



Frontier Times

NEWSLETTER

FALL 2007

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Exhibit: Sacred Symbols, Sacred Places



The 1930's paintings of Forrest Kirkland, reproducing the rock art of Texas Indians, serve as the centerpiece of this exhibit.

A new exhibit entitled "Sacred Symbols, Sacred Places: Texas Indian Art & Historic Sites" in the museum's Frontier Gallery combines the art of Texas Indians with a look at their sacred historic sites in this region. Visitors can explore the relationship between sites such as the Paint Rock encampment and the pictographs made by generations of nomadic people.

The exhibit includes a custom-produced video introduction, original and reproduction Native

American art and artifacts, and an interactive touch display. It also includes reproductions of paintings from the 1930's by Forrest Kirkland, provided by the Texas Archeological Research Laboratory (TARL) of the University of Texas at Austin. Frontier Texas! has collaborated with local educators and collectors to create this exhibit. It will be on display through November 19th and is free to the public thanks to grants from the Abilene Cultural Affairs Council and the Shelton Family Foundation. ★

Director's Report



Fall is a great time of year for our organization as we work with the living historians from around our region in planning our annual festival, getting back to working with teachers, starting a new fiscal year and welcoming six new board members. It's a busy and exciting time as we look for new ways to better serve our community.

As we complete our third fiscal operating year, we are pleased to report that we have reached a target of placing \$100,000 in reserve funds for

improvements and replacements. This goal was accomplished through generous support from our members, grants from local foundations, exhibit admissions, gifts shop revenue and a steady increase in venue district funds.

Much of the behind-the-scenes work this year will take place through our volunteer board committees. If anyone is interested in serving on a committee please contact me or our new Board President, Charlie Black. We would love to have more great minds working together!

Upcoming Museum Events & Exhibits



Fun times at the 2007 Summer Camps were made possible by a Future Fund grant from the Community Foundation of Abilene.



2007 EVENTS

- October 1-4, 2007**
Native American, Ray Olachia visits to local schools (thanks to a grant from the Alexander Family)
- October 5 - 6, 2007**
Spirit of the Frontier Festival
- November 8, 2007**
Teacher In-Service
- November 10-12, 2007**
Veteran's Day Flag Field
- November 19-20**
Taylor County Pecan Show
- December 4, 2007**
Holiday Gathering

2007-2008 EXHIBITS

- September - November, 2007**
"Sacred Symbols, Sacred Places"
Indian heritage exhibit
- December - February, 2008**
"Holiday Traditions" exhibit



2006 Pecan Show Winners

In the 2006-2007 school year Frontier Texas! served 8,047 students from 55 different school districts and 12 private schools

SPIRIT OF THE FRONTIER FESTIVAL SATURDAY, OCTOBER 6, 2007

The fourth annual *Spirit of the Frontier Festival* provides an entertaining and educational festival environment for everyone from energetic young explorers to the well-seasoned history buff. The festival will offer demonstrations of living history specific to the 1790-1890 time period on the Texas frontier. Friday's events will be closed to the general public for regional school field trip attendance.



Saturday's event includes living history, children's activities, food and music. Tickets are \$3.00 for adults and \$2.00 for children. Museum members &

children under the age of five are free. Gates open Saturday at 9 a.m. and close at 5 p.m.

Admission is charged at the regular rates for the *Century of Adventure* (for non-members). This year's festival has been made possible by underwriting from First Financial Bank, the Abilene Convention & Visitor's Bureau, and by a grant from the Abilene Cultural Affairs Council. ★

Volunteer Spotlight: Doris Ruebush



Doris Ruebush

Doris has volunteered at Frontier Texas! for the last year, working with school tours and summer camp. Born in Potosi to one of the county's pioneer families, she graduated from Abilene High School and attended Abilene Christian College (now ACU) before marrying and moving to New Mexico, where she lived for thirty years.

Doris has retired twice. Her first career was as a property and casualty insurance writer, and she retired a second time from Sears Roebuck. When her children were young, she volunteered as a Girl Scout/Cub Scout leader.

After returning to her roots in Abilene, Doris found herself missing the regular contact

with people, and her interest in history naturally drew her to volunteering at Frontier Texas! as well as the Grace Museum.

Doris has four living children and a foster daughter. One of her children died of leukemia at a young age.

Doris is a valuable team member of Frontier Texas! ★

To volunteer contact Nell Sims at 325-437-2800

Front and Center



Trina

Tracy

Kerri

Visitors to Frontier Texas! are greeted by three staff members who work as customer service representatives and travel counselors.

Trina Newton joined the staff a few months after Frontier Texas! opened. She is married to Mike and is a proud mother to Shannon and Marla and a grandmother.

Tracy Vinson is a graduate of Hardin-Simmons University and a former rider for the Six White Horses. She works part-time at Jackson Bros.

Feed and Seed and has a burgeoning career as a band manager and promoter.

Our newest employee is Kerri Sanders. She is a graduate of Abilene Christian University, majoring in history. She is looking forward to putting her history knowledge to work.

These staff members are on the front line in making Frontier Texas! successful. It is their smiling faces that are the first welcome many people have to Abilene and

the Forts Trail area. They answer phone calls for information, help visitors find a good place to eat, receive and shelve inventory for the gift shop, and keep a friendly smile when hundreds of elementary students crowd the lobby. They make what is often a stressful job seem Abilene friendly. Frontier Texas! is well represented by these staffers who work hard to make the experience memorable for all our guests.



A Memorial Garden...

The award winning building that is home to Frontier Texas! stands amid a beautiful, fully-landscaped seven acres. Both native Texas and modern hybrid plants and flowers decorate the grounds.

The landscaping is beautifully maintained by the City of Abilene Parks Department and they regularly rotate flowers to adjust to the season. Many visitors to Frontier Texas! enjoy photographing their family with the gardens as a background.

However, many visitors (sometimes even the staff) had difficulty identifying the different plants.

This changed in spring of 2007 when permanent identifying markers were placed for the plants and the front garden area was dedicated in honor of Mary Zachry of Henrietta, Texas, mother of H.C. Zachry. Donations made as memorials to Mrs. Zachry paid for the bronze garden signs. ★



Welcome New & Renewing Members June-August

- Abilene Teachers Federal Credit Union
- American State Bank
- Can-Doo Budget Rentals
- The Jimmie Cantrell Family
- Vivian V. Clark
- The Dr. Bill Gollihar Family
- The Jack Griggs Family
- Helen Groves
- The Jack Harkins Family

- The Dickie Hill Family
- The Dr. Barry Hoeffler Family
- Ross Jones
- Kimberly Karl
- Sharon LaMontagne
- The Tom Lindley Family
- MCM Elegante Suites
- The Marcella Payne Family
- The Royce Peterson Family

- The Jim Pizzorno Family
- Redlee, Inc.
- Amy Richardson
- Rotary Club of Abilene
- The Keith Savage Family
- The Chuck Senter Family
- Valencia Stevens
- The Dr. Charles Taylor, III Family
- The Whitten Inn
- The Dr. T. James Wray Family

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— LEGENDS. HISTORY. ADVENTURE. —



By Margaret Hoogstra

Regional Coordinator, Texas Forts Trail

The Texas Forts Trail is a recommended 650-mile driving loop extending through 29 counties in Central West Texas that features eight historic frontier forts and one Spanish presidio. In addition to these former military posts, the region is richly blessed with nationally-recognized museums and art centers, beautiful gardens and parks, historical courthouses, and is home to award-winning annual festivals, cook-offs and celebrations. Pick any weekend and there is something going on within the region!

Consider attending one or all of the following upcoming events:

Oct 6 – Mason – Old Yeller Days

Oct 12-13 – Albany – Fort Griffin 140th Anniversary and Living History Days

Oct 12-13 – Fort McKavett – Star Party at Fort McKavett

Dec 7-9 – San Angelo – Christmas at Old Fort Concho

Enjoy an outdoor adventure at one of these attractions:

Paint Rock – Paint Rock Indian Pictographs

Mineral Wells – Clark Gardens

San Angelo – International Water Lilly Garden

Or, at your leisure visit one of the following outstanding museums or art centers:

The Grace Museum, Abilene

The Old Jail Art Center, Albany

The Heart of Texas Country Music Museum, Brady

The Old Post Office Museum and Art Center, Graham

San Angelo Museum of Fine Arts, San Angelo

The W. K. Gordon Center, Thurber

Whether you are new to the region, or consider yourself a “native,” the Texas Forts Trail Region is worthy of exploration. Stop in at the Frontier, Texas! Visitor Center and pick up brochures about many of the places within the region. Or, look up details about events and attractions within the region on the Forts Trail website at www.texasfortstrail.com.

*Experience the Excitement of the Texas Frontier,
Travel the Texas Forts Trail!*

