

# museum musings

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above photograph:  
Edward S. Curtis,  
*Cheyenne Warriors*, 1905

## **EDWARD S. CURTIS: THE NORTH AMERICAN INDIAN**

The Bell County Museum is pleased to host an extraordinary exhibition of Plains Indian photographs by Edward S. Curtis. The exhibit will be on view from August 16, 2008 through October 18, 2008. On the opening day, living history interpreter Curtis Carter will set up his tipi and other Native American trappings on the museum grounds. He interprets an 1860s Cheyenne home. Refreshments will also be served.

*Edward S. Curtis: The North American Indian* features a selection of more than 100 photogravures of early 20<sup>th</sup> century photographs from Curtis' portfolios of the North American Indian. His body of work comprises one of the largest photographic archives ever created by a single artist and probably the most profound representation of pure Indian culture ever made. Curtis studied over 80 Indian tribes west of the Mississippi River from New Mexico to Alaska and made over forty thousand negatives. His images capture the dignity of a people and are studded by famous examples of the faces of various Indian nations. Beautiful portraits of men, women and children whom Curtis met during his years of study are keynoted in this selection of Plains Indians. Inherent in these portraits of old women and warriors of several Plains tribes is a sense of spiritual loss that a way of life was about to vanish. Highlighting this exhibition are several excellent examples of that particular way of life, such as *Wichita Grass House*; *As it was in the Old Days*; *Water Rite Purification*; *Cheyenne Animal Dance*; and *Chief Hector – Assiniboin*.

The exhibit is organized by Blair-Murrah, a traveling exhibition organization. Four Winds Intertribal Society, Inc. is a co-sponsor of the exhibition. The Society was formed in November 1992 to welcome Native Americans and non-Native Americans to join together in an effort to educate the general public in the areas of Native American tribal cultures, history, and art.

### ***New Traveling Trunk Now Available***

A generous grant from the City Federation of Women's Clubs and the Four Winds Intertribal Society has resulted in the creation of a new traveling trunk on Native Americans of Texas. Created by Program Coordinator Kristin Williams, the trunk is available to rent for up to two weeks at no charge. In addition to a buffalo hide, the trunk contains a modern-day buffalo-skin drum and a war bonnet, and will enhance curriculum for public and private schools, as well as home schools. Kristin adds, "The trunk is designed to fit 4<sup>th</sup>-grade TEKS, but any elementary grade would enjoy using it. My favorite part of the trunk is the section entitled, 'Tipi Time Out.'" Also included in this highly interactive trunk are local stories from the area's past. To reserve the trunk, call Kristin at 933.5243.

We are so pleased that Mike Thompson of Temple has agreed to fill the unexpired term of trustee Bob Bureson, who has resigned for health reasons. And Maryette Clifton of Killeen has agreed to lead our intrepid Board as the Chair. We extend grateful appreciation to these and to all who serve on the Board, and send our heartfelt best wishes and prayers to Bob and his family.

We congratulate our program coordinator Kristin Williams and Stephen (Skeebo) Reichert, who married on Independence Day. They met each other here, at the museum, and we are very happy for them.

We are also pleased to welcome Pat Davis as our new tour guide. Pat lives in the Salado area, and is a former tour guide for the LBJ Library and Museum in Austin. Welcome, Pat!

All of our Board members, staff and cadre of volunteers are very important to us. They make the museum the best that it can be.

### *On the Horizon*

Did you know that most museums maintain a 5-year temporary exhibition schedule? Here is a look at ours, subject to change:

- \* August 16 – October 18, 2008 – *Edward S. Curtis: Plains Indians*
- \* November 1, 2008 – January 31, 2009 – *Visioning Beauty: An Ella K. Mewhinney Retrospective*, with essay by Michael Grauer, Curator of Art at the Panhandle-Plains Historical Museum
- \* February 21 – May 30, 2009 – *Meet the Fergusons*
- \* June 16 – August 11, 2009 – *The Inspired Line: Selected Prints of Albrecht Durer and Rembrandt van Rijn*
- \* August 29, 2009 – March 13, 2010 – *Sports in Bell County* (working title)
- \* April 6 – May 25, 2010 – *1968 in America*
- \* June 12 – October 23, 2010 – *Planes, Trains, & Automobiles: Technology in Bell County*
- \* November 10, 2010 – January 7, 2011 – *Lee and Grant*, sponsored by NEH On the Road
- \* January 22 – March 26, 2011 – Open date
- \* April 10 - June 5, 2011 – *Memories of WWII: Photographs from the Archives of the Associated Press*
- \* July 1 – November 31, 2011 – *Dear Diary: Selections from the Collection*
- \* December 15, 2011 – May 31, 2012 – *Central Texas Toy Stories*

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*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

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**¿Qué Pasa?**

Now through July 26, 2008 - *Will You Be Mine? A Guide to Weddings and Other Romantic Traditions*

July 10, 2008- Board of Trustees meeting, 4:00 p.m., & a guided walking tour of Belton's downtown National Historic District, 7:00 p.m.

July 17, 2008 - Collections Committee meeting, 10:00 a.m.

July 22-25, 2008 - *Charley's Time Travelers* summer camp for kids ages 8-12! Pre-registration required.

August 8, 2008 - Volunteer Appreciation Day

August 16 - October 19, 2008 - New exhibit, *Edward S. Curtis: The North American Indian*

August 23, 2008 - Special program by Four Winds Intertribal Society, Inc.

October 11, 2008 - Plains Indian interpretation by historian Curtis Carter

November 1, 2008 through January 31, 2009 - *Visioning Beauty: An Ella K. Mewhinney Retrospective*