



For Immediate Release

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**Cattle Raisers Museum
Collections Overview**

The Cattle Raisers Museum is a 10,000 square-foot recreation of the finest exhibition dedicated to preserving and celebrating the vital history and science of the cattle industry. The exhibits within the Museum tell the story of the challenges and accomplishments of Texas and Southwestern cattle raisers over the past 150 years. Designed to provide both an educational and entertaining experience for audiences of all ages, the exhibits incorporate a high degree of interactivity coupled with traditional museum methods of presentation.

Blue's Bell

The Cattle Raisers Museum acquired Blue's Bell in 2004. Every trail herd had its dominant steer, which by instinct strode to the front of the bunch to lead the way. If a steer did the job well, it would not be sold; it would be brought home to lead the other herds north. Charles Goodnight owned such a valuable steer in Old Blue, whom he had bought from cattleman John Chisum. Goodnight put a bell around Old Blue's neck, and the other steers learned to follow the familiar ringing. During eight seasons, more than 10,000 head followed Old Blue to Dodge City- a one-way trip for them but not for Blue. Old Blue, according to range legend, "could find the best water, the best grass, and the easiest river crossings, and could even soothe a nervous herd during a storm with his reassuring bawl." After his last drive, he was retired to a permanent pasture and lived to be 20 years old. At his death his horns were mounted in a place of honor in the Goodnight ranch office.

Ken Spain Saddle Collection

In 1992, the Cattle Raisers Museum acquired 14 saddles collected by Ken Spain of Aledo, Texas. Dating from the 1850s to the 1920s, the saddle styles vary from a half seat to a full seat, loop seat, and double and single rigging. The collection includes saddles by such well-known makers as J. S. Collins and E. L. Goettlich. Featured is a F. A. Meanea saddle which was among the first fully tooled saddles with matching bags, the only known saddle by Helena, Mont. maker Peter Franklin, and a Miles City, Mont. saddle recognized as one of the finest in existence today. The acquisition of this magnificent saddle collection was made possible by a partial donation by Ken Spain and by a grant from the G. Rollie White Trust of Fort Worth.

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Joe Russell Spur Collection

Purchased from retired San Angelo rancher Joe Russell, this collection of 52 pairs of spurs includes works of artistic distinction and historical interest. Oscar Crockett, P. M. Kelly, and J. R. McChesney - the big three Texas-style spur makers - are well represented. So too are eastern spur producers such as the August Buermann Manufacturing Company, famous for the inexpensive and ubiquitous "OK" style spurs. Hand-forged spurs, made by individual Texas craftsmen, are also highlighted, including one pair of brass spurs, made in the King Ranch blacksmith shop, and worn by a cowboy in the 1930s. The Cattle Raisers Museum acquired this outstanding spur collection with support from the G. Rollie White Foundation Trust in 1996.

Leonard Stiles Branding Iron Collection

In 1989, Leonard Stiles, former Texas and Southwestern Cattle Raisers Association brand inspector, presented 1,014 branding irons to the Cattle Raisers Museum. While the sheer numbers are impressive, it is Stiles' meticulous documentation that makes this branding iron collection exceptional. Stiles recorded how he acquired each iron, the ranch that registered the iron, and the dates it was in use. The Stiles collection is thus an outstanding resource for researchers interested in Texas brands. Moreover, it includes historically significant irons like the Spanish brand that belonged to Stephen F. Austin, the 1819 J Cross W brand - the oldest iron continually used by a single Texas family - plus branding irons registered by celebrity ranchers including former Texas Rangers Pitcher Nolan Ryan, former Dallas Cowboys Linebackers Lee Roy Jordan and Chuck Howley, and actor John Wayne.

Quanah Parker's Headdress

Quanah Parker, the son of a Comanche chief and Cynthia Ann Parker, a captive pioneer woman, was a Comanche leader who became a bold warrior and served as war chief of the Kwahadi Comanche of the Stacked Plains. In later years, he prospered as both a farmer and the managing agent for business deals between Anglos and Native Americans - he was reputed to be the wealthiest Native American in North America. In 1886 he became a judge of the Court of Indian Affairs. By 1890 he was principal chief of all Comanche bands; and was also a major figure in the peyote religion. In 1905, he rode beside Geronimo in the inaugural parade of President Theodore Roosevelt. His famed full-length headdress, with 64 eagle feathers, will be on display in the Cattle Raisers Museum.

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