



PRESERVATION NEWS

Wichita County Historical Commission

Robert Palmer, Chairman

Bryce Blair, Archivist

Wichita County Archives

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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

wchitacountyhistoricalcommission.org/

Newsletter Editor: Becky Trammell

Wichita County Texas Archives is on [Facebook](#)

Volume CCXLXVI

Location: Museum of North Texas History Meeting 12:00 Noon - 1:00pm

**AGENDA FOR MEETING: 1. Call to Order 2. Introduction of Guests
3. Business 4. Program 5. Adjourn**

April 1, 2021

From the desk of Robert Palmer

An Inside Look at the Workings of the Archives - Bryce Blair and John Yates

The war years were not a time to be a controversial mayor. Families were losing loved ones and commodities such as sugar and gasoline were being rationed. This was not T. Leo Moore's environment. As per his style, he was very visible, helping lead the scrap metal drive for war materials, posing atop a huge pile of scrap iron. He lost the 1946 mayoral election to a very traditional candidate, Grover Harrison. Harrison was a background personality, sign all the city documents, and stay out of the spotlight.

The last meeting with T. Leo as mayor was a much-anticipated affair. All expected a fiery show. It was just the opposite. Moore swore in the new mayor, signed a few documents, and left the room. That didn't last long. Moore ran again and won.

Then came the threat from the Fort Worth and Denver Railroad, in 1948 initially, to make the Electra Depot a "whistle-stop" on the Fort Worth to Amarillo "Zephyr" line. Moore threatened to impose a 15 mph speed limit on the train. Time Magazine picked up the story. T. Leo Moore was in his natural environment.

The train stop was planned. It was all "show" but it was an amazing show. A Model T sedan was painted with *Stop the Train* slogans. A group of ladies baked a huge cake, shaped like a train, and put it atop the car. I had the opportunity, over fifty years later, to interview some of those ladies. They still lit up and "beamed" when they told about stopping the train.

The FW&D didn't actually "stop the train." The required signal was activated and the train made its required stop. Three thousand people were reported to be in the crowd. I have never really known any people in Electra at that time who said they weren't in

the crowd! The plan was to board the train and feed the conductors and all passengers with a piece of cake. They had six minutes to do it. After all, anything more would have been a serious crime. After six minutes, the train took off. As it disappeared in the distance, T. Leo told the crowd, "The fight isn't over, yet." It was over.

On May 25, at a press conference in Dallas, Moore conceded he had lost. He described the agreement he finally achieved as "liberal."

T. Leo Moore quickly became "yesterday's news." The people, in Electra, either loved him or hated him. He finished his term, still in the Boy Scout Awards, PTA meetings, and Agriculture animal distribution pictures, but, obviously, not the star he had been. He was soundly defeated in the next election, coming in third.

He wasn't through yet. He, later, became a top official in the Texas and Oklahoma Fair in Iowa Park, a big deal in the fifties. In 1951, he was subpoenaed to testify before the Crime Committee of the Texas House of Representatives investigating alleged inroads of organized crime in Texas. He suffered a heart attack after his testimony.

His testimony? He stated that, if he told all he knew, his life wouldn't be worth "a plugged nickel!" This was classic T. Leo Moore! In a final epilogue, his daughter became a very high diplomatic official in the Foreign Service Corps., at one time being an envoy to Iran.

"Do something worth remembering"...Elvis

**IN PERSON MEETING
THURSDAY - APRIL 1ST
12:00PM NOON**

Wichita County Archive News

April 2021

Monthly Report – March 2021

The Archives has been getting a lot of very positive feedback on our work of digitizing photos and records. With the advancements in technology, it has become relatively easy to bring our past back to life with crisp clear images. But, everyone should be reminded that we are only highlighting items that have already collected, accessioned, and painstakingly organized and indexed by Lita Watson and her army of volunteers. We are constantly amazed at the depth and breadth contained within our Archives. Our predecessors are greatly admired.

-Many thanks to Elizabeth Hawley for donating framed photos of four different black residents of Wichita County. Three of them, Felix Lindsey, Zenobia Trimble, and Charlye Farris are memorialize on Texas State Historical Markers in Wichita County. The fourth photo is of Brenda Jarrett. The photos are now on exhibit on the wall at the Archives.

-Jessica Wood from the Backdoor Theatre has been to the Archives looking for historical photos and articles on the People's Ice Company building they are renovating (repairing recent flood damage). They plan on having a place in their lobby dedicated to historical information about their building. They were provided with several copies of old photos, playbills, and articles about their building and theatre group.

-Susan Kimes and Lindsay Barker from the City of Wichita Falls are doing internet postings of historical places and attractions in Wichita Falls. Their goal is to let people see some of the historically significant places in town with hopes of increasing tourism. This will provide another great outlet to showcase our history.

-Nadine McKown from the Kell House came to the Archives to research early epidemics in Wichita Falls. They are working on a presentation to be given at the Kell House. She was provided information on the Spanish Flu Epidemic and Polio in Wichita County.



Two Times Record-News Front Pages for WCHC Projects

The work of the Wichita County Historical Commission and the Wichita County Archives has been featured recently on the front page of the **Wichita Falls Times-Record News**. First, Torin Halsey contributed an excellent article on Bryce Blair and the working of the Wichita County Archives. Next came an article by Lynn Walker on the awarding of an Undertold Texas Historical Commission Marker to Electra's own Jimmie Kolp. The marker narrative (research) was written by WCHC member Elizabeth Hawley.

MUSEUM OF NORTH TEXAS HISTORY NEWS

To kick off the spring season, the photographic exhibit, **Bones of Texas** opens Friday, April 2. The exhibit was delayed, but this is going to be a great exhibit. Join us for the Reception on Saturday April 24, 2:00 – 4:00 PM.