

PRESERVATION NEWS

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VOLUME CCLXIX

Becky Trammell, Editor

From the Desk of Robert Palmer

With an assignment to preserve history, we accomplish this in many ways: written history, photography, video, and presentations. The most personal way to preserve history is through oral history. John Yates has been an example to us all. As historians focused on the repeated story, we have, throughout our life, experienced regular people telling what they have seen and been part of. I am, at this point in my life, recalling what I have heard people tell me during my life. My goal is to write it down. Here is a sampling of people I have known and their stories.

Larry McMurtry in his book, **A TEXAN LOOKS AT TEXAS**, stopped at the Electra Nursing Home. He interviewed an old man sitting on the front porch named Mr. Glasgow. Mr. Glasgow was a fixture around Kamay during the 40s and 50s. He knew Kamay's history. I got to hear him talk! Jim Renfroe ran a neighborhood grocery store. In the evenings, he would gather with neighbors in Mr. Parker's front yard. He told, in detail, what it was like to be in the World War I trenches.

Adolph Wittenbach was part of the migration to Texas as part of the selling of the Waggoner Colony Land. He had a great sense of humor and sprinkled his stories with it. Robert Wheat

was part of the Midwestern University Maintenance crew. He was at Bataan. His eyes filled with tears as he told about the horrors.

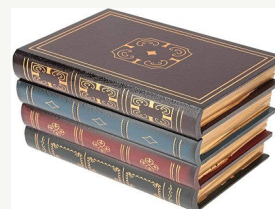
Pat Propps Handley was the daughter of Son Propps, the foreman of the Whiteface part of the Waggoner Ranch. She was a little girl when the polo matches drew all kinds of celebrities. Her favorite story was about actor Robert Taylor and his wife, Barbara Stanwyck. Al Durbin, an Electra elementary principal, was raised in the Tipton Orphans Home in Oklahoma. He won the Navy Distinguished Flying Cross for shooting down a Japanese Zero as the waist gunner on a PB4Y rescue plane. I remember him, with a tear in his eye, saying, "He was just a boy." Keith Sales, Electra High School High School Principal, was in Patton's 3rd Army during its move across Europe. He said, "Even on a map, years later, I couldn't figure out where all we had been."

Stu Bachman, a former MoNTH board member, was a genius at telling how he had been part of Wichita Falls history without breaking confidentiality. He was a fly fisherman and our conversations usually began by talking about fly fishing. I am proud to have his Orvis Battenkill bamboo fly rod! Charlie Heacox looked like anything but a scratch golfer.

Because of that, his Wichita Falls buddies would take him to Ft. Worth to play high-level matches. He knew Ben Hogan, Jimmy Demeret, and Byron Nelson. He, also, designed the back nine at the old Sheppard Air Force Base Golf Course. And, yes, I have his golf clubs and trophies, including his North Texas trophy.

Mary Jane Cole Robinson's father, Clyde Cole, ran a shoe repair shop in Electra. He worked hard to send his daughter to college to become a geologist at a time when that was a field dominated by men. Picture a five-foot lady telling the oil barons where to drill. She was good, very good. Eventually, she was elected the first woman to serve as president of The American Geologist Society. Richard Hill was a quiet man who, yes, loved fly fishing. We talked about fly fishing. I would, slowly, lead him into telling what it was like to be a World War II B-24 pilot! He was very detailed in describing what it was like. That's more than reading a book will tell you!

We have heard history all our lives. This is your challenge. Write it down.



Wichita County Archives

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E-mail Address -

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wchitacountyhistorical.commission.org/

Hours of Operation:

Tuesday, Wednesday and

Thursday 10:00am -

12:00pm & 1:00pm -

4:00pm

Wichita County Texas

Archives is on [Facebook](#)

Program

Mike Moody

Dating

Photographs of the
1840s and 50s.

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 - August 2022 - Monthly Report

-The Archives received a check from the Museum of North Texas History in the amount of \$966.70. This amount represented our half of the proceeds from the sale of the book "Women of Wichita County" written by Becky Trammell and Elizabeth Hawley. Kudos to this dynamic duo for producing this "Best Selling" book, documenting the outstanding women of our county.

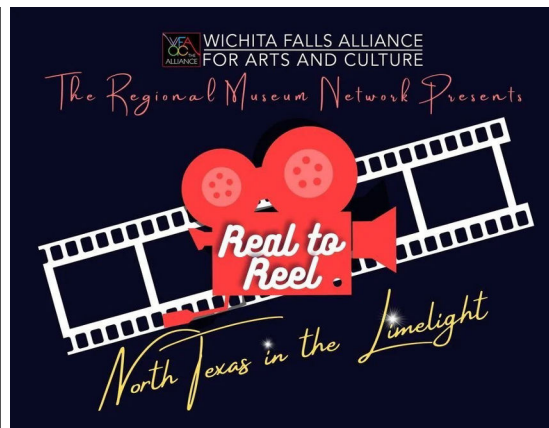
-The digitization of 75 Eastside photos belonging to Donald Phillips was completed this month. This is one of several collections that Brenda Jarrett has brought to the Archives to be digitized. Additionally, Ms. Jarrett brought eleven (11) reels of 16 mm films of the Booker T. Washington Leopards football games in the 1960s. We have made arrangements with Tai Kreidler of Texas Tech University in Lubbock to digitize the film and provide us with a copy.

-Clint Wood of Wichita Falls came to the Archives looking for information on his childhood home in Morningside. Of interest, is the fact that Mr. Wood is the grandson of Clint Wood, oil operator and builder of the Clint Wood building at 8th & Scott. His lineage also includes Wichitan, J.D. Avis, prominent in Wichita County affairs and also involved in the 1896 bank robbery. We anticipate additional visits to the Archives by Mr. Wood with the hopes of documenting his family history.

-While researching information on the patents produced in Wichita County, an amazing historical figure was discovered. A prominent early day citizen and inventor, John H. McCauley had a son, William McCauley that was a Texas Ranger. William was involved in the 1896 bank robbery posse and enlisted in the Rangers in 1899. Surprisingly, William is buried in Riverside Cemetery. We have tried to locate any other Texas Rangers buried in Wichita County without much luck. It is our intention to try and get a Texas Ranger marker placed on William's grave.

WCHC and MoNTH News

Each year, we are required to submit a report to the Texas Historical Commission. Have you made a presentation, wrote an article, or any other history-related activity? We also report the total volunteer hours performed by Commission members. We'll ask for totals at the December meeting.



Real to Reel, North Texas in Limelight, highlights the cinematic history in the region.

12 area museums will be showcasing their collections and highlighting their impact on area communities. Participants range from Nocona, Archer City, and even Clay and

Baylor counties.

September 1st through August 8th