

museum musings

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Big Bell County Garage Sale!

- Saturday, March 10, 2007, from 9-4 p.m.
- Bell County Expo Center, Belton, Texas
- Admission only \$2 per person; children under 12 free!
- Over 85 vendors!
- Best people-watching event in Central Texas
- Best example of mass redistribution of goods in Central Texas
- Your opportunity to find bargain treasures, collectibles, toys, -- you name it, it's here!
- Plenty of free parking, no long lines
- Major fundraiser for the Bell County Museum



Opening June 30th ...
**THE FACE OF TEXAS: PHOTOGRAPHS BY
MICHAEL O'BRIEN**

We are pleased to announce a new exhibit opening June 30, 2007: *The Face of Texas: Photographs by Michael O'Brien*. Organized by the Old Jail Art Center of Albany, Texas, this wonderful exhibit celebrates the individuality and independent spirit of Texas through portraits of its people. Photographer Michael O'Brien is a freelance magazine photographer who began his career as a staff photographer for the *Miami News*, where he won multiple awards for his work. His photographs have appeared many times in *Texas Monthly*, often on the cover. *The Face of Texas* is a selection of photographs from a book of the same title published by Bright Sky Press of Albany. An essay written by O'Brien's wife, journalist Elizabeth O'Brien, accompanies each photograph.

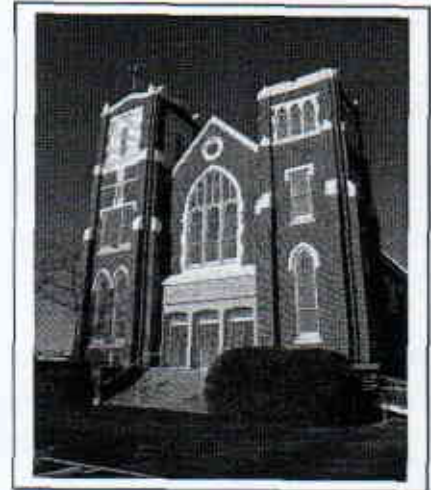
The vivid images in the exhibit present a fascinating and diverse array of native and adoptive Texans, from powerful big-city movers to unique small-town characters. Among the well-known Texans featured are Willie Nelson, Lady Bird Johnson, President and Mrs. George W. Bush, Troy Aikman, Earl Campbell, Sissy Spacek, and the musical group Destiny's Child. Lesser known but nonetheless intriguing subjects are Ran Horn, the self-styled "Van Gogh of Van Horn," the Gatorfest Queen and other Texas beauty queens, and members of the Odd Fellows chapter of Waxahachie. The exhibition will be on view through August 25, 2007.

Better Late than Never

The newest ornament in our historic church ornament series has arrived! St. John Lutheran Church, one mile north of Bartlett on South Highway 95, is a gorgeous and imposing red brick structure built in 1932. The congregation, however, was organized in 1883; services were conducted in German until 1942.

This beautiful ornament is the fifth in our series. The others are: Salado United Methodist Church; First Baptist Church of Temple; Christ Episcopal Church of Temple; and First United Methodist Church of Belton. Each ornament retails for \$15.00, with a 10% discount for museum members. Collect them all!

Our ornament for this year is First United Methodist Church of Temple. We also hope to have an ornament of the historic Bell County Courthouse created in 2007.



Margaret Williamson, St. John Lutheran Church, 2006

2007 Texas Heritage Tourism Partnership Grant

We are pleased to announce that the Texas Historical Commission [THC] has awarded the museum a matching grant of \$3,750 for our museum brochure and website development project. The funds are from the Texas Heritage Tourism Partnership Grant for the Texas Brazos Trail Region. Lawrence Oaks, Executive Director of the THC, said, "We believe this project will increase awareness of the historical resources found in the Texas Brazos Trail Region and will strengthen the region's desirability as a heritage tourism destination." The new brochure will reflect our new logo and new wing, and will be distributed throughout the county and to points of entry into Texas. Our new website will also enhance the museum's attractiveness to heritage tourists and will serve as a tool to welcome residents of the Bell County region to the museum. We appreciate the THC's support.

A Recent Donation



Photo by Amanda Dyer

Although not officially accepted into the collection yet, this extraordinary Whitson-Barnes side saddle has been offered to us by Judy Rosten. Conservator Dick Sherer, in *The Leather Crafters and Saddlers Journal* (Vol. 13, No. 5), states, "Five Whitson or Whitson-Barnes side saddles are known to exist in identifiable condition," and indicates that our saddle is one of these rarities. The side saddle dates to 1896-1900, and was conserved by Sherer in 2003.

The off side of the saddle features purple-red fringe that sways seductively according to the movement of horse and rider. Ms. Rosten informed us that she received the saddle from a friend, who received it from her mother. Legend has it that the saddle may have belonged to one or more "ladies of the night" in west Bell County... hhhmmmm.....

Its uniqueness, history and condition will make it a valuable component of the collection.

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.

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$10 Student | <input type="checkbox"/> \$100 Patron |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$25 Friend | <input type="checkbox"/> \$250 Partner |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$50 Family | <input type="checkbox"/> \$500 Associate |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$75 Advocate | <input type="checkbox"/> \$1000+ Benefactor |

THANK YOU
to our
New & Renewing Friends

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Susan & Joe Carroll
Donna & James Ernst
Ruth Howe
Jo Ann & Stan Pemberton
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MEMORIALS

In memory of:

Harry & Mabel Blair
by Mary Blair Lapwing

Isabel Bomba
by Beatrice Huston

Rosemary Cook
by Wanda & Jack Weinblatt

Dr. David Eanes
by Wanda & Jack Weinblatt

Thomas Lapwing
by Mary Blair Lapwing

Grogan Lord
by Mary Jean & Paul Boston
Jane & Robert Dominguez
Celinda Hallbauer
Mr. & Mrs. Joe Pirtle

R.L. Peters
by Bell County Commissioners Court

Jim & Nan Russell
by Mr. & Mrs. Jack Pittman

Jimmy Stewart
by Stephanie Turnham

Dr. Welborn Willingham
by
Ann Faber
Stephanie Turnham

Larry Wright
by Mary Jean & Paul Boston

City Federation Funds Trunks

The City Federation of Women's Clubs has once again demonstrated its support for the museum through a grant of \$500 to help fund two more traveling trunks. Our next trunk, available for check-out by area teachers and youth leaders at no cost, will focus on Native Americans of the Plains. Our third trunk will focus on black history.

We are thrilled with this support. Our first trunk, also funded by City Federation, features the history of the Chisholm Trail. It has been fully booked since its creation! The traveling trunk program is an important component of our overall education and outreach program.

BELL COUNTY
Museum

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¿Qué Pasa?

March 10, 2007 – *Big Bell County Garage Sale!*
 9-4, Bell County Expo Center

Now through May 5, 2007 – *A Bell County Quilt Treasury*, South Gallery

May 19, 2007- Texas Musicians Museum traveling trailer here, 1-5 p.m.

June 29, 2007 - Friends of the Museum members preview and reception for *The Face of Texas: Photographs by Michael O'Brien*

June 30 - *The Face of Texas: Photographs by Michael O'Brien* public reception

July 24-27, 2007 – Summer Caper for youth ages 8-12, \$20 registration fee