

TENNESSEE WALKING HORSE NATIONAL MUSEUM NEWSLETTER

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A HUGE THANKS TO ALL OF YOU WHO HAVE ALREADY EXPRESSED A DESIRE TO SUPPORT THE TENNESSEE WALKING HORSE NATIONAL MUSEUM. FOR THOSE OF YOU WHO DO NOT KNOW, THE TENNESSEE WALKING HORSE NATIONAL CELEBRATION, INC., MADE A DECISION THIS SUMMER TO ALLOW AN INDEPENDENT ORGANIZATION TO CONTINUE DEVELOPMENT OF A NATIONAL MUSEUM THAT WOULD BE LOCATED IN WARTRACE, TENNESSEE, ALSO KNOWN AS THE "CRADLE OF THE TENNESSEE WALKING HORSE". A GROUP OF VOLUNTEERS WAS SELECTED TO HEAD UP THE EFFORT AND HAS BEEN DULY INCORPORATED AS A 501 C3 TAX EXEMPT ORGANIZATION. THE BOARD HAS ENTERED INTO A LEASE AGREEMENT TO ESTABLISH THE MUSEUM IN AN HISTORIC BUILDING LOCATED AT 27 MAIN STREET IN WARTRACE. WORK WILL SOON BEGIN TO PREPARE THE BUILDING TO RECEIVE AND SHOWCASE THE ARTIFACTS ALREADY IN THE MUSEUM'S COLLECTION. THE BOARD HOPES TO HAVE THE MUSEUM READY TO OPEN BY JANUARY 1.

OUR NEW HOME IS IN A RENOVATED TWO STORY BUILDING WHICH IS IN EXCELLENT SHAPE. WE WILL HAVE TO REDECORATE THE INTERIOR TO SUIT ITS NEW PURPOSE AND SOME APPROPRIATE LIGHTING WILL BE INSTALLED TO HIGHLIGHT THE EXHIBITS WHILE PROTECTING THEM FROM ULTRAVIOLET LIGHT. A LOT OF THE EXISTING EXHIBIT CASE WORK CAN BE REUSED AS CAN SOME OF THE ELECTRONIC MEDIA EQUIPMENT. THE BOARD PLANS TO TAKE AN EVOLUTIONARY APPROACH IN DEVELOPING THE MUSEUM AND IT WILL BE NATIONAL IN ITS SCOPE. THE TENNESSEE WALKING HORSE STORY INVOLVES MORE THAN GRAND CHAMPIONS AND GREAT RIDERS AND WE WANT THE MUSEUM TO REPRESENT AS MANY INDIVIDUALS AS POSSIBLE WHO HAVE OWNED, LOVED AND ADMIRER TENNESSEE WALKERS.

RIGHT NOW, WE NEED YOUR HELP IN A HUGE WAY. ALTHOUGH THE BOARD WAS GIVEN CONTROL OF THE COLLECTION, NO FUNDING WAS PROVIDED TO COVER RENOVATION, MAINTENANCE OR OPERATION COSTS. WE NEED DONATIONS TO COVER SUCH THINGS AS INSURANCE, POSTAGE, UTILITIES AND ESTABLISHING A WEB SITE SO WE CAN BEGIN FUND RAISING ACTIVITIES IN EARNEST. THOSE ARE OUR MOST IMMEDIATE NEEDS SO WE CAN GET THE BALL ROLLING. WE WILL NEED VOLUNTEER HELP BY OCTOBER 1ST TO MOVE THE ARTIFACTS TO THE NEW BUILDING FROM THEIR CURRENT PLACE OF STORAGE AND TO PREPARE FOR THE REDECORATION. TOMMY WILLIAMS HAS GRACIOUSLY DONATED US A MEMBERSHIP ON THE WALKING HORSE CHAT SO WE CAN START GETTING NEWS OUT ON THE GENERAL OPINION FORUM. SO, CHECK US OUT THERE. PLEASE USE THE CONTACT INFORMATION BELOW IF YOU CAN HELP IN ANY WAY. ALL DONATIONS WILL BE ACKNOWLEDGED IN MUSEUM PUBLICATIONS AND TAX RECEIPTS WILL BE PROVIDED.

Sincerely yours,

Philip D Gentry, President

