

Yates Horn Collection Placed on Public Display

August 30, 2008 bestowed upon a lucky few the grand opening of the Yates Longhorn Museum at Lajitas, Texas. The Yates Horn Collection is now housed in the historic Lajitas Trading Post on the property of the Lajitas Resort and Spa. Around 200 invited guests were treated to the impressive horn display in the museum, a variety of foods and delicacies, and the appearance of one of Fayette Yates's older steers. It was mentioned that with the absence of the beer-drinking goat, Clay Henry III, Fayette's steer might very well become the "mayor" of Lajitas.



Rita Yates performed the ribbon cutting honors to begin the festivities, which officially opened the doors of the museum. She came with her daughter Lori White, and granddaughter Shealen.

John Galle and Frank and Louise Sharp were the CTRLR representatives that attended.



Kathy Hoadley, equestrian center staff member, with John Galle



Lori & Shealen Rita Yates Don McDowell Facilities Manager

Tony Gallego, our friend from Texas Parks & Wildlife Warnock Center, was also present. All were impressed and pleased with the time and effort

spent on the horn display.

A decorative “corral” was built around the full-body mounted steer, Tojo.



The horns and mounts were selected and placed in such a way – in several rooms and corridors – that the collection appeared to be much larger than it was in Fayette’s horn room. None of the exotic mounts Fayette had are in this collection. CTLR Member attendees were surprised to learn there still remained around 250 skulls and horns yet to be hung.



Facilities Manager, Don McDowell, described the museum and the Yates Collection as a “work in progress,” indicating there is still a lot to do before it is considered finished.

The owners of the Resort were there, as well as several professors, the Webb County Historical Society president, and many others that had an interest or connection to the history of the Big Bend area. The owners



all expressed an interest in keeping the Yates Horn Collection intact and working with the CTLR to preserve it and further our common goals.

John Galle said “I think Fayette would be pleased that his longhorns are not a quarter mile from where many of their ancestors crossed the river on many a moonless night into Texas to join Cap's growing herd. I can see Fayette laughing now.”