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Monday April 18, 2011

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Depot Day kicks off with new and old traditions

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Christina Hayden

The Houston Area Blacksmith's Association, Inc. was on site at the Depot on April 16 to show the public how metal can be forged into different shapes. HABA has actively participated in Depot Day for several years and now has a permanent structure where they can continue to give demonstrations.



In past years, the group has done their work under tents, but this year, HABA had a new blacksmith shop to work under.

Boswell said the shop will allow them to provide even more demonstrations through the year.

"It's not finished," he said. "We got to start the walls next, but eventually it will look like an authentic blacksmith shop."

Posted: Sunday, April 17, 2011 1:00 am

By **CHRISTINA HAYDEN** | 0 comments

The 18th Annual Depot Day brought forth an array of entertainment on April 16 with a mixture of traditional fixtures as well as new arrivals. Depot Day is the biggest fundraising event of the year for the Magnolia Historical Society. The funds go towards maintaining the Depot and other related activities.

Beverly Tucker, Events Coordinator for the Magnolia Historical Society, said maintaining the depot can get expensive and Depot Day plays a large part in allowing them to continue daily operations.

Some of the new additions to the event this year included musical performances by Country Jim and the All Stars Band.

Tucker said they expect the band and other attractions will draw in people not just in the city, but outside of Magnolia as well.

"Every year we try to make (Depot Day) a little better," she said.

Among the entertainment for Depot Day was the Houston Area Blacksmith's Association, Inc to show the technical skills involved with blacksmithing.

Richard Boswell, HABA webmaster and secretary, said they have been coming to Depot Day for about six years and enjoy providing forging demonstrations to the public.

"We like showing people how it's done especially with the children," he said. Blacksmithing "is a lost art and anytime you can show someone a lost art, you've done good."

This year, HABA had a new blacksmith shop to conduct their demonstrations.

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Later in the day, the historical society held their live auction, which contained an array of items that were donated by area residents and businesses.

Celeste Graves, historical society treasurer, the auction has a history of standing out and being rather popular.

Dorie Damuth, owner of Flying D Ranch and Mrs. U.S. Savings Bonds and Mrs. Texas for 1967, contributes regularly to the historical society for Depot Day.

This year, she came to auction off a homemade triple chocolate fudge cake filled with chocolate butter cream.

Damuth said the recipe has been in her family for many years and in that time she has perfected making it.

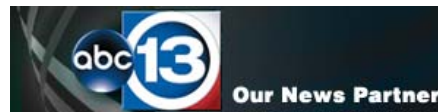
"You don't even want to know how many calories are in it," she said.

The cake sold quickly at auction for \$1,300. The winning bid was made by Cecil Bell Jr. who had combined funds with several other members of the community.

Bell said Damuth is an inspirational person in the community and when they heard she would be auctioning a cake they decided to put together a group to buy it.

"It's for a great cause so it wasn't hard to get together the money," he said.

The cake was later cut so it could be made available to anyone attending Depot Day that wanted a taste of the \$1,300 chocolate fudge cake.



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