



Museum Musings

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E. Rhodes and Leona B. Carpenter Foundation Gives \$25,000 to Expansion Project

We are so pleased to announce that the **E. Rhodes and Leona B. Carpenter Foundation** has given an additional \$25,000 for the expansion project. This generous contribution brings the Carpenter Foundation's total gift to \$100,000; the entire amount raised thus far in pledges and contributions to \$1,179,623.24.

Other major grants that enabled the museum to reach its goal were: the Frank and Sue Mayborn Foundation; the John Hood and Alleen Garner Charitable Trust; the Houston Endowment, Inc.; the Estate of Kitty Howes; The Summerlee Foundation; the Grogan Lord Foundation; the Jeld-Wen Foundation; and the Sallie Mae Fund.

"Many people have worked hard to make this endeavor possible, and we are grateful to them all," said Board of Trustees Chair Vic Means. "The original planning process, the fundraising campaign, and finally, getting the project within our budget so that construction can start, means that this wonderful undertaking will finally be a reality." Architectural Edge is the architect for the project; Gene Doss Construction, Inc. is the project manager.



**December 28, 2004 -
 Groundbreaking Day!**

Pictured (left to right): Museum Director Stephanie Turnham, Commissioner Tim Brown; Belton City Manager Sam Listi; County Judge Jon Burrows; Museum Board Chair Vic Means; Board Member Sue Mayborn; Campaign Chair Bob Shoemaker; Campaign Co-Chair Buck Prewitt; and 2002-2003 Board Chair Bob Kennedy.

**February is
 Black History
 Month**

Join the museum and Temple College's Performing Arts Department for a wonderful afternoon of music and history as we celebrate Black History Month. **Ms. Linell Davis**, a minister, community leader and accomplished soloist, will trace the roots of the African spiritual that originated during slavery and evolved into a contemporary musical and cultural art form. Choirs from Mt. Zion United Methodist Church, Corinth Baptist Church, 8th Street Baptist Church, Macedonia Baptist Church, and Mt. Zion Baptist Church of Temple will demonstrate the origins of this unique American classic. This program, performed two years ago at the museum, was so successful that many individuals have requested an encore performance. The free program will take place on **Sunday, February 20, 2005 at 3:30 p.m.** and is open to the public.

A Salado Christmas nets over \$10,000



Chuck McCarter & Martha Francis



Belton Mayor Dwayne & JoAnne Digby, Griff & Kathy Lord



Barbara Wendland, Dennis Turk, & Erroll Wendland



Martha Francis, Maryette Clifton, Shirley Pinkston



We extend grateful appreciation to **Bill & Connie Blowers, Michele Moore, Alena Sonina, Mark Winker, Paul Boston, McGowen-Stephens School** and our Board for their work in making our holiday fundraiser successful.

The lovely and unique home of **Drs. Chuck McCarter and Martha Francis** was the setting for *A Salado Christmas*, a holiday fundraiser that cleared over \$10,000.00 for the Bell County Museum's educational programs and exhibits. The party, held on Saturday, December 11th, featured holiday music provided by **Angelic Strings** of Austin, and a surprise, magical visit from the **Ellison High School Chamber Singers**, directed by **Shannon Franco**. **Sherry Bonnett Sewell** provided an elegant array of heavy hors d'oeuvres holiday desserts. Attendees at the party toured this distinctive **Darwin Britt** home, which features environmentally sound building practices combined with unique furnishings and paintings by **Chuck McCarter**.

Sponsorship for this event was generously provided by: **Dennis & Ann Turk; Dr. Ralph Wilson, Jr., and Mrs. Ralph Wilson, Jr.** (posthumously); **Mr. and Mrs. Sol Neman; Roger & Janet Daniel; Extraco Banks; First Texas Bank, Belton; Jim & Dot Hays; King's Daughters Hospital; Sue Mayborn; JoAn Musick-Flowers; and Jack & Wanda Weinblatt.** The museum expresses grateful appreciation to its sponsors and to **Chuck and Martha** for making this event possible.

Opening February 5, 2005 . . .

From the Collection: Recent Acquisitions

A selection of objects accepted into the collection since 2001 is the focus of the museum's newest exhibition. Some of the artifacts that will be on view are: a ca. 1900 cream silk beaded cape in pristine condition that belonged to **Alice Littlefield Keifer Marshall's WWII Marine uniform** a program from the memorial service for **Alvin Ailey, Jr.** scores of photographs a 7.5 mm Japanese carbine brought back from Japan by **Dr. Darrell Sprott** just after WWII a spoon from **Belton's Central Hotel** a 1920 Cotton Blossom yearbook from **Temple High School** and a "fiddle" made by **Cecil Harrison**. The new exhibit will be on view through August 27th.

History's Mystery....

Former Beltonian **Harry Austin** has not only presented the museum with a generous gift, but an perplexing puzzle as well. Family history relates that the fragile beaded necklace Austin gave to the museum was passed down through the family and was taken from the personal belongings of **General Santa Anna** just after the **Battle of San Jacinto** by an unknown Texian soldier. An effort is underway to determine the authenticity of the piece, including an initial contact with the PBS television series, *History Detectives*. Stay tuned for more news on this exciting and compelling mystery. . .