

Fort McKavett State Historical Site  
P. O. Box 68  
Fort McKavett, Texas 76841



# Fort McKavett Gazette

“News of our Volunteers and Friends”

Volume 6, Number 8

August, 2007



Sept 16<sup>th</sup> -21<sup>st</sup> -“General Miles Marching and Chowder Society” encampment

Oct 13<sup>th</sup>, Star Party at Fort McKavett, Fort McKavett town reunion, Friends of Fort McKavett annual meeting.

Oct 12-13, “Fort Griffin Living History Days”, 140<sup>th</sup> anniversary

*Note: This is Fort Griffin’s first event in a couple of years plus being their 140<sup>th</sup> anniversary.*

Dec 7-9, “Christmas at Old Fort Concho”, San Angelo



Color Copies of all the Fort McKavett Gazette’s can be found at:

[www.fortmckavett.org](http://www.fortmckavett.org)

## Historic Sites Transfer...

Inside this edition of the Gazette, you will find an update about the first meeting we had with the Texas Historic Commission about the upcoming transfers of Historic Sites.



*In the photograph above, Col. McTaggart and Buddy in a meeting with John Nau, the Chairman of the Texas Historical Commission in Austin on July 24<sup>th</sup>. In this first workshop, the basic plans for the transfer of Historic Sites was discussed and the basic planned laid out.*

*Things are starting to look up for Fort McKavett. More inside this edition of the Gazette.*

# Army Regulations - Wagons

MANUAL FOR QUARTERMASTER'S DEPARTMENT. 187

707. Wagons should always be supplied with a spare Spare parts. pole, an ax, a bucket for watering the animals, a hammer, a monkey wrench, spare bolts, a candle lantern, and a box of axle grease.

Each wagon would have these spare parts before leaving the Post on any Army business.

| Composition of wagon and pack trains, | A WAGON TRAIN. | Number. |
|---------------------------------------|----------------|---------|
| Wagon master.....                     |                | 1       |
| Assistant wagon masters.....          |                | 2       |
| Cook.....                             |                | 1       |
| Watchman.....                         |                | 1       |
| Teamsters.....                        |                | 28      |
| Wagons.....                           |                | 27      |
| Personnel.....                        |                | 33      |

Personnel needed for a large expedition, such as 10<sup>th</sup> Infantry when taking part in the Red River Wars.

717. Animals are rendered unserviceable by overwork, Care of animals. by neglect of regular feeding and watering, or by failure to discover and properly treat all slight injuries before they become serious.

In the field animals should be fed night and morning, the larger feed at night when there is ample time to eat and digest the food. When hard worked they should have their full ration of grain, and when the ration of hay is reduced or omitted they should be given a chance to graze. Frequent watering is a necessity, particularly in hot weather, and always before feeding. When possible, a half hour before reaching camp animals should be allowed to drink all they wish. If the animals arrive in camp in a heated condition they should be allowed to cool before feeding and watering; otherwise they are in danger of being foundered. Feed the allowance of salt twice a week.

The regulations even stated the requirements for feeding and watering the mules and horses hauling the wagons.

Buddy, Col McTaggart and John Cobb attended a briefing by THC on the transfers. We were welcomed by several of the Commissioners from THC, all the Department Heads, Chairman John Nau, Executive Director Larry Oaks, and Deputy Executive Director Terry Colley. Some things of interest for everyone include:

- 1) We will be getting funding way above what has been done in the past. Our yearly budget at Fort McKavett will just about double.
- 2) They are working to keep all our displays, equipment, and staff at each site.
- 3) We will be going back to six or seven days a week being open to the public again. This means that we will be able to add on to our staff. This is always good news.
- 4) They want to see our Friends Group stay in place and business as usual.
- 5) They will want us to keep our Living History at the Fort and maybe consider expanding it some.
- 6) We will continue to represent the Site at other events state-wide
- 7) There might and I say might, be some assistance to the Friends Groups with money for our events, both on and off site.
- 8) Our Star Gazers will still be able to use the parade ground as they have for years...and will be encouraged to expand their efforts if they so wish.
- 9) There will be extra funds for projects that need to be done on the site...how much of this will be available will depend on the bond election in November.
- 10) We spent quite a bit of time talking about what we thought were the important items to be addressed for the sites, then they showed us their plans, and they were the same (hoo-ray)...this should be good news for everyone.
- 11) There will be new vehicles and equipment for the site.
- 12) They will be hiring a new Director of Historic Sites before September 1.
- 13) After September 1, THC will be handling the finances of the Historic Sites and TPWD will still manage them until January 1<sup>st</sup>, when the transfers take place.
- 14) They are going to try not to have layers of upper management and departments in Austin, but try to handle everything in the field. There will not be regional offices or other departments that will siphon off funding from the sites.
- 15) They are working on fine tuning the transfer of things all the way until January 1. And they are trying to make it as seamless and painless as possible.
- 16) There is a sub-committee that is being formed by Rep. Hilderbran that will be reviewing the master plans for each site and making on site tours.
- 17) There are several of the Commissioners of THC have a committee for the Historic Sites.

## Make Ready for new Displays



*In July, the Staff with Cari Box from TPWD Regional Office and Wendy Womack from TPWD reviewed the final panels for the buildings and way side exhibits.*

The new panels and displays will be ready for a “Grand Opening” at our annual Friends Group Meeting on October 13<sup>th</sup>. We think everyone will be pleased with this project. Planning has been going on for several months.



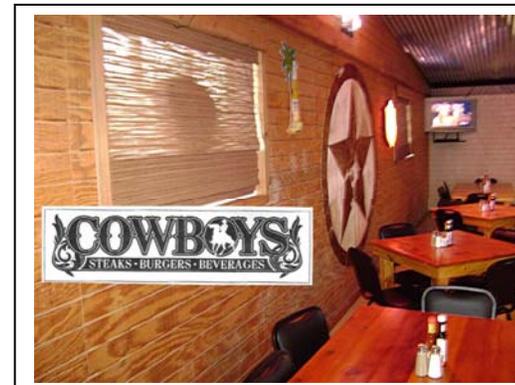
*Part of the new displays will be opening the Hospital Sinks up for visitors to see. In the photograph at the left, Manager Buddy Garza is cleaning and preparing the sinks for the new displays. Other new additions will be the Medical Storage room in the Dead House and displays in the Mortuary of the Dead House. Buddy is building several new displays for the Grand Opening in October. Make sure you are there to see them!*

## Have some time on your hands?



With all the rain we have had, volunteer to come out and help with the mowing of the Post. We have several mowers we would like to put you on. Board Member John Cobb is shown mowing by the schoolhouse in July. Give Buddy a call and come on out!

## New Restaurant for Fort McKavett



*Every since the Outback closed down, everyone has been asking when it will open again. Cowboys has now opened in the same building having completely remodeled the business.*

They are located at Toe Nail Trail and Hwy 190

# Guarding Prisoners

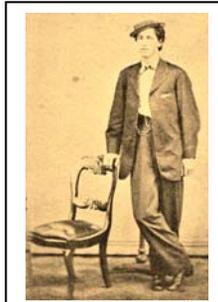


*Prisoners under guard at Fort Leavenworth work detail*

**“A member of the guard, guarding prisoners at work, or marching from place to place, but having no defined post, does not salute as a sentinel, but as an enlisted man under arms. He does not allow the prisoners under his charge to leave his sight, nor gain a distance from him greater than ten yards. Nor, when on foot, does he allow a prisoner under his charge to ride. In standing “attention” to officers, he will never so face as to lose sight of the prisoners under his charge.”**

*“Instructions for Sentinels” from the collection of Captain Robert G. Smither, 10<sup>th</sup> Cavalry.*

*Robert Smither was a 1<sup>st</sup> Lt. when he was assigned to Fort McKavett with the 10<sup>th</sup> Cavalry. He was the Post Acting Adjutant General for several years. He later became the AAG at Fort Concho and took part in the rescue of Captain Nolan’s “Lost Expedition”.*



# Fort McKavett Town Reunion



Front Row: #4  
Mina James, Elton Pullen, Skinny Parker, James Pullen, J.D. Murr.  
Second Row  
Jessie Barker, Francis Pullen, Alberta Burleson, Dolly Barker,  
Juanita Bihl, Frankie Russell, Karla Russell, Little Edith Freeman.

**October 13<sup>th</sup> ...Plan on coming and meet everyone!**

## Friends of Fort McKavett Silent Auction

Do you have something we could use for the Silent Auction this year? As long as it doesn't eat, bring it and let the Fort McKavett Staff know what you are bringing (they need to plan). Contact Gennie at: 325-396-2358.



Johnson Space Center Amateur Astronomical Society

**Star Party – Saturday October 13<sup>th</sup>, 2007  
From Dusk on...**