

A View Through History
With MCHM Director
Kyle Schiller Barrett

Milam Museum Offers Excellent Holiday Gift Ideas

With Christmas edging ever closer, the staff and volunteers of the Milam County Historical Museum would like to remind everyone of the excellent shopping opportunities that await patrons of the museum's gift shop. From items with historical significance to those that are just plain fun, the museum gift shop is loaded with many unique and educational gift options. Looking for a book, or a Christmas ornament, or perhaps a stuffed animal? These are only a few of the great gift ideas that can be found in our Main Museum location at 112 West First Street in downtown Cameron. Visitors to the County's Historical Headquarters will find the museum fully decorated for the Christmas Season.

The latest item to be on display is a beautifully unique Christmas ornament featuring the Old 1895 Milam County Jail Museum. This historic structure is a famous landmark in downtown Cameron, as it towers over the Little River Valley and is dwarfed only by the majestic Milam County Courthouse. This one of a kind Christmas ornament is a must have for any Milam County Native. The proud and iconic dark red brick jailhouse is pictured in full color on a dark garnet sphere. A description of the historic building is engraved on the back of each ornament. They are made from finely crafted materials, heirloom quality, and sure to be enjoyed by Milam County families for generations to come. These one-of-a-kind balls are a Limited Edition item, so get one for your Christmas Tree while they last. They also make great gifts for those who are proud of their Milam County heritage or who love the historic old treasured buildings of days gone by.

The museum gift shop also has many other Christmas treasures for sale, ranging from vintage style Old World Christmas Ornaments to spirited college themed ornaments perfect for that proud Aggie or Longhorn fan in your life. There are baby and children's gift ideas that range from stocking stuffers to cuddly stuffed animals and toys. For adults the shop offers several sizes of beverage glasses with Milam County emblems etched on them and even some hand-crafted items are displayed in the shop's cases. Currently, a few local artists have their artwork on display and the museum staff would be happy to offer information on those individuals that sell their work to the public. Pens from Milam County wood, handmade pottery, and needlework are only a few of the items that can be viewed at the MCHM, but purchased exclusively through the local artist themselves.

And then... we have The Books; so many informative books are for sale here everyday. The Milam Museum's gift shop is a book lover's paradise. Books can make a wonderful gift of education and enjoyment for many people. Or can be a fun read for those upcoming cold winter evenings. The MCHM gift shop has

books on local history and Texas History. A few titles of local interest include: "The History of Milam County Texas," "The History of the Milam County Jail," "Historic Bridges of Milam County," "Matchless Milam," and "The History of the Milam County Courthouse and Its People." As for books/gift ideas aimed at the Texas History enthusiast, the shop also has copies of "Ten Tall Texans" by former State Representative Dan Kubiak. Plus, a Texas Archeology Guide and books relating to El Camino Real are available for purchase while they last. Recorded CD's on local history featuring stories of Sheriff Carl Black as told by his son and Recollections of Cameron's Past by Gene Mitchan area also available. Lastly, there are many varieties of Milam County picture postcards that round out the list of the MCHM's gift shop inventory. Our museum is a non-profit organization and any donations to the museum or sales made at the gift shop go directly back into the museum's operations and our continued commitment to the preservation of our county's rich history.

The Milam County Historical Museum staff and board members would like to invite you to visit them during the "Shop Small Shop Local Saturday" on November 25, 2023. On this day, the Milam Museum's Gift Shop will be open from 10am to 4pm for your shopping convenience. All Christmas items and books will be specially priced and refreshments will be served for visitors and shoppers. We hope to see you there on Saturday, November 25. This "Shop Small Shop Local Saturday" event is being promoted by the Cameron Area Chamber of Commerce and the MCHM is a proud longtime member of the Chamber of Commerce.

Our museum staff is also proud to be working with our new neighbors next door. The highly anticipated Milam County Railroad Museum is now open for business in downtown Cameron, right next door to the Milam County Historical Museum on West First Street. Jamie Larson, Milam County Railroad Museum Director, gladly invites everyone to come see the Railroad Museum and Old Town Cameron Display in its new home. This museum will also be open on Saturday, November 25. The 1895 Historic Jail Museum and the Transportation Exhibit at Main and Fannin Streets in Cameron will also be open for tours beginning at 10am that day. However, all the museum locations will all be closed for Thanksgiving on November 23 and 24.

So be sure to "Shop Small Shop Local" this holiday season at the Milam County Historical Museum Gift Shop. We will be happy to assist you with your gift giving needs this Christmas. You know, there really is something for everyone to enjoy in beautiful and historic downtown Cameron, Texas. Also, be sure to visit the downtown area in the evening hours to enjoy the beautiful Christmas lights. Happy Thanksgiving!