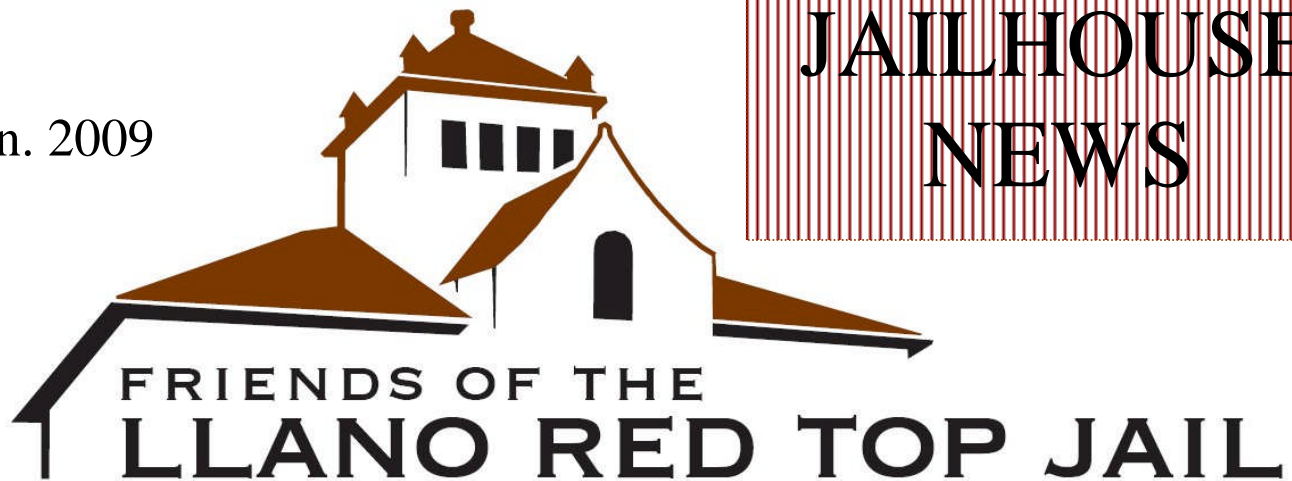


Jan. 2009

# JAILHOUSE NEWS



**Happy New Year!** Hope this year is very successful and prosperous for you. We have some fun things planned and are beginning work on the Red Top restoration. Read on.

**Gran Torino movie FUNDRAISER.** For those of you who volunteered to help, "we need you for this". We will sponsor the Lantex showing of the new Clint Eastwood movie *Gran Torino* on Feb. 20 and 21 – three showings (Friday night, Sat. matinee and Sat. night). We need 15-20 people to man the popcorn stand and take tickets. PLEASE call Sheri or Sandy to help.

**Texas Research in Paranormal (TRIP) All-nighter.** Four TRIP investigators visited the Red Top one night in December and claimed that they had never experienced so much "activity" before. In the Doolittle Chapel room, investigator Melissa said she heard "Ain't you known as Missy?". Lots of evp's (electronic voice phenomena) were recorded, including curse words. Melissa even got whacked in the back! Call Sheri for details.



**Architectural Master Plan.** Karl Komatsu from Ft. Worth is a historical architect who has agreed to put together a master plan for the renovation of the Red Top. If you remember, we got a grant from the National Trust and the city has agreed to fund the remainder of the venture. The master plan will tell us what we need to do, in what order, to renovate the jail.

Karl will begin work on Jan. 28. He will bring a crew down to take measurements and assess needs. All of the Board members met Karl and we were unanimously impressed with his knowledge and professionalism. He has overseen the restoration of many national treasures. In fact, he is currently helping Llano county with community development. We are happy to have Karl on board.

**Masterson wins roof bid.** The Llano city council approved a bid from Dennis Masterson to repair the roof. We decided to repair the leaks in phase one, then clean and paint the existing roof in phase two. Dennis constructed the new awning on the Llano Memorial Hospital north entrance and did a fine job. He seems eager to start work on the roof, a good thing. Right now the roof leaks down to the first floor and is causing problems in the flooring there. Dennis will work with Karl Komatsu and the city on specifics.

**Gale Ligon records found.** Gene contacted Carole Ligon, Gale's daughter-in-law, who said that she has many old jail records & such from Gale and is willing to let us go through them. Gale Ligon was the last sheriff to book prisoners into the Red Top. Essentially, we have no jail artifacts, so these will be priceless.

**Open discussion of "Red Top Museum".** It is time to open a discussion about the eventual function of the Red Top, once it is restored. We need to talk about this now so that Karl can plan lighting, HVAC and special historical preservation environments, etc. in his master plan. We are pretty much all in agreement that the second and third floors will remain as is. A small part of the first floor will necessarily house a small office and a place to view a virtual tour (see last newsletter paragraph). There may also be a small shop for the sale of Red Top knick-knacks on the first floor.

I have heard several ideas about how best to use the first floor rooms. These include:

1. Hill country geological museum
2. Law Enforcement Museum
3. Outlaw Museum
4. Texas History Museum
5. Paranormal Museum
6. Your idea here!

This will be a topic of discussion at our next general meeting (party) in July, so start thinking about it. Please email your comments to Sheri (sprasatik1@verizon.net).

**Red Top Website.** Thanks to Frank, we now have a website. Go to [llanomainstreet.com](http://llanomainstreet.com) and click on Red Top Jail. Frank will also be posting pictures of the black cowboys that were donated by Dale Fry as part of our Doolittle Chapel collection. Great job, Frank!

**New Signs at Red Top.** The Red Top Board commissioned two new outdoor signs from "A Sign From Above" for the Red Top. One sign advertises tours on demand by calling Tom Dalrymple or Mara Dudley at the Llano County Court office. We will not charge for the tours, but the donation mayo jar will be prominently displayed....

Another sign lists all donors giving >\$1000. There is plenty of room on the donor sign, so we can fill it in as we go. If you remember, Pat Sparks Engineering told us we needed around \$420,000 to stabilize the structure. So far we have around \$42,000. We have a lot more to go, but at least we have a start!

**Board Meetings.** Did you know that your Board of Directors meets every month on the third Wednesday at 5:30 at the Red Top? We discuss everything from historical and paranormal research findings to how to fix the roof. If you ever want to attend the meetings, just show up. This is your group and we welcome your input.

**Volunteers needed for historical research.**

As part of the master plan, Karl asked us to do some research into the establishment of the Red Top. He wants us to go through county commissioner court minutes to document the approval of the jail building around 1895. Also, any newspaper articles or letters from around that time documenting the building of the Red Top are welcome. This is your chance to be of service and have some fun doing historical detective work! Frank is coordinating this effort, so please call him and let him know what you would like to do.

**Virtual Tour.** We are working on making a virtual tour of the Red Top for those who are vertically challenged (can't make it up the stairs). This will consist of a slide show of the jail cells and gallows upstairs. Frank and Tom are working on this. Eventually, we would like to make a narrated movie of the Red Top as part of the tour. In addition to Mike Reagor's narration, some evp commentary may be included (we'll keep the curse words to a minimum)?!

'Till next month,  
Sheri Zoch

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

**President:** *Sheri Zoch 248-0284*

**Vice President:** *Tom Dalrymple 423-2516*

**Secretary:** *Sandy Shaw 247-1787*

**Treasurer:** *Ovetra Hartman 247-3188*

**Member:** *Frank Rowell 247-4137(Store)  
247-1987(Home)*

**Member:** *Gene Hall Miller 247-4074*

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!*