



Museum of Chincoteague Island People ♦ Culture ♦ Heritage

Press Release

For Immediate Release

Chincoteague Island is fortunate to have visitors come from around the world to enjoy the untampered seashore, amazing wildlife, and quaint historical downtown. Many of those visitors also come because of "Misty of Chincoteague" a book published in 1947 by Marguerite Henry that inspired millions. "Misty of Chincoteague" tells the against-the-odds story of two siblings Paul and Maureen Beebe. These two children lived on the ranch with their grandparents, Clarence and Ida Beebe (affectionately called Grandma and Grandpa Beebe in the story). The charming story centers on the children's desire to buy the wild pony of their dreams and the challenges they faced to make that dream a reality. It is a heartwarming tale that made the Beebe family, Misty and the Beebe Ranch a beloved part of the literary world.

After 100 years, the Beebe family need to sell the ranch. The demands of maintaining the ranch plus the desire to use the funds to help their aging family is certainly a good enough reason to sell. We appreciate all they have done to preserve the remaining 10.3 acres of the ranch. This property is where Misty spent most of her life, and the original home still stands. The Beebe family has reached out to the Museum of Chincoteague in the hopes that the museum could acquire the property and maintain it as the ranch. Allowing it to be incorporated into the museum, would help protect it for many years to come. Because of the circumstances, the museum has been given one month to see if they can generate the funds to purchase the property.

The mission of the Museum of Chincoteague Island is to preserve, collect and protect the history of Chincoteague and Assateague Island. It is with this mission in mind that we would like to ask the public to join us to save the Beebe Ranch. If we can raise the funds in what can only be called a colossal, grassroots effort, we can preserve the ranch for future generations, keep a treasured part of Chincoteague intact and support the mission of the museum to protect our history, making the Beebe Ranch an officially an extension of the museum. Since we have been given one month to generate the funds, please understand that this can not be done without you!

We are asking you to consider making a tax-deductible donation to the Museum of Chincoteague Island. Our goal is \$625,000. The family has already been given an offer by a developer for that amount. If we are not successful in raising our goal, the donor will be able to decide if they would like their donation returned.

The Museum of Chincoteague Island's mailing address is PO Box 352 Chincoteague, Va 23336 if you are interested in sending a check. Donations can also be made through our website <http://chincoteaquemuseum.com> or Go-fund-Me: <https://gofund.me/bd12d625>

*****Please note that our info might say "Oyster Museum dba Museum of Chincoteague Island" but that is still accurate*****

Together we can make this happen!!!!