



## *Herbert Hoover Presidential Museum*

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*For Immediate Release*

### ***A Cowboy Christmas***

### **New Holiday Exhibit Opens at the Herbert Hoover Museum November 17**

West Branch, Iowa – Opening on November 17<sup>th</sup> is the Herbert Hoover Presidential Museum’s annual holiday Christmas exhibit, *A Cowboy Christmas*. This exhibit features twenty trees, each decked in a different western motif. Fact and myth will merge as you see historical photos from the Old West in the 1800s along with John Wayne’s hat and Gene Autry’s saddle and thousands of cowboy ornaments.

Visitors to this year’s Christmas exhibit will get a glimpse of the lives of Cowboys, Ranchers, Outlaws, Prospectors and regular town folk. The galleries have recreated cowboy scenes featuring objects from some of Hollywood’s most famous western heroes – John Wayne, Clint Eastwood, and Roy Rogers just to mention a few.

Trees include:

**Cowboy Clothing:** Early Texan cowboys modified their clothing from the Spanish “Vaqueros” for comfort and protection against the weather and animals – using chaps and tall boots. Other western wear, such as the fringed shirts and colorful designs were introduced through the Buffalo Bill Wild West Show and Hollywood Cowboys. This tree shows different kinds of cowboy clothing.

**Saloon Tree:** The first western saloons were thrown together tents or lean-to’s where travelers might get a drink and strike up a conversation. The saloon tree features pink feathers, large cards, poker chips and dice.

**Rodeo Tree:** The rodeo emerged out of the everyday work of the Cowboys. Cowboys were tested to see if they were good riders, what kind of roping skills they had and how long they could ride a bucking bronc. The working Cowboy held appeal and fascination for spectators, as did the contests

they held testing their professional skills. On the Rodeo tree you will find ornaments portraying all aspects of a rodeo – even clowns!

Hollywood Cowboys: The Hollywood cowboy isn't real – but he plays a real cowboy on television or the movie screen. Hollywood produced some great movies that starred great cowboys – John Wayne, Clint Eastwood, Roy Rogers, and Hopalong Cassidy. *A Cowboy Christmas* includes borrowed items from these Hollywood Cowboys: Gene Autry's saddle, Clint Eastwood's hat, Hopalong Cassidy's spurs, clothing from Roy Rogers and John Wayne's shirt from the movie *Fort Apache*.

You'd better pony up, because the Cowboy Christmas exhibit at the Herbert Hoover Presidential Library-Museum, will be on display November 17- January 2nd! The Museum is open from 9 – 5 daily, except for Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Year's Day, located ¼ mile off Interstate 80 at Exit 254. For more information, please call 319-643-5301 or visit the website –

<http://www.hoover.archives.gov/programs/cowboychristmas.html>.

Photos credit – Herbert Hoover Presidential Museum

Cowboy Clothing Tree in the rotunda of the Herbert Hoover Presidential Museum

RogersAutry – Roy Rogers boots and shirt, Gene Autry's saddle and hot pink shirt.

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