

# Texas Trail Museum Newsletter

Editor: Anthony J. Sacco

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## **Officers:**

President: Anthony J. Sacco  
Vice-President: Jackie Mueller  
Secretary: Roberta Marquardt  
Treasurer: Mary Herman

## **Directors:**

Karen Christensen Lucille Scheel  
Donald Herman Sharon Shmidl  
Becky Martinez

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## **ELEMENTS OF SUCCESSFUL MUSEUM COLLECTION MANAGEMENT**

Nine major elements comprise successful collections management for museums. All of these elements must be present to ensure our museum is fulfilling its public trust and collections stewardship obligations. These key elements are: 1) A clear museum mission statement, 2) Mission-driven policies and procedures, 3) Knowledge of proper handling procedures, 4) Thorough and accurate documentation of collections, 5) Knowledge of safe and proper numbering methods, 6) Inventory control, 7) A safe and stable environment, 8) Consistent and sound access procedures, and 9) Safe and secure exhibition practices.

The Board has been directing its attention to these matters for some time, and it will continue to do so during 2008.

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## **FROM THE PRESIDENT**

Well, we've managed for another year. We survived the Annual Meeting back in February, frenzied preparations – no one resorted to violence – for our opening on Memorial Day, the Annual Golf Tournament, which featured a \$10K hole in one prize that none of the players was able to claim, the Ice Cream

Social, complete with pony cart rides for the kiddies and loads of vanilla ice cream, Trail Days, which brought many visitors through our doors – no, not nearly as many as the 1,475 who visited the State Museum in Cheyenne during Frontier Days, but a lot for us – and Labor Day, which saw us close our doors at the end of the afternoon, still in possession of our sanity – I think.

My job this year has been one of infinite variety; attending workshops, carpentry, cleaning, dealing with personnel matters, gardening, grant writing, replacing signage throughout the Museum, recruiting new members, scrap booking, upgrading artifacts displays, and of course, writing this newsletter to keep you, our members, informed.

Planning has begun for next season. Lucille Scheel is negotiating with the National Guard to return the Flags of Our Fathers exhibit, which we will host for two weeks, from Memorial Day until June 10<sup>th</sup>. And from the State Museum in Cheyenne, we've again booked the Discovery Trunk containing replica artifacts of Plains Indian tribes which inhabited our area years ago.

The Museum consists of the Main Exhibition Hall, the Agriculture & Transportation Building (a/k/a the Bowser Building), the former Brodine-Walker Boarding House, Doc Morris's office, the oldest schoolhouse in southeastern Laramie County, a decommissioned Catholic Church, a Union Pacific Telegraph House, a Switchman's Shack, and a UP Caboose. All need to be cleaned and made presentable for the public each season. Then, periodic maintenance is needed throughout the summer months.

The Board also hopes to continue upgrading the Museum's appearance with trees, shrubbery, and flowers. To accomplish the first of these tasks, a Volunteer Work Day was

held, with ten members, including Bob Wilhelm – who outworked everyone there - pitching in to help, after which we all enjoyed hamburgers and cold pop under the trees out back.

In December, the old Fire House (now known as the Main Exhibition Hall) gained new front doors. I'd searched in vain for something within our budget. Then, on a visit to Bloedorn Lumber, I met Pine Bluff's own Jeff Willoughby, their crack outside salesman. With his expert help, finding just the right doors at a price we could afford was finally accomplished. Now, we need a carpenter to install them.

It's been a wonderful year! From all the members of the Board, Carol and me, an unpolitically correct Merry Christmas and a very Happy New Year!

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### **ADDING A CHARITABLE DIMENSION**

As previously reported, the Museum now has an Endowment, begun in 2006 by President Tony Sacco. Contributions to the Texas Trail Museum Endowment Fund will benefit the Museum in many ways.

If you believe that preservation of our Eastern Laramie County Heritage is an important goal, please consider a charitable gift as part of your estate and financial planning. The Texas Trail Museum is a 501 (c) (3) non-profit corporation. Donations are fully tax-deductible and can be used as valuable estate planning tools.

You can help:

- 1) By making a cash or check donation,
- 2) By making an In-kind donation. Items of personal property for either addition to our permanent collection, or for sale to fund our new endowment, will be accepted. Examples include common stock, cowboy and American Indian collections of fine art, bronzes, and other artifacts of value.

For further information, kindly contact our President and Chairman of the Board, Tony Sacco, at 307-245-3304 or 307-245-3713.

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### **\$200.00 GROCERY SHOPPING SPREE RAFFLE**

In combination with the Texas Trail Market, this fall fundraiser saw several people sell almost 900 tickets. The drawing was held on Saturday, November 17, 2007, at the Museum. Pine Bluffs Police Chief, Tom Mohren, did the honors this year, and the winner was Cody Branigan, of Albin. Congratulations to Cody, and thanks to everyone who bought tickets. The proceeds will pay for installation of those new front doors mentioned earlier.

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### **SOME HUMOR**

Always a favorite, Mark Twain said these: "I am opposed to millionaires . . . but it would be dangerous to offer me the position."

"Last week, I stated that this woman was the ugliest woman I'd ever seen. Since then I have been visited by her sister, and now I wish to withdraw that statement."

And this, from Groucho Marks: "I was married by a judge. I should have asked for a jury."

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### **DUES, DUES, DUES**

If you joined the Museum during the months of October through December 2006, your dues are now due for 2008. Kindly make checks payable to Texas Trail Museum. Mail it to P.O. Box 545, Pine Bluffs, WY 82082.

Membership in the Texas Trail Museum is easy on the pocketbook:

Individual	\$10.00
Family	\$15.00
Silver Shield	\$50.00
Gold Shield	\$100.00

Lifetime

\$500.00

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