



## Museum Musings

### MEADOWS FOUNDATION CONTRIBUTES TO CAPITAL CAMPAIGN

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The Bell County Museum is so pleased to announce that The Meadows Foundation has made a grant of \$23,000 to go toward the expansion of the museum. The grant brings the total amount raised in pledges and contributions to \$1.2 million. Construction has begun and the project is expected to be completed by December 2005.

The Meadows Foundation is a private philanthropic institution established in 1948 by Algur H. and Virginia Meadows to benefit the people of Texas. The Foundation's mission is to assist the people and institutions of Texas to improve the quality and circumstances of life for themselves and future generations. Algur Meadows built General American Oil Company of Texas into one of the nation's most successful independent oil and gas production companies. Believing that his own life was greatly enriched by giving, Meadows generously shared his wealth with many charitable causes.

The Foundation looks for programs and services that employ imaginative, innovative ways to solve community problems through projects leading to organizational self-sufficiency and in capital plans that enable agencies to flourish. It seeks to support projects that can alleviate pain, enhance social skills and promote better human relations.

The Meadows Foundation is among the most recognized private philanthropies in the country. It has received numerous awards for both its philanthropy and its management. It was the first recipient of the Texas medal of the Arts for sustained support of arts and culture in Texas, and was named Outstanding Foundation of the year by the National Society of Fund Raising Executives.

### *It's almost here . . . the Big Bell County Garage Sale!*

The annual Big Bell County Garage Sale is the place to be on Saturday, April 9th, from 9-5, at the Bell County Expo Center! Over 6,000 people are expected to attend this fun event, which is a major fundraiser for the museum.

More than 90 vendors are participating in the garage sale this year. Visitors will be able to find everything from collectibles to electronic equipment, fabulous antiques, vintage jewelry and textiles, furniture, house wares, and just good, all-American junk. Vendor space has already been filled. The garage sale is a great opportunity to get out with family and friends. Admission is only \$2.00 for adults, so it's a cheap outing that's fun for everyone. Plus, everyone can find something here that they simply cannot live without.

The museum is currently accepting donations of garage sale items for the museum booth, or items that can be auctioned. Items can be brought to the museum as the event draws closer, or the museum can arrange to pick up items from your home. Anything that can be bought or auctioned is needed and appreciated. Last year, two individuals donated vehicles that were auctioned off. This brought the net earnings of the sale to over \$13,000 that goes toward funding exhibitions and programs, our endowment, and the preservation of the museum's collection.