

museum musings

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The holidays are fast approaching....

Our 2007 historic church ornament is the lovely First United Methodist Church of Temple. This Christmas tree ornament joins St. John Lutheran in Bartlett, First Baptist and Christ Episcopal in Temple, First United Methodist in Belton, and Salado United Methodist in – well, Salado! Collect them all for a fun and meaningful holiday classic.

Also, please mark your calendar for December 15th, for *Christmas at Messer Ranch*. We look forward to this celebration of the holidays and benefit for the museum. For more information, please call us.

BUILDING THE ENDOWMENT

We are so pleased and honored to announce that Dr. and Mrs. Bob Carabasi have made a contribution of \$5,000 to the museum's Endowment Fund. This gift brings our Endowment balance to just under \$50,000. As we continue to build the Endowment by donating 5% of the proceeds from each of our fundraisers, we really appreciate the Carabasi's gift as another bright step for the museum's future.

**KEITH CARTER PHOTOGRAPHY SHOW
OPENS OCTOBER 13TH**

Ezekiel's Horse: Photographs by Keith Carter is an extraordinary equine exhibition that will engage all animal lovers. Organized by the Wiltiff Gallery of Southwestern and Mexican Photography at Texas State University – San Marcos, the exhibit features 50 images of horses taken by Keith Carter, whom art critic John Wood calls "photography's first truly great master of the animal photograph." Carter's work appears in many private and public collections, including the Museum of Fine Arts Houston, the Art Institute of Chicago, the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art, the George Eastman House, and the San Diego Museum of Photographic Arts. The exhibit will remain on view through January 19, 2008. In addition to holding the Walles Chair of Art at Lamar University, Carter is also a featured speaker at Salado's Institute for the Humanities this fall.



Skye ponies, 1998



Zebroid, 1996

RECENT ACQUISITIONS

The museum is the happy recipient of two donations of Camp Hood material. First, the LeGare family of Copperas Cove recently made a gift to the museum of material relating to the early days of Fort Hood. Among the objects are: a baseball from a North Camp Hood v. Austin 7Up game in 1945; blueprints of Camp Hood building components drawn by Elsie Tedford; and a magazine ad of the "Tank-Eating Tiger" (shown). The donation also features Camp Hood stationery, pillow covers devoted to the Camp Hood wife, and badges for workers constructing the tank destroyer training center.

James Nafus also gave the museum Camp Hood materials that belonged to his father, Norman H. Nafus, a small arms and Tank Destroyer instructor at Camp Hood. The items are an ashtray and a matchbook, all with the Tank Destroyer logo. We appreciate the donation of these objects, which help illustrate the founding of our U.S. Army post, very much.



Tank-Eating Tiger!, 1945. Gift of the LeGare family

THREE EARLY SETTLERS

At the turn of the last century, three Bell County pioneers – J.J. Dennis, W.B. Blair and F.M. Cross – each wrote a short history of the founding of Bell County, based upon their individual experiences. These manuscripts, in addition to the Old Settlers Association meeting minutes, form much of what we know about early settlement of this area.

J.J. Dennis: [On November 7, 1848], my father's family and Uncle Joe Dennis' family started to Texas, with three two-horse wagons and two yoke of steers to another wagon, and we sold and gave away all the hogs we had under six months oldWhen we got our crop laid by in the summer of '49, my father bought 320 acres of land at a dollar per acre; it was situated about a third of a mile from Belton, and he moved there in August and built a little log cabin.

W.B. Blair: The first water mill was built at what is now known as the Shanklin Crossing on the Lampasas. It was built by Bob Childers and his brother-in-law, Walden. . . . The dam was placed across the spring branch near where it emptied in the river where the gully was quite deep, by placing logs being well secured in bank then corking the cracks to prevent leakage. The pond above is allowed to fill. A trunk had been inserted at the bottom of the dam to convey the water through to the tub wheel on a shaft, which extended up to and fastened on to the upper stone and when the tub wheel turned the upper stone turned which ground the corn.

F.M. Cross: I will tell you why those old early settlers are not millionaires and why those who came later are. In the first place, those early settlers had no free schools and the country was so thinly settled it was a hard proposition to even get up a little subscription school, the teachers were mostly women, as the men had to be at work improving, and those good women had about enough education to get into one of our colleges today, if you were to blindfold them and back them in like getting a horse out of a fire . . .

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.

- | | |
|--|---|
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**Chisholm Trail Monument –
A Contribution**

Amy Thomas, Danny Dunn, and Scott and Lauren Maggard have made a contribution to the Chisholm Trail monument by purchasing one of the three bronze longhorns located at the base of the monument. Donated in memory of Elbert Aldrich, we think that these individuals should have the honor of choosing their bovine beauty, and giving him/her a name. Hooray for this contribution!

BELL COUNTY Museum

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¿Qué Pasa?

September 29, 2007 - *The Face of Texas: Photographs by Michael O'Brien* closes

Every Saturday in October - Commemorating Texas Archeology Month, the museum's archeology pits will be open for excavation, exploration and discovery

October 4, 2007, 7:00 p.m. - *Pictures on Stone*, by archeologist Doug Boyd - free and open to the public

October 13, 2007 - *Ezekiel's Horse: Photographs by Keith Carter* opens, remains on view through January 19, 2008

October 20, 2007, 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. - Living historian Curtis Carter will interpret a Plains Indian campsite

December 6, 2007, 5-7 p.m. - *Christmas on the Chisholm Trail*

December 15, 2007, 7 p.m. - *Christmas at Messer Ranch*