

For Immediate Release

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State Historian of Texas Pens New Book About Legendary Cattleman *John Chisum: Frontier Cattle King*

During the 1850s John Chisum recognized opportunity in the fledgling range cattle industry, and within a few years, his herds numbered in the tens of thousands. Bill O'Neal, Texas State Historian, tells the story of this legendary cattleman and his exciting life that spanned Texas and New Mexico, in his newest book, *John Chisum: Frontier Cattle King*.

Chisum was a true pioneer, who entered the cattle business in Texas and as he sought open range, moved further and further west, until he settled in New Mexico. During three decades on a succession of frontier ranches, Chisum endured Indian raids, cattle rustlers, drought, financial reverses, and the murderous Lincoln County War.

"I first started doing research on Chisum when I wrote *Historic Ranches of the Old West* for Eakin Press," O'Neal said. "I knew that someday I wanted to write a book about Chisum." O'Neal also benefited from Dr. Harwood Hinton's research regarding John Chisum. "I knew that the most meticulous research about Chisum had been accomplished by Harwood P. Hinton, who had accumulated information on the cattle king for half a century. I was highly impressed by the depth of his knowledge about Chisum. After his death in 2016, his papers were donated to the Southwest Collection at Texas Tech University."

Chisum was born in Tennessee, but his family migrated to Texas and settled near Paris. His family had always been involved in farming and raising livestock, and as an adult, John Chisum used cattle to build an empire. His business partners and acquaintances read like a Who's Who of the day and included Charles Goodnight, Oliver Loving, John Slaughter, Pat Garrett and even the infamous Billy the Kid.

O'Neal has written more than 40 books and hundreds of articles for various publications. In 2007 O'Neal was named "The Best Living Non-Fiction Writer" by *True West Magazine*, and in 2012 he was appointed Texas State Historian by then Governor Rick Perry. O'Neal taught for 33 years at Panola College, before retiring in 2003. He has since had a new dormitory, Bill O'Neal Hall, named after him at Panola College.

John Chisum: Frontier Cattle King in Texas is published by Eakin Press, an imprint of Wild Horse Media Group, based in Fort Worth. The book is 174 pages and retails for \$19.95 in paperback and \$7.95 as an ebook. It is available through most book retailers or for more information visit www.EakinPress.com.

John Chisum: Frontier Cattle King

By Bill O'Neal

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Bill O'Neal is available for interviews.

Please Contact the Publisher

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