

Texas Trail Museum Newsletter

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2008 OPENING DAY MONDAY, MAY 26th FEATURING JANE ADAMS QUILTER, TRACKS ACROSS WYOMING EXHIBIT, AND THE KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS DOING THEIR FAMOUS BARBEQUE

Things will be humming at the Texas Trail Museum on Memorial Day this year. Our opening day exhibit is a three-panel Tracks across Wyoming highlight of the contribution by the Union Pacific Railroad to transportation, both nationally and in Wyoming's south.

Noted Quilter, Jane Adams of Laramie, will be on hand to discuss quilting with anyone who will listen, and her beautiful quilts will be displayed.

Last but not least, the local chapter of the Knights of Columbus will be grilling hot dogs on the Green behind the museum. Adding chips and a soda to that, for a measly pittance, you have a super lunch on land where the buffalo once roamed.

So, if you're going to be in town on Memorial Day, come on over. Things get rolling at 11:00 a.m.

FROM THE PRESIDENT: ELEMENTS OF SUCCESSFUL MUSEUM COLLECTION MANAGEMENT CONT'D:

As previously mentioned, nine major elements comprise successful collections management for museums. All must be present to ensure our museum is fulfilling its public trust and collections stewardship obligations.

The first of these key elements - a clear museum mission statement, was discussed in the December 2007 issue. The second is - mission-driven policies and procedures. There are three major policies relating to creation and management of the museum's collection: a) the Collection Policy, b) the Acquisitions Policy, and c) the Collection Access Policy.

In the past three years, your museum has attempted to secure artifacts which comply with the basic mission statement - to preserve and restore the heritage of the frontier crossroads (Eastern Laramie County). The Bowser Homestead Cottage, an example of how early 20th Century homesteaders lived in the Hillsdale area, is a perfect illustration. Also, acquisition for re-sale in our Gift Shop of the coffee table book The Texas Cattle Trails is another.

During the summer months, we'll completely revamp the Plains Indian artifacts display in the Agriculture and Transportation Building. A tipi and Plains Indian manikin have already been acquired.

FUNDRAISING

Thanks to the generosity of the Saratoga Inn, we are again raffling off a free weekend for two at that beautiful, relaxing spot, and throwing in \$40 to help defray the cost of meals. Tickets are still just \$10 each and this year we'll sell 200. If you have not purchased yours yet, look for us at the Texas Trail Market, or contact a board member.

DUES, DUES, DUES

If you joined the Museum during the months of April through June 2007, your dues are now due for 2008-2009. 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

MUSEUM'S GIFT SHOP REFLECTS AREA HISTORY

As part of the refurbishing which took place in the Lobby/Gift Shop area this spring, the Gift Shop now features Wyoming related books, crafts, and memorabilia. We stock two books dealing with the Lewis & Clark expedition's passage through Wyoming, and an absolutely fantastic coffee table book detailing the pictorial history of the Texas cattle trails, written by Kansas natives, Gary and Margaret Kreisinger.

Also on hand are souvenir Texas Trail Museum gift mugs, buffalo-base candle holders, deer antler candle holders, and Indian stones, dinosaur decal coloring books, and crayons for the kiddies. Father's Day is fast approaching. Shopping for a gift this summer? Come by and take a look.

SOME HUMOR

Ronald Wilson Reagan, our 40th President, has gone down in history as probably our wittiest leader. His gibes and clever one-liners were instrumental in winning the hearts of Americans throughout his political career. Here are just a few:

Reagan once quipped about the

federal deficit: "I'm not worried about the deficit. It's big enough to take care of itself."

Having some fun with an audience of newspaper reporters, Reagan said: "I've got a news item for *you*. . . . We have a spin-off from our 'Star Wars' research. It's a helmet for me to wear at press conferences. All I do is push a button and it shoots down incoming questions."

Reagan summed up his views on Communism with this: "How do you tell a Communist? Well, it's someone who has read Marx and Lenin. How do you tell an anti-Communist? It's someone who *understands* Marx and Lenin."

DONATING TO THE TEXAS TRAIL MUSEUM

Besides a general donation which the museum can use for any purpose, you can contribute a gift to a specific fund or for a specific purpose; examples would be the Texas Trail Museum Endowment Fund, the Texas Trail Museum Martha Thompson Reading Room, or the Brodine-Walker Boarding House Renovation Project.

Tribute Gifts can also be made. These are a very thoughtful way to remember family members and friends who have died, whether at the time of their death or later.

Making a will is the first step toward wise financial planning for you and your family. It permits you, and not the state, to decide how your assets will be distributed. It is also a way for you to carry your commitment to organizations important to you beyond your lifetime. Consult your attorney for the wording of a testamentary bequest to the museum that meets your goals and that makes sure you receive the tax benefits allowed for your gift. If you have already made a will, it can be amended by asking your attorney to add a simple Codicil to include the museum.
