
Wichita County Archive News

November 2015

November 15th is the deadline for submission of Texas Historic Marker applications.

We are awaiting wording for the Burkburnett Masonic Lodge marker.

MUSEUM OF NORTH TEXAS HISTORY NEWS

Best wishes to our departing board members, JoAnn Crites, Paul Ludwig, and Ralph Cuevas.

Also, best wishes to our departing curator, Kay and our volunteer, Rachael, who are also leaving.

City Lights is November 21 and the Museum needs volunteers to be present in each venue.

PARKS OF WICHITA FALLS

BELLEVUE PARK: Block 247 of original town site, Wichita Falls. The first and oldest park in Wichita Falls. It was given to the city in 1882 by R. E. Montgomery, Denver agent and head of the town site company that auctioned lots in September 1882. The deed restricts it to park use though attempts were made to place a city hall and a junior college there. The Civic League developed it 1905-1912 when the city took over. (*Renamed for former mayor and civic leader, Harold Jones, in 1987.*)

LAMAR PARK: Block 215 of original town site. It was known as the "Seven Sisters" block for the seven identical four-room houses on the Lamar St. side when sixteen public-spirited citizens bought it to sell at cost to the city for a park in 1910. In 1918 Kemp Public Library was built on it by J.A. Kemp.

SCOTLAND PARK: In March 1914, Scotland Realty Co. (A. L. Huey) donated about forty acres of Wichita River bottom land, specifying it be named for the company. Area used frequently as camping grounds for units of Indians, military, etc. who came for celebrations and parades. In 1928 the city council voted to establish a zoo in the park, sponsored by the Lions Club.

O'REILLY PARK: Myles O'Reilly, a bachelor contractor, who died January 22, '27, left in his will three blocks of his property in the main part of town as a park for children.

HUFF-McGREGOR PARK: R.E. Huff and W.M. McGregor donated a large tract of land for a park near old Crescent Lake. Accepted by the city February 10, 1914. A swimming pool was opened and W. M. Priddy gave money to build a fifty-foot wading pool. In November 1926 Judge Huff signed a waiver so the city could build the Memorial Auditorium on part of the land. In 1939 plans for a boys club were made.

WEEKS PARK: On September 27, 1926, the city council thanked Fred and Harry Weeks, lawyer brothers in Wichita Falls, for 257.4 acres of land along Holliday Creek for park purposes. A golf course (since 1917) was already on part of the land.

LUCY PARK (west of Scotland Park): The original ninety-three acres were donated in 1963-64 by Mrs. Frances Ann Dickinson in memory of her mother, Lucy O'Neil Saunders.

REED PLAZA: a triangle at crossing of 9th and Kemp Blvd. named in June 1921 in honor of Dr. J. F. Reed, member of city council and parks board. Since disappeared in name of progress.

SPUDDER PARK: The park of four and one-half acres was built in 1920 with a grandstand for the pro baseball team called the Spudders. The team left Wichita Falls in 1932. In 1946 the city bought the acreage and an adjoining sixteen acres, used for circuses. The grandstand was burned several times.

From Louise Kelly, Wichita Falls County.