

720 INDIANA AVE., WICHITA FALLS, TEXAS 76301



From the Desk of Rober Palmer, Commission Chair

Life in the early 1950s in Wichita County was much different than it is now. The great transition from a mostly rural county before World War II to a mostly suburban county was in full swing.

Larger farm equipment meant fewer farmers and tenant sharecropping farmers disappeared.

Cattle had changed, too. In earlier days, farmers used pastures to feed milk cows.

Now, they fed beef cattle. "Working cattle" meant corralling, vaccinating, branding, ear notching, and doctoring. The latter was a huge problem in the 1950s because the screwworm eradication program had not happened.

Medicating for screwworms was not easy and messy at best.

First, you "head and heeled" the animals with ropes, stretching out the animal so as not to be kicked. The worms appeared in any scratch or open wound, especially the umbilical cord of newborn calves. You poured chloroform on the worms to kill them, cleaning them out with a stick. The wound was then covered with a blue smear. Blue smear came in a jar with a brush attached to the lid. It covered the wound and kept the flies out. It didn't wash off. Many young boys went to school with blue smear patches on them. Combined with the laundry blue from old ant bites, many a boy was virtually polka dot blue.

Branding used red-hot irons heated on an open fire in the corral, another hazard in addition to the mad mama cow. Good brands were open brands with no enclosed areas. The 6666 and DDD brand were, actually, not good brands. The bar - yy brand was a good brand.

You notched the ear with a pocket knife. The brand and the notch are still registered at the County Clerk's office.

And you "cut" male calves, removing the testicles. Called "calf fries," for some, made a better fried eating pleasure than the best Porterhouse steak. One old time cowboy who helped us always kept a green stick during calk working time. Let your imagination be your guide.

Wichita County Archives Carol Rudd, Archivist

Hours of Operation:
Wednesday, Thursday,
and Friday

10:00am - 4:00pm

Wichita County Texas
Archives is on
Facebook

Program

Torin Halsey
TRN Photographer

MEETING
First Thursday of the
Month
12:00 Noon - 1:00pm
Museum of North
Texas History
720 Indiana

Becky Trammell, Newsletter Editor

Wichita County Historical Commission
February 1, 2024 Agenda

Call to Order: Robert Palmer

Program: Torin Halsey - TRN Photography

Approval of minutes for February meeting: Sent to all members in the newsletter.

Financial Report: Status of Account

Committee Reports:

Program Committee: Douglas James, Chairman

Cemetery Committee: John Yates, Chairman

Website Committee: Becky Trammell/Elizabeth Hawley

Marker Committee: Becky Trammell

Old Business:

New Business:

Adjournment:

2023 THC-CHC Yearly Report

Every year, the Wichita County Historical Commission submits a report to the Texas Historical Commission. This year, the local commission members volunteered over 4000 hours. Projects reported by the Commission included the Centennial Project, Partnership with Texas Tech, and Wichita County Scrapbook.

Downtown Renovations

Penny and Mike Morford came to the Archives asking if we had pictures of Buchanan's Office Supply. They were excited to see 16 pictures they did not have. I asked if they were relatives, or maybe they had worked at Buchanan's. No, they live in the building. NO WAY!! The Morford's purchased the office supply in the late 90's and have made a 15,000 sq. ft, two-story building into a very comfortable home. They will be happy to show the commission around when the weather gets warmer.



Wichita County Historical Commission
Minutes
February 1, 2024

Call to Order: Robert Palmer called the meeting to order at 12:01 p.m.

Attendance Members: Bryce Blair, Brenda Jarrett, Robert Palmer, Katherine Phillips, John Yates, Carol Rudd, Celia Moseley, Russell Miller, Billy Clark, Suzanne Darr, Elizabeth Hawley

Attendance Guest: Josh Scott, Terrell Silvers, Rose Wallace, Lauren Love

Program: Robert Palmer's topic was "Untold Stories of Iowa Park." He passed out pictures of areas in Iowa Park that have a great deal of historical information, but don't get the recognition they deserve. Here are just a few. There are four iron bridges that used to belong to Wichita Falls that were moved to Iowa Park and are used as walking bridges around Gordan Lake, which is named after Dr. Gordan Clark who delivered Robert Palmer as a baby. Douglas James was also a patient of Dr. Gordan. At the age of 6 years old, Douglas was bit on his right big toe. Dr. Gordon saved his life. Another untold story was the Magnolia Oil Co. that had a Civil War cannon that was used to stop oil tank fires. More entertaining "untold" stories were shared and Palmer challenged the group to come up with interesting untold tales of Wichita County.

Approval of Minutes: Russell Miller made the motion to approve the January minutes and Billy Clark seconded the motion.

Old Business: The Providence Baptist Church celebrated their 100 Anniversary with Robert Palmer unveiling the Historical Marker as well as presenting a beautiful framed picture of the church. Over 100+ people turned out to celebrate the awesome occasion. If you know someone who would like to be a part of the Historical Commission, have them write a resume about themselves and their interest in history. The resume is submitted to the Commissioners Court for approval.

New Business: Copies of the new Riverside Cemetery Tour book are available at the Archives.

Robert Palmer announced there will be a meeting to review possible changes to the By Laws. No date has been set.

Committee Reports: Elizabeth Hawley will be working with the Woman's Forum to celebrate the upcoming 100th Anniversary. The ladies are planning a festive event.

Adjournment: John Yates made the motion to adjourn at 1:05 pm and Brenda Jarrett seconded.

Wichita County Archives News
February 2024

It has been a very busy month with walk-ins, telephone calls, and emails. Here are just a few examples of what goes on at the Archives.

Black History Month was the perfect time to display five Eastside quilts made in 2015 under the guidance of Author B. Williams. The quilts are now on display in the Museum of North Texas History Theater through mid-March.

KAUZ called to do a story on the Spudders and The Black Spudders for Black History Month. In gathering pictures and artifacts I pulled what I thought was another picture of the Spudders team. However, on the back, it said "Howard's Ball Team." A quick call to Lynn Walker verified that the Times newspaper did have their own team in the 20's.

Whitney Snow brought a box of over 200 letters written by Jack Krass, a relative. The letters are from 1940-1945, although Krass never went overseas, the letters are most interesting.

Kevin Thuerwaechter of Lockhart, Texas called about a WWII dog tag belonging to MSGT Allen Magill who lived in Wichita Falls and died in 1982. Together we are hoping to find the two surviving daughters and pass the dog tag to them.

Lynn Walker called up to see if we had the picture of Mr. Sikes breaking ground for the Mall and pictures of the construction. The pictures and the articles were so fun to read and relive the excitement of going to the Mall for the first time. Can't believe it will be the 50 Anniversary of Sikes Senter.

An MSU student named Mattie Reeves came to the archives looking for information on Dr. White's sanitarium from the 20's. She needed the information for an assignment in her speech class. I asked why she picked that topic and Mattie said, "I wanted a cool topic that will keep the class awake!"

The staff of the Archives and the Museum welcomes intern, Lauren Love.

The Museum of North Texas History and the Wichita County Archives welcome Wichita Falls native, Lauren Love, to 720 Indiana. The Rider High School graduate is working on her Master's in Library and Information Science with a Concentration in Archival Studies from the University of North Texas. She hopes to complete her 120 hour hands-on practicum this summer.

We are always happy to have volunteers! If you are interested, don't hesitate to contact the Museum or the Archives. We have plenty of projects in need of volunteers.

