



Museum Musings

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Opening January 27, 2007 . . .

Rhythm & Rhyme: Music in Central Texas

We are pleased to announce the opening of a new, highly interactive exhibit, *Rhythm & Rhyme: Music in Central Texas*. Guest curated by local cultural historian Patricia K. Benoit, the exhibit will showcase the wide array of music and musicians that have helped to shape the area's cultural identity.

The diversity of Texas music is a direct reflection on the diversity of the state—shifting and changing to mirror its evolution. And if Texas is considered a musical mixed-bag, then central Texas can be seen as a microcosm of the larger state.

Museum Curator Amanda Dyer explains, "We are currently searching for artifacts to augment the quality of the exhibit. We seek loans of objects relating to music in the area, such as instruments, photographs, or information." Please call Amanda if you can help!

← Winning LOGO Announced

Congratulations to Robin Peebles and Caspar Lam, students at the University of Texas at Austin, for their winning museum logo design! They state, "Using both serif and sans-serif typefaces, the new logotype is a symbolic representation of the museum's mission and architecture: that the past is a foundation for the present and a driving influence towards the future, which is only outlined and not yet realized." In choosing this design from all of the other excellent entries, the committee remarked on the universal nature of it, as well as its clean, modern lines. The logo will be used in a variety of applications; the original is red and white. We received over 70 entries for this project, and appreciate everyone who submitted a design.



☞ Shop the Museum Store for holiday gift ideas ☞

Make the Museum Store a destination as you search for unique gifts this holiday season! Find that perfect ornament, note card, children's book or toy, T-shirt or Texana item. The latest offering in the store is a beautiful book, *Historic Texas Courthouses*, published by Bright Sky Press. Author Michael Andrews states, "In Texas, the historic county courthouses dotted across the Lone Star State symbolize the independence and fortitude of its pioneers, determined to forge order out of an untamed land and apply justice on its frontier." Replete with color photographs, the book focuses on 100 historic structures, including the magnificently restored Bell County Courthouse. It retails for \$49.95.

Don't forget about our wonderful selection of holiday ornaments. Choose from pewter or gold-plated ornaments as well as our series of historic Bell County church ornaments. Finally, treat a loved one to the inimitable *Story of Bell County*, Volumes I and II. This set is a must for anyone interested in the development of the county and region.

November & December in History...

November 18, 1850: Special Commission Chairman Joseph Dennis appeared in this first regular term of the Commissioners Court and presented the deed from Thomas J. Allen conveying to the county the acreage to be known as Nolanville [Belton]. Election ordered for the second Saturday in December for two Justices of the Peace in Beat 2, a Justice of the Peace and Constable in Beat 4, and a Constable in Beat 3.

December 14, 1850: Court ordered a frame house to be located in the center of the public square in Nolanville [Belton] for use as a clerk's office and rented a temporary courthouse, 16' x 18'. E. Lawrence Stickney was the deputy clerk.

November 20: The Bell County Agricultural Club was organized with 53 members to advocate better farming methods.

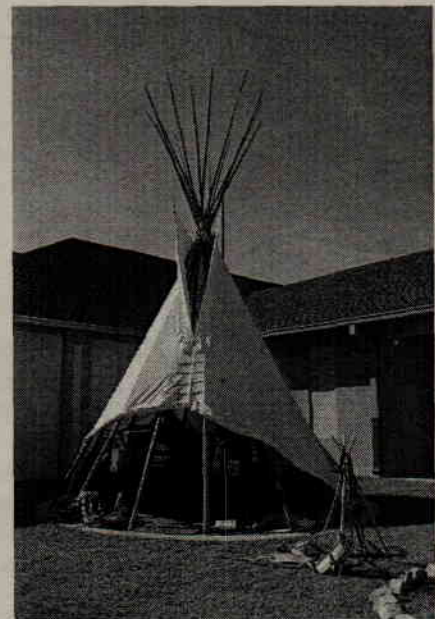
Excerpted from Rick Miller's *Bell County Texas: A Political and Social Chronology, 1850-2000*

Christmas at the Oxbow Overlook – Saturday, December 9, 2006



We express much appreciation to archeologists Carol Macaulay, Brian Jameson and Baylor University archeology students for helping museum visitors explore our archeology pits. Thanks to these veteran experts, visitors not only had fun getting dirty, but also learned a great deal about our past.

TEXAS ARCHEOLOGY MONTH REVISITED



October was a very busy month at the museum! *Above*, living history interpreter Curtis Carter demonstrates lifeways and customs of a ca. 1860 Cheyenne family, including his completely furnished tipi. *At left*, a dad excavates a ca. 3500 B.C. Archaic hearth site (simulated) with his children. Over 300 people visited the museum for our archeology month programs, which included a fascinating presentation on Spanish missions in Central Texas by Texas Historical Commission archeologist Dan Potter. Have an idea for a program next year? Call us! We'd love to hear from you.

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

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to our

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Frances Richardson

by

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Sandy & Charles Collins

Jo & Larry Davis

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Neal & Mary Locke

Mary Nell & Joe Pirtle

Jenny Singley

by William P. Gibson

David Durward Wheeler

by Jean & Roy Potts



Tom Heard is our newest Collections Committee member. He joins Dena Hill, Shirley Holleman, Bennett Curtis, Debbie Lufburrow, Berneta Peeples, Margaret Williamson, and Jeannette Kelley and museum staff, who meet quarterly to accept or decline objects offered to the museum.

The Board and staff of the Bell County Museum wish you and yours a very merry and safe holiday season. We thank you for your support in 2006.