

# TALES 'N' TRAILS

MUSEUM NEWSLETTER

## TEXAS STATE HISTORIAN TO SPEAK AT MEMBERSHIP MEETING

### FAMILY RESEARCH

Let us find your roots! We are collecting family histories, offering research services to our members. We now have a collection of hundreds of obituaries from this area, dating back to early 1900's, thanks to Milta Carter Lindell.

**SEE  
REPLICA  
SPUDDER  
RUN EVERY  
FOURTH  
SATURDAY  
AT 2 PM!**

If you are a true Texas history geek, there is an event you will not want to miss! May 20th at 7pm, Bill O'Neal, Texas State Historian will be presenting a program at the museum entitled Texas Gunslingers. O'Neal, a longtime history professor and renowned non-fiction writer, was named Texas State Historian in 2012. Now he is in his second term at that post— a job that car-

ries him across the state as ambassador of what he describes the "richest and most colorful history" among all the 50 states. As state

tory in public schools; conducting lectures, and consulting with government officials on matters relating to the promotion of state history.



He will be the speaker during the museum's General Membership meeting on May 20, which is free for members and open to the public for \$5. Board of directors will be voted in at the meeting as well. Check out Bill' O'Neal's blog at <http://lonestarhistorian2.blogspot.com/>

### MEMBERSHIP DRIVE

Tales 'n' Trails is not funded by a university or governmental agency like many museums. We are supported by people like you, who want to help preserve our local history! We are considered a state visitor's

center and receive a portion of the local hotel/motel tax. We collect admissions, donations and memorials. But our main daily activities are dependant on annual memberships. There are several levels, starting at

only \$35 per year for an individual. We offer discounts and special services and programs to our members. Give us a call at 940-825-5330 or go to [www.talesntrails.org](http://www.talesntrails.org) for more information.

## REPLICA SPUDDER COMES TO LIFE

The 1923 Fort Worth Spudder Super D & steam traction engine is precisely made to a 1/6 scale.

It was manufactured by Roger Lawrence, a professional machinist, who had a hobby machine shop at his home in Bloomfield, NM. In addition to working full time, he spent up to 40 hours a week on the steam traction engine at home after work and on weekends, taking him four years to complete the working coal/wood fired engine.

Shortly after completing the engine, he retired and began working on the Fort Worth Spudder Super D drilling rig. A museum in Aztec, NM had a Spudder set up for display and Lawrence began taking picture and measurements and would return home to work on the design and construction. As he was working on the derrick, he contacted his friend, Dick Heath, and asked him to get help measurements at the top of the tower, as he

was afraid to climb it. Heath contacted the city to bring a bucket truck and they were able to obtain the needed information.

As the drilling rig was nearing 95% completion, Lawrence was killed in an accident. Heath offered to purchase, complete and show the model. He had worked on a similar rig in 1950. He completed the Spudder and then built a truck and wagon commonly found at well sites of that time period. Heath enjoyed running the model at shows and other events for many

years and had it on display at the Farmington, NM Museum for 2 years.

In 2014, Heath and his wife, Mona, were visiting family in Saint Jo and saw the Wichita Spudder on display at the Tales and Trails Museum. At that time, they felt their model would fit nicely in the museum and began talking to the board of directors about donating the model for a permanent display. The Fort Worth Spudder and steam



traction engine will now be on display for others to learn about, appreciate and enjoy this important part of drilling history. Come see it run on the 4th Saturday of each month!

### BILL TAYLOR, IN HOUSE RESTORATION AND FRAMING

Bill Taylor's art career started at the age of 7 with instruction from Mrs. Connie Arveson in Nocona. From that base, he went on to graduate from the Dallas Art Institute in 1972. For over 27 years, Bill engaged in a back-breaking labor of love as a stone mason and landscape artist. His stonework and waterfall construction at the Benton Place Inn in Eureka Springs won first place in a national competition. "America in Blooms," is still a featured landscape of Eureka Springs. Bill's stone projects can be found throughout north-west Arkansas and south-



eastern Missouri. Bill began a second career in custom framing and art restoration in 1972, apprenticing at the Sanger Harris Department store. He soon moved on to custom framing at Newman Galleries in Dallas. He also did custom framing for Manheim Galleries, shipping custom work to Houston and New York

City, and later at The Frame House and Dutch Art Gallery in Dallas. HE has a career in custom framing spanning over 23 years. Several years ago, Bill moved back home to Nocona and has been volunteering at Tales 'N' Trails Museum in Nocona doing art restoration and custom framing for the museum. His skills and eye for composition and color balance are now available to the public through Tales 'N' Trails Museum (940) 825-5330 for more information.

#### Welcome Newest Volunteers!

We cannot operate without our awesome volunteers!

Linda & Kim Sewell

Robert & Melanie Howington

Kelly Hall

**THANK YOU !!**

### AGRICULTURE CENTER BARN IN PROGRESS



Our newest exhibit which will house our many agricultural arti-

facts is coming along nicely, thanks to museum director Rob

Storey and some wonderful volunteers, including Wes Morton, Jim Admire, and Robert Howington. The lower outdoor walls are covered in cedar and soon the upper walls and windows will be

installed! At that point we will be finishing the interior with barn wood and old tin, adding a blacksmith shop and workshop/classroom. If you are interested in helping with this project, give us a call!

### INTRODUCING THE JOHN GLAZE RESEARCH LIBRARY

John Glaze, who played H.J. Justin in our award-winning video "Spirit of the True West," has generously donated his boot maker's collection to TnT! This unique set of artifacts includes 1800s boot making tools, 1900s boot making tools, as well as his library of books, videos and oral histories of old-time boot makers.

This collection is now available for public

research and will be a primary part of our permanent leather exhibit, as we complete our west wing. This type of exhibit



will be of a similar quality to our current Native American Exhibit Hall.

To get a taste of the scope of Mr. Glaze's research material, please check out the [John](#)

[Glaze Library](#) at the museum or at [www.talesntrails.org](http://www.talesntrails.org).

(When the "barn" is complete, Mr. Glaze will be teaching a boot making class!)



### WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!

Charles & Sara Arnold  
Randy & Diane Duckworth  
Linda Sewell

Dick & Camille Crist  
Stan & Kelly Hall  
Steve & Dawna Uselton

Phil & Debbie Staley  
Ken & Wanda Sewell  
Donald Ray & Pat Taylor

**CHECK OUT OUR UPCOMING EVENTS AND WHAT'S HAPPENING AT [TALESNTRAILS.ORG](http://TALESNTRAILS.ORG)**



WE ARE ON THE WEB!  
WWW.TALESNTRAILS.ORG



Tales 'N' Trails Museum  
1522 East Highway 82  
Nocona, Texas 76255  
940-825-5330  
contact@talesntrails.org

## Tales "N" Trails Museum Gift Shop



## UPCOMING EVENTS AT THE MUSEUM

March 13—CPR Class 1:30pm

March 26—Replica Spudder  
Demonstration 2 pm

April 23—Replica Spudder Dem-  
onstration 2 pm

May 20—TnT General Member-  
ship Meeting and "Texas Gun-  
slingers by Texas State Historian  
Bill O'Neal. 7 pm

June 13-18—History Mystery  
Camp

September 17—Shebang Fund-  
raiser (Agriculture theme)

October 7-8—Nocona Triennial  
Homecoming Special Exhibit

Volunteers Needed!

We are looking for anyone inter-  
ested in helping plan our History  
Mystery Camp! We need ideas  
for crafts, story telling, snacks,  
etc. Looking for a theme that in-  
volves state or local history! Let  
us know if you would like to serve  
on this "task force"!

Also looking for anyone who  
would like to help with outside  
activities for spring/summer like  
gardening, pumpers house  
needs, etc. We can find a job for  
anyone!

Remember Tales 'n' Trails  
Museum has group tour  
rates and handicapped  
accessibility.

New books in the gift shop in-  
clude Texas Gunslingers, by Bill  
O'Neal, our speaker at Member-  
ship Meeting  
May 20th!

