

# PRESERVATION NEWS

MAY 5, 2022

VOLUME CCLXIX

Becky Trammell, Editor

## From the Desk of Robert Palmer

It's hard to imagine a world without heroes. Our selection of heroes defines and directs us. This does not include the artificial "heroes" of the entertainment and sports world, but the people who've shown positive qualities that set them apart. Heroes are people who have demonstrated great courage or demonstrated exceptional nobility.

We who grew up after World War II lived in a world of heroes. We were surrounded by individuals who were returning from defeating forces whose purpose was to enslave the people of the world. Many had the scars to show the price they had paid.

Virtually all classrooms had Gilbert Stuart's portrait of George Washington hanging at the front of the room when we started school. Our teachers taught us of the things he had accomplished, suffering great hardship at Valley Forge and leading the Colonists to form a great nation based on individual liberty. We learned of other heroes: Patrick Henry, Nathan Hale, and Paul Revere. Later studies told of frontier heroes: Daniel Boone, Davy Crockett, and Kit Carson. It was constantly emphasized these heroes set the basis for the growth of

our great nation.

We read of the tremendous sacrifice of the men at the Alamo. We studied great men and women: Teddy Roosevelt leading the charge up San Juan Hill, Woodrow Wilson helping form the United Nations, Eleanor Roosevelt fighting for Human Rights, and Franklin D. Roosevelt leading the nation to victory in World War II.

This led to a fatal flaw. The soldiers who returned from the war and the ladies on the homefront wanted one thing for their children. They wished for their children to have a better life than they had lived during the Great Depression and the War. The value of hard work and determination gave way to overindulgence. The heroes like Audie Murphey and Sargent York were not the heroes of the emerging generation. After the Korean War nobody wanted more war. Unfortunately, tyrants and dictators do not, simply, go away.

The SEATO Treaty led us into conflict in Southeast Asia. The 60s generation didn't view fighting in a foreign land the same way other generations had. Teaching high school during that time was an almost overwhelming challenge. The age of

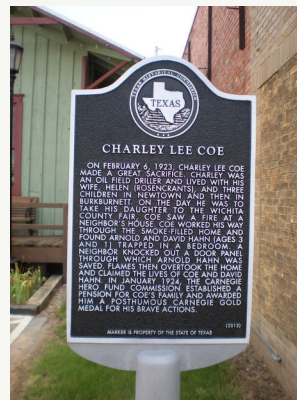
the Antiheroes had arrived.

So, why do we need heroes? Again, they define and direct us.

Wichita County has had heroes who should be recognized. We have done so in the past and we must continue to do it. We named a school after Lt. Alfred Holt "Pat" Carrigan, Jr., who made the ultimate sacrifice.

Kitty O'Neil overcame great disability to accomplish amazing feats.

The Charley L. Coe historical marker in Burkburnett leaves me in tears. The Carnegie Hero Fund Commission recognized him. He was an ordinary man except he had a hero's heart. On February 6, 1923, he entered a burning house to try to save two young boys, Arnold and David Hahn. Coe saved Arnold but died attempting to save David. He was found with David in his arms. Go to Burkburnett and read the Historical Marker. You will realize who true heroes are and how they define and direct us.



### Wichita County Archives

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[wchitacountyhistorical.com](http://wchitacountyhistorical.com)

[mission.org/](http://mission.org/)

Hours of Operation:  
Tuesday, Wednesday and  
Thursday 10:00am -  
12:00pm & 1:00pm -  
4:00pm

Wichita County Texas  
Archives is on [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/wchitacountyhistorical)

### Program Maggie-Mae Williams Prohibition in Wichita County

#### MEETING

- 12:00 Noon - 1:00pm  
AGENDA FOR MEETING:
1. Call to Order
  2. Introduction of Guests
  3. Business
  4. Program
  5. Adjourn



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## Wichita County Archive News - April 2022 - Monthly Report

-**Mark Beauchamp**, County Commissioner, has asked the Archives to research any interesting and/or unusual stories about the Wichita County Courthouse. Upon completion of the court house remodel in the next year and a half, Mark would like to put together a display case at the entrance displaying old photos and stories of the courthouse.

**Call to Action - Your Assistance is Requested:** If you know of any stories or events (deaths, shootings, or very unusual incidents) that occurred in the courthouse, please let me know. We can research almost any event to get the facts for anything submitted. This is our chance to showcase our history to a wide and varied audience.

-**Joyce James, historical commission member**, allowed the Archives to copy two old family photos. The photos depict her grandfather and great grandfather, Frank Krajca, Jr. and Frank Krajca, Sr. Those two men are the farmers encountered by the two bank robbers in 1896 and had their plow horses stolen by them. Many thanks to Joyce for letting us copy her family photos. The addition of photos to a story always helps bring it alive.

-**Paul Bata** from the Wichita Appraisal District notified the Archives the Plat Office in the Wichita County Annex at 6th & Scott needs to be moved. The entire collection of plat maps and index cards detailing the chain of ownership of every piece of real estate in Wichita County is contained in the Plat Office. The contents of the collection is about 100 linear feet of filing cabinets and the Archives need space to store it. We are asking for space on the second floor of the Museum of North Texas History to house this collection and are patiently waiting for an answer.

-**John Yates**, Archive volunteer, found some very interesting information on the Portal to Texas History. He found 93 inventions patented by persons in Wichita County between the years 1883 and 1922. These patents approved by the U.S. Patent Office, include detailed descriptions and drawings of each item. John copied all this information and added it to our collection at the Archives.

-**Willie Wall**, a Wichita County employee of 40 years, is retiring in June. The Commissioner's Court asked if the Archives has any information from 1982, the year Mr. Wall was hired. The information is to be used at his retirement party. The Archives will submit several newspaper articles from when Mr. Wall was hired and several photos from yearbooks during his years at WFHS, plus a few events that occurred during 1982.

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### **WCHC and MoNTH News**

What about Wichita County history interests you? The Archives needs volunteers and, many times, if you are interested, someone else is to. Contact the Archives to volunteer!!

**Rural Texas Women  
At Work**

**Exhibit opens at  
MoNth**

**Thursday, May 19th**