



Museum Musings

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BOOK SIGNING

You are cordially invited to attend a book signing by California author Dr. Anne H. Sutherland on her newest work, *The Robertsons, the Sutherlands and the Making of Texas*. The event will be held Tuesday, September 12, 2006, at 5:30 p.m., at the museum. Dr. Sutherland's book focuses on the Robertson and Sutherland families, who not only helped shape the character of Texas, but most certainly influenced the development of Bell County and central Texas. Dr. Sutherland uses letters, poems, diaries, and oral histories to trace the development of these pioneering families, who arrived in Texas during the early colonization period of the 1830s. The publisher, Texas A&M Press, states, "A unique blend of family and Texas history, Sutherland's book positions personal stories as windows of insight into Texan identity. She peels back the layers of family tradition and textbook history to show how her forebears experienced the transforming events of the settlement of Texas and its war for independence." As always, museum members receive a 10% discount on the book's purchase.

Call for Entries

As part of our marketing initiative, the museum invites entries for a new logo design! The design should relate to the architecture of the building and the mission of the museum. The deadline for submissions is October 15, 2006; an honorarium of \$150 will be awarded to the creator of the winning design. For more information about the competition, please contact the museum or visit our website.

October - Texas Archeology Month

Please join us for any (or all) of the following events that commemorate Texas Archeology Month:

☞ The museum's tipi will be erected and the archeology pits will be open every Saturday in October from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Area archeologists will be on hand to help families explore archeological techniques and principles, and to increase awareness of the rich archeological heritage of the Bell County region. These are great activities to share with children!

☞ A special guest is Curtis Carter, who will erect his own tipi on Saturday, October 21st, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Curtis is a living history interpreter and an authority on Plains Indian material culture. His informative and educational presentation will be sure to enthrall people of all ages.

☞ On Thursday, October 19, 2006, at 7:00 p.m., Texas Historical Commission archeologist Dan Potter will present a program to the public, *Recent Archeological Findings in Central Texas*. Dan will summarize the kinds of archeological sites and artifacts typical of this region, and will discuss recent research the Texas Historical Commission has conducted at the San Xavier Missions in Milam County, Sarahville de Viesca in Falls County, and several other newly discovered sites. Dan invites folks to bring any "mystery artifacts" that they would like to have identified.

RECENT ACQUISITIONS

We are thrilled to announce that The Summerlee Foundation has given the museum a gift of 64 issues of the *Belton Journal* that date from 1870 to 1882. The issues, deaccessioned from the Wisconsin Historical Society and purchased by the Foundation, are invaluable pieces of history that chronicle important events as well as the mundane in 19th-century Bell County. For example:



1878 ad from *Belton Journal*

Mr. G.W. Hock, of this county, the other day went to Shanklin's Mill on the Lampasas river [sic] to get a load of corn ground. As he went he crossed on the bridge, but on his return concluded he could ford the river at the mill. He drove in, and the river being higher than he thought, it washed his wagon and team down the stream; his team was drowned, and not being able to swim only succeeded in saving his own life by catching a limb overhanging the river. It is a bad plan to attempt fording Texas streams when they are up, especially when there is a bridge convenient.

- January 17, 1878

The Summerlee Foundation is dedicated to animal protection and Texas history; the museum is so pleased to have its support.

Altrusa donates to Research Center

The museum is the proud recipient of a gift of \$2,000 from Altrusa International, Inc. of Temple! The contribution will fund a desktop computer and printer to be placed in the museum's research center. Currently, our files are loosely organized and are not in a database. The new computer will allow volunteers and staff to catalogue the myriad research materials into a database that will then be available for all researchers to use. The files will be entered into the same software system that the museum uses to manage the permanent collection – *PastPerfect*. We are grateful to Altrusa for helping the museum better serve its constituents.

Christmas at the Oxbow Overlook

Paradise found along the banks of historic Salado Creek . . . you will not want to miss this year's holiday fundraiser at this spectacular setting. Please mark your calendar for Saturday, December 9, 2006, for a celebration of the season to be held in an amazing home (with amazing owners) that took four years to construct.

Proceeds from this event go toward educational programming and exhibitions; five percent of the proceeds go into the museum's endowment. We look forward to seeing you at the Oxbow Overlook!

WANTED:

A "GARDEN" OF
VOLUNTEERS

Cenizo . . . gaura . . . lantana . . . autumn sage . . . daisy . . . skullcap . . . our beautiful new flowers and flowerbeds that surround the building are in need of loving care. *We seek volunteers who are skilled in the art of pulling weeds to keep the beds looking gorgeous and spiffy.* We want the beds to be a continuous source of beauty for the downtown historic district, and to reflect positively on the museum and the building. Can you help us? We hope so!



We welcome Lauren Pearson as our new UMHB Work-Study student. Lauren is a freshman at the University and is majoring in history. She is from Katy, Texas. The museum is a work-study site for this federal program; students provide an enormous amount of help to museum staff. Welcome, Lauren!

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

Friend:

Mia & Dr. Ed Bellens
Debra Brock
Carol Langsjoen
Betty Prescott
Barbara Slough
Faye & Jimmy Stewart
Dortha & Jim Walker

Family:

Mr. & Mrs. Cleo Bay
Caroline & Benny Bay
Marilyn & Dr. Luther Brewer
Mr. & Mrs. Tom Cronin
Hon. Dianne White Delisi
Sarah & Joe Dorn
Sue & George Gideon
Miriam & Jack Knox
Mr. & Mrs. Kenneth Odell
Karen & Jeff Pirinelli
Ken Gober & Denise Ripley
Sherry & Jim Sewell
Reuben Talasek
Dorothy & Jeff Thomas
Cdr. (Ret.) & Mrs. Leon Wald

Advocate:

Wayne Bachus

Patron:

Dorothy Ann Aldrich
Charles Amos
Dr. & Mrs. Raymond Carver
Martha & E.J. Daniel
Ms. Martha James
Bettye & Bob Kennedy
Mr. & Mrs. Keifer Marshall, Jr.
Ellen Breaux Morris
Marietta Parker
Jo & David Reddell
Margaret & Mike Williamson

Partner:

Linda & Buck Prewitt
Athena & Jim Stinson

MEMORIALS

In memory of:

Jim Bowmer

by

Bell County Judge Jon Burrows & Commissioners Court
Peggy & Richard Dillard
Mr. & Mrs. E.A. Limmer, Jr.
Stephanie Turnham

Thetis Sanderford Gardner

by

H. Jay DuBose

Judge Eugene MacKenzie

by

Bell County Judge Jon Burrows & Commissioners Court

Jenny Singley

by

Bell County Judge Jon Burrows & Commissioners Court

Mrs. Happy (Nita Terrell) Smith

by

Mr. & Mrs. E.A. Limmer, Jr.



We thank the SPJST Library, Archives and Museum for the loan of their 1928 album quilt with the names of members of the Ocker and Seaton Brethren churches, and the Cyclone Catholic Church. The quilt is part of our exhibit, *A Bell County Quilt Treasury*.

Honoring . . .

Wanda Weinblatt by Frances W. Wolff

We express grateful appreciation to the Belton Area Chamber of Commerce for spotlighting the museum on its two IH-35 billboards. The billboards, which are part of the Chamber's marketing initiative, will feature the museum for about a year. Thank you, BACOC!