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2008 ANNUAL MEETING SET FOR SATURDAY, MARCH 8th

At its regularly scheduled meeting on February 9th, the Board decided to hold the Annual Meeting on Saturday, March 8th at 2:00 p.m. in the meeting room of the Old Historic High School.

The thinking was that during winter months, people might prefer to attend during the day when it's light and not as cold, rather than in the evening, as has been done in the past.

In addition to the President's remarks, this year's meeting will feature a speaker (to be announced), refreshments as usual provided by the Texas Trail Market and some of the culinary queens of Pine Bluffs, a 50-50 raffle, and a door prize of a beautiful, historically accurate coffee table book entitled Western Cattle Trails; a \$49.95 value.

Members and non-members are invited, but only members in good standing will be permitted to vote. That means dues must be current prior to the meeting.

So come on out and learn more about what your Museum accomplished in 2007, and what's on tap for this year.

FROM THE PRESIDENT

In the December 2007 issue, I listed the elements of successful museum collection management. The first and most important of those elements is a clear mission statement.

The Texas Trail Museum has had one since its inception in 1986. Amended several times, the statement creates a sense of purpose for the museum: "It is the mission of the Texas Trail Museum to preserve and restore the heritage of the Frontier Crossroads Area (Eastern Laramie County, Wyoming) through displays and education." Notice that it says Eastern Laramie County, not just Pine Bluffs, where it's physically located. That includes Cheyenne.

Why limit ourselves to Eastern Laramie County? Geographically, Laramie County is comprised of 2,688 square miles. That's larger than the smallest of the New England States, Rhode Island, which is only 1,545 square miles. The entire county is rich in history, including contributions made by farmers and ranchers, the Union Pacific Railroad, the Lincoln Highway, and the military. Even with this voluntarily imposed limitation, chronicling just some – the eastern half - of the area's history is a daunting task.

To accomplish this and other tasks, private philanthropy is important to the museum and its progress. Tax deductible contributions from members and friends will help us to achieve our goals as described in the museum's mission statement.

A gift now will help the Texas Trail Museum take its rightful place among the leading museums of the State of Wyoming, and will make an impact for years to come.

ABOUT OUR WEBSITE

Did you know your museum has a website? Yes, for over a year now, the Texas Trail Museum has had a first class website. Our

thanks to Pine Bluffs own Terry Steege, who along with Tony Sacco, initially set up the site, which is now being maintained by Benjamin Hare and Creative Energy Solutions. To see it, go to <http://www.texastrailmuseumoflaramiecounty.org>. A recent addition to the site now allows anyone to read online copies of our newsletters, and pick up interesting tidbits of information regarding the museum and its activities. Soon you'll even be able to download a membership application to easily renew your membership or pass along to someone else who might want to join.

Maintaining a website is not without its trials. Shortly after it was set up, it was noticed that offensive material was being posted to the guestbook. Unable to delete these materials, Terry temporarily removed the guestbook feature. But after Benjamin was brought on board, he found and installed a guestbook which can be regularly and easily edited. The site even has a cluster map which enables us to see where our web visitors are coming from.

Shortly after the Guestbook feature was re-installed, this message appeared:

Name: **Diane Herman Hdairis**
From: Amman, Jordan
E-mail: hdairis@hotmail.com

Dear Friends and Family,
I enjoyed finding your site today as I surfed the net. Although I now reside in Jordan, I am originally from Pine Bluffs. I was happy to see some familiar names! 😊
Keep up the good work. Good luck 🙌
My best and warmest wishes,
Diane

For those who might want to communicate with Diane, her e-mail address is included.

DUES, DUES, DUES

If you joined the Museum during the months of January through March 2007, your dues are now due for 2008. They are tax deductible. Kindly make your check 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

HONORARY LIFETIME MEMBERS

At its April 2007 meeting, the Board decided to name all of the Museum's charter members as honorary lifetime members. Charter members were:

Norma Jean Anderson	Alice Benedict
Tim Cooney	Jack Curless
Olive Fornstrom	Mary Herman
Jackie Mueller	Jolene Simkins
Vickie Wilhelm	

A plaque with these names inscribed now hangs in the lobby/gift shop area.

SOME HUMOR

A group of friends went deer hunting and paired off in twos for the day. That night, one of the hunters returned alone, staggering under the weight of an eight-point buck.

"Where's Henry?" the others asked.

"Henry had a stroke of some kind. He's a couple of miles back up the trail," the successful hunter replied.

"What? You left Henry laying out there and carried the deer back?" they inquired.

"A tough call," nodded the hunter. "But I figured no one is going to steal Henry!"
