



**Come along boys and listen to my tale  
Tell you of my trouble on the old Chisholm Trail  
Come a ki yi yippee yippee yi yippee yay  
Come a ki yi yippee yippee yay**

**Well, I started up the trail October twenty-third  
Started up the trail with a 2-U herd  
Come a ki yi yippee yippee yi yippee yay  
Come a ki yi yippee yippee yay**

**Ten dollar horse and a forty dollar saddle  
I'm going cut them Texas cattle  
Come a ki yi yippee yippee yi yippee yay  
Come a ki yi yippee yippee yay**

*Words and Music Adapted by Woody Guthrie*

Come celebrate 150 years of the Chisholm Trail with us during the Clearwater Fall Festival. Clearwater was never a famous, rowdy cowtown like Abilene, Delano, Caldwell, or Dodge City, but its very beginning can be credited back to the days of longhorns on the trail. J.R. Mead built a Trading Post where early Indian traders and freight wagons crossed the Ninnescah River. Later, in 1870, near that same location, the "Ninnescah Ranch" was built. The ranch sold provisions and whiskey, and was a popular watering hole for cowboys driving large cattle herds past Clearwater. It was especially popular and rowdy as herds of 3 to 5,000 longhorns were being pastured both north and south of the river--before being driven onto market in Abilene or Wichita.

The Clearwater CT-150 committee will be sharing bits of this history, including a re-enactment of our own Abbie Bright. Abbie was a 22 year old school teacher who came from Indiana to take a 160 acre claim near her brother. She wrote often of the travelers of the Chisholm Trail.

Also enjoy presentations by well-known Kansas cowboy poets, visit with members of the Commanding General's Color Guard of Ft. Riley, Native American dance performers, members of the Jess Chisholm family, and story-telling by some of our own local descendants of early day settlers. Finally, and not to be forgotten, spend time with Contessa as she transports you to the frontier of cowtown dance halls, painted ladies, and riveting characters of the 1870's.