

# Texas Trail Museum Newsletter

Editor: Anthony J. Sacco

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

## Directors:

Karen Christensen  
Donald Herman  
Becky Martinez  
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Sharon Shmidl

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## ALBIN RESIDENT WINS RAFFLE

A non-profit organization, the Texas Trail Museum's funding comes from donations and fundraising. Realizing that, to survive, any museum must achieve a capacity to raise money on a continuous basis, the Board set about during 2006 to develop this capacity, with the introduction of a raffle of a free weekend for two at the beautifully rustic Saratoga Inn, in Saratoga, WY. Only 150 tickets were offered, at \$10 each. All were sold.

The winner of our first major raffle was Linda Moser, of Albin. Congratulations, Linda! And thanks to all those who bought a ticket. Your purchase has helped to preserve and restore artifacts which tell the story of southeastern Laramie County's rich history.

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## TEXAS TRAIL MUSEUM GOES HIGH TECH

Looking back, 2006 will be remembered as the year your Museum went high tech. With completion of a fine new website we now have an internet presence comparable to other museums around the state.

Our thanks go to High West Energy, which, upon the urging of our Vice-President and High West employee, Jackie Mueller, graciously lent us the talented services of Pine Bluffs resident Terry Steege, a computer specialist there, who, together with Tony Sacco, designed the site, complete with links to other websites, such as the Town of Pine Bluffs and the State Museum in Laramie. It's expected that additional photos and material will be added regularly.

Members and others may access the site with a computer, either at home or at the local library, by going to <http://www.texasrailmuseumoflaramiecounty.org>. Enjoy!

## MUSEUM HOURS

The Texas Trail Museum is open from Memorial Day through Labor Day, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m., Monday through Saturday. For a personal tour at other times, call Tony Sacco @ 307-245-3304, or Becky Martinez, @ 307-245-3076.

## FROM THE PRESIDENT

Continuity is important. As you know, through the generosity of former Hillsdale resident, Curt Bowser, his wife, Helen, and Pacific States Investment Corp., construction of a new building was completed in the compound during the term of former President, Gary Nadeau.

When I became president in May 2005, it was apparent that to develop the theme of the large role agriculture and transportation had played in Laramie County in the past, an integrated floor plan was needed. Also essential was an effort to organize the many artifacts dealing with these subjects, on hand but scattered throughout the Museum.

With Board approval, that plan was designed and implemented in time for our opening in May 2006. Later, thanks to the efforts of Loretta and Glenn Jewell, and Joann Kinnison an interesting, hands-on exhibit for children was introduced, highlighting the Carpenter area of Laramie County. An Indian artifacts exhibit, donated by the late Dewey Edmunds, a former local amateur archeologist and artist of some repute, is also housed in that building. And remember the two murals painted by art students at Burns Junior/Senior High School and Pine Bluffs Junior/Senior High School under the supervision of Burns High Art teacher, Carol Sacco? After their completion in March 2006, they were delivered and are now on display there as well.

On behalf of the Board, I invite all who have not seen the interior of the Agriculture and Transportation Building since its completion, to stop by during the 2007 season for a tour.

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## SOME HUMOR

Will Rogers, killed in a plane crash in 1935, was probably the greatest political sage America ever had. One of his humorous sayings:

“Good judgment comes from experience. A lot of that comes from bad judgment.”

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## BOWSER HOMESTEAD COTTAGE ARRIVES

Your Museum Board is pleased to announce the arrival in the Compound of another Laramie County historical building—a homestead cottage formerly located approximately 35 miles north of Hillsdale, on the property now belonging to Gerald McWilliams. The 12' x 20' cottage was the former home of the Bowser family, one of the “Jolly Dry Farmers” of the early 20<sup>th</sup> Century.

McWilliams, a nephew of Curtis and Helen Bowser of Boulder City, NV, agreed with his uncle that the Bowser Homestead cottage should be moved to a new home at the Museum. Curt had been in contact with the Museum president, and a plan was worked out to set the building up at the Museum.

With the help of expert movers, O'Neil Specialized Carrier & Housemovers, the same South Dakota company which years ago had moved the old schoolhouse to the Museum grounds, the cottage was brought in during September and placed on a concrete pad built especially for it by Gade Concrete of Pine Bluffs.

Plans call for interior renovation to be completed prior to our opening in May 2007.