Mark Wolfe, Executive Director of the Texas Historical Commission, announced that the Chisholm Trail Heritage Museum in Cuero is the 2014 recipient of the John L. Nau, III Award of Excellence in Museums. The Nau Award recognizes an individual or institution in the museum field for significant achievement in the areas of historical interpretation, museum education, conservation of collections, and/or community involvement.

Commenting on the Chisholm Trail Heritage Museum’s recent achievement and commitment to excellence by its chairman and board of directors, Wolfe remarked, “this award recognizes your steadfast dedication and the efforts of so many others to open this exceptional facility in Cuero, Texas.”

After a decade of historic preservation planning and action, property development, exhibit design and installation, CTHM opened to the general public on Saturday, November 23, 2013. Since that time, countless visitors from Cuero and the surrounding region, the state of Texas and many other states have made the trip to Cuero to view what many guests have called a first-class museum experience.
Wolfe added, “the interactive exhibits, curation of the world-class Tinker Collection, and the community and youth outreach efforts of CTHM made the Museum an ideal candidate for recognition.” Robert Oliver, chairman of CTHM expressed gratitude to the Texas Historical Commission for their stewardship and professional guidance regarding the restoration of Cuero’s Knights of Pythias Hall, which Oliver recognizes as a cornerstone achievement of the organization. “Restoration architects, David Hoffman and Lewis Fisher were integral to the ultimate successful rehabilitation of the turn-of-the-century fraternal hall on Cuero’s main thoroughfare.”

Along with the award certificate, the Nau Award of Excellence in Museums also includes a stipend of $1,000 which will go to the CTHM to continue its interpretation, curation, and outreach efforts. This award comes at the heels of the Museum’s fifth year of hosting Cowboy Camp for local and area youth. Children learn several western crafts and activities, such as roping, leather tooling, horse etiquette, and chuck wagon cooking during a one-week period in August.

Recently, the Museum saved Cuero’s first school from demolition by the City of Cuero by moving the wooden structure on property behind the Museum’s historic building. Once restored, the former English-German School will again be used for education purposes. Oliver concluded, “the work of Chisholm Trail Heritage Museum has no end in sight. We intend to continue our mission to preserve the ranching and western heritage of South Central Texas through interpretive exhibits, research, and educational programs.”

The Chisholm Trail Heritage Museum has received several other state-wide awards in the past several months, including the Texas Association of Museum’s most highly coveted award, The President’s Award, in 2014. The Texas Downtown Association awarded the Museum its 2013 Best Renovation / Rehabilitation Award, followed by its People’s Choice Award for Best Renovation of a Historic Structure at its annual conference in Bastrop, Texas. ✴
Members and friends of the CTHM crowded in to attend the presentation of the John L. Nau, III Award of Excellence on December 15, 2015. Presentation was followed by a reception to celebrate the award by the Texas Historical Commission.

The Museum’s permanent exhibits, *Ranching Heritage of the Guadalupe Valley* and *Horsemen of the Americas: Tinker Collection*, as well as historic preservation efforts, have earned accolades from many respected local and statewide organizations.

**Top Honors for CTHM**

- **2016 Built Environment Award**
  - San Antonio Conservation Society

- **2015 Historic Rehabilitation Award**
  - Preservation Texas

- **2014 John L. Nau, III Award of Excellence in Museums**
  - Texas Historical Commission

- **2014 President’s Award**
  - Texas Association of Museums

- **2013 Best Renovation and Rehabilitation**
  - Texas Downtown Association

- **2013 People’s Choice Award – Best Renovation**
  - Texas Downtown Association

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*A Banner Day: Members and Friends Gather to Celebrate*

Exhibit photos: Paul Bardagjy, Ansen Seale
riding, biking, golfing, live performances at the Gerald Ford Amphitheater and endless boutiques are located near your 5 bedroom/5 bath, 3-level house that sleeps up to 9 people. After your busy, fun-filled day, relax with a glass of wine in your private Jacuzzi overlooking Gore Creek, or enjoy a gourmet meal at one of Vail’s world-class restaurants. Just decide which seven days in June 2016 you can travel, and who the lucky ones are to accompany you.

**Donated by Robert Oliver**

**4. STRUTTIN’ WITH SOME BARBECUE - FIRST OF 3**

Whether you consider yourself a “grill-master” or weekend warrior, you can impress your friends with this unique longhorn BBQ grill. Move ahead of the herd with this hand-crafted metal smoker made of schedule-5 sheet metal and cured with sulfur and copper components to get a brilliant copper/goldish patina. This pit weighs approximately 200 lbs, and smoke will billow out of the bull’s nostrils when he gets “fired up”? More than just a conversation piece, this metal BBQ pit is made to be used with charcoal or wood, and holds a ton of meat. So, season up that side of ribs, open a cold one and fire up your Longhorn!

**Donated by Paul & Cindy Holcomb**

**5. HENRY RIFLE – DEDICATED TO TWO DEWITT COUNTY LEGENDS**

This custom-made Henry rifle 44MAG/.44SPL is proudly donated by Mary and Kevin Keating of Q-Rare-O Market, and dedicated to the memory and legacy of two great ranchers of DeWitt County who passed away in 2015; Don Stiles, Sr. and Claude “Buddy” Blackwell, Jr. Mr. Stiles and Mr. Blackwell made many contributions to the ranching and livestock industry in this area. Both gentlemen had friendly attributes and frequently visited the Q-Rare-O Market. With the blessing of both families, the Keatings honor these two exceptional citizens with this Henry rifle, specifically made for the Taste of the Trail. It is engraved with “Chisholm Trail Heritage Museum 2016” on receiver, Serial #CTHM 003, with a Longhorn scene carved on the stock… truly a collector’s firearm!

**Donated by Mary & Kevin Keating**

**6. HERE COMES THE JUDGE’S CHAIR!**

Take the seat of honor in this impressive custom-made, hand-carved wood and leather chair. Talk about regal seating! Thanks to Paddy Burwell (he’s got connections), this one-of-a-kind item was created at the Dolph Briscoe Unit of the Texas Department of Criminal Justice Institutional Division. This custom-designed chair is stamped with the official seal of the great State of Texas, in the same fashion as the specially made chairs for Texas Governors and Texas Supreme Court Judges.

**Donated by Paddy & Bettye Burwell**

**7. UNDER THE TUSCAN SUN**

Mention the word Tuscany, and vivid images of extraordinary countryside views with rolling hills, Italian villas, Italian Cypress trees, vineyards, medieval architecture and gourmet food appear. Imagine yourself, friends and family exploring this unique region of the world from your Italian Villa near Florence. Located in the heart of the region, within driving distance of the mountain top Tuscan villages of Siena, Cortona, and Arezzo, this lovely villa has six bedrooms on three levels, sleeps twelve and overlooks an olive orchard. Use the villa as your home base on your seven day stay, October 8 - 15, 2016, to explore frescos painted by renaissance artists, tour Cortona where Under the Tuscan Sun was filmed, or just sit in a sun-drenched piazza enjoying a glass of wine or cup of espresso. A driver is available (at buyer’s cost) for pickup at Florence airport and daytime excursions.

**Donated by Dr. James Herbst, Lori Ramirez and Jesse Rivera**

**8. THE LEGENDARY LONGHORN**

A long-recognized symbol of our great state, the legendary Texas Longhorn possesses admirable qualities near and dear to every Texan’s heart… strength, stamina and intelligence. The sturdy Longhorn being donated by Tim Pennell is a prime specimen of this noble breed, and was hand-selected for its color, horns and gentle nature – it will actually eat out of your hand. For the winning bid, you can own this magnificent icon of the Western heritage of our beloved Texas.

**Donated by Tim Pennell**

**9. STRUTTIN’ WITH SOME BARBECUE - SECOND OF 3**

Did you lose out on the bidding for Item 4? Here’s your second chance!

Step up your grilling game in style - you can definitely impress your friends with this unique Texas Longhorn BBQ grill, hand crafted of welded sheet metal. This pit weighs approximately 200 lbs, and smoke will billow out of the bull’s nostrils when he gets “fired up”!

**Donated by Paul & Cindy Holcomb**

**10. GUN-SMOKE**

Exclusive, rare, unique – no matter what adjective you use, this one of a kind Henry Big Boy rifle is beyond special. Specifically crafted to pay homage to the historic Eagle Ford Shale play, this rifle is not only the...
epitome of craftsmanship, but also a true work of art. This rifle is a Henry Big Boy in .45 long Colt caliber; finished with 24 ct. gold, antique gold, antique nickel, high gloss nickel and black chrome. All of the artwork was devised with input from the South Texas Energy and Economic Roundtable members, and is all Eagle Ford Shale specific. Each rifle is individually minted, and this one is certified number 7 of 100 numbered rifles. It comes with an oak display case as well as its original Henry box. The Henry Big Boy rifle will be a cherished heirloom.

Donated by Bill & Nancy Blackwell

11. EMERALD EYES
This one of kind, custom-made sterling silver and 14k gold rope style bangle bracelet with 1 ct. genuine Emeralds has been commissioned especially for the Taste of the Trail live auction by Paddy & Bettye Burwell. Artist and craftsman Tim Acklen with Holman’s Fine Jewelry, has been a custom jeweler and silversmith for over 20 years. Tim has an eye for detail and has created a number of extraordinary commissioned jewelry items for a variety of charity auctions and organizations. His specialty is creating unique jewelry pieces and engravings, and this bracelet is no exception. The top plate is hand-cut filigree and hand engraved with .25ct Diamond Cut AAA Grade Emeralds, bezel set in 14kt gold settings. It is truly stunning, and will make the perfect gift for that special someone.

Donated by Paddy & Bettye Burwell

12. FISHING THE TEXAS RIVIERA
Set your sights for yellow-fin tuna, red snapper or amberjack as you and three friends embark on your offshore fishing trip from Cove Harbor Marina in Rockport/Aransas Pass. Climb aboard the stylish 40 foot Riviera Flybridge Offshore Yacht, appropriately named “Cuero Gold” with Captain Paul, a co-captain and a deckhand. This handsome boat has a living area, galley, bedroom, and bathroom. This day trip into Federal waters includes lunch and libations, donated by Billy and Marian Kleine. Just choose your fishing buddies, the dates you want to fish (available from June 1 – August 31, 2016, excluding holidays), and go catch the big one!

Donated by Paul Duffy

13. SPURS THAT JINGLE, JANGLE
Special in every way, this distinctive pair of spurs was not only created by a highly recognized and respected artisan, Mike Emberson, but has been donated by a generous couple who have supported the Museum since its inception. Mr. Emberson is from Bartlesville, Oklahoma and has been perfecting his spur-making craft over the last 18 years, keeping the Western spirit alive through his incredible creations. Emberson creates spurs for actual “working cowboys,” selling mainly at ranch rodeos in Oklahoma and the Texas panhandle. These one-of-a-kind spurs have been hand-crafted specifically for the Chisholm Trail Heritage Museum using a combination of silver with copper overlay in a tulip motif, and bear the initials CTHM.

Donated by Bucky & Dee Sager

14. THE FALLING LEAVES
In the tranquil space between the end of the summer season and the beginning of the hectic winter season, Vail’s alpine scenery is awash in the gold and red hues of the aspen leaves that dot the landscape. From your 5 bedroom/5 bath, three-level house located in Cascade Village, partake in a variety of activities; hiking, biking, golfing, shopping the many boutiques or indulging in a gourmet meal in one of Vail’s fine restaurants. Choose your stay any week in September, 2016, and be sure to visit the breathtaking Alpine Botanical Gardens. The house sleeps nine people, so you and your friends may just want to stay home and enjoy a glass of wine in your private Jacuzzi overlooking Gore Creek or check out the exciting nightlife. Whatever activities you choose, autumn is a wonderful time to immerse yourself in all that Vail has to offer.

Donated by Barbara Briggs

15. AS TIME GOES BY… CANDLELIGHT DINNER FOR EIGHT
Imagine yourself transported back in time to 1891 as you and your friends gather at the historic, newly restored, Preservation Texas 2016 Honor Award winning Proctor-Green House for a catered candlelight dinner for eight. Enjoy the ambiance of the elegant dining room as you and your friends are served a meal prepared especially for you by chef, Tonya Patterson. The architectural integrity of this magnificent home has been painstakingly preserved in elements such as original stained glass windows, fireplaces and a grand staircase; and, the home is furnished with tasteful period pieces. Additionally, this package includes an overnight stay for three couples in the upstairs bedrooms, while the fourth couple will lodge at a B&B donated by Lindy Gohmert. A lovely continental breakfast the following morning will complete your journey to a bygone era.

Donated by Robert Oliver

16. BOOT-SCOOT’N BOogie
Whether gliding across a Texas dance floor with your honey or sliding your foot into the stirrup of your favorite saddle, do it with a boot that is uniquely yours. Rios of Mercedes has been making custom boots by hand since 1853; and is honored to support the Chisholm Trail Heritage Museum this year with premium, custom-made calf skin boots for either a man or a woman, generously donated by Barbara Briggs. Choose everything from toe style to heel height; and customize your boots with your brand, initials or whatever your imagination can conceive. Rios has made boots for some of the top horsemen in the world. Let them make a pair of boots that are custom-fit and a reflection of your individual style.

Donated by Barbara Briggs

17. WARREN WILDLIFE GALLERY DINNER & TOUR FOR TEN
You are invited to an unparalleled evening bound to create lasting memories at the Warren Wildlife Gallery in Austin, Texas. Begin the evening with a cocktail hour featuring wild game hor d’ oeuvres, followed by an exclusive personal tour. Warren Wildlife Gallery allows viewers to experience a rare approach to wildlife. This collection acknowledges more than 300 full body mount mammals and over 250 exotic birds from around the world. This remarkable installation includes pieces from Teddy Roosevelt’s 1909 safari expedition, a glimpse into his pioneer efforts toward conservation. Following the tour, enjoy an exceptional meal prepared by a local gourmet chef featuring wild game provided by the Gallery owner himself. Valid October 2016 through December 2017.

Donated by Billy & Marian Kleine

18. LA LUZ PARA AMBIANTE Y ILUMINAR - 2 OF 2
Did you lose out on the bidding for Item No. 1? Here’s your lucky second chance! This magnificent, wrought-iron chandelier is just the right “statement piece” for your rustic indoor or outdoor space, and a very close match to item No. 1.

Donated by Gina Holcomb and Lindy Gohmert Co-Chairs, 2016 Taste of the Trail

19. STRUTTIN’ WITH SOME BARBECUE - LAST OF 3!
Did you lose out on the bidding for Item 4 or 9? Here’s your chance! Step up your grilling game in style - you can definitely impress your friends with this unique Texas Longhorn BBQ grill, hand crafted of welded sheet metal. This pit weighs approximately 200 lbs, and smoke will billow out of the bull's nostrils when he gets “fired up”!

Donated by Paul & Cindy Holcomb
A Brief History of Cuero and Surrounding Area Prior to Establishment of the English-German School

by Diana Thibodeaux

To better understand the origin and historic significance of the English-German School, one must have some background knowledge of the historic events leading up to and surrounding the school’s inception. The first wave of German immigrants arrived in DeWitt County, settling in the Meyersville and Yorktown areas as early as the 1840s; however, their political, civic and economic impact on the region increased significantly after the Civil War. A variety of factors coalesced in the 1870s to create opportunities for these hard working German businessmen and entrepreneurs to emerge as leaders in Cuero’s early development, including establishing the English-German School in 1877.

More significantly, the Gulf, Texas Western and Pacific Railway was extended from the predominantly German coastal town of Indianola, Texas to San Antonio, with the tracks to Cuero being completed in January of 1873. This brought new businesses, an influx of people from the rural areas to the city and the building of new homes. Two other noteworthy factors that influenced Cuero’s growth at that time were the hurricanes that hit Indianola in 1875 and 1886, causing another inpouring of German immigrants, and the decline of the town of Clinton, Texas, the first county seat of DeWitt County. Important events developed quickly during this time as the city government was organized in 1873; the town of Cuero was incorporated in 1875; and Cuero replaced Clinton as the county seat of DeWitt County in 1876. It was amid this flurry of activity and growth that these German leaders realized the need for a school to serve this predominantly German student population.

Historic English-German School is Museum’s Newest Expansion Project

Given to the Museum by Richard Mundt, whose great-grandfather taught at the school, Cuero’s historic English-German School now stands on the Museum grounds. Ready to be re-purposed as an extension of the Museum dedicated to educational activities, the authentic structure promises to become a living echo of our pioneer roots.

Cowboy Camp provides local youngsters aged 8 to 12 with a compelling understanding of how the Texas history they learn in school relates directly to their hometown. Programs are designed to involve campers so they understand that they, themselves are an integral part of that rich heritage.

Most of the activities are hands-on and are taught by local professional volunteers. Activities are designed to develop campers’ knowledge and skills relevant to life on the trail – roping, leather tooling, branding, campfire cooking and etiquette, knot tying and horse training, to name just a few. They get “up close and personal” with a Texas Longhorn, and learn a Native American dance. The good buzz about our popular Cowboy Camp has spread; in fact several of the original campers have returned as assistants, and many of Santa’s Helpers: Tri-City Empowerment Council, Viola & Johnal Holman, Judy & Walter Fisher, Mary L’s Gifts, Brooke Smith of Badda Bling, Bill Blackwell, Bishop Paula Hopkins of My Father’s House Church, Wanda Montag of Foster Parents of Victoria, Lutheran Social Services of the South, Sid Duderstadt, Lifecare Drug, and Wal-Mart.

Cowboy Camp is an all-inclusive camp for children. You will need to supply your own food; however, our campers get to wear their very own Western shirts and cowboy hats! We are also fortunate to have amazing local performers: father- daughter duo Alfonso Henderson and Alonna Robello of Victoria, Quinton Harrison of My Father’s House Church, Barnett Family of Goliad, and Martinez Sisters of Holman Home in Cuero. A good time was had by all, thanks to CTHM and many others!

Holiday Hospitality for Area Children

The CTHM was pleased to welcome 80 foster/adoptive children and their families for a Christmas party and museum tour. Elf Sue Sulsar and assistant Candy Glidden distributed gifts and prizes that were donated by many of Santa’s Helpers: Tri-City Empowerment Council, Viola & Johnal Holman, Judy & Walter Fisher, Mary L’s Gifts, Brooke Smith of Badda Bling, Bill Blackwell, Bishop Paula Hopkins of My Father’s House Church, Wanda Montag of Foster Parents of Victoria, Lutheran Social Services of the South, Sid Duderstadt, Life care Drug, and Wal-Mart.

The guests were entertained by the musical talents of: father-daughter duo Alfonso Henderson and Alonna Robello of Victoria, Quinton Harrison of My Father’s House Church, Barnett Family of Goliad, and Martinez Sisters of Holman Home in Cuero. A good time was had by all, thanks to CTHM and many others!

6th Annual Cowboy Camp Coming Summer 2016!

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### 2016 Chisholm Trail Heritage Museum Membership

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<tr>
<th>Membership Level</th>
<th>Donors</th>
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<td>**SCOUT</td>
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<td>**POINT MAN</td>
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<td>**WRANGLER</td>
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<td><strong>MEMORIAL GIFTS</strong></td>
<td>Ruth Jerald Hill, Frank Goodpasture, Carey James, Patricia Tognietti, Bobby Guenther, Mr. &amp; Mrs. Bill Blackwell, Bob Wagner, Lias Steen, Bob Wagner, Dee &amp; Bucky Sager, Elda Janie Rangnow, William James, Carrie James, Carrie Noel.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>CTHM BOARD OF DIRECTORS</strong></td>
<td>Linda Anzaldua, Tommy Barre, Bill Blackwell, Treasurer, Ginger Broughton, Paddy Burwell, Charles E. Cole, III, Kathy K. Freels, Candy Glidden, Lindy Gohmert, Gerard Gonzales, Gina Holcomb, Jeff Hudson, Tempi McLeod, Patricia Strobel Miller, Vice Chair, Robert Oliver, Chair, Sue Sulsar, Secretary, Margaret A. “Missi” Thomas, Sheryl W. Winslow.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>CTHM ENDOWMENT FUND</strong></td>
<td>Jeff Steen, Chairman, David Burrow, Secretary/Treasurer, Nathan Post, Bill Blackwell, Ex-Officio.</td>
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Proctor-Green House Receives Historical Marker

March, 2016: Members of the DeWitt County Historical Commission and board members of the Chisholm Trail Heritage Museum recently met in front of the historic Proctor-Green House to commemorate the Texas Historic Commission’s designation of the home as a Registered Texas Historic Landmark (RTHL). Constructed in 1892 by David C. Proctor, the home is a contributing structure to the Terrell-Reuss National Register District.

After many years of neglect and slow decline, the home was purchased and renovated by a board member of the CTHM, who then spent several years (2012–14) restoring the home with noted preservation architects Fisher Heck, who were also preservation and design architects for the Museum itself. The Museum now leases the home for Museum activities, meetings, and special events.

Visit the Museum Gift Shop for handsome Western-style home accents, Texas gifts, and adorable souvenirs for kids!

Stop in and browse any time during Museum hours, with no admission fee.

Gift Shop (361) 277-2866