



## IN THIS ISSUE

- New Exhibit Feature: Rural Texas Women at Work
- Annual Meeting Overview
- Meet Martha Matthews: Board Member & Museum Window Designer
- In Search Of Family Heirloom Aprons, Bonnets & Tableclothes
- Armstrong County Sheriff's History Exhibit: The Original First Responders
- Insight & History into Roadside Markers in Armstrong County
- Volunteer Opportunities: How You Can Lend a Hand
- Upcoming Events

## OUR MISSION

---

The mission of the Armstrong County Museum is to "Capture the rich heritage of Armstrong County and celebrate it through cultural and educational experiences."

We continue to seek funding wherever possible, but without our generous supporters, we can't meet our mission. If you are already a contributor, we thank you. If you are not, please consider joining us in sharing the rich history we are preserving through our facilities and education program. Our membership is an important part of continuing to share our story.

If you would like to give a gift to someone who has everything or honor a loved one with a memorial, send your chosen membership level in that person's name. We will happily send recognition to the person or family.

*follow us* 



## "Rural Texas Women at Work, 1930-1960"

ArmstrongCountyMuseum.net

Armstrong County Museum will host the exhibit, "Rural Texas Women at Work, 1930-1960" at the museum. The exhibit, sponsored by Texas A&M University, Texas Agricultural Extension Service, Arts Counsel of Brazos Valley and is produced by Humanities Texas, the state affiliate of the National Endowment for the Humanities. "Rural Texas Women at Work" pays tribute to our rural mothers and grandmothers and their families in the middle third of the 20th century. industrious and enterprising, rural Texas women performed the tasks of housewives everywhere - cooking, housekeeping laundry, elder care, and child-rearing, IN addition, they arose large gardens, tended flocks of poultry, and preserved food for their families, made and repaired furnishings,

picked cotton, drove tractors, farmed, worked cattle, ranched, and took over traditional men's work and duties during World War II.

of the U.S. Department's Agricultural Extension Services and the changes that swept across rural Texas in the Great Depression and World War II.

"Rural Texas Women at Work" uses photographs and explanatory texts to share and reflect the lives of rural Texas women, the helpful programs

The exhibit will be available to the public from April 27 through June 5th and is open from noon 4:00 PM Thursdays through Saturdays at the museum



## Armstrong County Museum Annual Meeting



The museum held its annual members meeting to discuss the state of the museum and to elect new members of the board of directors. There were six vacant positions on the board due to retirements and positions which had not been filled in the past. The new board members represent a cross-section of Armstrong County. We are pleased to have representatives from the communities of Wayside and Washburn. The newly elected board members are Tim Bagwell, Jennerifer Burnettt, Jennifer King, Kim Klarich, Laruen Little Morisson, and Billie Peden. They will join the other board members Twila Balwin, Alexis Carroll, Shay Christian, Bicki Hamblin, Joe Lovell, David Magar, Martha Mathes, Peggy Meathenia, Sidney Mills, Karen Schrader, Mark Schrader, Don Sherman, Glen Spiller, and Jodi Stockett.





## The Armstrong County Museum Window Designer

Window displays are an important facet of life. Long before the internet, streaming content, and even before television, retail businesses used their windows to announce to their patrons the latest in fashion, accessories, home furnishings, new appliances, and goods of all kinds. Windows were decorated to reflect various holiday seasons. Holiday seasons were a particularly exciting time for patrons to see these elaborate window decorations and often showcased new consumer goods. While no longer as prominent as in the past, retail store windows in larger cities still compete for recognition as the most outstanding decorated windows.

The Armstrong County Museum has our very own window designer, Board Member Martha Mathews. The windows are changed periodically. She selects and decorates the windows around themes that reflect the seasons, holidays, special occasions, and historic events. The next time you drive down Trice Street, pause at the museum and take a moment to admire Claude's special windows.

## In Search of Heirloom Aprons, Bonnets & Tableclothes

The Armstrong County Museum is looking for family heirloom aprons, bonnets, and tablecloths that were worn or used by your family members to be included in a temporary exhibit at the museum. The exhibit, "Rural Texas Women at Work, 1930-1960" is produced by Humanities Texas. The display of aprons, bonnets, and table cloths will provide local interest and family history to the exhibit.

The aprons, bonnets, and tablecloths will be on loan to the museum. They will be used for the exhibit and then will be returned to the families at the conclusion of the exhibit, after June 5th. If you would like to share your family apron, bonnet, or tablecloth, please bring them to the museum from noon to 4 PM, Tuesday through Saturday. Please include the name of the person who used the item, their relationship to the family, and a contact person's name and phone number so the item(s) can be returned. We hope you are willing to loan the museum some of your family heirloom treasures and will enjoy having them part of the exhibit

## The History of Armstrong County Sheriffs

In addition to the historic roadside markers about the early Armstrong County Sheriffs, the Armstrong County Museum holds an exhibit which provides more information about the original first responders, our early sheriffs. The exhibit's focus on our first Sheriff, John Frank Wilson. The exhibit was sponsored by Sheriff Wilson's grandchildren.

The exhibit displays a photographic timeline of the Armstrong County Sheriffs from John Frank Wilson in 1890 thru Ben Halsted in 1970. The desk that Sheriff Wislon made is on display.



## Roadside Markers: Insight Into History

Armstrong County has 28 registered historical roadside markers established by the Texas Historical Commission (THC). You can access historic markers across Texas on the THC website at [www.thc.texas.gov](http://www.thc.texas.gov).

In addition, there is a historical marker database, [ww.HMdb.org](http://ww.HMdb.org) that can help you locate local, national, and global historic markers across the nation. Historic markers can open a door to interesting facts, circumstances, places, and people. This site allows visitors to post the markers they have seen on their website, track markers you have seen in your personal log, and provide history and travel information for many of the markers on the website. This is another opportunity to experience national and global history while driving down the road.



## VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Volunteers are needed to support the museum. The museum is open Tuesday through Saturday, from Noon to 4:00 p.m. You can volunteer for one hour or all day. There are a variety of tasks that volunteers are asked to perform. As a volunteer you would open the museum, answer the telephones, and make sure the public spaces are presentable and orderly. In addition, you can use your skills to assist patrons as they tour the museum, assist with the acquisition process, help to compile data for reports, or if you are inclined, help with low maintenance tasks. If you have experience in grant writing, computer skills, or audio-visual skill you could find opportunities to work in the areas. In short, there are many opportunities to feed your interest in history and support your Armstrong County Museum. The museum needs your help. If you are interested, please contact Glenn or Connie Spiller at (806) 226-5502, Sylvia Landsbury at (806) 226-2187, or David or Elizabeth Goodin Magar at 806-437-3754.

**REQUIRED  
AREA FOR  
POST OFFICE**

Subscriber Name  
12345 Address  
City, State, Zip

ArmstrongCountyMuseum.net  
120 Trice Street • Claude, TX 79019  
(806) 226-2187

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

**APRIL 27 - JUNE 5**

Rural Texas Women at Work  
1930's-1960's

**MAY 22**

Spring Fling  
7pm to 11pm

**JULY 8 - AUGUST 19**

Vaquero: Genesis of the Texas  
Cowboy, Humanities Texas Exhibit