The board of trustees of the Chisholm Trail Heritage Museum began as a group of area citizens dedicated to the founding of, and perpetuation of, a museum to tell the story of South Central Texas' proud contribution to the twin legends of the Texas cowboy and the Longhorn. The oldest trail riders that could have told the tales of life along the Chisholm Trail have long since hung up their spurs. But the Museum's mission is to chronicle those formative years by focusing collections on the 50-year period beginning with Crockett Cardwell's now legendary cattle drive of 1866. Our Museum will make a significant cultural, social and educational contribution by interpreting the historical relevance of a story which begins right here in our community.

A New Journey
We as a board have begun our own journey, of making our mission a reality. On May 29, 2002, the board of trustees purchased the historic “Jewel Lodge” built by the Knights of Pythias in 1903. Designed by renowned San Antonio, Texas architect, James Wahrenberger, the lodge was built as a recreational, dining and meeting hall by the Knights of Pythias, a national fraternal charity organization, which was charted by Congress in 1864 to begin healing the wounds created by the Civil War.
The April 2003 issue of *American Cowboy Magazine*, included the Chisholm Trail Heritage Museum in its “Adventures West: The Official Western Travel Guide.” Acknowledging Texans and the rich history of its peoples’ connection with the land, Cathy Orr, an assistant editor of the magazine living in Buffalo, Wyoming, wrote of the long cattle drives to railheads in the north. “A tribute to the tenacity of Texans, the great cattle trails – the Shawnee, Western, Goodnight-Loving, and Chisholm – began as efforts to boost a dying cattle industry after the Civil War. That industry not only survived, but also thrived, and today, visitors still can wrap themselves up in the West – in the lives of real cowboys and ranchers and in places dedicated to carefully preserving their heritage.”

She continued, “Not the first but one of the greater-known cattle trails originating in Texas was the Chisholm. Although a bit congested by controversy over its namesake, the Chisholm looms large in the cattle drive drama. Still a work in progress, the Chisholm Trail Heritage Museum in Cuero has a mission to chronicle the Chisholm Trail’s formative years by focusing collections on a 50-year period beginning with Crockett Cardwell’s now legendary cattle drive of 1866. While its planned opening date is a few years off, Museum organizers have published the Trail’s marvelous history in a brochure.”

The section pertaining to Texas also included information about the Fort Worth Stockyards and the National Ranching Heritage Center in Lubbock.

**CTHM CHOSEN TO “HELP”**

In spring 2002, the Chisholm Trail Heritage Museum was chosen as one of 24 small and mid-sized museums to participate in a program created by ExhibitsUSA (based in Kansas City, Missouri) in partnership with the Texas Association of Museums, known as HELP.

Through supporting workshops and on-site professional consultations, participating institutions will further their museum skills in areas such as exhibit design, volunteer management, public programming, fundraising/grant writing, marketing and public relations. HELP is a program rooted in the premise that experiential or “on-the-job” learning offers the most effective means to receive and retain professional training. The belief is that technical assistance, offered in conjunction with a traveling exhibition experience, can address the particular needs of individual museums through immediate and practical application.

The Chisholm Trail Heritage Museum hosted a traveling exhibit, “Apron Strings: Ties to the Past,” from December 9 until January 6, 2003 in the Cuero Community Library reading room. Using aprons dating from the late 1930s through the present, the exhibition chronicled changing attitudes toward women and domestic work. It also surveyed the wide range of design and craft techniques apron-makers used to express themselves, while still working within creative venues traditionally available to women. Today, artists continue using aprons to explore cultural myths and realities as well as their individual experiences with American domesticity.

The HELP program is made possible through the combined vision and generosity of Houston Endowment, Inc., the Meadows Foundation, the Don & Sybil Harrington Foundation, and the Texas Commission on the Arts.

**MUSEUM RECEIVES KIMBELL ART MUSEUM CABINETS**

In late 2002, the Kimbell Art Museum in Fort Worth, Texas donated several dozen display cases to the Chisholm Trail Heritage Museum. The cases, which had been used in the Kimbell’s exhibit halls, are crafted with ash bases and vitrine (Plexiglas) tops. The cabinets are estimated to have a replacement value of over $30,000.00.

Larry Eubank, Operations Director of the Kimbell and responsible for the gift, commented, “We’re very happy to be of in-kind financial assistance to Cuero’s newly planned Chisholm Trail Heritage Museum.”

The Chisholm Board of Trustees took action in the early part of summer 2002 to purchase the Knights of Pythias building where the cabinets may be used in the upper floor of the building to display cowboy artifacts and other items relating to late 19th century ranching life.

**PRESERVATION ARCHITECT DAVID HOFFMAN IS SELECTED**

David Hoffman, a graduate of the University of Texas School of Architecture, was selected to provide restoration services for the 10,000 sq. ft. Knights of Pythias building purchased by the Museum Board of Trustees.

A renowned architect in the field of historic preservation, Hoffman’s work in the $5.5 million restoration project of the Victoria County Courthouse is what brought attention to his talent and style in preserving historic structures.

While still in architecture school at UT Austin, Hoffman distinguished himself early as the first recipient of the Texas Historic Resources Fellowship, for which he produced a historic architectural study of Roma, Texas. Since that time, Hoffman’s contribution to his chosen field is the restoration of more than 100 historic buildings throughout Texas.

A number of buildings he has restored are of national significance (National Historic Landmarks) and almost all others are listed on the National Register of Historic Places and/or are Registered Texas Historic Landmarks.
Preparations began in the fall of 2001 for the establishment of a membership support organization for the Museum. Our membership brochure, produced by Zeitgraph Visual Communications for Marketing/San Antonio, was awarded a Merit Citation at the Texas Association of Museum’s annual conference in Lubbock. Cuero State Bank very generously underwrote the brochure and the piece was introduced to the general public in January of 2002. Wells Fargo Bank pitched in to underwrite our attractive presentation folders. We’d like to extend our appreciation to all those who have come together in such strong support of the Museum this year—The Board of Directors

2002 Membership

$500— POINT MAN
Mrs. W. M. Allums, Shreveport
Mr. & Mrs. Robert Briggs, Victoria
Mr. & Mrs. Barry Copenhaver, Cuero
Mr. Paul Crozier, Austin
Dietze & Reese Law Firm, Mr. Errol John Dietze & Mr. Ray Reese, Cuero
Mr. & Mrs. Hershal Ferguson, Houston
Freud Funeral Home, Mr. & Mrs. Jay Bramlette, Cuero
Mr. & Mrs. Arlen Goebel, Cuero
Mr. & Mrs. Graham Hamilton, Cuero
Mr. & Mrs. Claude Jacobs, Jacobs Insurance
Mr. & Mrs. Don Kaspar, Shiner
Mr. Fred Pottinger, San Antonio
Ruschhaupt Plumbing, Mr. & Mrs. Glen Ruschhaupt, Cuero
First Capital Bank, Ms. Gerry Schroeder, Victoria
Mrs. Margaret Thomas, Cuero
Mr. & Mrs. Rob Williams & Marianne Vaughn, Victoria
Mr. & Mrs. Jim Witte, Yoakum

$250— SWING RIDER
Mr. & Mrs. Clement Alaniz
Mr. & Mrs. P.A. Albrecht, Goliad
Mr. & Mrs. William E. Albrecht, Sugarland
Mr. Jay Banning, Washington, D.C.
Mr. & Mrs. David Baros, Cuero
Mr. & Mrs. William Blackwell, Cuero
Dorothy Blackwell, Cuero
Mr. & Mrs. Finley Blackwell, Cuero
Mr. & Mrs. Lovell Blain, Cuero
Mr. Sam Burchers, Punta Gorda, FL.
Mr. Bobby Craft, Bulverde
Mr. Douglas Coe, Dallas
Dr. & Mrs. Gary Cox, Victoria
Mr. & Mrs. J. D. Davis, Cuero
Mr. Sid Duderstadt, Cuero
Mr. & Mrs. Blake Dunn, Cuero
Mr. Gary Dunnham, Mrs. Sharon Steen, Victoria
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Mr. & Mrs. Buzz Edge, Cuero
Mr. & Mrs. Jim Hedrick, Cuero
Ms. Claudia Hitchcock, New York, N.Y.
Mr. Bill Keece, Austin
Ms. Marjorie Miller Lassmann, Cuero
Ms. Gaye Gilster Lee, Victoria
Mr. & Mrs. Jamie Mann, Houston
Mr. & Mrs. Tim Matthews
Mr. & Mrs. Michael McLeod, Cuero
Mr. & Mrs. Milton McLeod, Houston
Mr. & Mrs. Billy Miller, Cuero
Mr. & Mrs. Dennis Mueller, Victoria
Mr. & Mrs. Alex Oliver, San Antonio
Ms. Cathy Phillips, Dallas
Mr. & Mrs. Nathan Post, Cuero
Mr. & Mrs. Darrell Rangnow, Katy
Mr. & Mrs. Robert Rotenberry, Cuero
Mr. & Mrs. Don Rice, League City
Mr. & Mrs. Bucky Sager, Cuero
Mr. & Mrs. Joe Sanders, Cuero
Mr. & Mrs. Ken Schumacher
Ms. Mary Sue Miller Sparks, Cuero
Mr. & Mrs. Carlyle Stakes, Cuero
Mr. & Mrs. Clint Stiles, Cuero
Mr. & Mrs. Don Stiles, Sr., Cuero
Texas Homestead Nursery
Mr. & Mrs. Wes Dukex, Cuero
Mr. & Mrs. Carver Richards, Cuero
Ms. Bibba Wilde, Cuero

$100— DRAG RIDER (FAMILY)
Alamo Lumber, Cuero
Mr. & Mrs. Albrecht, Goliad
Banner Rebar, Mr. & Mrs. Michael Benge, Denver, CO
Mr. & Mrs. Bill Braden, Cuero
Mr. & Mrs. Frank Burns, III, Cuero
Mr. & Mrs. Steve Canion, Yorktown
Mollie Carter (Andy), Cuero
Mr. & Mrs. Gil Chisholm, Yoakum
Mr. & Mrs. Jim Conrad, Cuero
Ms. Camilla Copenhaver, Cuero
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Dr. & Mrs. John Davis, Cuero
Mr. & Mrs. Chip Dence, Victoria
Ms. Marilyn Dietze, Cuero
Mr. & Mrs. Pat Dunn, Cuero
Mr. & Mrs. Clete Ernster, Cuero
Mr. & Mrs. Marvin Fox, Cuero
Adanal Ranch, Mr. & Mrs. Ken Gabbert, Gillett
Mr. & Mrs. Dan Glidden, Cuero
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Mr. & Mrs. Rick Gohmert, Cuero
Mr. Russ Goins, Los Angeles
Mr. & Mrs. J.W. Gossett, Cuero
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Mr. Irby Hightower, San Antonio
Mr. & Mrs. David Hoffman, Evant
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Mr. & Mrs. Blair James, Cuero
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Ms. Diana Keller, Austin
Mr. & Mrs. David Kleinecke, Cuero
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Mr. & Mrs. Tim Matthews
Mr. & Mrs. Michael McLeod, Cuero
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Mr. & Mrs. Billy Miller, Cuero
Mr. & Mrs. Dennis Mueller, Victoria
Mr. & Mrs. Alex Oliver, San Antonio
Ms. Cathy Phillips, Dallas
Mr. & Mrs. Nathan Post, Cuero
Mr. & Mrs. Darrell Rangnow, Katy
Mr. & Mrs. Robert Rotenberry, Cuero
Mr. & Mrs. Don Rice, League City
Mr. & Mrs. Bucky Sager, Cuero
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Ms. Mary Sue Miller Sparks, Cuero
Mr. & Mrs. Carlyle Stakes, Cuero
Mr. & Mrs. Clint Stiles, Cuero
Mr. & Mrs. Don Stiles, Sr., Cuero
Texas Homestead Nursery
Mr. & Mrs. Wes Dukex, Cuero
Mr. & Mrs. Carver Richards, Cuero
Ms. Bibba Wilde, Cuero

$50— WRANGLER
Mr. & Mrs. James Alcott, Salem, N.Y.
Mr. & Mrs. Joe Bear, Houston
Dr. & Mrs. Louis Boening Jr., Yoakum
Mrs. Camilla Copenhaver, Cuero
Ms. Sarah Jane Davidson, Houston
Mr. Guy Dolan, Houston
Ms. Gayle Dunivent, Brentwood, Ca.
Ms. Tyrrell Flawn, Washington, D.C.
Mr. Harold Ganshirt, Houston
Mr. Harold Hagemeier, Amarillo
Ms. Linda Henderson, Cuero
Mr. & Mrs. Roy Johnson, El Campo
Mr. & Mrs. Katzmack, Cuero
Mr. Olen Klump, Goliad
Ms. Karen Konicek, Grand Junction, Co.
Mr. & Mrs. Bob McCurdy, Cuero
Ms. Mary Katherine McCurdy, Cuero
Mr. Matt McCurdy, Cuero
Ms. Linda Moore, Cuero
Mr. Chris Pellegrino, Austin
Mr. Jim Pettus Jr., Goliad
Mr. & Mrs. Jack Plume, Yoakum
Ms. Le Olive Rogge, Victoria
Mr. & Mrs. Obert Sagebiel, Cuero
Mr. John Teinert, Austin
Mr. & Mrs. Bob McCurdy, Cuero
Ms. Barb Steen, Westhoff
Ms. Adair Sutherland, Goliad
Mr. James Waid, Montgomery, Alabama

$25— BUCKAROO (INDIVIDUAL)
Mrs. Joe Adams, Cuero
Mr. Ken Adams, Cuero
Mrs. Susan Adams, Cuero
Mrs. W. T. Bell, Cuero
Mr. Glen Blundell, Yoakum
Ms. Rosemary Bitterman
Mr. Charles Cusack, Cuero
Terrell Dahlmann
Double D Ranchwear
Mrs. Margie McMullen, Yoakum
Ms. Sharon Ernster, Cuero
Mr. Tim Ernster, Cuero
Mrs. W. E. Frazier (Baby), Rockport
Mr. Cliff Fromme, Goliad
Mr. Jim Garland, Salem, N.Y.
Mr. Jerry Grant, Cuero
Mrs. Gissy Grant, Cuero
“TASTE OF THE TRAIL” FUNDRAISER

Congratulations to our dedicated volunteers and organizers for an outstanding job on 2002’s “A Taste of the Trail.” We had wonderful community participation and support, and raised funds for several important phases for the development of the Chisholm Trail Heritage Museum. Oh, and did we mention we had a Texas-sized party?

The event, kicked off with a ceremonial cannon blast into the sunset, was held on a ranch near Cheapside (northwest of Cuero) and featured authentic chuck wagon cooking and cowboy entertainment, highlighted by singer and cowboy storyteller Red Steagall from Fort Worth, Texas.

The 500 guests attending the fundraiser were first treated to entertainment by the Arbuckle Boys, and also by Grady Lee & K. R. Woods, (known as the Fathers of Texas). Silent auction and refreshment tables were set among oak trees on a high ridge, with views to the sunset. Generous helpings of steak with all the sides and trimmings were provided by six chuck wagon cooking operations: Mickey Pillow (Goliad), J. Aubrey & Judy Lenamon (Victoria), Delbert & Shorty Castleman (Eagle Lake), Buck Reams Authentic Cowboy Cooking (Fort Worth), Glen Dorn (St. Hedwig), and Rusty Rankin’s Trail Blazing Chuckwagon (Mathis).

The live auction, which consisted of some nine auction items, helped to raise funds for the two next phases of museum development, a restoration master plan for the building and concept plan for the Museum’s story, which will be told primarily on the ground floor of the 10,000 sq. ft. former Knights of Pythias lodge.

Red Steagall, the highlighted entertainment of the evening, cast a spell over the seated crowd as he wove stories and songs of the great American West, cowboy life and life on the Texas range.

For more pictures, see TasteoftheTrail.com

Preservation Architect, continued

Currently, the Board of Trustees is working with Hoffman to provide the Museum with a restoration master plan, which will become a “road map” for building restoration. A Historical Narrative has been provided for the Knights of Pythias building which was constructed in 1903 and recently, with dialogue between board members, Hoffman has provided a Development Philosophy. Other components of his master plan will include Adaptive Use Feasibility, Phased Development ideas, and Cost Determinations. ✯

The Chisholm Trail Heritage Museum is dedicated to “collect, preserve, and archive historical documents, artifacts, memorabilia, and artistic and cultural materials both unique and historically relevant to the region of South Central Texas.”

The Chisholm Trail Heritage Museum is a 501(c)3 corporation.

ChisholmTrailMuseum.org