

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

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### **Gene Autry Birthday Bonanza at Tioga's September Western Trade Days**

Although the Tioga Museum & Heritage Association can no longer afford to host the Gene Autry Music Festival, they are still celebrating Gene Autry's 101<sup>st</sup> birthday. This year the celebration will be during the Western Trade Days on September 27<sup>th</sup>.

The Western Trade Days is a fundraising event for the TMHA held monthly, February – November, 8:00 AM – 5:00 PM, in the heart of downtown Tioga, off Hwy. 377 on Gene Autry Drive. The goal is to be a north Texas gathering place for anyone who has goods and products to sell.

Born September 29<sup>th</sup>, 1907, Gene Autry is probably Tioga's most famous hometown son. Many people know him as "America's Favorite Singing Cowboy" and for his trademark theme song, "Back in the Saddle Again." He is still the only entertainer with five stars on Hollywood's Walk of Fame, one each for radio, records, film, television and live theatrical performance (including rodeo).

Trade Days shoppers can share in the birthday bonanza with a complimentary piece of birthday cake that will be served in the Tioga Heritage Museum while it lasts. The Museum gift shop will also be hosting a raffle drawing every hour. Prizes will be items sold in the gift shop. It's only \$5 to participate and you'll receive **10 chances to win!** Gene Autry movies will play throughout the day in the Gene Autry memorabilia room!

The September Western Trade Days will again kick off with an authentic chuckwagon breakfast. Breakfast will include eggs, bacon, sausage, biscuits and gravy, coffee and juice. Cost is \$6 per plate. A children's plate is also available for \$3. Breakfast will be served 8:00 AM – 10:00 AM. At Noon, our chuckwagon cowboy will begin serving BBQ sandwiches, chips and apple cobbler for \$6.50. He'll be camping out the night before and smoking brisket so he'll be ready to serve lunch and get an earlier start on cooking breakfast, too.

The Tioga Band Booster Club will be hosting a bake sale to raise money for purchasing instruments, music and instrument repair. The Band Booster Club and school provide instruments for the children of Tioga to use during the school year so they may have the opportunity to participate in the band program. They would really appreciate your support so look for their bake sale booth across from the chuckwagon camp.

We're still looking for musicians and cowboy storytellers who will donate their time and talent to support the Tioga Museum & Heritage Association's fundraising efforts and entertain shoppers and vendors. This invite also goes out to north Texas school bands and orchestras. J.B. Unplugged, presented by Crossroad's School of Music, is happy to join us this month and perform his country and classical rock music in honor of Gene Autry's birthday!

Italian ice and blueberry lemonade as well as soft drinks and water will keep you cool while you shop. There are also vendor spaces still available. We're continuing to grow each month, but we have room for 100 vendors! Call 940-437-5503 or 940-390-5093 or email [info@westerntradedays.com](mailto:info@westerntradedays.com) for vendor information. Check out our website at [www.westerntradedays.com](http://www.westerntradedays.com) where you can register to participate online and get the latest updates!