



Preservation News

WICHITA COUNTY HISTORICAL COMMISSION

Wichita County Archives

Carol Rudd, Archivist

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wchitacountyhistorical.commission.org/

Hours of Operation:

Wednesday, Thursday, and
Friday

10:00am - 12:00pm &

1:00pm - 4:00pm

Wichita County Texas

Archives is on [Facebook](#)

Program

John Glaze

Bootmaker

MEETING

12:00 Noon - 1:00pm

AGENDA FOR MEETING:

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

Volume CCLXXVI

May 4, 2023

Becky Trammell, Editor

From the Desk of Robert Palmer, Commission Chair

It was 1916 and times were hard, both in the USA and Mexico. Texas was a good place to be and a young couple traveled northward in a cart pulled by a horse and a donkey. The trip took months. They had heard of a place called Wichita Falls with a strong Hispanic population and opportunities to work. They brought four children and another, called Pete, would be born ten years later. The young family had each other and with little money or food. And they spoke no English, but, again, they were willing to work. Pete would tear up and describe them with pride years later. Pete grew up knowing the willingness to work would carry you a long way. After some difficulty, Pete graduated from Wichita Falls High School.

Pete liked music. He learned to play various musical instruments, but excelled with a fairly new instrument that was not that widely known, the steel guitar. Western swing was beginning to be popular and Wichita Falls was a hot spot. He played with the Millers Brother's Band, actually the Gibbs Brothers Band with fiddle player Leon Gibbs. Pete formed his own band, played dances, and had his own show on KFDX radio at 7 a.m. each morning. It was fun but didn't pay that well, so he took day jobs. He worked at a business on 13th street near where the old Gibson's used to be.

Pete didn't have much direction in life, no real role model to follow. He served briefly in the military, but a background of playing in honky tonks from the age of 12 soon got him in trouble. His company commander made the decision to release him from the service with the advice, "Go home and look at the want ads!"

One incident changed his life. He was looking out the window and saw a parade float go by. He walked out went

out, saw a beautiful young lady, went up to her and said, "Hi, my name is Pete Martinez." At the time he was also playing with the Miller Brothers and the Callahan Brothers on KRLD radio. She replied, "You played a song for me this morning on the radio." He remembered the special request, "One Has My Name, The Other Has My heart." He also remembered her name was Delfina Palacios. She invited him to go to Homecoming with her that night. They later married.

He would perform with Hank Thompson, Jimmy Wakely, and Tex Ritter. He appeared in six of Wakely's movies, including playing with Wakely on his hit song, "Don't Fence Me In." In a recent conversation with Pete's son, he told me Ritter was a frequent visitor in their home. He liked Pete's company and Delfina's cooking.

Like most musicians at that time he had other jobs. He worked for Popular Furniture, Schultz and Brannon Drilling Company, and Walker-Neer Manufacturing. He is best known for his work as Director of Transportation for WFISD. When the State of Texas decided to require all school bus drivers to be special trained, Pete taught classes for all of the thirteen county Region 9. He taught me. I later replaced him when he retired and taught for 40 years.

Pete's wife, Delfina, a story by herself, is featured in the book *Women of Wichita County*. From such humble beginnings, two of the most outstanding people in Wichita County history emerged.



Wichita County Archive News - April 2023 - Monthly Report

Reminder: the Archives is open

Wednesday through Friday from 10:00 am – 4:00 pm.

- Jim and Melissa Hogan brought in a picture of 14 young men who had finished high school and were going to enlist into WWI. Melissa is the granddaughter of Grover Bullington who is one of the young men. Another inductee is Joe Kell. The picture was taken at the corner of 8th and Scott with the recruiter.
- Sue Bove came in looking for information of her grandparents, Henry and Nannie Sprinkles, who lived at 2105 Tenth St., next door to the Webb Nursery. The Sprinkles home burned down in 1982 and Ms. Bove was hoping the Archives had pictures of the house before it burned. Although her grandfather never purchased a business advertisement, he is listed under “Electrical Contractors” in the telephone directory.
- Who doesn’t love Prine’s Barbecue and Catering! John Yates had a picture from the 1950s that needed some clarification. On my way home I talked to Allen Prine, the third generation to make the famous food. The business was started in 1925 by his grandfather. Allen started working with his father at the age of ten. Allen verified the picture was from the 50s. Prine’s had a takeout and a dining business that would hold 60 plus people. Hard to believe they will soon be 100 years old.



Do you have a video camera that uses cassettes like this one?

If so, the Archives needs your help.

Museum of North Texas History News

The Board of Directors of the Museum of North Texas History announces the hiring of Nadine McKown as Executive Director of the Museum. Her official start date is May 1st.



Nadine comes to the Museum from the Kell House Heritage Center where she served as site director.

Please join us in welcoming Nadine.

MoNTH announces the opening of the **Generations of Play** Toy and Doll Exhibit on Thursday, May 3rd. Besides all the toys and games you remember from childhood, the exhibit includes a selection of dolls from the Mary Thomas Doll Collection.



Wichita County Historical Commission

May 4, 2023

Agenda

Call to Order: Robert Palmer

Speaker: John Glaze

Approval of minutes for April 6th meeting: Sent to all members with newsletter.

Financial Report: Status of Account

Committee Reports:

Program Committee: Douglas James, Chair

Cemetery Committee: John Yates, Chair

Website Committee: Becky Trammell/Elizabeth Hawley

Marker Committee: Becky Trammell, Chair

Old Business: The proposed addition of a mounted television screen with a computer to showcase digitized pictures is in the works. All the materials have been bought and mounting will be soon. The final total was \$596.89.

Adjournment:

April 6, 2023

Meeting Minutes

Meeting called to order: At 11:56 a.m. Chairman Robert Palmer called the meeting to order. He opened with a prayer. Because of new faces Palmer asked the group to do a round robin introduction.

Attendance: Members: Bryce Blair, Carol Rudd, Shanon Dwyer Morton, Pam Morgan-Davis, Celia Moseley, John Yates, Don Burkman, Douglas O. James, Paula Elmore, Brenda Jarrett, Katherine Philips, Joyce James, Joreen Ludeke, and Becky Trammell. **Guests:** Josh Scott, Paul Bata, Laurie Cruse, Diane Hargis, Suzanne Darr, and Phillip Hargis

Reading of the minutes: The minutes from the previous meeting were sent to the members via Email. A motion was made by Becky Trammell to accept the minutes with the addition of the nomination of Robert Palmer, John Yates and Carol Rudd as the Historical Commission Signatories for Capital Bank of Texas. Douglas James seconded the motion.

Program: Pam Morgan-Davis gave a fantastic presentation called the "THE VALENTINE DAY MURDER." Morgan-Davis is a member of the Historical Commission and is employed by MSU TEXAS.

Old Business: Members of each committee gave an update.

Program Committee: Douglas James encouraged each member to pass on to him a possible speaker for the meetings.

Cemetery Committee: John Yates reported there are 20 cemeteries in the county. He encouraged people to select one or more to visit and assess how the cemetery is being maintained, status of the stones and makers, and other features that need attention.

Website Committee: Becky Trammell reported there are no immediate updates, but they are uploading new stories. Trammell said that the stories are also linked to the County Website.

New Business: To honor Bryce Blair's service to the archives and his retirement, Robert Palmer presented him with a beautiful handmade knife. The wooded structure that the knife sits on is from the Barwise House. In addition, Carol Rudd was introduced as the new Archivist.

John Yates made a presentation of adding a large screen TV mounted on the wall that would show digitized pictures from the archives. The package would run between \$1200 and \$2000. Douglas James made the motion to approve and Joyce James seconded.

Adjournment: The motion to adjourn was made by Bryce Blair and seconded by Shanon Dwyer Morton. The meeting ended at 1:06 p.m.