

# On This Day In History...



**March 2, 1793** Sam Houston, the first president of the independent Republic of Texas, is born. **In 1836** The Texas Declaration of Independence was signed.

**March 4, 1868** Chisholm Trail founder Jesse Chisholm, who blazed one of the West's most famous trails, dies in Oklahoma of food poisoning.

**March 6, 1836** Texans under Col. William B. Travis were overwhelmed by Mexican army after 2 week siege at the Battle of the Alamo in San Antonio.

**March 27, 1836** James Fannin and nearly 400 Texans were executed by the Mexican Army at the Goliad Massacre, under order of Santa Anna.

**April 9, 1856** Col. Robert E. Lee arrives to serve at Camp Cooper on the Comanche reservation.

**April 21, 1836** Texans under Sam Houston routed the Mexican forces of Santa Anna at the Battle of San Jacinto.

Thus, independence was won in one of the most decisive battles in history.

**April 29, 1856** Fifty-three camels arrive at the port of Indianola for a U.S. Army experiment using them for pack animals. They are quartered at Camp Verde, near present-day Kerrville.

**May 8, 1846** General Zachary Taylor defeats a superior Mexican force in the Battle of Palo Alto north of the Rio Grande River.

**May 9, 1887** Buffalo Bill's Wild West show opens in London, giving Queen Victoria and her subjects their first look at real cowboys and Indians.

**May 13, 1865** The last land engagement of the Civil War was fought at the Battle of Palmito Ranch in south Texas, more than a month after Gen. Lee's surrender.

**May 18, 1871** Kiowa Chief Satanta joins with other Indians to massacre a wagon train near the Red River in northeastern Texas.

**May 19, 1836** Cynthia Ann Parker is kidnapped during a raid by Comanche, Kiowa, and Caddo Indians that kill her family.



## FRONTIER Texas!

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LEGENDS. HISTORY. ADVENTURE.



### TAKE NOTE:

- **March 2, 2006**  
Texas Independence Day
- **March 30, 2006**  
Women's History Month Reception
- **April 8, 2006**  
Abilene Founders' Day: Mayor's Round-Up 5K Run/Walk
- **May 1, 2006**  
Homeland Defense Exhibit Preview Party

### INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

2006 Events	2
Membership Drive	2
Volunteer Spotlight	2
Volunteer Party	3
New Members	3
This Day In History	4

# Frontier Times

NEWSLETTER

SPRING 2006

## The Reviews Are In...It's A Hit!

As Frontier Texas! approaches its two year mark the accolades are stacking up. Praise came quickly after the museum/visitor center opened in April of 2004 when Terry Burke and the *Abilene Reporter News* hosted an event for the Texas Associated Press Managing Editor's Association at the facility. An editorial in the *Wichita Falls Times Record News* said "Frontier Texas! is a remarkable educational experience for kids and adults...It's truly an elaborate and fascinating place, a piece of art in itself."

In February 2005 *Texas Monthly* included a 3 page feature story on Frontier Texas! in their *Texas Bound* travel publication stating "At this innovative museum in Abilene, technology and history come together to give visitors a one-of-a-kind experience."

Thanks to the hard work of a number of local tourism promoters led by the Abilene Convention & Visitors Bureau, a glowing feature story on Abilene in *Texas Highways Magazine* said "Buffalo hunters, Comanche warriors, explorers, and pioneer women are reborn in an interactive, multimedia theater experience called the Century of Adventure. Unlike



Frontier Texas! lighted at dusk looking east.

a regular museum, Frontier Texas! uses first-person narratives rather than collections of artifacts to tell the story of the western Texas frontier, along with lights, cameras, action, and big-screen special effects" and "It's a heart-pounding even emotional experience."

In a July 2005 feature travel section feature story *The Dallas Morning News* said "Frontier Texas! is not

Continued on page 3 "Reviews"

## Director's Report



First, I want to say thank you to our members, volunteers, board of directors and underwriters for the unwavering support shown to Frontier Texas! and our mission to enhance the educational and cultural welfare of the citizens of Abilene and the surrounding region. Your investment of time and money is returning dividends to this community on a daily basis. Children are learning about their own

heritage and discovering that history and social studies can be exciting, fun and relevant. Adults are finding a renewed sense of community pride by discovering more about the region's rich heritage and having a world-class facility to show-off to visitors.

As we pass our second anniversary this spring the focus of our efforts will shift from learning how to

Continued on page 2 "Report"

# Upcoming Events & Exhibits



Cannons firing at the Spirit of the Frontier Festival in September

### 2006 EVENTS

- March 2, 2006**  
Texas Independence Day Ceremony
- March 30, 2006**  
Women's History Month Heritage Talk
- April 8, 2006**  
Abilene Founders' Day: Mayor's Round
- May 1, 2006**  
Members Exhibit Preview Party

### May 18-20, 2006

Texas State H.O.G.® Rally Promotion

### June 9-18, 2006

Texas High School Rodeo State Finals Promotion

### August 21, 2006

Vaqueros Preview Party

### September 18, 2006

Hispanic Heritage Talk

### September 29-30, 2006

Spirit of the Frontier Festival

### November 2006 (TBD)

American Indian Heritage Talk

### 2006-2007 EXHIBITS

#### March-April, 2006

Women: Builders of Communities & Dreams

#### May-July, 2006

Homeland Security: The Texas Forts Trail Then & Now

#### August-October, 2006

The Vaqueros: A Great Hispanic Heritage

#### November-January, 2007

Faith on the Frontier: Christmas & Other Early Seasonal Traditions

Texas Highways:  
"It's a heart-pounding even emotional experience."

## Membership Drive 2006

Frontier Texas! will reach its two year mark on April 3rd thanks to great people like you who have supported us both financially and by acting as our primary promoters by "talking

us up" and bringing your friends and family.

If you renew a membership or refer a new member in the months of March or April we will put your name in our

drawings for wonderful prizes donated by some of our great local business supporters.

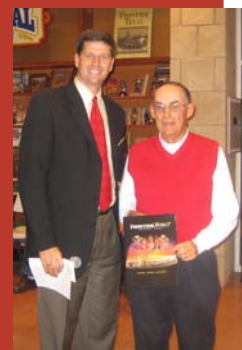
Contact Kimberly Williams at 325.437.2800 or email at sales@frontiertexas.com. ★

### Report Continued From Pg 1:

utilize the *Century of Adventure* exhibit to creating unique cultural and educational experiences that continually challenge and motivate our constituents. Take a look at the list of events and exhibits we

have outlined for the next year and you will see an aggressive plan to answer the basic question of "What will Frontier Texas! do to keep people coming back?" If you see something that interests you, contact us and we would love to find a place for your talents to be

used. If you have an idea for an exhibit or event not on our list we would be glad to look at other ideas. This is your museum. Let's work together to make the most of the investment that has been made.



Dale Cartee awarded certificate for hours served

## Volunteer Spotlight: Dale Cartee

Dale Cartee has been volunteering with Frontier Texas! since the museum's opening in April 2004 and served over 580 hours in 2005. Dale serves weekly in the visitor center as one of Abilene's friendly ambassadors as a travel counselor. Dale is also an ambassador for Abilene as

he travels the world often with Bilbrey Tours.

Although we think of Dale as our very own, we have discovered that he also gives his time to The West Texas Fair & Rodeo, the Friends of the Library Book Sale, the 12th Armored Division Museum, United Way, St. Paul United

Methodist Church, the Abilene CVB and the ACU Dinner Theatre.

With Dale's background having served for years at Dyess he is currently assisting in developing a new exhibit entitled "Homeland Defense: The Texas Forts Trail Past and Present." ★

To volunteer contact Nell Sims at 325-437-2800

## "Reviews" Continued From Page 1



Visitor Center Lobby

the standard, bone-dry history exhibit. Instead, it teaches the region's history from 1780 to 1880

through whiz-bang technology." The article went on to state "Abilene has developed as a surprising family getaway."

To add to the great media responses, the American Institute of Architects' Dallas chapter recently awarded Frontier Texas! their top honor for outstanding architectural

design. Another accolade for the facility's architecture came when *The Shape of Texas*, a statewide radio program, showcased the

facility's architecture in a feature program.

But the most prized and plentiful praise comes from the everyday visitors (over 95,000 total) who have gone through Frontier Texas! in the past two years. Their responses are represented well by a recent comment card that reads "What a wonderful, unexpected gem you have here. We will tell everyone we meet that they need to come to Abilene and see this place - (signed) Two Canadian Snowbirds." ★

Texas Monthly:  
"technology and history come together to give visitors a one-of-a-kind experience."

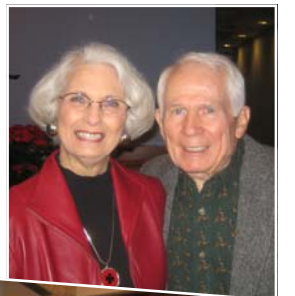
## Volunteer Appreciation Night

On the evening of December 5th Frontier Texas! hosted an appreciation party to honor our volunteers.

The lobby was filled with appetizers and refreshments compliments of the **MCM Elegante Suites**. Our volunteers had a chance to visit with each other and browse our *Christmas on the Frontier* display.

Executive Director Jeff Salmon presented awards to our volunteers with the most service hours given in 2005.

The evening wrapped up with a surprise story teller sharing a Christmas tale. All of the volunteers left the party with a personal thank you letter and gift. ★



## Welcome New Members...

### New members:

- The Mark **Dentzer** Family of River Oaks Circle, Abilene
- The Frank **Estes** Family of Richland Drive, Abilene
- The Steve **Grow** Family of Nun Court, Abilene

### Renewed membership:

- The Jeff **Messer** Family of River Oaks Road, Abilene
- The Gary & Marcy **Toppert** Family of Merkel. Sarah, Austin, Grace & Rebecca
- Frank & Lue **Crites** of Redwood Drive, Abilene



Members get free admission to special events!