

Friends Care

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Matador Ranch commits \$2,500 for historical documentary

Matador Ranch became the first contributor to a new effort to document Motley County history launched by the Friends of the Historic Motley County Jail.

"Matador is proud of our heritage and this community and county," said Bob Kilmer, ranch manager. "We believe these documentaries will aid in educating visitors who want to know more about our area's colorful history. We are delighted to commit to this first contribution."

"With this \$2,500 commitment, we believe we can expand our efforts in raising the additional funds," said Ed D. Smith, Motley County judge. "We are lucky that a Matador native, Bob Brandon, has agreed to help us put these historical documentaries together. With his nationally-recognized work, we expect the final product to be first-class and welcomed by our community and our visitors. We appreciate Matador Ranch's generosity and kick-start to our fundraising campaign."

Brandon, who owns and operates Brandon Productions in Denver, has agreed to film the area's history, interviewing a number of people and utilizing some of the many fine photographs available that tell the area's history. Carol Campbell, Chairman of the Friends of the Historic Motley County Jail, is heading up the fundraising drive.

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Feuding Sheriffs

By Ron Bailey

George W. Cook was the 4th Sheriff of Motley County. He moved from Limestone County in east central Texas to Motley County the year Motley County was organized.

According to the payroll records of the Matador Land and Cattle Company, Cook went to work for the Matador Ranch in July 1891. A year later he was elected Motley County Commissioner. Joe Beckham was the Motley County Sheriff at the time. For some reason, Commissioner Cook and Sheriff Beckham developed a dislike for each other.

In June 1893, Cook ambushed Motley County Sheriff Joe Beckham as Beckham stepped off the train at Childress. According to Bill Neal's excellent researched book, Guns to Gavels, "that Beckham was not murdered on the spot was due solely to Cook's poor marksmanship."

Mr. Neal's book contains an account published in a weekly newspaper at Quanah, Texas in 1893: "Considerable excitement was caused at Childress last Sunday evening by a "shooting bee" which took place near the depot of that rural village a few minutes after the train pulled in. It seems that sheriff Beckham of Motley County, and one of the commissioners, Mr. Cook, had a disagreement. The sheriff was a passenger on Sunday evening's train and Mr. Cook was in Childress very anxious to "cook" Mr. Beckham's goose. As soon as the train stopped at the depot, Mr. Beckham alighted and started across to the hotel when, some 50 or 60 feet from the train,

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The video will be used for those visiting the refurbished Historic Motley County Jail, for which Matador Ranch donated ranch-quarried stone for some of the exterior repairs. In addition, the videos are expected to be used for promotions of regional tourism opportunities and within the local schools.

The Friends of the Historic Motley County Jail is a non-profit consortium of interested residents and former residents who promote and support the repair and renovation of the historic 1891 Motley County Jail.

Matador Ranch is owned and operated by Koch Agriculture Company, which is an indirect subsidiary of Koch Industries, Inc. Fred C. Koch co-founded what has become Koch Industries; in 1953, a company owned by Koch acquired Matador Ranch, which was once part of an 800,000-acre ranch originally formed by Scottish investors in 1882. Today's operation covers 130,000 acres in five Texas counties: Motley, Dickens, Cottle, Floyd and Crosby. In addition to the hunting and deer breeding operations, the ranch runs commercial cattle and breeds Quarter horses.

EDITOR'S NOTE:

To the membership: I want to take this opportunity not only to thank you for your previous support of this worthwhile project, but to apologize to the members that joined at Homecoming 2008 and who have never seen their names listed in this publication. My little pea brain added you to the database so (hopefully) you are receiving the newsletter, but I failed to update my list in the newsletter. Please accept my sincere apologies, and know that I truly appreciate you and thank you from the bottom of my heart for your support the jail. We have 52 members from Motley County (including the board); and 59 memberships from former residents and others interested in preserving this historical landmark. You are truly what makes my world-go-round. Thank you.

The picture below was taken at Ruidoso Downs in New Mexico. Pictured are: Pat and Suetta Green, and grandson, Riley.



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Cook began “pumping” hot lead at him from a Winchester. Mr. Beckham, taking the “lay of the land” at a glance, concluded that as he had his Winchester along, he would “ante” and take a hand in the game also, and immediately his “music box” began to grind. After some three or four shots apiece had been fired.....no one, not even a looker on.....{was} hit.”

Childress County Sheriff John Pearce Matthews arrested both Cook and Beckham. He charged them with aggravated assault. A Childress County grand jury later indicted both men. Cook was tried and found “not guilty.” Beckham was freed for lack of evidence.

Motley County Sheriff and Tax Collector, Joe Beckham, was indicted for embezzling Motley County taxes and was kicked out of office. The Motley County Commissioners Court then appointed J. L. Moore as Motley County Sheriff. About two months later, District Judge Billy McGill said that the Motley County Commissioners Court did not have the authority to appoint a Sheriff. He then appointed his own Sheriff, Billy Moses. Moses was Deputy Motley County Clerk at the time.

EDITOR'S NOTE:

A great big THANK YOU to Ron Bailey for his contributions to this newsletter. He puts a lot of hours into writing and research on the sheriff's. Kudos also to Kay Bailey for the typing, printing brochures and printing pictures that I need for new members (at her own cost).

The Bailey's are the reason our motto is: "We get by with a little help from our friends . . ."

In this case, we get by with a LOT of help from our friends.

MEMBERSHIP LIST

LOU AIDUKAS &
RICHARD NEUMAN
BILL & BARBARA ARMSTRONG
KENNY & OLIVIA BARTON
SUT AND FRANCINE BRAZELTON
JOETTA BUMGARDNER
BUNDY HAL & DIXIE CAMPBELL
GRACE CAMPBELL
LUCRETIA CAMPBELL
GARY CAMPBELL
GUY & DI-ANN CAMPBELL
MARY JANE CARTER
JUDY CARTWRIGHT
DWIGHT CLOWER
VIRGIE CLOWER
DAHL CLOWER
JOHNNIE COGDELL
RICK AND MINNIE COLLETT
KAY COPELAND
MICHAEL CRUTCHLEY
JUNE CUNNINGHAM
DOROTHY DAY
JOANN DICKSON
LOU DIEKEMPER
ROBERT & PEGGY DUNN
RON DUNN
CHARLENE DURFEY
SLIM DURHAM
KATHERINE EGGER
ARVIN ELLITHORP
MARY FIELDER
GWEN GAGE
HERBERT GARTH
PATRICIA GREEN
PAT GREEN
PAT GROVES
TOM HAMILTON
HARRY HAMILTON
STAN & DOROTHY HANESWORTH
ELAINE HART
MICKIE HILLMAN
J. CURT HODGES
LARRY & DONNA HOYLE
KATE HURT
PEGGY JAMES
FRANKLIN & SUSAN JAMESON
CHARLIE & OPAL JOHNSON
CHERRI KARR
MARJORIE KASTMAN
GEORGE & PENNY KLINE
BOBBY KLODGINSKI
ALAN & DAWN KOPETZKY
STAN & JUNE LEVELL
CARTER & BETTY LUCKETT
MICHAEL MACH
GERRY & MIA MADDoux
GLENDA MARTIN
KARMEN MCCULLOCH
D.A. & RUBY MCGUIRE
CHARLES MEADOR

MEMBERSHP LIST

JOEY MEADOR
BETTY MILLER
JUNE MOSS
CH & RAYNITA MURPHY
SANDRA PARKER
JOAN PATTON
JESSE & CARON PERKINS
GERALD & PENNY PIPKIN
NEAL & CAROL PIPKIN
TRUITT READ
JOHN & CAROLYN REDDING
JUDY RENFRO
TANYA RIPPETOE
LINDA ROY
BETTY RUDDER
DOROTHY RUSSELL
D'ANNA RUSSELL
ROGER SCAFF
JILL SCAFF
JOHNNY SHANKS
STEVE SMITH
VIRGINIA SORRELS
RICHARD STAFFORD
RONNIE STEEN
ROY & JOANIE STEPHENS
STEVE & JOANNE STEVENS
LEONA TERRY
LORETTA THOMPSON
BEVERLY VINSON
VADA WATT
ROSANNE WEST
BARBARA WEST
PAUL WESTBROOK
CAPROCK CELLULAR
MAC WILKERSON
BOBBY & JEANNE WILLIAMS
Q.D. WILLIAMS
NELDA WILSON
KEN YOUNG
LARRY VOGT &
LAVERNE ZABIELSKI

LIST OF BOARD MEMBERS

CAROL CAMPBELL, CHAIR

ED D. SMITH, VICE-CHAIR

MARILYN HICKS, SECRETARY

ROY HOBBS, TREASURER

RON BAILEY, BOARD MEMBER

KAY BAILEY, BOARD MEMBER

NELL BERRYMAN, BOARD MEMBER

DOUGLAS WILSON, BOARD MEMBER

GENEVA WILSON, BOARD MEMBER

HOWARD LIMMER, BOARD MEMBER

CAROLYN LIMMER, BOARD MEMBER

VIRGINIA NUNN, BOARD MEMBER

PICTURED IS BOARD MEMBER GENEVA WILSON WITH ROBERT (BOB) BRANDON, BRANDON PRODUCTIONS, DURING A RECENT FILMING AT THE JAIL. BOB WAS HERE FOR HOMECOMING AND A CLASS REUNION, AND TOOK THE TIME TO FILM A BEAUTIFUL MATADOR SUNSET FROM ANTELOPE HILL; THE HOMECOMING BONFIRE; AND FORMER RESIDENT OF THE JAIL, GENEVA WILSON. GENEVA, THE WIDOW OF SHERIFF JINKS WILSON, WITH CHILDREN DINK AND NELDA WILSON, LIVED IN THE JAIL FROM 1947-1957. BOB IS PREPARING A "PILOT CD" ON THE JAIL TO SEND WITH GRANT REQUESTS FOR THE VIDEO DOCUMENTARY.



Friends of the Historic MC Jail
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