H-E-B Grocery Company, who recently celebrated their 100th anniversary as a leading grocer and retailer, has donated $100,000 to the Chisholm Trail Heritage Museum.

In a recent ceremony at the Museum, H-E-B representatives Shelley Parks, public affairs manager from Corpus Christi and Mike Martignoni, Cuero store manager, presented a $100,000 check to Robert Oliver, chairman of the Museum’s board of directors.

“H-E-B’s generosity will allow us to continue to strive toward our ultimate goal of providing a first class facility for Cuero, DeWitt County, and the rest of the region,” said Oliver.

Parks applauded the museum's goals. “When we were approached about the concept, what really got our attention was the planned use of the second floor for educational aspects,” she said.

In addition to the museum displays and exhibits on the ground floor, plans are for the second floor to be available for traveling exhibits, lectures and educational programs, explained Oliver. “It can also be used as a small conference center.”

The museum building is the former Knights of Pythias Lodge, c. 1903, in the 300 block of North Esplanade. Since initial renovations, the building has already hosted meetings, receptions, parties, and other special events on the spacious ground floor.

Parks added that the donation from H-E-B was generated by two years of fundraising at the company's annual corporate golf tournament, the H-E-B Tournament of Champions. “There are certain criteria that must be met to use funds from this fundraiser. Being related to education is one of those criteria,” explained Parks.

Oliver praised H-E-B's commitment: “Charles Butt (H-E-B Chairman and CEO) has a very fine reputation in the state of Texas for supporting Texas history, restoration, and historic preservation projects. We believed H-E-B would be a likely candidate to support the Chisholm Trail Heritage Museum project,” said Oliver.

“This gift is a real boost to our efforts,” Oliver continued. “There are even greater opportunities available to us through challenge grants, so we will use this $100,000 gift and other money we’ve raised through our ongoing Capital Campaign to meet those matching fund requirements.”

reported by Sonny Long, Victoria Advocate

The Chisholm Trail Heritage Museum announced in the Spring 2006 newsletter that new and renewing Museum memberships for the year 2006 and beyond will be for the calendar year. Using a calendar year system for new and renewal memberships simplifies membership accounting and administration.

In the past, all memberships purchased on a given date did not renew until one year from that date. With this change, memberships purchased in 2006 expired on December 31, 2006.

As the Museum continues to grow and develop, membership contributions are a critical source of financial support. Just as important, Museum memberships demonstrate the support of the community for the Museum project, as we continue to solicit funding from other sources.

Thornton Reminds You:
It's Time to Rejoin the Herd!

Complete the enclosed membership envelope and mail with your payment to be included in the 2007 CTHM Membership List.

 Thornton? That's Thornton, our mascot Longhorn steer. Thornton enjoys retired life and grazes at the Crozier Ranch, looked after by Lovel Blain and the Crozier family.
Development Continues with Interpretive Concept Plan

Regional historians and museum board members met on Saturday, January 27th to continue development of the museum's Interpretive Concept Plan – the story that will ultimately become the backbone of the Chisholm Trail Heritage Museum's permanent display and artifacts. Bruce Shackelford, Texas historian and museum consultant, led the participants through the second phase of the four-phase process of developing the display material, which will be exhibited on the ground floor of the museum once building rehabilitation and exhibit materials have been completed.

Over the past several years, the museum board has also been seeking and purchasing select artifacts which will assist in telling the story of late 19th century ranch life in South Central Texas. For example, holsters made by R.C. Flick of Cuero and j. t. Mathieu of Gonzales (1870s – 80s); a “road brand” used by Cuero rancher J.T. Wofford to mark cattle driven up the Chisholm Trail; and 19th century Texas furniture and other items have been either accepted as donations or purchased for the permanent collection of the CTHM.

Interestingly, the J. Stratton saddle (c. early 1880s) was purchased at auction in Baltimore before an Austin collector purchased the saddle and, in turn, sold it to representatives of the Museum.

The permanent collection of documents, artworks, and artifacts will support the story narrative of the Interpretive Concept Plan, bringing the Museum's message together.

About Historian Bruce Shackelford
Shackelford's leadership in the museum's Interpretive Concept Plan has provided expert planning for exhibit content and development; plus, exhibit production, lighting, proper archival presentation and mounting procedures. Over the past several years, Shackelford has served as content consultant for Frontier Texas! in Abilene, curator of the national touring exhibit, Thundering Hooves: Five Centuries of Horse Power in the American West, guest curator for the Avery Collection at the McNay Art Museum in San Antonio and most recently, as guest curator for A Wild and Vivid Land, Stories of South Texas, at the Witte Museum in San Antonio.

“Don't Fence Me In:” Lonn Taylor Workshop Set Foundation for Current Concept Planning

The process for developing the Interpretive Concept Plan began earlier last year with the leadership of noted Texas historian and retired Smithsonian curator, Lonn Taylor. Taylor explained, “The most difficult part of creating an exhibit is crafting the one-sentence concept statement that will determine what the exhibit is about.” Condensing a full day’s worth of ideas by the 20-plus participants, the Taylor workshop yielded the key idea statement: “Don't Fence Me In, and Other Life Lessons: How Fortitude, Ingenuity and Skill Created a Thriving Ranching and Cattle Industry in the Guadalupe River Valley in the latter half of the 19th century, and how those qualities are still deeply ingrained in that region's heritage.”

Dallas-based Summerlee Foundation generously granted the CTHM $7,500 towards the development of the Interpretive Concept Plan. The Summerlee Foundation, which supports research and educational projects in the history of Texas, is a strong advocate of collaborative projects between historical organizations.

In addition to the funding received from the Summerlee Foundation, Humanities Texas, a state agency partnering with the National Endowment for the Humanities, granted matching funds, also in the amount of $7,500, from a federal grant program, We the People.

Over the past five years, the CTHM has collaborated with the Cuero Heritage Museum, Cuero Cultural & Heritage Foundation and Cuero Chamber of Commerce to bring traveling exhibits and other cultural and educational programming...
A PROFILE IN PIONEER SPIRIT

One of the gifts of studying early Texas history is learning about the pioneer individuals who came before us. It is a rare opportunity indeed when we can recognize a pioneer in our midst—a person whose fortitude and wisdom is rooted in the traditions of the past, who is a leader in the preservation of our local history.

Early Life: A Woman of Purpose
The person I am referring to is Mrs. Carter Thomas. Born as Anne Friar to Alfred and Anna Nagel Friar, Anne grew up in her grandparent’s (Sidney Friar) home on the historic Friar ranch several miles east of Cuero. Schooled in Virginia and Texas, she worked briefly in Washington, D.C. for the Home Economics Department for the U.S. Department of Agriculture, an appropriate job for a young Texas woman whose ancestors helped to settle DeWitt County as ranchers and farmers in 1835. Through fate or good fortune, Anne met a North Carolinian, Carter Thomas, while working in Washington. The couple wed in 1938, and after having one child, Margaret, they returned to Cuero for the remainder of their lives.

Love of the land runs deep through Anne’s blood. She has devotedly cared for her family’s ranching and agricultural legacy and actively supported her husband in his business of breeding fine Brahman cattle. Anne served as secretary when Carter served as president of the South Texas Brahman Association. The couple was also active in the American Brahman Breeders Association and the Texas Brahman Association and since Carter’s death in 1986, Anne has continued her membership in these organizations.

Deep Roots in Ranching
Anne was born of pioneering stock reaching back to a period in Texas history when this area was being settled by empresarios and simple, God-fearing immigrants. Anne’s great, great, great grandfather, Daniel Boone Friar, was an early Texas settler who built a house in the 1840’s on the La Grange-La Bahia Road. This structure eventually served as a home, store, stage stop, post office, public hall, tavern and general community center.

Community Involvement
To honor Daniel and other ancestors, Anne and her family built the Friar Ag-Center in 1983, a facility that also honors the family’s continuing love of the land. The Center sits in Cuero City Park, and is repeatedly utilized by 4-H and FAA organizations. Each spring, it hosts the Cuero Livestock Show, drawing entries from a wide radius around Cuero.

A Leader in Local Heritage
So it’s really quite understandable that a philanthropist with such a distinguished family history would also be interested in establishing a museum to chronicle this region’s contributions to 19th century ranching history. In January 2000, Anne was part of an exploratory group of about 12 interested citizens who discussed the merit and potential of preserving the history associated with the Chisholm Trail era, along with the rich ranching and agricultural culture of this region of Texas. Many of those individuals subsequently served as founding board members of the Chisholm Trail Heritage Museum, including Mrs. Thomas (as this writer prefers to call her), who currently serves as Director Emeritus.

Even more importantly, after several years of discussions about the development of the new museum institution, Anne led the way and provided the first monetary gift for the purchase of the historic Knights of Pythias Hall. In doing so, Anne acted as an important catalyst for the successful campaign to acquire this new home for the Chisholm Trail Heritage Museum. Once again, Anne proved that it takes more than talk to accomplish ambitious goals; it takes someone with a pioneering spirit to roll up her sleeves and lead by example.

Women like Anne have helped to create the legendary reputation of Texas women as proud, smart, hard-working and successful in giant endeavors. Anne continues to bless us with her unique Texas spirit and unstoppable determination to establish the Chisholm Trail Heritage Museum. For these and many other reasons, we gratefully acknowledge our indebtedness to Anne Friar Thomas for her vision, her leadership, and her generosity. — Robert Oliver
Taste of the Trail III
at the Home of Kathy and Milton McLeod
November 11, 2006

Once again, the Taste of the Trail brought our community together to support the Museum’s fundraising efforts in fine style. Rev. Toby Brown, of Cuero Presbyterian Church, blessed the proceedings, and Chisholm Trail Heritage Museum Board of Directors Chairman Robert Oliver welcomed partygoers. Word of Mouth Catering of Austin prepared a bountiful dinner buffet spread, setting the party mood for the Live Auction proceedings and fueling some energetic boot scootin’ to Louis Crapitto and the Cowboy Jazz Band.

If we haven’t said it enough: Thank You!

Thanks go to our dedicated and hardworking Steering Committee Volunteers and Co-Chairs Diana Burrow, Sue Sulsar, and Helen Walker.

Thanks also to these fine organizations:
DeWitt County Sheriff’s Department
Jode Zavesky, Sheriff
EMS Ambulance Service of the Cuero Community Hospital
Class of 2007, Cuero High School Project Graduation
Cannon Crew:
Charlie Yates & George Rollo
Energy Waste

Taste of the Trail III Party-goers:
1 Margie & Billy Bell
2 Shay & Mark Iacoponelli
3 Dr. & Mrs. William Allums, Ashley & Jesse Bullard
4 Sally & Jim Easterling and daughter Whitney
5 Anne Rice and Bubba Steen
6 Joyce Brom and Sara Hopkins
7 Jeannie & Warren Seidel
8 Leon Morales, Chris Pellegrino, Angie Briggs, and Jim Herbst
9 John Woford, Rene Mueller, Phil Mueller, and Ilene Gohmert

Boot Scooter: Mr. Errol John Dietze
photos courtesy Pam Anderson and John Cain
### 2006 Membership List

#### $500.00 POINT MAN
- William & Franke Albrecht
- Travis & Peggy Basham
- Chip & Mary Cox
- Paul & Jill Crozier
- Temple & Kathy Dickson
- Errol John & Shirley Dietze
- Mrs. Lem Duderstadt
- Freund Funeral Home, Inc.
- Lester & Burdine Giese
- Dan & Candy Glliden
- Ilena Gollert
- Mr. & Mrs. Greg Gessett
  (Allied Feeds)
- Mr. & Mrs. Paul Guthrie
- Paul and Cindy Holcomb
- Allan & Neva Irwin
- Susan Peck Massey
- Robert Oliver
- Fred Pottinger
- Darnell & Carol Rangnow
- Shannan & Gay Ratliff
- Bill & Katherine Reilly
- Ken & Mary Sample
- Linda D. Schibi
- Ron and Kay Walker
- Weber Motor Company

#### $250.00 SWING RIDER
- Margaret M. Allums
  (Apache Title)
- David & Debra Baros
- Sidney I. Barfield
- Bill & Margie Bell
- John & Suzanne Bell
- Bill & Nancy Blackwell
- Lovel & Avis Ann Blain
- Dr. & Mrs. Louis Boening
- Jimmy & Betty Ann Borchers
- Keith W. Boxx
- David & Mignon Brown
- Mark & Bonnie Brown
- Frank & Martha Burns
- Paddy & Bettye Burwell
- John & Anne Cain
- Louis & Mollie Carter
- Paul & Cathy Celauro
- Jackie & Yvonne Childs
- Charles E. Cole, III
- Barry & Judy Copenhagen
- Charles E. Cusack, Jr.
- John & Emily Davis
- Gail Dino
- Sid Duderstadt
- Wes & Sandy Dukes
- Blake & Kathy Dunn
- Donald & Betty Jo EldredGE
- Pat & Karyn Elder
- Hershal & Trudy Ferguson
- William & Mary Beth Finney
- Walter & Judy Fisher
- Meredith B. Fischer
- Bobby & Patsy Goebel
- Ricky & Lindy Goehrt
- Mr. & Mrs. J. P. Green
- Pat & Patricia Hedgcoxne
- Skip & Terry Henkel
- Dr. James R. Herbst II
- John & Carol Hildebrand
- David & Binnie Hoffman
- Paul & Cindy Holcomb
- Jaqueline Hyden
- Chuck & Roseann Jacob
- Kevin & Mary Keating
- Kirk & Polly Laging
- Gaye Gilster Lee
- Henry & Kathleen Ludeke
- Jamie & Shannon Mann
- Tommy & Margie Mayfield
- Judy A. Mcaha
- Bob & Mary McCurdy
- Dr. & Mrs. Mack McKinney
- Mike & Tempi McLeod
- Billy & Linda Miller
- Denis & Sheryl Mueller
- Gale & Gay Oliver
- Will Oliver
- Randy & Rhonda Pakebusch
- Charles & Jaque Papacek
- Tim & Ann Pennell
- Chris Pelligrino & John Teinder
- Nathan & Suzie Post
- Dr. and Mrs. James Prigden
- John & Agatha Quita
- Erwin & Annette Rath
- Joe & Wanda Reuss
- Robert & Kerry Rhotenberry
- Mr. & Mrs. Carver Richards
- Glenn & Linda Ruschhaupt
- Bucky & Dee Sager
- Joe & Gayle Sanders
- Joe & Rosemary Sheppard
- Robert & Helen Shook
- Tod & Lonna Slone
- David & Mary Sue Sparks
- Lias “Bubba” Steen
- Sharon Steen & Gary Dunnam
- Jerry & Judy Stevenson
- Don Stiles, Sr.

#### $100.00 DRAG RIDER
- Curtis & Betty Jo Afflerbach
- Mrs. W. D. Albrecht
- Ted & Frances Aven
- Joe & Peggy Bear
- Michael & Debra Benge
- Bill Braden
- Robert & Angie Briggs
- J. Gandolf Burrus
- John & Anne Cain
- Louis A. Carter
- James & Mary Claughton
- James & Judy Evans
- William C. Foster
- Doris Freer
- Russ Goins
- James & Ann Hedrick
- Tommy Honeycutt
- Mrs. Blair James
- Roy & Selda Johnson
- Steve Klahn
- Joe Loiacono
- Tim & Sylvia Matthews
- Lewis & Charlotte McFadin
- Jimmie & Sue McMahan
- Alton & Sara Meyer
- Charles & Jean Nagel
- Morgan Dunn O’Connor
- Mickey & Gwen Pillow
- Dorothy B. Ploeger
- Henry & Jean Ann Sheppard
- Sue Sulsar
- Anne Friar Thomas
- Bruce Wiggs & Patrick Kurtz

#### $100.00 CRICKETT CARDWELL STORE
- The Garden Path Nursery
- Wagon’s Hardware
- Gram’s Attic
- Weldon Ranches

#### Capital Campaign
- Fred Hansen
- W. Grant and Lisa Hansen Braly
- Gale and Frances Hamilton Oliver
- Robert Oliver
- Alex and Nancé Oliver

#### Honorary Gifts
- Ellyce Morgan Hansen
- W. Grant and Lisa Hansen Braly
- Ron and Kay Walker
- John and Cynthia Adkins

#### $500.00 Wrangler
- Charles & Mary Katherine Borchers
- Chris & Teri Chambers
- Jim & Margaret Conrad
- Terrell W. Dahlman
- Clete & Kathleen Ernest
- Mr. & Mrs. W. E. Frazier
- C. J. Garland & Richard J. Parks
- Arlen & Sally Goebel
- Sara Hopkins
- Floyd & Tommie Howerton
- David & Kristen Jesualtis
- Le Olive Rogge
- Rip & Tracy Rutherford
- Juliane F. Speer
- Rayelynn Speer
- Jo Betsy Vaught
- Carlos & Tricia Verastegui
- Ruth Weathers
- Robert Webb

#### $25.00 Buckaroo
- James A. Alcott
- Carroll J. Brinefield
- Judy Easley
- J. W. Grant
- Jamie Hancock
- Bonnie Chisholm Helten
- Linda Henderson
- Darden Jacob
- Patrick H. Keefe, Jr.
- Peggy Ledbetter
- Mary Katherine McCurdy
- Matthew McCurdy
- Iris Morrow
- Jo R. Plume
- Clara Prater
- Ben E. Prase
- Zenna Snowden
- J. F. Speer
- Helen L. Willingham
- F. W. Wilson

### Join or renew your membership for 2007 using the enclosed membership envelope.
For a second time in as many years, the Texas Historical Foundation has awarded the Chisholm Trail Heritage Museum a grant which provides funding for architectural planning.

The $5,000 grant was awarded for the creation of construction documents necessary to implement Phases III and IV of the organization’s seven-phase master plan for restoring the historic Knights of Pythias Hall, developed by preservation architect David Hoffman.

Complete rehabilitation of the Hall, one of Cuero’s historic “jewels” located in the 300 block of North Esplanade, is the goal of the organization’s board of directors. Phases III and IV follow the work accomplished in two previous phases and includes: the construction of a two-story annex on the north lot adjacent to the historic structure, and restoration of the West (rear) façade of the building. The 3000 SF annex will accommodate handicapped-accessible restroom facilities on both floors and an elevator which will serve the existing building.

Restoration of the rear façade of the historic building will continue with construction funding generously provided by the Cuero Development Corporation and Visionaries in Preservation, Cuero program. The Texas Historical Foundation grant for architectural planning is derived from the Foundation’s Jeanne Blocker Memorial Fund — a fund established for preservation in rural Texas communities.

Created by the Texas legislature in 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.

MISSION STATEMENT
The Chisholm Trail Heritage Museum’s mission is to preserve the ranching and Western culture of South Central Texas through interpretive exhibits, research, and educational programs.

The CTHM is a 501(c)(3) corporation.

www.chisholmtrailmuseum.org