

Sheri Zoch, Editor
April, 2010

JAILHOUSE NEWS



Happy Spring, Friends.

Check out those wildflowers (come by my house at 700 E. Green – a sea of paintbrushes)! With so many people coming to Llano, we are giving lots of Red Top tours.

Jail Tours given on April 10. As part of the downtown sidewalk sale, Mike Reagor and I gave tours. Thanks to Mike, Gene, Sandy and Ovetra for helping. We love doing this, but we need HELP giving tours. If you can volunteer to be trained, we desperately need you! It's fun and you get to meet a lot of people. The jail actually does most of the "talking". Call Sheri if you want to help (248-0284). This is one of the chief ways that we get the word out about the importance of the jail restoration.

New Business Member: Jim Lynn. Thanks, Jim, and welcome! Sheri talked to the Llano Culture Club and Llano Lions Club to rev up our membership. Jim stepped up to the plate and wrote us a check for \$100. Way to go, Jim. His name is now on the donor sign in front of the jail. How about you?



Upcoming Texas Proud Festival on Memorial Day Weekend. The festival is going to take place this year solely on the south side of the river. The chili cookoff will occur at Grenwelge Park. We are delighted to have the Brazos Bottom Cow'ographers and Celtaire String Band back again. The Cow'ographers will set up their whole town behind the jail. They have some new skits and will perform the "Breakout of Johnny Ringo" again. The Celtaires will perform on Friday to the Llano Elementary School. Kids love their limberjack (wooden dancing doll) and anyone can play their various period instruments. They will play Saturday outside of the jail, in between skits of the Cow'ographers. It's time to start getting your period costume together – Llano will definitely step back in time for this event. Of course, we will give jail tours all day. We are going to need lots of help for this, so please save the date (Saturday and Sunday).

The Cow'ographers have graciously volunteered to be ambassadors for Llano. The Chamber of Commerce and Main Street are joining with the Friends of the Llano Red Top Jail to purchase 2 banners that the Cow'ographers will display at all of their shows in other cities to promote Llano.

"Clash of the Titans" at the Lantex April 23/24. Thanks mucho to all who volunteered for this show. Tommy Nelms, Scott and Mara Dudley, Carole Williams, Marilyn Hale, Barbara Hefner, Sandra and Charles Slocumb, Gene Hall, Roger and Thomas Pinckney and Myrna Mund all helped out. Our group ROCKS! Thanks again.

Oral History Project with LHS. Deidre Henderson's Family and Community Service class will be interviewing anyone who has either "stayed at the Red Top" or lived there as jailors. Gene and Sheri talked to this class about the project and a few kids showed some interest. The class then went on a tour given by Mike Reagor. Although they didn't seem to know their Texas history very well, they were struck by the starkness of the jail. What? No heat or A/C? Llano News Editor John Hallowell talked to the students about interviewing techniques. In fact, John has graciously agreed to help the students with the interviews and writing their reports.

The first interview was with Janie Prew, who was the last co-jailor along with her then husband (Ken Rhoades) and mother-in-law (the infamous Betty Graham). In fact, Janie and Ken were married at the jail. She had an interesting story about a man that escaped from the second story window. She also served as a police dispatcher. We are looking forward to getting the write-up on this from the kids.

Strategic Planning for the Friends with the LCRA. Your Board of Directors is working hard to do the right thing at the right time. However, we have no direction on this and, frankly, we are like lost little lambs at times. And Bo Peep doesn't know what to do! Krista Gebbner from Preservation Texas suggested that we contact the LCRA for some strategic planning for our group. I met with Sarah Page from the LCRA Community Planning group over lunch at the County Line in Bee Cave the other day. She suggested that the BOD meet with her and an assistant to come up with a 5-10 year strategic plan. If you are interested, we will meet at the jail at 5:30 on May 12 for a few hours over BarBQ. You know, we have an architectural master plan and I have a pretty clear idea of the order for the restoration of the jail. But, we need to learn how best to grow our group and do the fundraising. The LCRA offers this service for community groups for free, so we are lucky to have tapped into it. Sarah Page impressed me with her knowledge of how to plan for the future and set goals. I will update you on our plan in the next newsletter.

Grantwriting News.

1. *Humanities Texas Mini-Grant.* Sheri submitted a grant for \$3,000 (\$1500 with \$1500 in-kind match) to sponsor the Celtaire String Band during the Texas Proud Festival. An educational component will be addressed by their performance to Llano Elementary School the day before. **I just heard that Humanities Texas will fund \$1200!** The Friends are grateful to Humanities Texas, the state affiliate of the Natl. Endowment for the Humanities. We also thank Gene Hall for putting up the Celtaires again at her Century Ranch Lodge (our in-kind match).

2. *Texas Historical Commission.* Once again, the THC will be hit up for a \$60,000 grant (\$30,000 from THC, \$30,000 matching). Hopefully, there are no natural or market catastrophies in Texas this year to derail their funding! This time, we are asking for money for half of the 32 piers, which brings me to....

Adopt-a-Pier Campaign. The Friends currently have funding for 5 piers secured – we will need 11 more to match the THC grant. Friends, it's Time for some soul (and pocket) searching! It's all tax deductible and you get your name on a permanent plaque (as well as etched on the pier for posterity). The plaque is already prominently displayed at the jail, ready for *your* name... You can also become part of a "Pier Group", if you can't donate a whole pier. **We need to raise this money (for 11 more piers) by the end of the summer.** \$1200 buys you a pier. Please call Sandy or Sheri for details (see below).

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 325-247-1787*

Treasurer: *Ovetra Hartman*

Member: *Frank Rowell*

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