

Museum Newsletter

Ellis County Museum, Inc.

P.O. Box 706 Waxahachie, TX 75168
972-937-0681

email: ecmuseum@cnbcom.net
web site: www.rootsweb.com/~txecm

Annual Membership Meeting 2002 - 2003.....

The Ellis County Museum held its annual membership meeting on July 29, 2002. This year, instead of having a program, the museum recognized and celebrated its museum members. 2001-2002 was a banner year for the museum in acquiring new members and we wanted to show our thanks by hosting a membership party. Hopefully all of our new members, as well as long time members, will continue to support the museum by renewing their membership at this time. August 1st marked the beginning of the 2002-2003 fiscal year.

Board members Nancy Hightower, Neil Blankenbeckler and Steve Chapman gave brief, informal talks (respectively) on artist A. Kelley Pruitt, the museum's Cybis porcelain collection, and early museum history. Curator, Shannon Simpson took a few brave souls on a tour of the upper floors of the structure. Live music was provided by accordionist, David Slovak of Ennis. The meeting was well attended.

In addition to socializing, new board members were elected and past board members were recognized. The museum thanks outgoing board members Jackie Larson and Robert McKenzie for their service and welcomes new board members **Cindy Camp** (Waxahachie) and **Frances Farley** (Waxahachie). The museum would also like to express its appreciation of past president **Patsy Cornelius**, for all of her hard work over the past couple years.

Lighted Courthouse Replica....

Production is currently underway of a ceramic model of the Ellis County Courthouse. The museum is undertaking this project as a fund-raiser and will have the product available sometime in November. Pre-sale of the replica is currently underway. This limited edition is available on a first come, first serve basis, so come by the museum to view an example in the museum's gift shop and place your order today. Each handcrafted piece measures 7 inches tall, comes with its own light and cord, and fits well with other collectible village sets. Pickup orders will be \$45 each plus tax. Mail orders will be \$45 plus tax and shipping and handling. Reserve your model today in this year of our courthouse's rededication.



Please reserve ___ for pickup, at \$49.00 each (includes tax)

Please reserve ___ for delivery, at \$59.00 each (includes tax & \$10.00 S&H)

Make check payable to: **Ellis County Museum**

For Visa/MasterCard orders call 972-937-0681 or come by the Museum.

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Ellis County Museum, P.O. Box 706, Waxahachie, Texas 75168

Membership dues, 2002 - 2003....

The Ellis County Museum's new fiscal year began on August 1st. It is time to renew your annual membership or become a member. Simply fill out the membership information included in this newsletter and mail it to the museum. Benefits of membership include: Museum newsletter, private previews for new exhibits, invitations to special events and lectures, free admission to the Brown Bag lunch series, exhibition announcements mailed to your home, 10% discount on gift shop items, and the general support of local history. If you are not sure if your membership is up to date, check the address mailing label on the front of the newsletter. If you see a "2002 - 2003," you have already paid for your annual membership. If you do not see the "2002 - 2003", dues have not been paid for the year.

The Museum would like to thank all of its members that have renewed their memberships. Whether you are an "Individual" member or a "Benefactor", your support is greatly appreciated and very important to the successful operation of this facility.

Brown Bag Series, a popular lunch alternative....

In June, the Ellis County Museum began its "Brown Bag" Lunch Series. This activity, brainchild of museum board member Julie Webb, features county residents speaking about various elements of Ellis County's history. To kick off the series, the museum had a speaker every Friday through the month of June. After June, the activity was scheduled for the last Friday of each month from noon to 1:00 P.M. This is an ongoing museum event so keep an eye on your local newspaper or visit the museum's web site (www.rootsweb.com/~txecm) for monthly information on speakers and other upcoming events. Each talk is videotaped for future historical reference. Attendees bring their lunch and listen to these informal talks in the museum. The museum provides lemonade and light dessert (cookies, etc.). Speakers thus far have been **Ms. Steavy Jakubik** of Ennis (Czech Heritage), **Mr. Mike McMinn** of Waxahachie (Cotton Industry), **Ms. Joanna Dunn** of Ferris (Ferris Brick Manufacturing), **Mr. Horace Bratcher** of Waxahachie (Horse Sense), **Mr. Wilbur Stephenson** of Midlothian (Hawkins Spring), and **Mr. John Percival** of Ennis (HT&C & Ellis County Railroads). If you have suggestions for people you would like to hear speak, please forward them to the museum.

Museum Web Site....

Visit the museum's web site at www.rootsweb.com/~txecm or type "ellis county museum" into your favorite search engine. Our site is ever growing and contains valuable information and photos on the county and communities in the county as well as upcoming museum events. One will note that some communities have little or no information concerning their history and development. If you are an historian for one of these towns and would like to submit historical information and/or photos, please feel free to do so. I am always looking for new and additional information to place on our site. Also, check back often as I add information as time permits.

E-mail addresses....

The museum is now capable of sending event notices, newsletters and other pertinent information for our membership through electronic mail. This speeds up the process of notification for various events and saves us money on postage. If you are renewing your membership or have already done so, please take the time to send us your email address at ecmuseum@cnbcom.net.

9-11 Commemoration & U.S. Constitution Reaffirmation....

On September 11th, KBEC radio station broadcast from the Ellis County Museum. Programming included interviews with county residents and their reactions to the 9-11 attack on the United States. The Museum had an interactive program listing the victims of the various attacks for the public to use and view.

In addition, the Preamble of the United States Constitution was available for individuals to sign, reaffirming their commitment to the values of this great country. This activity began on September 11 and continued through September 23rd.

Upcoming Museum Events

Brown Bag Speaker Series - Ongoing

See newsletter article

The Texas Courthouse Exhibit - October

Through the month of October, the Ellis County Museum is hosting a traveling exhibit organized by Preservation Texas. The ***Texas Courthouse Exhibit*** is a traveling display designed to educate folks about courthouse preservation and Texas courthouse history. The display is comprised of seven, two sided 4 x 8 panels with photographs and text.

Exhibit sponsors include: Trinity Abstract & Title Company, Ellis County Abstract & Title Company, Commonwealth Land Title, Phoenix Abstract & Title Company, and Berne, Maynard & Parson, Attorneys at Law.

Courthouse Memorabilia, from Kitsch to Classic - October

The Ellis County Museum is calling on County residents to loan personal artifacts relating to the Ellis County Courthouse. These objects may be paintings, drawings, posters, throws, macrame rugs, building fragments, historic photos, postcards, etc. Virtually anything will be accepted. Display of these items is scheduled for the month of October so the museum will be accepting objects through September. Please contact the museum if you have any questions.

Ellis County Museum's Museology Master Plan

Dr. David Murrah of Southwest Museum Services, will present the museum's master exhibit plan to its membership in late October or early November, 2002. Notices will be sent to the museum membership with specific information regarding this presentation. The museum received these plans in August and has them available for public inspection and comment at the museum. This project was funded in part by Southwestern Bell Foundation and the Waxahachie Foundation, Inc.

Archeology Night - Tuesday, October 15th

see below



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ECM & ECHC To Host Archeology Event...

The Ellis County Museum and the Ellis County Historical Commission will host a lecture and artifact identification on Tuesday, October 15th, in celebration of Texas Archeology Awareness Month. The event is from 6:00-9:30 P.M. at the Ellis County Museum, 201 S. College Street, on the courthouse square in Waxahachie. Dr. Dan Potter and knowledgeable individuals from the region will identify artifacts brought in by the public from 6:00-7:30 P.M. Dr. Potter, Texas Historical Commission Regional Archeologist, will then speak on Central Texas Archeology and Prehistory at 7:30 P.M. The event is free and open to the public. Refreshments will be served.



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Annual Dues Form 2002 - 2003

Send this form with check, money order or credit card information to: Ellis County Museum - P.O. Box 706 - Waxahachie, TX 75168

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

E-mail address: _____

Type of Membership _____ Amount _____

If Family, how many family members? _____

Please make checks payable to the Ellis County Museum

Charge to: Visa _____ Mastercard _____

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