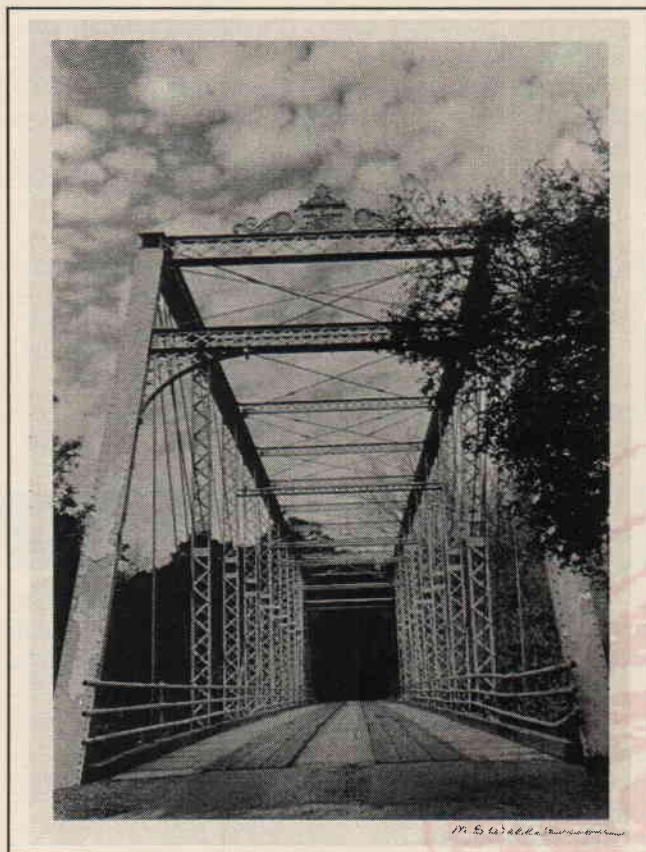




Museum Musings

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Iron Truss Bridge Over the Lampasas River, 2003
Gift of Margaret Williamson, 2006

RECENT ACQUISITIONS

Former Board member, history enthusiast and talented photographer Margaret Williamson has donated two exquisite photographs to the museum. Taken in 2003, the 8 x 10 in. images feature the historic iron truss bridge over the Lampasas River. "I took the photographs because I thought the bridge was visually interesting," she said. "Also, the bridge was unusual in that it still had the wooden planks." The one-lane bridge, built in 1889, received a Texas Historical Commission marker in 1990. Sadly, it was destroyed in February 2006.

We are grateful to Margaret for making a visual memory of this historic bridge, and appreciate the beauty of the photographs as well, particularly the gorgeous juxtaposition of the puffy clouds with the clean lines of the bridge.

Goin' Up the Chisholm Trail

We are searching for buckaroos ages 6-10 to help us make it up the Chisholm Trail. That's right, your little cowhand has the opportunity to earn a rare place in history..... as a Bell County Museum Chisholm Trail Junior Trail Boss!

Saturday, August 5, 2006, 9:30 – 11:30 a.m.

Yettie Polk Park in Belton

Registration required: \$5.00 fee includes snacks and craft supplies

The morning includes real live longhorns, a simulated cattle drive, discussion, songs and lots of pretend.

This is a wonderful event that children adore and adults love to watch!

Summer Funshop Series



Our first 2006 Summer Funshop for youth kicked off with an action-packed morning that explored Native American life as well as archeological methodology. Participants learned how Southern Plains Native Americans lived, hunted and ate. Kids not only threw an atlatl and sat inside a tipi; every single one of them actually tasted our pemmican! We were so proud of them.

The youth also learned how to record an archeological "site." Many treasures were found in the museum's mock archeology pits, including mussel shells, scrapers and projectile points in the Archaic hearth site, and horseshoes, ceramic sherds and glass shards in the 1880s farmhouse site.

Other Funshop activities during July and August include: *Life of a Pioneer Child*; *All About Photography*; and *Create an Art Exhibit*.



Have you ever wanted to enlighten (and enliven) others? If so, plan to attend our Tour Guide Training Workshop on Friday, July 21, 2006, at 9:30 a.m. We will give you the information and tools you need to give brilliant, thought-provoking, informative presentations to museum visitors. We hope to see you here!

BELL COUNTY'S FIRST WWII PRISONER OF WAR

The son of Mattie Brown and William Andrew LaGrone, Sr., Harry John LaGrone (1918-1974) was born on his parents' farm in the Reese (Reece) Creek community, south of Killeen. The LaGrones later moved southeast of Killeen, where Harry attended Little Nolan School.

On December 10, 1941, LaGrone was a U.S. Marine serving as a member of the Insular Patrol, or police force, at the Governor's Palace in Guam. LaGrone, along with almost 500 other American service personnel, was imprisoned by Japanese forces, making him the first WWII prisoner of war from Bell County.



Harry John LaGrone, Jr., 1946, gift of Mary LaGrone, 2006

LaGrone was taken to the POW camp Zentsuji, on the island of Shikoku, Japan. It was here that he and the other prisoners were forced to clear land for cultivation and work on loading docks. The work on the docks gave prisoners the opportunity to steal food to augment the meager rations given to them, thus keeping them alive.

The Zentsuji prisoners were released on September 13, 1945, five weeks after atomic bombs were dropped over Hiroshima and Nagasaki by U.S. forces.

Those close to LaGrone blame his early death at the age of fifty-six on his harsh treatment while imprisoned at Zentsuji, as well as on the fact that the prison was located only seventy-five miles from Hiroshima.

-AD

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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- Betty Crowson
- Mr. & Mrs. Robert Ford
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- Dorothy Ohlendorf

MEMORIALS

In memory of:

Ann Wimberley Bahr
by Bob & Bettye Kennedy

Thetis Sanderford Gardner
by Mary Blair Lapwing

George Clark Moore, Jr.
by Dr. Van Mask

Opening August 26th....

A Bell County Quilt Treasury

What do the words crazy, appliqué and patchwork all have in common? Why, they're types of quilts, of course! Tactile treasures from the museum's quilt collection will be on view in the South Gallery from August 26, 2006 through May 5, 2007. Explore the world of design, history and color through these artistic artifacts that also tell us stories about our past.

Speaking of quilts....

We express appreciation to Joan Northen for creating two "strippy" quilts that will be used in the log cabin exhibit area. Created from a 19th century pattern with reproduction fabric, the quilts will help to interpret the 1850s cabin without compromising the condition of historic objects from the museum's collection (the generous amount of natural light in the cabin area will fade textiles). Thank you, Joan!



We extend thanks and appreciation to our summer volunteer, John Mark Gunter, a Central Texas Christian School student interested in history. Mark has helped conduct tours, organized files, and even shoveled dirt with us as we filled our archeology pits. Thanks, Mark!

Shop the Museum Store for unique merchandise for everyone!