Wagons, ho! More than a decade since its grassroots beginnings, the Chisholm Trail Heritage Museum will formally open its doors to the public this fall. We will welcome the first visitors to our ground floor exhibit area, which explores the Ranching Heritage of the Guadalupe River Valley. From the early roots of ranching in Texas and the Americas, to the great cattle drives of the late 1800s, and on into the sunset of the trail drive era – our walk-through storytelling environment takes you to the heart of the cowboy experience. Carefully curated to preserve true authenticity, our exhibit takes you behind the Hollywood myth – up close and personal with the real cowboys, and the cattle rustlers, lawmen, and cranky camp cooks that kept life on the trail mighty interesting indeed. So, saddle up, pardners! This herd is movin’ out!

Former Texas Governor Mark White to speak at Grand Opening Ceremony
Ranching Heritage of the Guadalupe Valley

The Stars Along the Rawhide Trail Theater:
Pull up a buckboard for an original film about life on the trail, in the cowboys’ own words.
Underwritten by Katherine & Bill Reilly in memory of Joseph L. and William S. Dubose

The Cowboy’s Legacy
Hear first-hand how local spur makers, saddle makers, and ranchers keep cowboy tradition alive.
Available for underwriting

Tell Us Your Story!
Share your family connection to local history.

Ranches of the region map
“Don’t Fence Me In!”
The life of the working cowboy, from the days of the open range to the era of fenced pasture lands
Underwritten by Jean B. Duderstadt, Sid Duderstadt, and Nancy & Bill Blackwell in honor of Jean B. Duderstadt

The Sutton-Taylor War, 1866 – 1876
Cattle rustlers, outlaws, and lawmen in a deadly local feud – some called it a “slow civil war.”
Underwritten by The Family of Patricia Blackwell Hedgcoxe

The Trail Drive
Underwritten by Sid Duderstadt, Jean B. Duderstadt, and Nancy & Bill Blackwell

Chuck Wagon
Authentic in every detail, from the buckboard to the coffee tins – a full size replica puts you right by the evening campfire with the cowpokes. Pass the biscuits, pardner!

Ranching in the Guadalupe River Valley, 1865 – 1890
Underwritten by Susan Wallis and Family

Turning Grass Into Beef
Abundant native grasses and the well-adapted Longhorn cow formed the basis of ranching in the region.
Underwritten by Susan Wallis and Family

Two Ranching Traditions
How the American cowboy evolved from Southern and South American traditions.
Available for underwriting

Horsemen of the Americas – Tinker Collection
Available for underwriting

Distinct styles and customs evolved around horsemanship in the Americas, as shown by the exquisitely crafted spurs, saddles, and silver objects in the collection.

The chuck wagon: home of the original tailgate party!

Saddle Up! English or Western?
Climb aboard and experience the difference for yourself!

The Museum acknowledges the key contributions of guest curator Lonn Taylor, and Drew Patterson and Pony Allen, exhibit designers. Thank you each for your expert guidance in telling our story with such depth and vivid imagination.

2011-2013 Capital Campaign Contributors

Turning Grass Into Beef
Available for underwriting

Horsemen of the Americas – Tinker Collection
Available for underwriting

Horsemen of the Americas – Tinker Collection is on permanent loan from the University of Texas at Austin.
Grand Opening Festivities

**Saturday, November 23**

9:00 Museum grounds open for visitors to enjoy light fare from chuck wagons prior to dedication ceremony, generously provided by long-time supporters of the Museum – Jean & Charles Nagel, Joe Adams and Thomas Watson

10:00 All rise, and cowboys doff your hats for the trooping of the colors, the national Pledge of Allegiance and Texas Pledge of Allegiance, and benediction.

Board Chairman Robert Oliver and Advisory Board Member Gay Ratliff will welcome distinguished guests to the podium, including DeWitt County Judge Daryl Fowler and Cuero Mayor Sara Meyer.

Bobbie Greene McCarthy: Representing the historic preservation community, Ms. McCarthy will say a few words preceding our keynote speaker.

**Keynote Address:**

**Former Governor of Texas, the Honorable Mark White**

11:00 Food and fun on the Museum grounds

11:30 Tours of Museum exhibit space begin

Ranching Heritage of the Guadalupe River Valley – A Sneak Preview!

The Chisholm Trail Heritage Museum invites you to go behind the Hollywood myth and get to know the real cowboys – of the Wild West, and of Mexico and South America. See the genuine articles of life on the trail, learn the lore of ranching in our region, and get a first-hand feel for the rugged life of the legendary cowboy.

The exhibit offers something for everyone – including engaging interactive displays and see-and-touch exhibits like a side-by-side comparison of English and Western riding styles. Saddle up!
For a week this summer, Cuero’s youngest cowpokes unplugged from games and tv and tried on the cowboy life. Campers got hands-on with crafts, roping skills, and authentic camp cooking—all that and a Longhorn cow, too! Awesome.

Hearty thanks to our sponsors and dedicated volunteers—especially to Margie Watson Kacir for organizing this year’s Cowboy Camp!
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CTHM's 2011 - 2013 Capital Campaign are targeted primarily for completion of the Museum's 4,000 square-foot ground floor exhibit area. We are proud to announce that the capital campaign has raised over $2 million of our $2.4 million goal. Contributions are still being accepted.

Our sincere gratitude to the many businesses and individuals who generously supported the 2011 – 2013 Capital Campaign.

**Pioneer Circle | Platinum**
- Gifts of $250,000 and above
  - GeoSouthern Energy – George Bishop
  - Meg Molleston
  - Robert Oliver
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- Gifts of $100,000 to $249,000
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  - U. S. Department of Agriculture (USDA)
  - Family of Patricia Blackwell Hedgcoxe

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- Gifts of $50,000 to $99,999
  - Jean B. Duderstadt
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  - Sid Duderstadt
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  - Guadalupe-Blanco River Authority
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  - Susan Wallis and Family

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- Gifts of $25,000 to $49,999
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- Gifts up to $2,499
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  - Henry & Kathy Luddeke

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**Capital Campaign Update**

At the biennial Taste of the Trail fundraiser in April 2012, the Board of Directors announced a $2.4 million capital campaign. Funds raised in the CTHM's 2011 - 2013 Capital Campaign are targeted primarily for completion of the Museum's 4,000 square-foot ground floor exhibit area. We are proud to announce that the capital campaign has raised over $2 million of our $2.4 million goal. Contributions are still being accepted.

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**Grand Opening Weekend to Kick Off with Gala Concert Performance!**

You are making a difference!

You, ConocoPhillips for your generous support of CTHM, and a special appreciation for your coalition with other energy companies in concern for our local environment.

**ConocoPhillips At Work in the Community**

A cleanup crew from ConocoPhillips – a valued community partner of the Chisholm Trail Heritage Museum was spotted earlier this summer removing trash from county roads in DeWitt County. Thank you, ConocoPhillips for your generous support of CTHM, and a special appreciation for your coalition with other energy companies in concern for our local environment.

You are making a difference!

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**New Green Space to be Named George Bishop Park**

The Chisholm Trail Heritage Museum is proud to announce that the new green space located behind our historic building and annex will now be called George Bishop Park. Mr. Bishop, owner of GeoSouthern Energy based in The Woodlands, has become an important Museum and community partner, standing out in a field of energy-based companies that have come to Cuero to explore the benefits of the Eaglefolds Shale formation.

Employing more than 150 individuals locally, GeoSouthern has consistently given back to the community at a time when most energy companies are more interested in extracting assets. We sat down with Mr. Bishop recently to learn more about his philosophy of being such an integral part of Cuero's economy and community.

Attributing his current and past successes in life to “being blessed,” George Bishop comes across as a sincere, honest individual who has risen from hard times to become one of the most respected oil and gas pioneers in the state of Texas. “This is the greatest country in the world,” he adds, “it attributes it to being blessed – God has truly blessed me.”

Graduating from Mississippi State in 1958 with a degree in geology, Bishop started in the oil business in 1959. Reminded of his humble beginnings, he’s quick to remember that he started working in the business “mud logging” at 12 hours per day, seven days per week, for a respectable pay of $140 every two weeks. Even this was considered an advancement from his youth as his father died when he was five years old and soon after his mother contracted tuberculosis.

In 1974, Bishop then chose to move to Texas and decided to make the “big jump” in 1979. Describing the creation of NRG Exploration, Bishop then formed GeoSouthern Energy as a drilling arm of the company. In 1983, GeoSouthern Energy moved to The Woodlands, starting with six employees – a number that has now grown to over 250.

Loving the land all his life, Bishop and his wife, Kathy, were “amazed with the relief and beauty of DeWitt County.” He quickly added, “I feel like this is home now. Both Kathy and I have been so impressed with the friendliness of the people we’ve met in Cuero and DeWitt County,” continuing, “While the beauty of the land was the initial draw, we feel that we’ve been accepted into the community as new-comers and it gives us great pleasure to know many of the locals.”

When asked why he stands out as being sensitive to local land owners and their emotional connection to their land, Bishop easily responds, “Because we are also land owners here; thus, we share that same connection.”

The Chisholm Trail Heritage Museum, Cuero and all of DeWitt County are truly blessed by having the Bishops as members of our community. The new green space, located behind the Museum’s historic building and annex, is now named George Bishop Park, through the generosity of Meg Molleston, Vice President, GeoSouthern Energy.

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**November 22, 2013**

The Chisholm Trail Heritage Museum’s inaugural weekend is set to begin with grand fanfare – a festive evening performance of the beloved American classic Appalachian Spring Suite. As part of a unique cultural exchange between the Museum and the Chamber Orchestra of San Antonio, Aaron Copland’s inspirational orchestral work will be performed in celebration of the CTHM’s grand opening.

The genius of Copland’s music was in his modern, jazz-infused style of symphonic arrangement, composed around simple melodies often found in folk music – in this case a hymn, “Simple Gifts.” This combination of influences makes his melodies uniquely American, and superbly suited to our occasion. Joseph González will conduct the orchestra in the original 13-piece arrangement of this iconic masterpiece.

**Date:** Saturday, November 22, 2013 from 6:00 pm to 9:00 pm

**Location:** The Venue, Church Street, Cuero, Light refreshments.

**Members-Only Event!** Museum members will receive an invitation to this exclusive concert performance and festive gathering. Want to join or renew your membership? Call today (361)277-2866
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.

ChisholmTrailMuseum.org

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Party Time, Y’all!
Saturday, April 19, 2014
Bellevue Ranch

To book our Community Center for your next fundraising event, business meeting, or festive social occasion, please contact Beverly Hadley today at (361) 277-2866.