

# Port Aransas Preservation and Historical Association

Volume 5, Issue 11

PAPHA Newsletter

December 2011

## Mark your Calendar!

### Save the Date ...

Dust off your cowboy boots and join us on Saturday evening, March 3, 2012 for the 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Port Aransas Preservation and Historical Association's Auction and Dinner.

This event has proved to be the biggest single fundraiser for the Museum and PAPHA, and we'd appreciate your continued support. If you haven't attended one before, come on down and join us!

Great food, great items to bid on, and great socializing with Port A and other town folks.

We look forward to seeing you!



**SAVE THE DATE!**

**Saturday, March 3, 2012**  
**4th Annual Port Aransas Preservation & Historical Association Auction & Dinner**

## Farley Boat Works Refurbishing Continues



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# Museum Director's Report

## Catching Up ...

### Special Visitors

Three groups of students from Flour Bluff schools, about 100 in all, visited us for special lectures and a tour this month.

It is a pleasure to have this kind of group visit the place. They sure like to ring the bell, sit in the boat and pick up the fishing gear.

Thomas Alexander, member of the Texas Historical Commission, and his wife Capy, dropped in to visit the museo



and get more information on the dune guns. Mr. Alexander confirmed that he will include the site in a new book he is writing on forgotten Military installations in Texas.

### Farley Boat Works nears completion

We are getting ready to take posses-



sion of the Farley Boat Works shop. Work should be completed just after Christmas.

The electricians are working fast to



get the wiring in and functioning. The plumbing is done and the contractor is sheetrocking the interior of the office and bathroom.

The signs are now finished, and we are waiting for a dry day to install them.

The exhibit panels are being composed and soon will be printed. The Tina sits ready to be hauled in to her new home and the power tools are arriving.



It is all coming together nicely.

The museo will soon be at the business of restoring a cottage industry to our island town.



### Christmas decorations are up

Thanks to Carol Clark and her daughter (whose name I forgot to write down...sorry) the museum porch is decorated and ready for Christmas. Drive by at night and have a look.

This is the third year Carol has done this great service for the museum.

### The Museum Gift Shop is getting a new look

A new improved gift shop is on its way. We are re-thinking the gift shop at the museo. Inventory and fixtures both are getting the look over.

This little shop is an important part of the program and has been helping to pay the operating expenses of the building.

Stay tuned.

See 'Director' on Page 4

# Efforts of the Archiving Elves

- Made photos and written material available to the South Jetty for articles
- Videod Lecture Series starring Rick Pratt.
- Transferred video of lecture series of Rick Pratt and Story Telling to DVD to provide a copy of each to the museum and 3 copies for the archives
- Began the process of transferring all master DVDs to "platinum" DVDs as it is the format that is regarded as the longest lasting for archiving video.
- Provided the Port Aransas Public Library with an up-to -date copy of all archived photos and articles. The external hard drive held at the library is usually updated twice a year.
- Continued the process of examining every photo in the collection with the intention of removing some that are duplicates, noting particularly significant photos and ensuring that all photos are in the album(s) that are appropriate. The process is about 40% complete and should be finished by spring.
- Scanned and annotated material from Rick Pratt, Aransas Pass High School, Mercer Family, Marcy Mathews Ward Thomas, Fabulous Port Aransas, James Mixon, Suzanna Reeder and Gary Einkauf, Charles Ferguson, Juliette Henley, John Gaffney Valerie Genter, Gaulding Family, Barney Farley, Greg Werkentine Family, Guthrie Ford, Mark Creighton, Pat McNamara, The Ochse Family.
- Provided photos for Birthday party for Marcy Mathews Ward Thomas.
- Provided photos to New Farley Boat Shop for panels and displays in the new museum.



Cattle swimming from Padre Island to Mustang Island sometime in the mid 1950s. They were either from the Pat Dunn Ranch on Padre or the WD Ranch (Wilson Dunn) on Mustang Island. They could have been a mixed herd. This, of course, plays along with Guthrie's Mercer Logs information and Ed Mar Rancho of the Mercers.

**Directorate of Archiving and other Mischief  
Mark Creighton**

## Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to all!

## Winter Lecture Series

Mondays, 7pm, Drinks & snacks in the Museum  
7:30pm, lecture starts in Community Center

**Jan. 16.....Mark Creighton, Museum Archives**

**Jan. 30.....Guthrie Ford, Assault on Mustang Island**

**Feb. 13.....Jim Moloney, Corpus Christi History, 1919**

'DIRECTOR' —Cont. from page 1

## New Lighthouse Information

We just received two great old documents from 1877 reporting that several barrels of salt port, salt beef and a keg of vinegar were sent to the Aransas Pass Light Station from Indianola.

Another document from the same period reports that a cord of firewood was sent to the light house for the use of the keeper, Mr. Humphries, and crew.

(Mr. Humphries was dismissed for drunkenness soon after).

The 22<sup>nd</sup> Keeper of the light station (that would be me) has held forth for years that firewood was **NEVER** used to heat the place! Wrong again. I'll have that crow medium rare please.

Not that the cost of the firewood (\$8.25) was far higher than all of the food provisions (\$3.50).

Remember also that everything came to the light house by sailboat and that added a lot of cost to the items.

You sure could make a good stew with the salt beef and the potatoes, and cover a lot of pancakes with the molasses.

I wonder what they did with a whole keg of vinegar?

### Save the date

March 3 is the date for the 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Museum Fundraising Dinner and Auction. Save the date!

### COME SEE US

Make it a point to drop in and visit the museo this season. Introduce yourself and we'll have a chat.

See you there.

Happy Holidays,

*Rick Pratt*

Director of the Port Aransas Museum

