

Tuesday, March 7, 2017

PRESS RELEASE – for immediate release

From: The Wichita-Sedgwick County Historical Museum, 204 S. Main, Wichita, Kansas

RE: SPECIAL EXHIBIT - Touring Exhibition:

“The Chisolm Trail – Driving the American West 1867-2017”

Free Admission for Exhibit Opening Sunday, March 12 featuring a special program at

2pm:

“Singing the Cattle North” by Jim Hoy, Professor, Author and director of the Center for Great Plains Studies at Emporia State University.

The Exhibit:

“The cowboy has become an internationally recognized symbol of America, and his music gives us insight into how this icon developed,” says Jim Hoy, KHC Speakers Bureau presenter. In his talk, “Singing the Cattle North,” Hoy explores how cowboy folksongs were more than entertainment on the lonely prairie.

The Chisholm Trail fundamentally changed the American West. From the birth of the cowboy as icon to the revival of the cattle industry, the Old Chisholm Trail helped shape our popular culture by altering how we thought of the American West and the individuals who lived there.

From 1867 to 1872, the Old Chisholm Trail, which ran from various ranches in Texas to stockyards in several Kansas towns, saw nearly a million head of cattle pass from Texas ranchland through Oklahoma to Abilene, Newton, and Wichita, and from there by rail to major American markets such as Kansas City and Chicago. The cattle industry in Texas had been throttled by the Civil War, but with the establishment of the Chisholm Trail, ranchers had a path to riches.

The men who kept the herds together and moving in the right direction were called cowboys, and while cattle had been attended by men on horseback for centuries, it was not until the Chisholm Trail came to prominence that the cowboy became an iconic figure in the American imagination. Stories from the trail, from nighttime stampedes to brushes with Southern Plains tribes, helped to cement the cowboy as the symbol of the hardscrabble American West.

Chisholm Trail Sesquicentennial: Driving the American West 1867-2017 is a celebration of the 150th anniversary of the Chisholm Trail. This traveling exhibit, originating from Symphony in the Flint Hills and sponsored by Lost Trail Soda, invites visitors of all ages to explore the Chisholm Trail from its inception in the 1860s to today.

Exhibit highlights include interactives, video interviews with historians and scholars, video and audio clips of movies and songs, and life-size longhorn cattle.

Chisholm Trail Sesquicentennial: Driving the American West 1867-2017 is a joint project by Symphony in the Flint Hills and Flint Hills Design. Major funding comes from Lost Trail Soda.

Support for this exhibit at the Historical Museum is provided by 3KSN, Radio Kansas, The Wichita Eagle and a gift from Bill and Donna Ard.

Submitted by Eric Cale, Museum Director, contact: ecale@wichitahistory.org

Venue: Wichita-Sedgwick County Historical Museum, 204 S. Main, Wichita, KS 67202 ,

Contact: 316-265-9314, wichitahistory.org

Museum Hours: Tuesday – Friday 11:00 am to 4:00 pm; Saturday & Sunday 1:00 to 5:00 pm.

Regular Admission Charge: Adults \$ 5.00, Children under 12 years \$ 2.00; under 6 free

Supported in part by the City of Wichita and Sedgwick County Kansas Board of Commissioners