

December 08

# JAILHOUSE NEWS



## **Merry Christmas Friends!**

**Hope you have a happy and safe holiday season.** And stay warm!

## **Restoration Master Plan:**

We received a grant from the National Trust for \$5000 to fund Karl Komatsu, historical architect from Ft. Worth, to develop a master plan for the Red Top Restoration. The Board of Directors met with him at the Red Top last week and were very impressed, not only with his ability to convey ideas, but also his professionalism. By the way, this meeting had to be rescheduled a week later because Pres. Bush needed him to design his offices in Dallas that day! Karl will present a master plan that will guide us in our restoration of the jail. One of the items that he will present includes a history of the jail, including minutes of the county commissioners court that approved the jail and early newspaper articles about building the jail. The Friends will do the research on this, so if you are interested, please contact Frank Rowell (325-247-4137).



## **Red Top Roof Renovation:**

As you know, we received a \$24,000 grant from the LCRA to finance restoration of the Red Top roof. We were in a quandry about whether to try to keep the old roof, paint it and fix the leaks or to install a new metal roof. Dennis Masterson, who did the roof over the front drive at the Llano Hospital and the Dabb's Hotel renovation, gave us a bid for around \$33,000 to bolster the Red Top roof underlayment and joists, fix the flashing and gutters, power wash the standing seam steel roof and repaint it. We are delighted with this, since we can keep the original roof and hold out the rain! Mike Reagor will find out what the city needs in terms of bidding rqmts.

## **Texas Researchers & Investigators of Paranormal (TRIP):**

This group from Austin had an all night visit to the jail on Friday, 12-5. It was cold, but 4 members of their group videotaped and recorded the spooks at the Red Top that night. Haven't heard yet about their findings, but I suspect that the ghosts had something to say after hosting the Haunted House this year!

## **Gayle Liggon's Red Top Artifacts:**

Gene Hall Miller spoke with Carol Ligon about Gayle Logon's memorabilia from the Red Top. Apparently, they have old Red Top jail logs and other items of interest to us that they can loan us, at least to make copies. Great job, Gene! Also, Donny Stewart has jail logs dating back to the mid 1970's, which includes the Red Top days. We need some help with copying or scanning these....Did I see you raise your hand?

**A new look to the jail interior:**

Thanks to work parties from some of our friends, we have torn down the false ceiling in the kitchen and "nursery" area of the first floor. We think that this ceiling was added during the days when the first floor was used as a Head Start children's day care. Interestingly, we think that the "purple room" was a nursery, due to the robot named "Joe" inscribed on the wall. We would like to tear down all of the false ceiling in the first floor – the hallways, blue and yellow room. The original ceiling of the first floor is similar to the county courthouse – corrugated steel with concrete poured on top. Restoration of the ceiling can be done by work parties, so let's roll up our sleeves. Wed., January 14 will be the next party, so get ready. Thanks to all who have helped so far.

**Lantex Theater Benefit:**

The third or fourth week of February or March are available for the Friends of the Llano Red Top Jail to do a fundraiser at the Lantex Theater. We will need approximately 15 volunteers to help with concessions, ticket sales, and promotion of a movie at the Lantex. We get 50% of the take of the same movie shown 3 or 4 times that weekend. We'll try to find a popular Western or something that will bring in lots of kids to maximize ticket sales. None of these jobs are hard. We just need a commitment from you. For example, Madagascar 2 raked in \$1000 for each party (Main Street and the charity).

Why do I keep talking about money raising? Because money talks! No seriously, the more dollars that we bring in, the more people sit up and listen to our goal of renovating the jail and using it as a museum for our community. The more people visit the jail, the more tourism Llano experiences, which brings more dollars here. We have an absolutely pristine old jail that will be a source of pride (and shame) for many old families and families to come! That pristine nature will not be changed in the renovation. We just want to keep the jail from falling down and make it a unique tourist attraction. The Red Top is an asset to our community and should be treated as such. However, it is falling down and should not be ignored any longer .

**Other fundraisers:**

Robin Chisea suggested that we have an artistic competition of a rendition (in any media) of the Red Top. This may take place at the Starving Artist Festival in Llano on May 10. Artists will draw/paint/photograph or somehow recreate the Red Top and present their works for a juried show on May 10. The winning artist will have their work displayed in town and receive a prize. In addition, there may be an auction of the various artist's works.

We are also thinking of having a Jailhouse Rock concert, probably May 16. If anyone would like to help with this, please let us know. This could become an annual event, which could be lots of fun.

One last thing – if any of you know of someone in the movie industry, we would love to have them film a movie at the Red Top. Think of a Western or a Horror Film... In exchange for the location, maybe they could renovate the Red Top or provide structural stabilization? These are things that we are discussing at our Board of Director meetings. All options are open. Your input is appreciated.

**Happy Holidays:**

Hope you all have a merry Christmas and a very happy and productive new year. Your continued involvement and support of our little group is the basis of our existence. I thank everyone for your efforts.

Sheri Zoch

**THANKS FOR ALL YOUR SUPPORT FROM THE "FRIENDS OF THE LLANO RED TOP JAIL" BOARD OF DIRECTORS:**

**President:** *Sheri Zoch*

**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!*