

museum musings

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New Holiday Ornament

We are pleased to announce the availability of this year's Christmas ornament – Temple's First Presbyterian Church. Organized in 1881, it was the first church established in Temple. The current structure for the congregation began in 1929. This is the 7th in our historic church ornament series. Collect them all for only \$15 each. They make great stocking stuffers!

Baseball Book Signing in December

Please join us for the launch of Talmage Boston's new tome, *Baseball and the Baby Boomer: A History, Commentary, and Memoir*. The book signing will be on Thursday, December 4, 2008 at 6:00 at the museum.

Baseball Hall of Famer Lou Brock said in his preface, "When I opened [the book] the first time, my expectations were high for another great baseball history book. . . . But more than just history, when I read it, I began to think I was reading a love story – love of the game, love for its heroes, and love for the values and lessons the game has taught the Baby Boomer generation."

John Grisham said, "The greatness of baseball passes from one generation to the next. Some things come and go – players, owners, uniforms, stadiums, teams, sometimes even the rules – but the beauty of the game never changes. Talmage Boston captures the heart and soul of the game that we as Baby Boomers inherited."

Talmage Boston is a "baseballphiliac" who is also a Texas Monthly 2004 "super-lawyer" who has authored numerous articles on baseball and is a noted speaker on the subject as well. His new book will make a great Christmas gift for any baseballphiliac. We hope you can attend. The event is free and open to the public.

Christmas at
Green Oaks Farm

Add December 6th to your busy holiday calendar. *Christmas at Green Oaks Farm* will be held on that date, at 6:00 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. The event is a holiday celebration and major benefit for the museum. Proceeds from the party help us to provide captivating exhibits and events that are fun and educational, such as our 2009 exhibits on Ma and Pa Ferguson, Rembrandt and Dürer, and sports in Bell County (opening in the fall of 2009). For more information, please contact the museum. We can't wait to see you at Green Oaks Farm!

STAFF & VOLUNTEER NEWS

The Board of Trustees accepted with regret the resignation of our long-time curator, Amanda Dyer. Amanda accepted a position with the Texas Historical Commission, and while we are happy for her and wish her the best, it will be difficult to fill her shoes. However, Cynthia Evans, a Texas Tech University museum science graduate, accepted the position and challenge. She is currently a museum technician at the Lyndon B. Johnson National Historical Park in Johnson City. Her other experience comes from the Grace Museum, the Museum of Texas Tech University Art Department, and the Toy and Doll Museum in New York. We really look forward to having Cynthia here.

Meanwhile, we extend appreciation to Jim Walker, the "science guy," for repairs to our cotton gin replica. Jim has worked hard to make the gin operable by children once again.

If you have driven by the museum lately, or have visited us, you have no doubt noticed how beautiful our flower beds look. We get compliments from just about every visitor who comes in! That is because Dave Spriggs has intrepidly taken on our gardening challenge! Dave has done wonders with the flower beds and it is a joy to just walk by the flowers and experience all of the color and scents.

Mr. Limmer and Judge Garth

The Bell County Museum lost two great supporters this summer.

E.A. Limmer, Jr. called "E.A." by some, "Early" by others, "Limmer," and "Mr. Limmer," died July 10, 2008. He loved dancing, Bell County, his church (Christ Episcopal Church), genealogy, his wife and many friends, and the museum. Throughout three decades, Mr. Limmer donated more than 1,800 artifacts in addition to a wealth of genealogical materials. He served on the Board of the museum for more than six years, helped in its restoration, and was very active in the Bell County Historical Commission. One of his greatest achievements was the publication of the massive two-volume *Story of Bell County*, first published by the Commission in 1988; he served as the book's editor-in-chief. We miss his regular visits to the museum, where he would often regale the staff with stories, many of which should not be repeated.

We also lost Bell County Judge John Garth, on May 6th, 2008. Serving as county judge for twenty years, Judge Garth stood at the helm of many progressive projects throughout the county, including the creation of the Bell County Expo Center and the restoration of the Bell County Courthouse. Judge Garth was also a huge supporter of efforts to restore the historic Carnegie Library building in the late 1980s, and helped to lay the seeds of success for the Bell County Museum. We remember him for his leadership, terrific sense of humor, and support for all things Bell County.

Season's Greetings!

Make your own Christmas cards using the brilliant inspiration of Ella Mewhinney. View her outstanding work in our current exhibit, *Visioning Beauty: An Ella K. Mewhinney Retrospective*. Then, create a Christmas still life and landscape to send to friends and family. The event will take place on Saturday, December 13, 2008, from noon until 5 p.m. It's free, hot cider will be served, and it is a great opportunity to have a fun and relaxing holiday time with the whole family.

We express appreciation to all of the lenders for making the Mewhinney exhibit possible: Kimel & James Baker; Bell County Museum Friends of the Museum; Connie Blowers; Mary Jean & Paul Boston; Robert Brousseau; the Jimmie Carroll family; Michael Grauer, Essayist; Doug MacKinnon & Jane MacKinnon; the Mewhinney family; Museum of the Big Bend, Sul Ross State University, Alpine; Beverly & George Palmer; San Antonio Art League Museum; B.J. Hill Library, Holland; Jean & Roy Potts; and Margaret Bowles Williamson.

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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| <input type="checkbox"/> \$10 Student | <input type="checkbox"/> \$100 Patron |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$25 Friend | <input type="checkbox"/> \$250 Partner |
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The staff and Board of Trustees wish you and yours a very safe & happy holiday season. We are grateful for your support this year and always.

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¿Qué Pasa?

Now through January 31, 2009 – *Visioning Beauty: An Ella K. Mewhinney Retrospective*

December 1, 2008 - 7:00 p.m. – Bell County Historical Commission annual meeting and Christmas party

December 4, 2008 – 6:00 p.m. - *Baseball and the Baby Boomer: A History, Commentary, and Memoir*, by Talmage Boston, book signing

December 6, 2008 – *Christmas at Green Oaks Farm*, a holiday celebration and benefit for the museum

December 13, 2008 – noon until 5:00 p.m. Bring the family and enjoy making cool Christmas cards and drinking delicious hot cider. Free.