

THE CHISHOLM TRAIL HERITAGE MUSEUM

Grant and
Funding News:
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CUERO
TEXAS

R O U N D U P

SPRING
2005

EL CABALLO: THE HORSE IN MEXICAN FOLK ART



Papier-mâché horse and rider, part of a traveling exhibit to open in Cuero on March 3, 2005

Continuing its efforts to provide museum exhibits and programming to Cuero and the surrounding region, the Chisholm Trail Heritage Museum will host a traveling exhibition entitled, "El Caballo: The Horse in Mexican Folk Art."

EL CABALLO is comprised of objects from several genres of traditional Mexican folk art: metal, ceramics, paper, and wood. Some of these objects are created by an identifiable artisan, while others have been produced in a community of artisans, largely for local consumption and frequently for no cost. This exhibit is

meant to highlight the talented artists and broad variety of folk arts in Mexico.

Each object focuses on the horse, an animal that holds special prominence in Mexico. Since the introduction of the horse to Mexico by the Spanish, the horse and rider theme has been popular among Mexican folk artists; many of the heroes and saints of Mexico, including Zapata and Santiago, are portrayed on horseback. Today, with their long history as ranchers and cowboys, Mexicans rank among the best equestrians in the world.

Since the introduction of the horse to Mexico by the Spanish, the horse and rider theme has been popular among Mexican folk artists.

Board members **Candy Glidden** and **Sue Sulsar** have been working with HELP's third year consultant, **Kit Neumann**, in designing a local component to the exhibit *El Caballo* and plan to display a small collection of Mexican spurs. Ms. Neumann, a long-time staff member of the Texas Historical Commission has recently retired from her position as director of museum services for THC and is providing consultation in exhibit design for the HELP program.

El Caballo is provided to the Chisholm Trail Heritage Museum as their Year Three traveling exhibition by **ExhibitsUSA** in Kansas City, Missouri. The purpose of ExhibitsUSA is to create access to an array of arts and humanities exhibitions, nurture the development and understanding of diverse art forms and cultures, and encourage the expanding depth and breadth of cultural life in local communities. ExhibitsUSA is a national division of **Mid-America Arts Alliance**, a private, non-profit organization founded in 1972.

The **Texas HELP Program** is a four-year project specifically designed to assist small and midsize museums in Texas with professional development. HELP, a program of **Mid-America Arts Alliance** in partnership with the **Texas Association of**

Museums, is made possible through the combined vision and generosity of **The Brown Foundation, Inc. of Houston; The Don & Sybil Harrington Foundation; Houston Endowment, Inc.; The Meadows Foundation; the**

TWO PLANNING GRANTS AWARDED

Two planning grants, both providing vital funding for architectural planning, have been awarded to the museum for Phases I and II of our seven-phase restoration plan.

In August, the Chisholm Trail Heritage Museum (CTHM) was awarded a matching-fund grant in the amount of \$4,750 by the **National Trust for Historic Preservation's** regional office in Fort Worth. Following the support from the National Trust, the **Texas Historical Foundation** (THF) notified museum organizers in November that a grant in the amount of \$5,000 would be awarded for architectural planning and construction documents.

Phases I and II of the restoration master plan address the restoration of the wooden windows (located primarily on the second floor), door openings, masonry work and other improvements located on the East and South facades of the 10,000 sq. ft. former Knights of Pythias Hall. On the building's East façade, the overhead garage door will be removed and both a door and a window assembly will be restored in the original opening. Small brick finial details will be replaced on the building's parapet and the original copper

Knights of Pythias emblem will be replicated and placed in the center position on the parapet wall. Deteriorated mortar joints will be repaired and the entire masonry surface will be cleaned.

"With these start-up dollars, the Chisholm Trail Heritage Museum joins organizations nationwide committed to preserving America's architectural and cultural heritage and, in so doing, creating more livable communities," said **Richard Moe**, president of the National Trust for Historic Preservation. The National Trust grant was funded by a gift from the Fondren Foundation in Houston, which established the Fondren Endowed Preservation Fund for Texas. Grants ranging from \$500 to \$5,000 are awarded to non-profit groups and public agencies and must be matched dollar for dollar. The purpose of this fund is to assist in the preservation, restoration, and interpretation of historic structures.

The generous funding provided by the Texas Historical Foundation is the second planning grant awarded to the museum. Created by the Texas legislature in the summer of 1954, the Texas Historical Foundation has been at the forefront of saving many of Texas' most endangered shrines, artifacts, papers and other treasures that compose the material culture of Texas history.

In 1971, the Foundation began seeking worthy projects and exploring some of the critical needs in the preservation field, while also collaborating with state, regional and local historical groups in strengthening preservation endeavors. Funds from the THF were provided by the Jeanne R. Blocker Memorial Fund, established in 1990 and created for projects that address preservation in rural areas of Texas.

The CTHM's Board of Trustees continues to take assertive action toward historic preservation by providing a leadership role in saving a valuable piece of Texas' rich architectural history, and making it one of the key components of the institution's goals for serving Cuero and the surrounding area. These planning grants for Phases I and II illustrate that recognition on both the state and national level has been obtained for the project. Museum board members are deeply grateful to these organizations for providing financial support for the proposed Chisholm Trail Heritage Museum.

Additional information regarding preservation activities of these organizations can be found on the internet at: www.nationaltrust.org and www.texas-historicalfoundation.org. ✧

CHISHOLM TRAIL HERITAGE MUSEUM, INC.

2004 MEMORIAL CONTRIBUTIONS

John T. Steen

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Jeff Steen

2004 HONORARIUM**Robert Oliver**

Mike & Tempie McLeod

CHISHOLM RECEIVES FED FUNDS

IN A MILESTONE ACHIEVEMENT FOR THE CTHM, THE EDA AWARDS THE MUSEUM FUNDING ASSISTANCE FOR \$30,000 TOWARDS PROJECT COSTS, AND PAVES THE WAY FOR FUTURE GRANTS.

The Economic Development Administration (a federal agency within the Department of Commerce) recently awarded funding assistance for a Chisholm Trail Heritage Museum Sustainability Feasibility Study.

The study, proposed in the form of a "pre-application" to the EDA's regional office in Austin, was "evaluated and, based on its merit and competitiveness... approved for approximately \$30,000 of EDA funds, or 50% of the total project cost."

A STEPPING STONE TO PROGRESS

The EDA, like many federal agencies, uses a pre-application process to cull projects that the agency determines unsatisfactory for further consideration. Once a pre-application is approved, the applicant is invited to submit a full proposal for EDA funding. The planned Sustainability Feasibility Study will develop long-term strategies for the sustainability of the CTHM facility by full integration of its mission and activities with that of the community. Due February 18, 2005, the museum will

submit a formal application for project funding available through the EDA's "Public Works and Economic Development Facilities 2005 Technical Assistance Program."

CUERO NAMED A "PRESERVE AMERICA COMMUNITY" IN 2004

It should be noted that this funding opportunity was made possible due to Cuero's selection as a Preserve America Community in early 2004. Preserve America is a White House initiative designed "to encourage and support community efforts for the preservation and enjoyment of America's priceless cultural and natural heritage." The goals of the initiative include: "A greater shared knowledge about the Nation's past; strengthened regional identities and local pride; increased local participation in preserving the country's cultural and natural heritage assets; and support for the economic vitality of communities."

CTHM QUALIFIES FOR FEDERAL FUNDING THROUGH EDA

By receiving this designation, funding became available through the Department of Commerce and EDA's "Public Works and Economic

Development Facilities Assistance Program." While guidelines for applicants are specific, the criteria under which the CTHM applied for funding states, "the EDA will provide Public Works investments to support construction or rehabilitation of essential public infrastructure... and heritage preservation development investments such as those supported by the Preserve America Initiative."

LEGISLATOR SUPPORT

Both U.S. Senators **Kay Bailey Hutchison** and **John Cornyn** provided written support of the new museum project, while DeWitt County's new Congressional representative, **Ruben Hinojosa** took closer personal attention to the museum's pre-application to the EDA. A firm supporter of economic development projects that fall within U.S. District 15, Congressman Hinojosa supported the application through the evaluation process until it became clear of acceptance by the EDA regional office in Austin. ✧

*Support the Museum!
Use the enclosed envelope
to join today!*

El Caballo, continued

Texas Commission on the Arts; and the Institute of Museum and Library Services, a federal agency that fosters "innovation, leadership, and a lifetime of learning." ✧

Beginning March 3rd, CTHM will present "El Caballo: The Horse in Mexican Folk Art" in the lobby of Cuero State Bank—our third traveling exhibit since being selected to participate in the Texas HELP program in the fall of 2002.





SECOND BIENNIAL FUNDRAISER: MUSIC, FOOD, AND FUN FOR SIX HUNDRED!

TASTE OF THE TRAIL II A HUGE SUCCESS

Imagine 600 of your closest friends coming by for a nice steak dinner in the back yard. Then you'd be in the shoes of Taste of the Trail II hosts **David & Diana Burrow**. The Burrows welcomed chuck wagon chefs, entertainers, and a capacity crowd of Museum supporters to their beautiful ranch home in Hochheim – the aptly named “Eatwell Farm” – on November 13, 2004.

While intermittent brisk winds kept the crowds a bit chilly, a long list of entertainers were on hand to keep toes tapping and the heat of the excitement up: Music by the **Arbuckle Boys** greeted attendees (valet services were provided by the young people of **Gonzales High School Project Graduation**) as guests entered a large courtyard. Museum board members worked the crowd, selling chances to win a three-night trip to the exclusive **Cibolo Creek Ranch** located in the Big Bend region of West Texas. Artisans and entertainers at work included **Brent Gorman**, Houston; **James Koranek**, Cuero; **Olen Klump**, Goliad; **Rick McComber**, George West; **Hoppy Hopkins**, Fredericksburg and **Kevin Fitzpatrick**, Bandera.

David Hoffman, preservation architect, was present to answer questions regarding the seven-phase plan to restore the Museum's future home, the Knights of Pythias building. Meanwhile, **Chris Frison** of **The Douglas Group** (Houston) manned a PowerPoint presentation of the proposed layout of the permanent exhibits planned for the ground floor of the Chisholm Trail Heritage Museum.

The air was unmistakably filled with the outdoor aromas of chuck wagon cooking – a familiar smell during those legendary days when chuck wagons were a part of cowboys and their herds being driven “up the trail.” Several of the chuck wagon owners were returning caterers, happy to see familiar faces

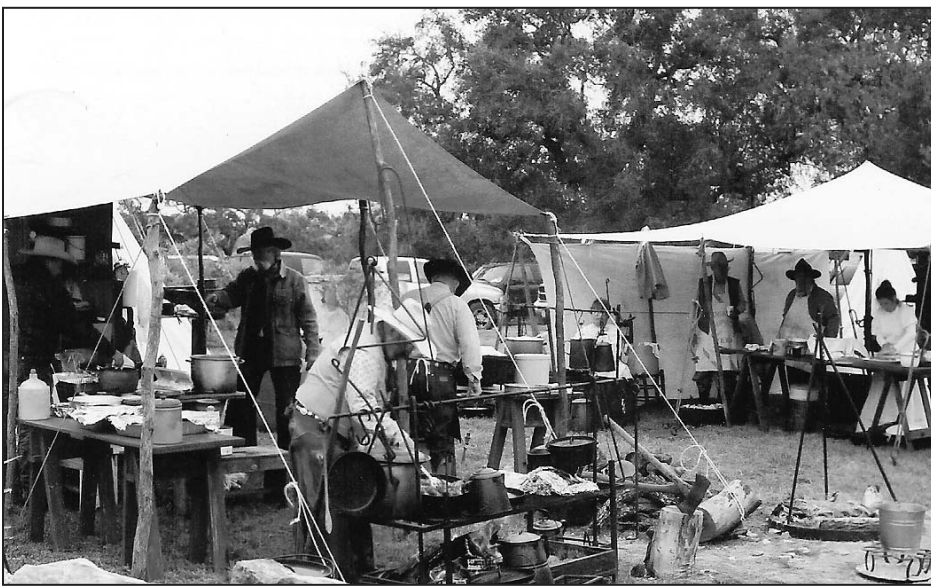
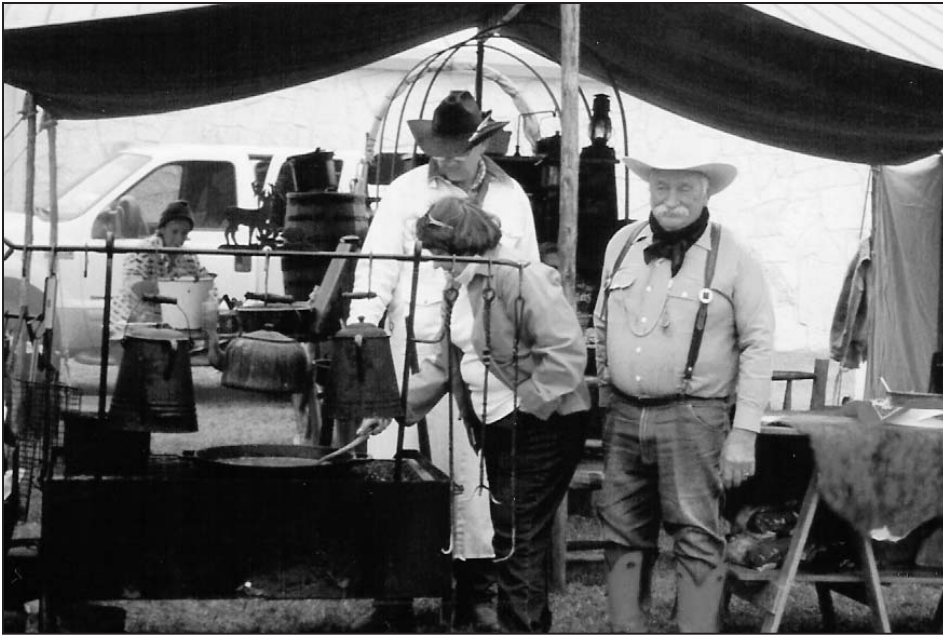


Vintage postcard from the Taste of the Trail II invitation

from the debut Taste of the Trail fundraiser two years prior. Chuck wagon caterers included: **Delbert & Shorty Castleman**, Eagle Lake; **J. Aubrey & Judy Lenamon**, Victoria; **Glenn Dorn**, St. Hedwig; **Rusty Rankin**, Mathis; **Eddie Eppler**, Navasota, and Cuero's own **Thomas Watson**. Dinner steaks were generously donated by **Dr. Charles Graham** and **Mr. Jay Gray** of **Graham Land & Cattle Company** of Gonzales.

There's never a dull auction with **Joe Adams** as auctioneer as he drew bids for items ranging from **pasture golf, fishing trips, fine art, a romantic trip to Austin for two, spurs, a deer antler mirror, a live longhorn, a mesquite longhorn sculpture, and dinner for eight.**

Music by the **Michael Ballew Band** of Austin kept the crowd two-steppin' through the conclusion of the evening, where you could find **Helen Walker** and her two co-chairs, **Sue Sulsar** and **Patsy Goebel**, exhausted to the bone, yet thrilled to the gills for the record-setting proceeds that **Taste of the Trail II** generated for future development of the Chisholm Trail Heritage Museum. ✧



*Cowboys never had it so good!
Scenes from the Taste of the
Trail II at Eatwell Farm, the
most aptly named ranch home
in these parts!*

2004 MEMBERSHIP

*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*

\$500 POINT MAN

William & Franke Albrecht
David & Diana Burrow
Barry & Judy Copenhaver
Chip & Mary Cox
Errol John & Shirley Dietze
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Pat & Karyn Elder
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& John Teinert
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Longhorn Ranch Restaurant
Sign-FX
Texas Homestead Nursery

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Robert & Angie Briggs
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Linda D. Schibi
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\$25 BUCKAROO (INDIVIDUAL)

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CHISHOLM TRAIL HERITAGE MUSEUM
Box 866
CUERO TX 77954

SUPPORT THE CHISHOLM TRAIL HERITAGE MUSEUM

Your membership dues and gifts are tax deductible. Membership dues support our building capital campaign and the Museum's programs and operations.

Dues levels are:

*\$500, \$250, \$100 business,
\$100 family, \$50, and \$25*

Checks are payable to:

The Chisholm Trail Heritage Museum
Box 866, Cuero, Texas 77954