
BOSQUE MUSEUM

NEWSLETTER

December 2007

PO Box 345, Clifton, TX 76634



Restoration Of The Joseph Olson Log Cabin



The Joseph Olson Family Log Cabin was built in 1866 and was occupied by this family until 1872 when a stone house was built nearby and they moved into it. The cabin was 10 by 12 feet (inside dimensions) and was built of cedar, oak and live oak logs with split oak shingles on the roof. The logs were mostly round and the chinking was made of rocks with lime mortar and clay as fill. Saddle notching was used to fit the logs together in the corners. A loft was made for sleeping quarters for the children which was reached by a movable ladder.

The cabin was located in the Norse community near Gary Creek on seven acres of land originally pre-empted by Joseph Olson. The second son, Jacob Olson, inherited the cabin and other acreage. His niece, Mrs. James O'Shea, inherited the farm and Mr. O'Shea later sold the property to Mr. Ray Byford. Mr. Byford then gave the cabin to the Valley Mills Historical Society, and they moved the numbered logs and roof to Santa Fe Park in Valley Mills. The cabin was put back together at the side of the Valley Mills museum. Unfortunately the restoration was never completed due to lack of funds. The Society then sought a recipient who might assume the responsibility of restoration. Mr. and Mrs. D. E. Orbeck were very interested in preserving the cabin and its history. They agreed to accept the cabin. They had it dismantled and put into storage in Clifton. The Bosque Museum accepted the cabin and in 1985 began fundraising to have the cabin restored. The cabin restoration was completed in 1986 and on November 30, 1986, the cabin was awarded a Texas Historical Marker.

The cabin has been a continuing object of interest for county school children. Each year approximately 800 school children come to the museum and see the log

cabin. The cabin is a visual history lesson on the early life and hardships of the county's first pioneers. The children can relate to the hardships the family endured and the primitive possessions they had. Loss of the log cabin would do serious harm to the teaching mission of the museum.

At the present, Joseph Olson Log Cabin is in need of immediate repair. This summer a state architect from the Texas Historical Commission visited the museum and examined the condition of the log cabin. Water and insect damage as well as deterioration of the exterior chinking have seriously deteriorated the building's integrity. He suggested immediate repairs before the damage reaches a point of no return. Fortunately the repairs are not major but must be done in a timely way. The museum has exterminated the cabin, but roof repair and re-chinking of the logs must be done soon. Cleon Flanagan and Ken Van Tassel have agreed to coordinate the repair work. Estimated cost for the repairs is \$5,000. The museum has not budgeted for these repairs, and external funds must be raised to cover costs.

The trustees hope in the coming months you might consider a monetary gift to help in the restoration of the cabin. Your gift may be made to the Bosque Museum for the Log Cabin Fund.



Schedule of Events

- February 21, 2008 Docent Fundraiser Lunch, Treasured Possessions, 11-2:00 p.m. at the museum.
More information TBA.
- March 18, 2008 Rex Ziak Lecture at the Bosque Conservatory.

Memorials

The following gifts have been received since the publication of our last newsletter.

In Memory of

Martin Hoel Jr.
Bryan & Julie Davis
Maebelle Blewett

Alline Olena Reiersen Hamby
Rodney & Sandra Joy

Marie Gaston
Rodney & Sandra Joy

New Members & Renewals

October, November

Thank you for your continued support.

BENEFACTOR

M/M Gene Albrecht
M/M Bobby Conrad
Mrs Flora Davis
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Mrs. Dorothy Manly
M/M Walter Raynaud

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*denotes new member(s)

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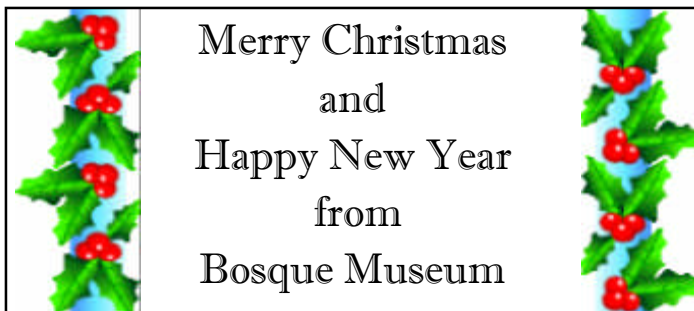
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Bosque Museum

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Museum Receives Church Model



Donated to Bosque Museum is a stained glass replica of the Norse Seventh Day Adventist Church, established in 1890. The replica was made by artist John B. Sitler of Dallas, Texas. This church will enhance the museum's collection of church replicas from historical Norse, Texas. All of the replicas are designed and constructed by the same artist.



Contributors of the Seventh Day Adventist church are:

Tom & Nancy Bratcher
Calvin & Wanda Hodge
Rodney & Sandra Joy
Bob & Kay Lane
Chester & Sue Posey
Bob & Marge Shafer

The museum wishes to thank these contributors for their generous donations.

Waco Students Visit Museum

On December 5th and 7th, two groups of gifted and talented 5th graders from several Waco elementary schools toured our museum. Their theme of study for 2007 has been archaeology. LaVerne Dutton presented a very detailed and informative lecture on the history and development of the Horn Shelter. The students were very attentive. The groups toured the rest of the museum, learning many interesting facts about the settlement of Bosque County. The following docents made presentations-Rose Ann Grissett in the Pioneer room, Kathy Kruse in the Norwegian room, Lisa Rose at the loom, Vicki Thiele in the Green room, Sudie Knudson in the 1900 Kitchen, Carolyn Flanagan in the Special Exhibit room, and Cleon Flanagan at the Olson cabin. Dr. Mary Phillips, lead teacher for G.T. Environmental Studies at Lake Waco Montessori School, stated this was one of the best museum visits she has ever experienced. She plans to encourage all the 5th grade gifted and talented classes to plan a trip to Bosque Museum next year. All the students had notebooks and pens. They were very orderly and diligent in taking notes and asking pertinent questions.



In the Pioneer Room, Rose Ann Grissett tells the story of the settlement of Bosque County.



Docent Lisa Rose demonstrates the art of spinning yarn on a spinning wheel and explains to the students the processing of wool into yarn to the end results at the loom.

New Artifacts Donated to the Museum

Herbert Schulz donated 10 Bosque County Survey Maps from the late 1900s.

Roberta Hulson donated 2 books on Swedish immigration to Texas, 1838-1918. The books were given in memory of her Aunt Peggy Elton.

Elizabeth Daniels Odom donated the book, "A Christmas Miracle Twice," about her family's story of living in Norse, Texas.

Cleon and Carolyn Flanagan donated 2 Norwegian books and a Norwegian poster that were given to them by their Norwegian exchange student in 1985.

John and Pam Sitler donated the reference book, Identification and Price Guide to Indian Arrowheads, 10th Edition.

Albert Redder donated unique fossils and sea urchins.

Mr. & Mrs. H. L. Meinkowsky donated a vintage bisque and cloth doll which belonged to Gene and Betty Plimons of Clifton.

Museum Donation replica stained glass model of the Seventh Day Adventist Church at Norse, made by John Sitler. He is the artist who made the other two replica church models owned by the museum.

James Jasek, Library Book Binding Company donated early 1900 Bosque County photos and negatives.

Bobbie Bekkelund donated a quilt which was given to her by her friend Molly Nelson. The quilt is over 100 years old, in good shape, and was made by Nelson's mother and/or grandmother.

E-mailed Expressions

I was so impressed with the Horn Shelter exhibit at the Bosque Museum. I saw it for the first time after the lecture. It was absolutely wonderful...

I for one am happy to see the Horn Shelter presented and interpreted in such a manner that brings the story to life while relaying the importance of the site and paralleling the lives of its early inhabitants to our own.

Thanks for all you do,
Paige Davis

Bosque Museum

Presents

"A Charles Dickens' Christmas"



Bosque Museum hosted over 500 guests during the Museum by Candlelight Celebration and the Norwegian Christmas Tour. The theme this year was "A Charles Dickens' Christmas". Albert Finney's "Scrooge" DVD was on hand for viewers in the museum's Special Exhibit room, where refreshments were furnished and served by the museum Docents.

The Pioneer Room was decorated in the "Old West" fashion with a porcelain collection of Dickens' Winter Village courtesy of Dr. and Mrs. W. P. Trotter.



Visitors came from near and far. Everyone had a wonderful time and enjoyed fellowship in the old time Christmas fashion.



Note of Thanks

Bosque Museum would like to thank everyone who helped and participated in Museum by Candlelight and the Norwegian Christmas Tour. Thanks to Terri McDonald for organization of the Christmas decoration.



5,000th Visitor Since Horn Shelter Opening

Bosque Museum is proud to announce that James Cartey from Watkinsville, Georgia, was the 5,000th visitor since the opening of the Horn Shelter Exhibit in October of 2006. Mr. Cartey was accompanied by his son Wesley Cartey of Norse. Wesley had been to the museum previously and was so impressed that he wanted his father to see the museum during his visit to Clifton. Mr. Cartey was awarded a Bosque Museum Horn Shelter t-shirt.

The museum has seen a considerable increase of visitors from all over the world since the opening of the Horn Shelter Exhibit.



Nancy are longtime pen-pals. Nancy has also visited Jose twice in the Netherlands.



L to R: Jose Verhagan, Nancy Wood.

On November 1, the Daughters of the Republic of Texas met and toured the museum. One of the members, Marie Brady Hunter from Waco toured the museum along her daughter Loy Hunter Burgess, also of Waco. Ms. Hunter, who is 102 years old, walked up and down the front steps, and walked through the entire museum. She was Curator of the Daughters of the Republic Museum at the State Fair in the late '80s.



L to R: Loy Hunter Burgess, Marie Brady Hunter

VISITORS FROM AFAR



Marjorie Stowe of Keene, Texas, the granddaughter of Ole T. Nystel, came by the museum and purchased one of her grandfather's books, *Lost and Found*,

from the gift shop and toured the museum. Marjorie and her husband Donald were in Bosque County to celebrate the annual Seventh-Day Adventist reunion at Norse, where a crowd of over 200 were expected to attend.

Nancy Wood from Meridian brought her guest Jose Verhagan from Horst, Netherlands, who was on her 2nd trip to the United States. Jose and



Norwegian exchange student Gunn Jorunn Sørum enjoyed the festive annual event, Museum by Candlelight .

Bosque Museum wants to thank all of its local and out of town visitors for coming to the museum.



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MISSION

The mission of the Bosque Museum is to protect and preserve Bosque County's historic and prehistoric resources for the use, education, enjoyment, and economic benefits of the people of Bosque County.

