

PRESERVATION NEWS

DECEMBER 1, 2022

VOLUME CCLXXII

Becky Trammell, Editor

From the Desk of Robert Palmer

Guest columnist: **Becky Trammell**

What was described as one of the most modern shopping areas as well as the highest ratio of parking places to stores in the nation? No, not Sikes Senter again, but Parker Square!

After the closing of the Ball Brothers Glass Jar plant in 1948, the 45-acre site was purchased by the K & K, Inc. (named for the intersection of Kemp and Kell). The corporation's executive council included C. H. Parker, with Parker's sons, Garnett, Robert, and Jack, plus Max Tidmore and W. B. Rushing of Lubbock.

Cyrus Henderson Parker, "Cy," came to Wichita Falls from Denton in 1908. After engaging in various occupations, Parker opened his first grocery store in 1918. By 1956, he would have 12 area grocery stores plus other interests in Wichita Falls. Parker served as a director of the Wichita National Bank and the M-K-T Railroad.

Parker's civic involvements included First Christian Church, Kiwanis Club, Wichita Falls Chamber of Commerce, and Salvation Army among others.

Parker dreamed of a suburban shopping center and maintained contact with the Ball Corporation after the closing of the factory. The centerpiece of the proposed shopping center was the largest, most spacious of the Parker's Food Stores. Surrounding the store would be department stores, variety stores, and other businesses.

Designed as a "thank you event," in 1951 Parker Square merchants sponsored "Parker Square Days." The center, described as a multi-million dollar facility, claimed nearly 50 businesses employing more than 500 people. The advertising for "Parker Square Days" showed the following businesses: Luby's Cafeteria, Werner's Studio, Woodie's Barber Shop, Parker Square State Bank, Montgomery's Mens and Boys Wear, Spears Contemporary House, Ed's Hobby Shop, The Youth Colony, Austin Shoes, McClurkan's, English Pharmacy, Kruger's Jewelry, The Cake Box, Yarn Shop, Toddle House, Singer Sewing, Sherwin-Williams, and of course, Parker's Food Store.

**December Meeting - Courthouse
Tour with Mark Beauchamp
Meet at Noon in Room 206 at
the Wichita County Courthouse**

Wichita County Archives

Bryce Blair, Archivist
720 Indiana Avenue
Wichita Falls, Texas
76301

940-763-0020

E-mail Address -

archives@co.wichita.tx.us

wchitacountyhistorical.com

mission.org/

Hours of Operation:

Tuesday, Wednesday and

Thursday 10:00am -

12:00pm & 1:00pm -

4:00pm

Wichita County Texas

Archives is on [Facebook](#)

**Program
Mark
Beauchamp
Courthouse Tour**

MEETING

12:00 Noon - 1:00pm

AGENDA FOR MEETING:

1. Call to Order
2. Introduction of Guests
3. Business
4. Program
5. Adjourn



Wichita County Archive News - November 2022 - Monthly Report

-Joyce James brought several file folders full of photos and historical narratives of Wichita Falls to the Archives. She asked which ones we wanted, so we picked out several. One narrative gave a detailed history of the Littlest Skyscraper by Mrs. Guy Mathews. There were also narratives about Ed Howard, the Estes family history, the history of our public schools, and several old photos from a century ago. Many thanks to Joyce for thinking of the Archives.

-Karen Cardwell came to the Archives to donate an old scrapbook that belonged to Wilma Brown Foster. Wilma was one of three daughters of Guy J. Brown, an oil producer in Wichita and Clay Counties back in the 1920's. The scrapbook was full of playbills and programs from when Wilma was a child dancer. One such program was from a stage production performed during the 1926 Texas Oklahoma Fair titled "Pageant of Progress". The play highlighted historical events such as the Wolf Hunt, the 1896 Bank Robbery, and the discovery of oil just to name a few. Wilma's sister, Reva Ray Brown, was also noted in the scrapbook as being chosen as the Confederate Maid of Honor for the veterans reunion held at Columbia, S.C. in 1938. The Brown family had a very long line of notable family members that were patriotic to the southern cause. This is a great addition to the Archives.

-John Lesage came to the Archives looking for information on the house he had recently purchased at 2708 9th Street near Morningside. Turns out the home was built in 1919 by Dr. E. Perry Bass and his wife Anne Richardson Bass. Research revealed Bass was an oil producer partnered with A.R Dillard. The Bass' had one son, Perry Richardson Bass. This story gets very interesting when we discover that Anne Bass' little brother, Sid Richardson came to Wichita Falls to make his fortune in the oil fields. Sid partnered with one of his boyhood friends from Athens, Texas, Clint Murchison. Both Sid and Clint became wealthy from their oil ventures in Wichita County and then moved to the Dallas-Fort Worth area. Perry Richardson Bass moved to Fort Worth to work for his Uncle Sid and eventually inherited all his wealth. Perry had 4 sons and continues today as one of the wealthiest families in Texas. Clint Murchison's son, Clint Jr became pretty famous when he started a professional football franchise called the 'Dallas Cowboys'. It should be noted that Dr. E. Perry Bass and his wife, Anne are buried at Riverside Cemetery in Wichita Falls.

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MoNTH News

The **Heart of Downtown Model Train Exhibit** will be open for a special viewing on Saturday, November 26th. Trains running at 11am, 1pm, and 2:30pm.

The Museum of North Texas History will be closed December 20th through January 4th.

Happy Holidays!