NON-PROFIT US POSTAGE PAID WICHITA KS PERMIT 172

DATED MATERIAL PLEASE EXPEDITE DELIVERY

2024 EVENTS

Season Launch the first weekend in April

Cowboys & Cocktails Fundraiser in June

Empire House Players Rollicking, Fun Melodramas

Daisy Longstem Saloon Girls Dance Revues

Dime Novel Skits from the Cowtown Cowboys & River City Renegades

Educational, Entertaining Field Trips

Entre Nous Club Victorian Dancers

Historical Lectures

Vintage Baseball Games

Wichita Warrior Society Presentations

Old Cowtown Social Club - Sales of Homemade Goodness & more

Christmas Soiree Fundraiser

And so much more!

You can get information on any of the above events by going to Old Cowtown's Facebook page and/or by visiting www.oldcowtown.org



G. A. Millar Blacksmith Shop came to Old Cowtown in 1959.

OLD COWTOWN MUSEUM: TAKE A STEP BACK IN HISTORY

(James Vannurden)

Historic Wichita opened in 1952. There were so many buildings still in the Wichita area that warranted saving. So the hunt continued.

The next building Cowtown added became the Wichita City Eagle print shop. Moved to the museum grounds in 1958, the structure was built in the late 1800s and originally housed a grocery store. Located at 9th and Main Streets in Wichita, the building later became Andrew Cook's Jewelry Repair and Cook's Exchange Shop in the 1940s and 1950s.

Next, the museum added the blacksmith shop. The building was either built or moved to the museum from an unknown location in 1959 and named in honor of G. A. Millar, who owned a blacksmith shop once located at 923 E. Douglas, G. A. Millar operated his shop in Wichita from 1887-1917. Some of the first tools donated came from his original shop.

1960 saw more additions. The next building added came from 1117 W. Douglas Avenue in the Delano neighborhood of Wichita. The two-story building contained many businesses on the lower level, such as a grocery store, plumbing company, oil company, tire service, and cabinet maker. The second story was used as a boarding house. Keeney Stevens donated the structure to Cowtown in 1960, and it was moved to the museum in the same year to become the Southern Hotel.

The next building moved to Cowtown in 1960 was Empire Hall. The structure was built in 1904 and located at 816 E. Murdock; it served as a grocery store. At the museum, it has housed a restaurant, a temporary exhibit space, and finally the volunteer area.

Old Cowtown Museum - President's Message

For those who have not met me yet, my name is Nichole P. Conard, a.k.a. Wichita Red. If you are curious about my moniker, it's a great story. It was a gifted to me, back in 2000, when I began my journey as a historical reenactor in the red hills of Oklahoma. Although, that's not the beginning of my story. I grew up right here, riding horses along the north Arkansas River, the same land our forefathers settled after the Medicine Lodge Peace Treaty signing. So, you see, I was raised with history. I also have a passion for road trips, geocaching, museums, reading, horses, and photography. That last one so much so I am a local small business owner: RedRock Photography.

When I resettled in Wichita, I purchased an Old Cowtown Museum Membership to photograph clients at this fantastic location. Walking the boardwalks, photographing all I saw, and enjoying leisurely lunches under the Cottonwoods became routine, and the staff got used to seeing me. A day came when I was asked, 'Have you considered volunteering?' I had not -- in no time at all, my husband Rich and I joined the OCM volunteers as Shorty and Wichita Red. Who knows, you may have caught us performing with our fellow River City Renegades. Soon, the spirit of Old Cowtown intertwined with our souls, and it became our home away from home. A testament to my commitment was assisting the staff in organizing Age of Gunfighter 2018 and 2019, followed by Wild West Days in 2022. Once more, I was questioned, 'Have you considered joining the Board?' And, again, I had not. But here I am in my third year of service and voted President. If you had hinted my humble beginnings would bring me to where I stand today, I would have shaken my head with a bemused smile. In truth, I am honored to be able to contribute to OCM's mission. I am also terribly excited to be continuing the work of past Trustees, to be working with all of OCM's amazing volunteers and staff and the City of Wichita...for only together can Wichita, staff, volunteers, and HWCI make Old Cowtown Museum shine like the crown jewel it is so often described as being.

Wichita Red.....Nichole P. Conard, President, Historic Wichita Cowtown Inc. **Board of Trustees**

We Say Goodbye to Our Friend Bill DeVore

This Chronicle is dedicated in loving memory of Bill DeVore, a cherished friend, advocate, and devoted supporter of Old Cowtown Museum. His passion for preserving history will forever inspire us. All of us at Old Cowtown extend our deepest gratitude for the invaluable impact he has made. Though Bill is no longer with us, his legacy will continue to enrich the experiences of generations to come.

A Spotlight on: Cowtown **Social Club**

When you're at Old Cowtown Museum for a special event, be sure to look for our ladies of the Old Cowtown Social Club. More than likely, you'll find a couple of the members of the Cowtown Social Club selling homemade baked goods, quilts, sweets, jams, and crafts, along with many other refreshments.



Members of Cowtown Social Club

Cowtown's Social Club has been a vital part of the museum since 1954, their purpose has always been to act as official ambassadors recruiting new volunteers and members. The profits of their sales support museum projects, meetings, lectures, special events, and volunteer needs. Currently the Social Club has 13 members. They are eager to grow their ranks and would be pleased to see young people join them as Cowtown ambassadors

If you are interested in joining the Cowtown Social Club, please attend a Social Club meeting which are held the last Monday of each month at 9:30 am at the Southern Hotel.

For more information about Cowtown Social Club activities, contact Kath Eberle at k.eberle@hotmail.com or call her at (316) 651-3781 (please leave a message).

MEET OUR OLD COWTOWN MUSEUM STAFF:

Executive Director

Education & Interpretation Director

James Quint

Curator

James Vannurden

Anthony Horsch

Farm Manager Greg Hunt

Volunteer Director Angela West

Gift Shop Manager Hanson Long

Interpreters

Maria Lopez Galindo, Ryan Ferguson, Mike Scheufler, Crystal Socha, Tim McGill, Hannah Rose

..... **OLD COWTOWN'S WISH LIST**

Volunteers ★ Professional Popcorn Maker Fiberglass Horse for Display Purposes Lumber (including Old Barn Wood & Hardware) Hay For Our Livestock