

# Friends Care

Volume 4, Issue 3

September, 2010

## “A Night at the Historic Motley County Jail and East Mound Cemetery Tour”

Friends of the Historic Motley County will sponsor a “A Night at the Historic Motley County Jail and East Mound Cemetery Tour” on October 16, 2010.

The event will kick off with “free” chili dogs at Pioneer Park (see schedule on back page), followed by entertainment by the Windy Ridge Posse, a re-enactment group that will retell the early history of Motley County along with several gun battles. Blanks (not live ammunition) will be used in the re-enactments) – and it will be loud. So be prepared! (Bring your ear plugs and a lawn chair to set up on the east side of the jail).

A jail tour will include three historical characters: Joseph P. Beckham, first sheriff of Motley County, turned outlaw; a legendary character, Digger Dansby, the “diviner” who was on death row, but the only fellow in the county that could “witch for water” (he escaped on one of his outings); and a “Crazy Lady” who will be housed in the cell reserved for the “criminally insane and woman.”

**Continued on Page 2**



**Doug and Marianne Leviton, Boulder, CO.**

Meet Marianne Leviton and husband, cameraman Doug Leviton, of Boulder, CO. Marianne is a full-time filmmaker who specializes in producing and directing documentaries and narrative short films.

Beginning in 2006 she frequently collaborated with Bob Brandon on film projects where she produced/directed and he served as director of photography. Many of the short films they created won awards such as Best Director and Best Acting. In 2009, Marianne and Bob Brandon shot a feature length documentary that is to be released in 2010. Shortly before he passed away, Bob had engaged Marianne to produce the Motley County Jail/Matador documentary. They shot footage and did extensive research in preparation for principal shooting once funding was secured.

In order to aid in finding full funding for this worthy documentary, Ms. Leviton has proposed that she produce a movie trailer to be funded with the existing Matador Ranch grant. A movie trailer is one of the most powerful and successful fundraising tools available. Usually, Grantors are excited to be able to view a short film that demonstrates the intent and style of what the final film will be and so makes the decision to fund a project more tangible and reliable.

**Continued on Page 2**

### INSIDE THIS ISSUE

<b>2</b>	Jail Fundraiser (continued)
<b>2</b>	Marianne Leviton (continued)
<b>2</b>	Editor's Note
<b>3</b>	Updated Membership List
<b>3</b>	List of Board Members

**Continued from Page 1 ..... Jail Fundraiser**

Joe Beckham will start the jail tour and Digger will pose for photos with individuals brave enough to climb the stairs at the old jail and get their picture made with a historical character behind the bars. (Beware of the “Crazy Lady” at the top of the stairs). Photo print-outs will be made available on a “Wanted Poster” to be sold at the end of a hayride to the East Mound Cemetery.

The hayride will travel a back road to the cemetery, maneuvering some rough, uncut land. Beware of interlopers enroute! For the faint of heart, the walking tour can be intercepted by driving to the cemetery and waiting for the wagons.

The East Mound Cemetery Tour will feature 11 “residents,” highlighting six past sheriffs of Motley County; a Matador Ranch cowboy that was murdered in the early 1800s; the builder of the jail; the widow of the Sheriff George Cook, gunned down by Joe Beckham; and a Texas Ranger. The walking tour will start at the Main Arch at East Mound Cemetery.

This will be a night to remember. Mark your calendar. See you there!

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**THANK YOU**

I would like to welcome three new members: **Dale Nance** of Barksdale, TX, and **Mary Ola Criden**, Odessa, TX. Mary, the sister of the late Lila Meador of *Matador Tribune* fame; and Lila’s niece Dale, recently visited the jail during Homecoming 2010.

Sometimes life is just full of wonderful surprises. A big “thank you” to **William (Butch) Waybourn**, who donated \$245.00 to the jail project. Butch owns and operates the Long View Gallery in Washington, DC. He lives in Linden, VA.

The Jail Board sold raffle tickets for a chance to win a \$100.00 Master Card at Homecoming registration. Thank you to all the exes and jail supporters who bought raffle tickets. The raffle netted \$89.00 which was added to the account for the Phase II repair.

**Continued from Page 1 ...Marianne Leviton**

Editor Mike Scalisi (associate editor for the 2009 Academy Award winning documentary, *The Cove*) has agreed to deliver this trailer by the end of November, 2010. He will use the footage of Motley County that was shot last year as the basis for the movie. Typically, trailers run from 30 seconds to 3 minutes. The length of the trailer will be determined by the footage that is available and by the script that is to be written in partnership with the Friends of the Historic Motley County Jail and the production company.

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**Note from the Editor:**

**A letter from the Texas Preservation Trust Fund (TPTF) grant program informed the county that the jail project was not selected to proceed to the second stage of the application process.**

**THC received 69 applications requesting over \$2 million in grant funds. Seventeen projects were selected to proceed to the proposal stage. Due to budget cuts instituted by the State of Texas and the continuing decline in the economy, funding for the TPTF grant program is very limited with only \$200,000 to be awarded to the most critical preservation projects.**

**Thanks to the Lou Diekemper Foundation and THC, the Phase I grant secured the jail from further deterioration. THC asked us to reapply next year.**

**The board met and decided to spend the money we had raised for a match (\$16,000) to repair as many windows as possible, starting on the first floor; hopefully, repair the doors; move the electrical service to the building; and some interior demolition to expose the hanging gallows.**

**We have engaged local contractors Aaron and Billy Green to rebuild the windows and perform other necessary work.**

**If you have been thinking about a donation to the jail project. Now is the time!**

## MEMBERSHIP LIST

LOU AIDUKAS &  
RICHARD NEUMAN  
BILL & BARBARA ARMSTRONG  
KENNY & OLIVIA BARTON  
SUT AND FRANCINE BRAZELTON  
JOETTA BUMGARDNER  
BUNDY HAL & DIXIE CAMPBELL  
LUCRETIA CAMPBELL  
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CHARLENE DURFEY  
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J. CURT HODGES  
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FRANKLIN & SUSAN JAMESON  
CHARLIE & OPAL JOHNSON  
CHERRI KARR  
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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  
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## MEMBERSHIP LIST

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GERALD & PENNY PIPKIN  
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DOROTHY RUSSELL  
J.D. & D'ANNA RUSSELL  
ROGER SCAFF  
JILL SCAFF  
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VIRGINIA SORRELS  
RICHARD STAFFORD  
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ROY & JOANIE STEPHENS  
STEVE & JOANNE STEVENS  
LEONA TERRY  
LORETTA THOMPSON  
BEVERLY VINSON  
VADA WATT  
WILLIAM "BUTCH" WAYBOURN  
ROSANNE WEST  
BARBARA WEST  
PAUL WESTBROOK  
CAPROCK CELLULAR  
MAC WILKERSON  
BOBBY & JEANNE WILLIAMS  
Q.D. WILLIAMS  
NELDA WILSON  
KEN YOUNG  
LARRY VOGT & LAVERNE ZABIELSKI

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### 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

<b>Schedule of Events on October 16</b>	<b>(Approximate) Time</b>
Food Venue Begins	5:00 p.m. at Pioneer Park
Ongoing Jail Tours Begin (Groups of 10-12)	5:00 p.m.
Photo behind bars, ongoing	5:00 – 6:00 p.m.
Windy Ridge Posse Re-enactment (East Side)	6:00 p.m.
Hayride Trailers Load	6:30 p.m.
Hayride to Cemetery, north entrance	Unload at Rock Arches, 7:00 p.m.
Cemetery Tour Begins	7:00 to 7:30 p.m.
Cemetery Tour Ends	8:00 p.m.
Hayride Trailer leaves to return to jail	8:00 – 8:30 p.m.
Hayride Trailer arrives at Jail	9:00 p.m.

Remember that the  
**Jail is haunted**  
 by the Spirits of Former Residents.

**Friends of the Historic MC Jail**  
**P.O. Box 582**  
**Matador, TX 79244**

