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Audie Murphy/American Cotton Museum Quarterly Report – January – Mārch, 2020

During the months of January, February and March visitors to the Audie Murphy/American Cotton Museum came from 35 states. Internationally, our visitors came from Canada, France Australia, and Mexico. There was a total of 1,615 paid visitors to the Museum during this quarter. A total of 1,647 people signed the guest book during this quarter.

Group tours came from:

Adults	Discovery Village, Allen	(11)
Students	Christian Academy, Wylie	(15)
Students	Dodd City ISD, 2 nd gr	(20)
Adults	Corvette Club, Sulphur Springs	(20)

Our visitors spent 24 nights in local motels which included; Hampton Inn, Best Western, Holiday Inn, Quality Inn, Comfort Suites, Knights Inn, Super 8 and Motel 6.

I had the pleasure of introducing the Lunch Break Special Speakers for this quarter. In February Reverend Phillip Dukes and Anne Haynes spoke about growing up black in Greenville and in March Keith Barron did a presentation on Quanah Parker.

We had a great turnout during February's gun show with 724 people attending. For our movie nights we showed *Rock Around the Clock* starring the Bill Haley and the Comets and *Tarzan's Magic Fountain* starring Lex Barker. During this quarter we installed a new temporary exhibit of Native American artifacts from the Sweat and Lockhart families.

The Museum closed to the public beginning March 20th due to the Covid-19 virus. It will not be easy making it through this pandemic, especially since this would have been the beginning of our busy season at the museum. However, we are doing everything we can both financially and by keeping an active online presence. Financially, we have instituted salary cuts, cut spending as much as possible, started a GoFundMe Charity page and applied for both the Paycheck Program and the Economic Injury Disaster Loan although we have not heard anything back yet about those. Online, the museum has started a youtube channel where we are posting videos every week, we are posting regularly on our facebook page and the newspaper is putting in articles that we write about artifacts that are in the museum every week. While we had to cancel our Easter After Dark event the other events that we would have had in April and May we are postponing until later on in the summer and early fall.

We thank you for your continued support of the Audie Murphy/American Cotton Museum. Your support allows us to preserve Hunt County's rich history. If you have any questions please do not hesitate to give me a call at (903) 450-4502.

Respectfully Submitted,

Susan Lanning Executive Director Audie Murphy/American Cotton Museum

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