

Exhibit traces technology of the West

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What do Christopher Columbus, Buffalo Bill and the Egyptian Pharaoh Seti I have in common?

They all played parts in creating today's uniquely American cowboy.

Take Seti I, for example. He was pharaoh from about 1290-1279 BC. He isn't very well remembered except by scholars, but a stone carving found in his tomb clearly shows him using a rope to lasso a bull. So, ropers today can trace their lineage back to nearly 1300 years before the time of Christ.

Christopher Columbus, by contrast to Seti, is very well remembered, but not so much for his introduction of long-horned cattle to the Americas back in 1494. By 1850, there were an estimated 4 million Longhorns in Texas alone, and not long after that cowboys started making livings and legends driving Longhorns to market.

Buffalo Bill maybe wasn't so much a cowboy as he was an entertainer, but his popular Wild West Show in the 1880s helped to immortalize the image of the cowboy as a tough guy dressed in leather, often with fringes or fancy beadwork.

Christopher Columbus, Buffalo Bill and Seti I have something else in common as well. They're all featured players in a unique new exhibit at the Chisholm Trail Heritage Center in Duncan. It's called Technology of the West and it was first envisioned a couple of years ago by Heritage Center Executive Director Stacy Cramer Moore.

Even born and bred Oklahoma cowboys may not realize all of the history and



Jadyn Lowry, 11, from Velma, checks out part of the Technology of the West exhibit dedicated to rope and whips during a recent visit to the Chisholm Trail Heritage Center.



STEVE METZER/STAFF

Representatives of the seven "families" of Longhorn cattle are featured in the new Technology of the West exhibit at the Chisholm Trail Heritage Center. Longhorn breeders recognize seven "pure" lines of Longhorn descending from animals introduced to the Americas by Christopher Columbus in 1494.

Vaqueros and Texans were known to wear broad-brimmed hats in the old days of the West, it was an Easterner, John B. Stetson from Philadelphia, who was the first to manufacture and mass market the cowboy hat, beginning in 1865.

Moore said she particularly enjoyed one of the stories of the evolution of the "duster" — the long, open-in-the-front, all-weather coat that cowboys like to wear on the trail. It seems that in 1861, a 12-year-old boy named Caden McCoy spilled some hot wax from a candle onto a coat and his mother was thunderstruck. Realizing that wax residue rubbed into fabric would make it weather-resistant, she started custom-making coats for soldiers in the Civil War. Dusters that would easily shed rain and snow would thereafter be essential gear for generations of cowboys.

The exhibit reveals much more about cowboy technology, like how the modern-day saddle evolved over the

course of thousands of years, and how over time cowboys identified various reasons for wearing a bandana — including having a handy disguise if they ever found themselves robbing a stagecoach.

"There's a lot of interesting information in there," Moore said. "It should be a lot of fun for people to go through."

Technology of the West is scheduled to remain through August.

The 40,000-square-foot Chisholm Trail Heritage Center, which attracts about 25,000 visitors a year including many school children on field trips, features some popular permanent features, like the premier western art gallery in the area, the Garis Gallery of the West, and the Experience Theater, which provides visitors with realistic views of what life was like for cowboys on the Chisholm Trail.

Moore said other features are changed out every 2-3 months to always keep things fresh.



STEVE METZER/STAFF

Chisholm Trail Heritage Center Executive Director Stacy Cramer Moore stands by part of the center's new Technology of the West exhibit dedicated to the history and evolution of boots and spurs.

evolution that's gone into typical cowboy duds like boots, chaps and the Stetson hat, or into cowboy acces-

sories like the lasso and spurs. Moore said most all of the center's staffers pitched in to help put the ex-

hibit together, and they found out some interesting things along the way. For example, though Mexican

Registration underway for Veterans Boot Camp

Registration is underway for the East Central University Veterans Upward Bound Academic Boot Camp June 12-15 at Southeastern Oklahoma State University in Durant.

The free event is for veterans

who are attending or planning to attend Southeastern. Instruction by Southeastern's Learning Center will include college preparation, math, reading and writing, financial literacy and budgeting, finan-

cial aid/GI Bill and tips for navigating college.

To register, veterans should call Angel Bartholow at 580-559-5807 or Teriki Barnes, at 580-745-2268. For the agenda, visit www.se.edu/eoc.

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In Loving Memory of
Christopher Lynne Buttram
January 8, 1969 - June 12, 1992

You were a gift from God! Nothing in life was more exciting than watching you grow and mature, find your own way, and become your own person. Nothing was more rewarding than seeing you take your place in the world, sharing in your accomplishments, and your dreams. Nothing in life has been more important than being a part of your life, because nothing has been more wonderful than having you for a son. You are now our guardian angel watching over us each and every day.

We Love and Miss You Every Minute of Every Day!!
Mom and Pee Wee

IN LOVING MEMORY
BERDA PIERSON AMBROSE
MAY 22, 1922 - JUNE 9, 2006

No one had to tell us how lucky we were to have you, because we have all known for a long time. When we think back over the years and remember all the special things you did for us, we realize you were a wonderful mother and also a unique woman. You taught us so much about life and love and giving. Those are lessons we will never forget.

We love and miss you everyday!
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