



1522 E. Hwy. 82 Nocona, TX 76255 940-825-5330

We are finally getting a new entrance!

Our long awaited paved entrance is in the works with some delays for much needed rain! While we patiently wait on the driveway, we have been forced to get to the museum from the Masonic Lodge driveway and drive across the grass to our gravel parking lot. With the rains, that is impossible without a four-wheel-drive vehicle, so we will have to be closed to the public for maybe another week or so. But that is a good problem to have! Shout out to Chase Fenoglio and Jay Gaston's crew for heading up this project! And thank you to the Nocona Economic Development for helping with some of the funding!

Because of the construction on our driveway, and the rain making it muddy coming in from the Masonic Lodge, we may be closed to the public a few more days! There is usually a director here, so please give us a call to check on our progress!



Point of Sale Being Updated!

While we are closed for driveway works, some of our directors are busy updating a new point of purchase system, including a scanning gun, barcodes, and touch screen computer. This is taking lots of time to input inventory information into the system. The end result should be a much more user friendly process for our volunteers to accept monetary transactions for the gift shop as well as admissions, donations, etc. It should also make the book-work easier for our gift shop manager and treasurer!

Mark your calendars and register your children for
History Mystery Camp!

June 12-16

There is a surprise for those who register and pay early!

Ages 5-8 in the morning, ages 9-12 in the afternoon
\$50 per child, \$45 per each additional child in family,
members children 10% off.

Dell Motley Restoration!

Who was Dell Motley?

Dell Motley was an amazing innovative artist who created four very large religious-themed pieces that are completely crafted in tooled leather. These were created from the 1960's through the 1990's. As soon as she knew we were planning a museum, she gifted them to us. The ones currently on display are the first one she did, *The Last Supper*, and *Jesus and the Fisherman*. The other two, *The Good Shepherd*, and *The Ten Commandments*, needed some repairs (mainly pieces coming unglued), so they have been in storage until we had a place to work on them and found just the right conservator to take on the task. We are very fortunate to have these rare pieces in our small museum. As part of Nocona's story of its leather industry, Tales 'N' Trails is committed to preserving these pieces to the best of our ability.



What is the main issue?

Wood is not the ideal surface to adhere leather to.

The leather background of these pieces is glued to a thick layer of plywood. According to Legacy Restorations, "The nature of plywood is that is highly acidic and contains other volatile components that will stiffen and weaken leather over time. The overall artwork is therefore unstable as long as it remains in such close contact to plywood. The plywood has also been an attractant for pests and is likely to have contributed to the darkening of the adhesive residue on the front of the leather surfaces." The smallest of these pieces is about 5 X 7 feet and they all have massive frames. Thus they are extremely heavy and hard to move. The Benton Conference Room was designed with reinforced walls to accommodate them.





Thanks to some Nocona Indian football players for moving them out of storage and for Jay Gaston's crew for helping turn them over after removing backing! We are grateful to have Wes Morton who has many years of leather experience! We love our volunteers!

What is the goal?

In order to better preserve these one-of-a-kind pieces of art, we hope to be able to remove the leather from the wooden backing and mount it on an archival corrugated aluminum that will not damage leather over time and will make the pieces considerably lighter in weight. This process will be a long and tedious task to carefully deal with the many tooled pieces that are adhered to a leather background that will have to be removed from the plywood. After mounting the background onto the aluminum, the pieces will have to be glued back on like a giant puzzle. Then we will have to deal with re-framing them and replacing the old plexiglass.



Who's in charge?

This process will be under the direction of conservator Victoria Lupia of [Legacy Conservation](#) in Oklahoma City. We have experience with Victoria through the *Collections Assessment for Preservation* program, part of the [Institute of Museum and Library Services](#). Although she admits she has never seen any tooled leather works of this magnitude, we are very confident she is up to the task. She was here for two days last week and we took the two pieces apart for her to evaluate how they were put together so she can plan how to proceed in their restoration.

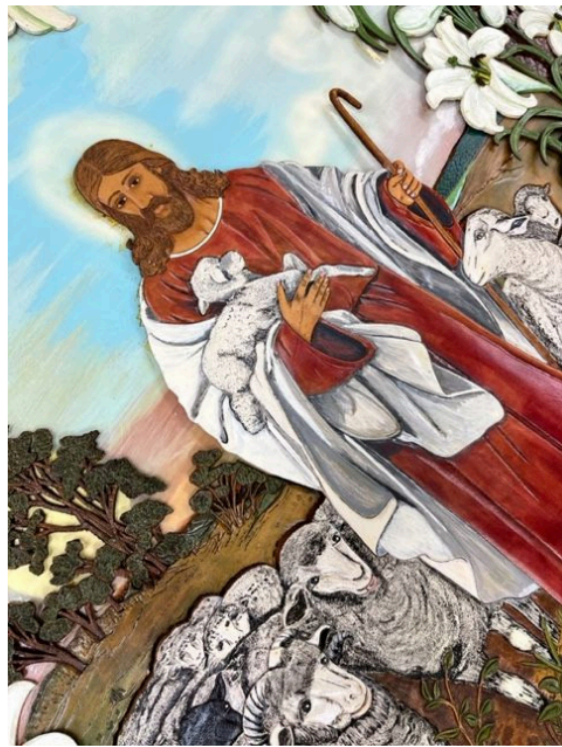
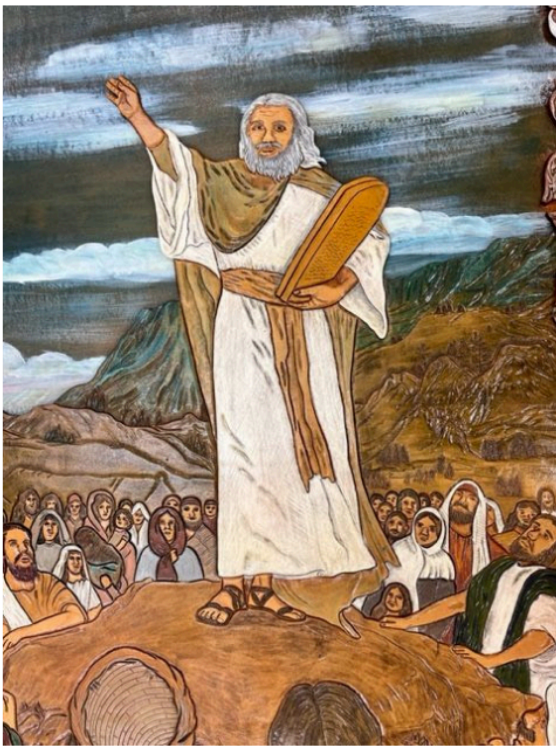


LEGACY CONSERVATION

Preserving the *things* that matter.

How is this going to be funded?

Obviously this will not be a cheap fix. Ms. Lupia is providing us a proposal and we have already applied for grant funds to help with this project. But, many of you Nocona natives knew Dell Motley and are familiar with her work. We would like to invite you to be a part of preserving this well-kept secret of Nocona history. When Dell and Oliver moved to Branson, Missouri for a few years, they had offers to buy some of her pieces. She replied "I can't sell them because they are not mine. They belong to God, they are staying together, and they are going back to Nocona!" They need to be preserved for future generations.



How can you help?

Each one of Dell's pieces was surrounded by a hand-tooled mat of multiple flowers. The Ten Commandments has a total of 100 intricate poppies. It of course, also has the ten commandments, Moses, the tablet, and 37 Israelites! The Good Shepherd has 102 beautiful white lilies, Jesus, a lamb, and 5 sheep.

We are inviting you to 'adopt' part of a piece to help fund it's restoration and preservation! You may even donate in memory or honor of someone!

Adopt an Israelite -- \$25

Adopt a poppy or a lily-- \$50

Adopt one of Jesus' sheep -- \$100

Adopt Moses' tablet or Jesus' lamb -- \$500

Adopt Moses or Jesus or one of the commandments -- \$1000

Our hope is to completely restore these two pieces for display, as well as to complete the same restoration process in the near future for The Last Supper and Jesus and the Fishermen, which will continue to be on display until that time.

We are working on getting a link on our [website](#) and our [Facebook](#) page to make donations. In the mean time, you may call the museum at 940-825-5330 or Nell Ann at 940-867-3944 or email us at contact@talesntrails.org.



Members Only Event!

Our annual membership meeting will be in May or June. We are working with Ms. Lupia on a date that she can be here to present her thoughts on this restoration project. We will also take the members to see the works in progress. We will let you know as soon as we confirm the date so that you can make plans to be here. Your annual membership dues will be payable at that time. If you are not yet a member of Tales 'N' Trails, that would be a great time to join!

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Thank You for your support!



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Board of Directors*

Our mailing address is:
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