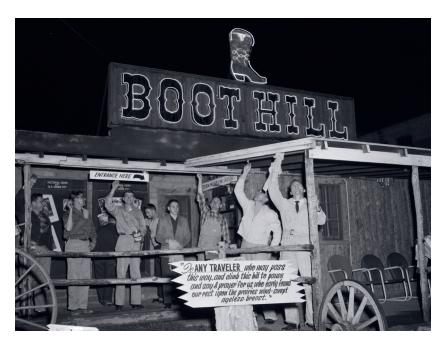
# **OUR LEGACY**

'Creating a future for our past'

**1ST QUARTER 2025** 



VOL. 54, NO. 1



# LANDMARK ARTS PROJECT KICKOFF

Boot Hill Museum has been selected for the third annual Landmark Arts Project. Each year, a historic landmark in Ford County will be selected as the focus for the project. Area youth will be provided with historical information and tours of the location to inspire the creation of artwork related to the landmark.

Pieces created by students will provide an avenue for developing a connection with local history and art in the community as well as the opportunity to showcase their work.

The story of Boot Hill began with a cemetery in 1872, followed by two Third Ward School buildings. After the new City Hall building was constructed, the Dodge City Jaycees worked to capitalize on Dodge City's wild and wooly past. The original museum building at the top of Boot Hill was completed in 1947.

'Landmark' continued on Page 3

### **COMING EVENTS**

### **MONTHLY MEETING**

April 16, 2025 4:00 p.m., Legacy Center, 310 Gunsmoke

#### SPECIAL EVENT

Landmark Arts Project Reception
May 8, 2025
5:00 to 6:30 p.m.
Boot Hill Museum
Mariah Gallery

#### **COMMUNITIES**

Bellefont
Bloom
Bucklin
Dodge City
Ford
Fort Dodge
Howell
Kingsdown
Spearville
Wilroads Gardens
Wright

### **OFFICERS**

Kent Stehlik, president
Mary Hendrix, vice-president
Sonya Hughes, treasurer
Sam Shipley, secretary
George Laughead, past-president
Aaron Fisher, member at large

## **FCHS** is Seeking Volunteers!

If you have an interest in preserving Ford County history and have time to give, we want you!

Docent/Greeting/Reception
Event Planning & Organization
Photography/Videography
Community Outreach
Youth Programs/Organization & Ideas
Housekeeping/Janitorial
Computer Input/Data Entry
Help w/Mailings/Labeling/Stuffing
Artifact Cleaning, Repair & Restoration
Carpentry/Woodworking
Oral Histories/Capturing/Transcribing
Help with Grant Writing
Exhibits/Set-Ups and Tear-Downs
Writing/Researching
Demonstrations

Schedules are very flexible and we do not require a lengthy commitment. Couples and families are welcome!

For more information, please call 620-789-3247 or send a message to media@fordcountyhistory.org.

# Did you know?

FCHS has a new website! Visit us at **fordcountyhistory.org** to learn more about the people and communities of Ford County.

Be sure to check back regularly for updates about our projects, events, and collections.

# **Share Your Story**

Our yesterdays define our tomorrows differently when we understand the path that led us here...

- · As a country
- As a community
- As a family
- · As an individual

We want to hear your story in your own words!



Photo by Josh Roesener

### 2025 FCHS ANNUAL MEETING

The FCHS Annual Meeting was held at the Ford County Legacy Center on February 26, 2025. President Kent Stehlik and member at large Aaron Fisher were reelected. Mary Hendrix was elected Vice-President and Sam Shipley was elected Secretary.

After the business meeting concluded, President Stehlik provided updates to our visitors and new members about various FCHS accomplishments as well as our ongoing projects. We are still hoping to have a new roof at the Legacy Center this Spring.

Assistant City Manager Melissa McCoy discussed Stan Herd's progress on the restoration of his iconic stagecoach mural as well as the City's purchase of the First National Bank building. We are thrilled to see this beautiful historic landmark receiving much needed attention.

Brad Smalley delivered an entertaining presentation about Dodge City's Saloon War and its Significance to Modern Tourism. Brad is a terrific speaker and we were delighted to hear amusing anecdotes from his time at Boot Hill Museum as well as tales from the Old West.



### HAROLD AND MADELINE COOK COLLECTION

We recently received the first set of boxes containing materials which belonged to Harold and Madeline (Stofer) Cook. Harold grew up in Ford and became a special agent with the FBI. Madeline graduated from Bucklin High School in 1932. The large collection was purchased from a Denver antiques dealer in 1999 and the items are now being collated and shipped to the Legacy Center from San Francisco.

The collection includes hundreds of photos and negatives as well as newspaper articles about Harold's college athletic and theater careers, and such personal items as Madeline's filled dance cards from sorority balls and formals. The physical items include a beautiful locket with each of their photos inside.

We are extremely grateful to the generous donor who is painstakingly packing and shipping these items to Ford County where we can preserve and share the Cooks' stories.

### 'Landmark' continued from Page 1

The first six buildings of the Front Street Replica from Rath & Wright's General Outfitting Store to F. C. Zimmermann's Hardware Store were completed in 1958. 1964 brought the replica expansion to the Beatty & Kelley Restaurant. Many buildings and exhibits have been added to the museum complex over the years. The new gift shop and Mariah Gallery opened in 2020. Exhibits opened in the new building in 2021 and the Long Branch Saloon was recently remodeled.

Submissions will be on display in the Mariah Gallery at Boot Hill Museum from April 21 through May 8. Participating classes will each receive \$500 for art supplies. In addition, FCHS has created a scholarship fund for full-time Ford County students attending Dodge City Community College to further their education in the arts. Funding for this project was provided by the Community Foundation of Southwest Kansas and the Community Facilities Advisory Board.

Boot Hill Museum will host a reception for the exhibiting artists in partnership with FCHS on Thursday, May 8 from 5:00 to 6:30 p.m. in the Mariah Gallery. Awards will be presented at this time and the public is encouraged to attend.

# HOME OF STONE MUSEUM MUELLER-SCHMIDT HOUSE SPRING 2025 HOURS

**APRIL** SATURDAY 1:00 P.M. TO 5:00 P.M. **MAY** SATURDAY 10:00 A.M. TO 4:00 P.M. **MEMORIAL DAY** 10:00 A.M. TO 4:00 P.M.



#### **CHARITABLE CONTRIBUTIONS AND GRANTORS**

Ford County Commission & Administration

Kansas State Historical Preservation Office (SHPO)

"Why Not Dodge" (CFAB)

Community Foundation of Southwest Kansas

Humanities Kansas

Main Street Dodge City

United Telephone and Communications

IdeaTek

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