



Museum Musings

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Join Us for Holiday Family Fun

Create a lasting family memory at one of our ornament-making workshops on Thursday, December 1st, or Thursday, December 8th, from 5:00 until 7:00 p.m.! Choose from one of two types of tree trimmers, both with a crazy-quilt design – create a “Victorian” ornament, replete with satin, velvet, pearls and gold trim, or a “Chisholm Trail” ornament made out of bandanas, denim, rope, and other cool cowboy trimmings. Finally, create a wonderful and simple “western” ornament and attach it to Belton’s community Christmas tree, located on the Courthouse square. Learn all about a Victorian Christmas, and explore the life of a cowboy as you create your holiday masterpiece. Everyone is invited, and refreshments will be served on both occasions.

The December 1st event is part of Belton’s annual **Christmas on the Chisholm Trail**. The December 8th event is co-sponsored by the George W. Tyler Chapter, Sons of the Republic of Texas.

The Board of Trustees and staff of the museum wish everyone a very safe, warm and memorable holiday season, and a prosperous, healthy and peaceful New Year.

Reserve your historical holiday ornaments TODAY

Happy Holidays!



First United Methodist Church, Belton



Carnegie Library Building

Photos by Margaret Williamson

They're almost here . . . the 4th in our church ornament collectibles series! This year's ornament features Belton's First United Methodist Church. The tree trimmer joins Salado United Methodist Church, First Baptist Church of Temple, and Christ Episcopal Church in Temple. Also this year, a special Carnegie Library ornament has been produced to honor the 100th birthday of the venerable old building, now home to the Bell County Museum. Call the museum to order your set of these unique tree trimmers. All ornaments sell for \$15.00 plus tax; museum members receive a 10% discount on these and other unique items in the Museum Store.

New on-line exhibit – **Texas Bird's-Eye Views** – features important Bell County image



August Koch, *Bird's Eye View of Belton*, ca. 1881. Collection of the Lena Armstrong Public Library.

A new on-line exhibition has been organized by the Amon Carter Museum of Western Art and curated by Rogers native Dr. Ron Tyler, professor of history at the University of Texas at Austin and former director of the Texas State Historical Association. *Texas Bird's-Eye Views* is a website "dedicated to the study and appreciation of the Texas city views in the museum's collection," in addition to images from other collections. As stated in the on-line exhibit, birds-eye views "appear as something between a panoramic view and a map, as though they were drawn by the artist while he was suspended in a hot-air balloon." *A Birds-Eye View of Belton*, created by Augustus Koch in 1881, is a valuable visual tool for exploring the development of Belton, the largest town in the county at the time. The website makes it possible to zoom in and explore, in exquisite detail, individual components of the town. To view the website, go to www.birdseyeviews.org.



We thank the Bell County Historical Commission for the grant we received that will go toward the purchase of a Power Point projector. The new equipment will augment the quality of future museum presentations.



RUSSELL LEE EXHIBITION: AN INTERESTING UPDATE

Remember the photograph pictured above? Denise Karimkhani, Director of Learning Resources at UMHB, visited the museum during the Russell Lee exhibition last month and excitedly reported that the woman on the right is her grandmother, Amanda Ellen Hogan Woolley (1887-1976). Although Mrs. Woolley was born in Prairie Dell (Bell County), she was living in Moody at the time of this photograph (1956). It is impossible not to wonder what these two ladies were discussing. Berneta Peoples also reported that the string-tied gentleman in the background is none other than Lester Gunn, sheriff of Bell County from 1965 until 1984.

Museum staff also discovered that the Center for American History in Austin owns about 175 35mm frames taken by Lee in Belton for an assignment on the same day as the photograph above! Although most are in contact sheet format, it would certainly be an important addition to the museum's collection to have a select few images reproduced.

Please join us! Take part in preserving the rich history of the Bell County region by joining the Friends of the Museum Association. Your membership allows us to continue award-winning programming through exhibits and educational activities that enhance our county-wide community. Benefits of membership include discounts in the museum bookstore, invitations to special events, and the satisfaction of knowing that YOU are an important part of the preservation of Bell County and Central Texas history. Together, we make our community great!

____ Yes! I want to support the Bell County Museum by becoming a member of the Friends of the Museum Association.

____ \$10 Student

____ \$100 Patron

____ \$25 Friend

____ \$250 Partner

____ \$50 Family

____ \$500 Associate

____ \$75 Advocate

____ \$1,000+ Benefactor

THANK YOU

to our

New & Renewing Friends

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Betsy Hilliard
 Jim Merritt
 Rick & Paula Miller
 John & Barbara Robertson

Memorials

In memory of ...

Harry Barina, Sr.
 by Bell County Judge,
 Commissioners Court,
 Peggy Dillard, & Gloria Ramos

Alicia Duke
 by Charles, Sandy, & Crystal
 Collins

Lavada Fowler
 by Bell County Judge,
 Commissioners Court,
 Peggy Dillard, & Gloria Ramos

LaVerne Terrell
 by Stephanie Turnham

Harry Wilmer
 by the family of
 H.K. & Raye Virginia Allen



The Amon Carter Museum of Western Art in Fort Worth recently responded to our curatorial query with a donation of three hygrothermographs. These expensive devices record on paper the temperature and relative humidity of the museum environment.

ARCHEOLOGY DAY AT MILLER SPRINGS



Archeologist Neal Stilley captivated students during *Archeology Day at Miller Springs* in October as he demonstrated fire-making techniques and taught the students how to throw an atlatl. The atlatl preceded the bow and arrow as the weapon of choice for prehistoric peoples. The event was held as part of Texas Archeology Month, a program of the Texas Historical Commission.