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## Presents Shebang 2023!

### Have you got your tickets yet??

Join us Saturday, September 23rd for our annual fund raising event! Our theme is Dell Motley! Great food, games, auctions, and entertainment! Tickets are \$50 per person or get some friends together for a table of 8 for \$350! Casual dress and BYOB!



Shebang celebrates the amazing leather art of Dell Motley! We are moving right along with the renovation of her two pieces, "The Good Shepherd" and "The Ten Commandments", hoping to have them completed by the end of the year. If you haven't been able to "adopt" a commandment, Israelite, lilly, etc., you will have a chance at the Shebang!



See *What's New!!* Check out our new Hub! Click [HERE!](#)

*A special guest and donor! Thank you Tom Foster!*



On a recent visit to the museum, Tom Foster viewed the exhibit of his carvings. Carrying a pocket knife since his youth, he's a self-described whittler rather than a carver. In addition to his artistic talent, he's a 93 year old compendium of Montague County history with special knowledge of Spanish Fort, where his roots run deepest.

Asked when his interest in wood carving developed, Tom replied, "Around 1992, a year after I retired as principal of Georgetown High School. I truly don't know what triggered the impulse". His first carving was a bust of an old cowboy fashioned from a weathered cedar post. He then started carving all shapes and sizes of Santas and angels to sell at various craft shows. All his carvings were without any prior instruction; he's self-taught. "I can't so that" wasn't in his vocabulary. Faces and hands were the most difficult to carve.

Tom found out quickly that you had to have the right tools. Disposable blades were a must because it took too long to sharpen the other kind. Also, get ready to bleed; he quickly learned to tape his thumbs and forefingers. Padding the handles of the tools also facilitated comfort during the process. He employed knives, gouges, chisels, rasps, and a pounce wheel which has spikes. No power tools or glue were used. He used many varied woods: basswood, white pine, tupelo, butter nut, mahogany, clear cedar, and others. He steered clear of walnut because it was too hard.

Soon folks were asking for custom carvings which ranged from soldiers of all eras, cars, pickup trucks, airplanes, golfers, blacksmiths, cowboys, the Baylor Bear, Bob Wills and his Texas Playboys, the racehorse Joe Hancock complete with trailer, perch, deer, donkeys, pigs, walking sticks with toppers, Jack Crain, an Indy racer from 1934, the cowboys from Lonesome Dove (on display at the museum) and his favorite "Going to Town", which is also at the museum, features a man and woman in a horse-drawn wagon. The 1992 Georgetown High School commissioned their former principal to carve the Eagle mascot for the school. Tom chose red cedar to fashion the 31-inch tall eagle which still holds a place of prominence at the school.

While Tom toured the museum, he exhibited his "history on the hoof"; a treasure-trove of information about artifacts and people. He remarked that he was Mel Chapman's first employee of the Nocona Belt Company, while moonlighting during the summer months from his job as a teacher/coach at Prairie Valley High School. Tom, using a jigsaw, designed the logo for Nocona Belt Company which is still in use today. From athlete to artisan, Tom Foster, at 93, is a true renaissance man.

**SHEBANG IS PARTIALLY  
SPONSORED BY**





























**THANK YOU FOR HELPING PRESERVE OUR HISTORY!**



Shebang auction item: Invacare rechargeable mobility scooter in great shape! New battery, removable arms, variable speed. Should be a great deal for someone who needs it! Bid on it online at [www.tntshebang.org](http://www.tntshebang.org), in person at the event, or give the museum your maximum bid.

## *Did You Know?*

If you are at least  
a sustaining  
member\* of TNT,  
you get free  
Shebang tickets??

\*\$250 per year  
(less than \$21 per month!)



### **Did someone say "Challenge"??**

The museum is in the designing stage of our outdoor walkway project that will connect the main building to our outdoor exhibits. We are selling engraved bricks that will be used in the design. The bricks are \$50 each. The Nocona High School Class of 1975 has purchased bricks honoring each member of their class and is issuing a challenge to other NHS classes! Who is up to the challenge??

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### **ONLINE BIDDING**

Online bidding for Shebang items will start at [www.tntshebang.org](http://www.tntshebang.org) at midnight on Monday, Sept. 11 and run through midnight on Thursday, Sept. 21st. You may also leave bids with someone at the museum if you are not able to make it to the Shebang! Follow our [Facebook](#) page to see auction items!



A big thank you going out to our secret volunteer who installed solar lights in our sign! A great improvement! Maybe it was one of our ghosts????