the jail in the 1990s.

Thanks, Ned for your hard work. This stuff is great! Ned's chronicle will be part of the master plan prepared by our historical architect, Karl Komatsu.

What else? Ain't nobody here but us chickens, right?. We scratch a lot, but sometimes we get! The Jail now has a LARGE sign that will be placed out front honoring our donors. The original limit for donation to be included on the donor sign was \$1000. However, at our last meeting, we decided that we need to lower the donor categories to \$100, \$200 or \$500. What do you think? Should we allow people and businesses to donate \$100 or more to advertise their name on this billboard to be placed in front of the Red Top? Call any Friends Board member for your comments.

There's also a new sign on the jail front that advertises jail tours on demand. Tom Dalrymple has given several tours and we are anticipating much more interest in the jail from this 24/7 response. Of course, "The Mayonnaise Jar" for donations is always highly visible during these tours!

Latest grant news. THC bailed on us this year due to the hurricanes and losing money in the stock market, but they are entertaining applications for next year. We will reapply.

We will also apply for \$2000 from the Llano Co. HOT to help host us for the TX Proud Festival for meals, advertising and sponsoring of the Brazos Bottom Cowgraphers.

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: *Tom Dalrymple*

Secretary: *Sandy Shaw*

Treasurer: *Ovetra Hartman*

Member: *Frank Rowell*

Member: *Gene Hall Miller*

APPLICATION FORM 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, as well as to determine a function for the structure (i.e., some kind of a museum). 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) Fundraising

Organizing meetings Painting and repairs Accounting

Historical research Newsletter

Assisting with bids for contractors

Other _____

Our current membership dues are \$20 individual and \$35 family (household). Please enclose money order or a check made out to Friends of the Llano Red Top Jail and send to Sheri Zoch, 700 E. Green, Llano, TX 78643. You will receive a membership card. Questions, call 325-248-0284.

Thank you!