

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



# Fort McKavett Gazette

“News of our Volunteers and Friends”

Volume 10, Number 2

February, 2011

## Fort McKavett Upcoming Events

- March 4-5, Fort Clark,  
Education Day on Friday
- March 25-26, West Texas  
Heritage Days, Education Day  
on Friday. Fort McKavett\*
- April 2, Fort McKavett Spring  
Star Party\*
- April 8-10, Fort Richardson  
Days
- May 6-7, Lake Brownwood  
State Park Open House,  
Education Day on Friday
- May 13-14, Lake Arrowhead  
State Park Open House,  
Education Day on Friday
- May 20-21, Fort Lancaster,  
Western Frontier Days\*
- \*THC Historic Sites Event



TEXAS HISTORICAL COMMISSION  
real places telling real stories

Color Copies of all the Fort McKavett  
Gazettes can be found at:

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

## Notes from the Fort

As you will see inside, our site has been very busy so far this year. We have a lot of things going on including a lot of improvements to the post.

Work has started on the Presidio in Menard. Site Manager, Buddy Garza is overseeing this project. A lot of improvements have been made already. Many more are planned.

We have information on the new transmission lines. We also have an update on funding by the legislature that will affect us directly. This is all inside this edition of the Gazette.

We will keep you informed of all the news about our post in the upcoming editions of the Gazette. Stay tuned!

John Cobb  
President  
Friends of Fort McKavett

## Friends of Fort McKavett Board of Directors Meeting



*The Friends Board of Directors had a meeting on January 22 at the site's conference room. A proposed budget and project plans for the site were approved for the membership to vote on during our meeting at the March event. After the meeting, we were treated to a lunch and a tour of the new shop and warehouse. Photo on top, meeting in progress, left, tour of the upstairs of the warehouse.*



## Gifts from the Friends to the Site



Site Manager Buddy Garza was presented with the 1878 Burbank letter mailed from Fort McKavett to the Menger Hotel in San Antonio (Left) and with a new digital photo frame with 200 photographs of the fort for the Visitors Center (Right). This photo frame can be used for off-site presentations as well.

## Exhibits Progressing

Right: Cody is shown working on remounting our restored exhibits with plastic mounts instead of the wire mounting that had been in use since the 1970's. This will help preserve our artifacts and not damage them like the metal wire does.

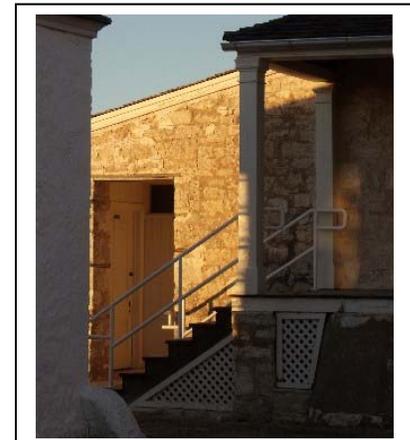


## New Railing for the Hospital Steps



*Over the years, some people have had difficulty with the steps of the Hospital and Visitors Center. The photo at left shows Col. McTaggart and Site Manager Buddy Garza using the new railings on the front porch of the building. We now have railing on the back by the restrooms and on the wheelchair ramp. The bottom photo shows the back set of rails.*

*The new railing helps us comply with ADA requirements. In addition, our many elderly guests now have some much needed assistance in climbing the steps.*



## ***Update on the new High Lines in the McKavett Area***



The Texas Public Utilities Commission has written the final order for the new 345KV transmission line from McCamey D substation to Kendall. It will pass several miles south of Fort McKavett and will not interfere with the fort's view shed.

## **New Site Hosts for McKavett**



Fort McKavett welcomes our new site hosts for the next three months. From left to right: Colin and Shirley Stanway, Roger and Carolyn McCartney. They will be helping with maintenance duties, cleaning buildings, and making curtains for the Headquarters building. Make sure you stop by and make them feel welcome when you come to the site!



We also have new site host RV parking by the warehouse. This gives our hosts more privacy and improves the looks of the site.

## **New Cub Scouts Visit Fort McKavett**



Cub Scout Pack 421 from Eden, Texas took part in the overnight program at the post. They got to take down the flag and raise it the next morning. Their pack was only three weeks old when they came to our site.

## **The Spanish Presidio in Menard**



The THC project on Presidio de San Saba in Menard is taking shape. Plans have been drawn up. Cleanup and a new road are underway. Our Buddy Garza is overseeing the project. Make sure you take time to go by there the next time you come to McKavett.

# Legislative Update



By now, most people have seen the news about the cuts in the Texas Historical Commission's budget. Some things to keep in mind:

- 1) HB-1, the State Budget, has just been filed. This will be one of the first bills to be introduced and one of the last to be approved. A lot of changes will take place before it becomes law.
- 2) It looks like most of the budget cuts will take place in programs such as the Main Street, Courthouses, and Heritage Trails programs. Historic Sites cuts are much less drastic.
- 3) Through THC's fiscal year 2011 things will be pretty much "business as usual" except for some "belt tightening" that was already scheduled.

We know everyone is worried about the final outcome, so we will keep everyone updated as things happen with the Legislature.

In the meanwhile, you will want to contact your House Representatives and Senators and tell them you understand the need for cuts, but you want them to be fair and not to the point of destroying needed programs. Now is the time to get your voice heard!

## Our Buildings Have Whitewash!

*Wait until you see the newly whitewashed buildings at Fort McKavett. They glow and look fantastic. You can see why General Sherman said this was the "Prettiest Post in Texas"*



### POTATO PIE.

(Sufficient for 22 men.)

16½ pounds meat.

20 pounds potatoes.

½ ounce pepper.

1 pound onions.

3 ounces salt.

Cut up and stew the onions with jelly from the meat added; boil or steam the potatoes, and mash them; grease the inside of a baking dish; line the sides with a portion of the mashed potatoes; place the meat and cooked onions in the center; season with pepper and salt; cover over with the remainder of the mashed potatoes, and bake till the potato cover is brown. As the mashed potatoes absorb the moisture of the meat and render it dry, about two pints of gravy prepared from the liquor in which the onions were cooked should be poured into the pie after it is taken out of the oven.

### From the Army Cooks Manual

#### GRAVY FOR BAKED MEATS.

Having removed the joint, put the pan on the fire, remove the floating grease and save it as dripping; pour into the pan from a half pint to a pint or more of boiling water. Mix well; then stir into the mixture quickly two or more tablespoonfuls of blended browned flour; boil up once; season with pepper and salt, and serve. If the gravy is preferred with the grease in it omit the skimming.

*Renew your Membership*  
If you haven't renewed your membership, now is the time to do it. We need your help.  
**Friends of Fort McKavett**  
P.O. Box 87  
Fort McKavett, TX 76841  
325-396-2358  
Our events and projects come from you donations and membership.

#### Yearly Memberships

Single annual membership  
\$15.00

Family annual membership  
\$25.00

Corporate annual membership  
\$100.00