

Sheri Zoch, Editor

JAILHOUSE NEWS



We've been busy with the Texas Proud Festival, grantwriting and meetings to grow our group. Read on for a summary.

happened at the Red Top or on the courthouse square. The Celtaire String Band played their wonderful 1800s music both for our crowds and for the Llano Elementary School. Kids played their mini-tambourines and loved the limberjack dancing dolls. Mike Reagor, Sheri and Frank Rowell gave tours, and this year we were blessed by the arrival of new tour guide Ray Theiss. He is getting his masters in history at Angelo State and is very gung-ho on our history. Ray gave great tours. The Brazos Bottom Cow'ographers delighted crowds with their skits, old west town façade, and especially the breakout of Johnny Ringo. Johnny actually rode in on a real Butterfield stage coach with the marshall. They also staged the famous Carter-Coggins gunfight on Berry Street. Thanks so much to all who helped, including Jim Ives, Sandy Shaw, Susan Cox, Ovetra Hartman and Cheryl Crabtree.



Grantwriting News. And, we're off! We submitted the first round of the Texas Historical Commission grant process to get money for half of the piers required to stabilize the foundation. To date, we have 9 piers paid for due to donations and hard volunteer work. We need 7 more to match the 16 piers requested in the THC grant. We will need this by November, so think about how you can help. Remember, you can form a "pier group" with some of your friends. Your name will go on a permanent plaque in the jail.

The Celtaires were paid for in part by a mini-grant from Humanities Texas, an affiliate of the National Endowment for the Arts. Gene Hall graciously housed the band for two days at her lodge, while her son was being married in Austin. Thanks so much, Gene.

Fundraising News. During the breakout of Johnny Ringo, Les Inman drove through the crowd to give us \$500 and some vintage Red Top Jail and Llano Boom Town Days T-shirts. As he was being cussed out by Ovetra Hartman, he "paid his bail", then went to lick his wounds and watch the show from afar! We forgive you, Les! Thanks to Inman's Station.

Do you have any jail artifacts? Have any "records" like old pictures, newspaper articles, JAIL LOGS, or documents related to the Red Top? Ovetra, Betty Sue Hoy, Wayne Brascom and Sheri are on a mission to find all documents related to the Red Top to preserve and protect them in a central location (the county clerk's safe). We may display them during our festivals and in environmentally protected display cases when we become a permanent museum.

Strategic Planning for the Friends with the LCRA. The LCRA offers this great service for all nonprofit and community organizations. Sarah Page and Alysia Cook sat down with the Friend's BOD, Along with Sarah Franklin and Mike Reagor for 3 HOURS to discuss our strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats (SWOT), redefine our mission statement (see below), set up goals and develop strategies and objectives for how to grow our organization. We went through a visioning exercise to determine where we want to be in 5 or 10 years. They will prepare a report listing recommendations and observations. Our main goal is to turn the Red Top Jail into a major Hill Country tourist attraction and to turn the jailor's quarters into a museum. The nature of this museum will be decided by the entire community of Llano in a series of community hall meetings. Your voice will be heard.

New Mission Statement. *The mission of the Friends of the Llano Red Top Jail is to restore, preserve and promote the jail and its historical significance.* I realize that this takes out the Doolittle Chapel from our mission, but please don't worry. The LCRA is very interested in funding the re-creation of this structure in its original location, the Llano Cemetery. As a vow to Doris Revada, my dear neighbor who passed last year, this will be done. BTW, we know where the school bell is....

Doris Revada transcript complete. Last year, Gene Hall and I interviewed Doris Revada before she passed away. Doris was the last teacher of the Doolittle School and later the only black teacher at Llano ISD. Doris talked about the days before and after desegregation. She talked about how she started out teaching two black students. She also taught at Castell, Lampassas, Houston and several other school districts. In fact, she spent a lot of time driving to and from jobs. She cleaned houses on the weekends to make ends meet. Doris talked about the love story between her and Tony, who owned a car mechanic shop. Naturally, she described the discrimination that she and Tony faced throughout their careers. It's a fascinating 15 pages of transcript for our oral history project.

Oral History Project with Llano High School. With the help of Michael Freeman and John Hallowell, the oral history project was a success with Deidre Henderson's Family and Consumer Sciences Class. The students interviewed 5 sets of people who had something to do with the former jailors:

1. Janie Prew, last co-jailor with Betty Graham. We learned from Janie about the last jail escape from the second floor (she showed us the window). She also described a horseshoe-shaped structure with a ring that was used for attachment of the noose in the gallows. She said that her family took it down and used it as her son's headboard! Does anyone know where this is?
2. Ken Rhoades, Janie's husband during that time and Betty Graham's son.
3. "Rabbit" Hare, who fed the last escapee from the jail, let him shower, then testified against him in court!
4. David and Gary Morris came from Brownwood with Gary's son to talk to the class. They are relatives of the first jailor and his family, Barry Russell. We think that the two girls shown in the picture that Larry Jones found on EBAY last year were Mr. Russell's daughters. He had 5 girls and 5 boys. The Morris family members were all very enthusiastic about the preservation of the jail and brought pictures and memorabilia from their great, great grandfather and his family.
5. Gene Hall, great grand-daughter of jailor James Frank Kendrick. Her mother used to play cards with the inmates.

Perhaps next semester, we can focus on those who "Stayed at the Red Top"?

**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*

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