



PRESERVATION NEWS

Wichita County Historical Commission

Robert Palmer, Chairman

Bill Steward, Archivist

Wichita County Archives

720 Indiana Avenue

Wichita Falls, Texas 76301

Telephone 940-763-0020

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

E-mail Address - archives@co.wichita.tx.us

www.wichitacountyhistoricalcommission.org/

Wichita County Texas Archives is on Facebook

AGENDA FOR MEETING

Lunch at 11:30AM

Meeting 12:00 Noon - 1:00pm

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

Location: Luby's

Reservations no longer needed

Volume XCIII

April 5, 2018

From the desk of Robert Palmer

Program

**Henry Florsheim - WF Chamber of Commerce and Industry
City of Wichita Falls Bond Issues**

Growing up on a farm in Wichita County in the 40s and 50s meant a frequent chore was building and repairing fence. Steel T-posts had not been invented. The posts used were mostly cedar and some bois-d-arc. The story of where they came from was not a big concern of mine. I did know that a truck would come through occasionally, full of posts, and my Dad and Uncle would meet them and buy a pickup load. I do recall that, the men selling the posts, were really rough looking. My job was to dig holes and put them in the ground.

The mystery of the origin of these posts has now been solved with the publication of a fascinating book titled, **THE CEDAR CHOPPERS, LIFE ON THE EDGE OF NOTHING**. The book is written by Ken Roberts and published by The Texas A and M University Press. It tells the story of a genre of people unlike any other in Texas.

The cedar choppers migrated from the Appalachian Mountains of the eastern U.S., originally, to the Hill Country of South Central Texas. This occurred in spurts from the late 1800s through the Depression years. They were low income people used to living on the meager resources life could provide. They were hardy people who only knew a life of hard, physical work. They were not afraid to work and work hard. They settled in the Hill Country from the edge of Austin to Uvalde. Eventually, they would move as far north as the Palo Pinto area around Mineral Wells. The area was ranch country, covered in cedar trees.

Ranchers saw the cedars as their enemy and were glad to let the choppers cut all the trees they wanted. All they needed was a double bitted ax and an old pickup and a will to work long days, swinging an ax. They cut the trees, sorted them by size and length, and looked for a buyer. It was not wise to haggle with a man who swung a double bitted ax all day! They fed their families and bought the meager supplies they needed. They were very faith based and knew a better life lay ahead in the afterlife. They created small groups of believers. Their children attended whatever school was available. Other students learned quickly not to mess with the cedar chopper children!

Fences built from the cedar posts lasted about 40 years. I still have bois-d-arc posts that have been in the ground since the 1880s.

I recently attended a P.T.A program put on by my grandson's grade. The program was rock and roll songs of the 50's. The boys had duck tailed hairdos and turned up collars and the girls wore poodle skirts and bobbie socks. They sung the old songs. I looked around the auditorium and realized my wife and I were about the only ones who were teen agers in the 50s. Later, my grandson asked me if we looked like that and remembered Elvis. I told him most of my principals and coaches were World War II veterans and they severely frowned on boys dressing like that. Yes, the girls did look like that. I first heard an Elvis song at Haven Park Miniature Golf Course on Holliday Creek, probably in 1955. I was with a group of church youth. I was 11 years old. They had a loudspeaker system where they played music while you played miniature golf. This song called, "Lot of Loving to Do" came on. It was unlike anything we had ever heard. It was definitely not the Perry Como and Jo Stafford we heard on television. On the way back to Electra we were singing our version of it. Our church leaders were not impressed! Life got a lot more complicated after that.

Question of the Month

List the black cemeteries in Wichita County

Wichita County Archive News

April 2018

Members of the Museum of North Texas History and the Wichita County Historical Commission came together on March 27th at MONTH with the North Texas Troubadour to sponsor a fundraiser to benefit a very important figure in East Side Wichita Falls history, Dr. Anne Roark. Dr. Roark was an African-American professional who had an office on the "west side of the tracks" in the 30s-50s, where her clientele was Caucasian. She was active in the East Side community as a businesswoman and supporter of her church and community. She and her husband, Daniel, were the owners of the Roark Plaza Hotel and Coffee Shop. After Daniel's death, Dr. Roark built the ISIS Theater, which served as a USO for African-American airmen who were stationed at Sheppard Air Force Base.

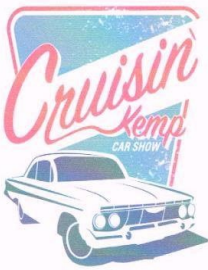
Thanks to everyone who supported this event. Soon, Dr. Roark's grave will have a headstone fitting her stature in the community.

The Wichita County Archives has been very lucky to receive a number of new collections of memorabilia. We need your help to go through these collections and catalog their contents. By doing this, we are able to make this trove of valuable information available to the general public. What ever amount of time you can offer will be greatly appreciated.

Upcoming Museum of North Texas Events

A VIEW FROM ABOVE

Wichita Falls aerial photos across decades.



Museum of North Texas History presents:
2018 CRUISIN' KEMP CAR SHOW
Saturday, April 28
 9:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.
 Sikes Senter Mall east parking lot
 Judging until noon
 Cruise up/down Kemp Street begins at 2:00
 All entries receive free t-shirt
 Trophies awarded for 1st and 2nd in each category!!

\$20

For questions call/visit:
 940-322-7628 www.museumofnorthtexashistory.org

Chevy Pre 1950
 Chevy 1950s except Tri-Five
 Chevy Tri-Five ('55, '56, '57)
 Chevy 1960s
 Chevy 1970-present
 Ford Pre 1960
 Ford 1960-present

Mustang Pre 1980
 Mustang 1980-present
 Camaro Pre 1980
 Camaro 1980-present
 Corvette Pre 1970
 Corvette 1970-present
 Mopar

Truck Pre 1970
 Truck 1970-present
 Pontiac
 All Imports
 All Motorcycles
 Work In Progress
 Low Rider
 All Other Cool Vehicles

THE MUSEUM OF NORTH TEXAS HISTORY
 presents

A Tribute To

RAY PRICE

And His Music



With Susan and Kenny Mayo and Post Oak

Tickets - \$35
 Museum members - \$30
 Reserved Tables of 8 - \$240
 Catered meal by Bistro Express
 Plenty of off-street parking!

Call 322-7628 or 704-1281, deadline for reservations is April 25
 All monies raised go to benefit the Museum of North Texas History

MONDAY
APRIL 30
6 pm

NEW LOCATION!

CENTRE POINT EVENT VENUE
 900 SCOTT
 WICHITA FALLS, TEXAS