



PRESERVATION NEWS

Wichita County Historical Commission

Robert Palmer, Chairman

Bryce Blair, 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 CCIV

April 4, 2019

From the desk of Robert Palmer

PROGRAM

John Yates

Digitizing Historic Panoramic Photos

"He will be synonymous with Midwestern State University forever. He literally helped build the University."...Jesse Rogers, former M.S.U. President;

"He was a gentleman and scholar, a superb human being, an outstanding motivator, a person who loved his teaching, students, M.S.U., and Wichita Falls."...Louis Rodriquez, former M.S.U. President;

"He never published much. He was too busy helping students."...Dr. Joe Winstead, Faculty Member, Western Kentucky University;

"He dedicated his life to the betterment of the University."... Norman Horner, Dean, M.S.U. School of Science and Mathematics; and

"He was every student's mentor and friend."...Woody Gossom, Wichita County Judge.

All of these accolades describe Dr. Arthur F. Beyer, one of the most dynamic personalities to ever pass through Wichita County. Beyer moved to Wichita Falls from Cleveland, Ohio in 1950. He had received his graduate degree from The Ohio State University of Cincinnati. He was a brilliant man, but loved to tell his students that, when he first started college, they paddled students for low grades. He said they almost beat him to death his first year. He was a man who loved to "connect" with his students! He was chairman of the Biology Department from 1960 to 1981. The accomplishments under his leadership were tremendous.

He was voted Faculty Member of the Year four times. The school's Alumnus of the Year Award is named for him. He was the University's 1999 Legacy Walk Honoree. He had a very human side that endeared him to students and "Crew" members. The student side is easy to explain. He loved his students, all of them, and cared about them. The "Crew" was an aspect most people didn't know about. 1958 student and "Crew" member Tom Beatty described it this way: "He was head of campus beautification and gave student employment to many financially struggling students. I was one of Doc's weed pullers/ lawn mowers/ ditch digging tree planters." Doc, as all Crew members called him, ran the campus care program, but it was much more than that!

Crew members mowed every square inch of grass and pruned every tree and hedge. The Museum of North Texas History, recently, had a great exhibit of airplane photos of

Wichita Falls. Among these were one of the campus Quadrangle before Doc took over and one after. The difference was staggering, hundreds of trees and hedges. All were planted by and cared for by students. That wasn't all. Midwestern Stadium was one of Doc's favorite projects. Rider High School played all their home games there. The Oil Bowl was played there. Doc knew that meant a lot of people would form opinions of the University by what they saw. He saw it as a recruiting tool. The stadium was very well cared for, especially during the Oil Bowl. The Texas and Oklahoma words in the two opposing end zones had to be perfect. Huge iron stencils were used to form the letters. Texas, with the x in the center, was much, much easier to center than the 8 lettered Oklahoma. The Crepe Myrtles, behind the end zones, had to be trimmed perfectly. As Doc explained it, "Everyone will see the extra point fly into them." That was the way Doc thought and he was right.

When you worked on the Crew, you were paid 50 cents an hour and you were subject to many other jobs and actions. Doc would say, "Don't plan anything after work Thursday. You're mowing so and so's yard. You didn't argue, you just showed up Thursday and mowed the yard. If he saw great potential in you, you were invited to join Circle K or Alpha Phi Omega. Circle K was a university branch of the Kiwanis Club. Alpha Phi Omega was a service fraternity for ex Boy Scouts. Doc was the University Advisor for each organization.

The Regional Science Fair was his baby. He saw it as a great recruiting tool for outstanding science students. His student leaders and most Crew member were expected to help set it up and to work every night.

One of his greatest accomplishments was the pre-med program. He pushed it and pushed it. The result was that, at one point, Midwestern had the highest percentage acceptance rate in Texas. Many name Doctors came out of that program.

He pushed his students to be involved in community activities. He chaired several Anniversary celebrations. He pushed expanding the industrial base in Wichita Falls.

He had one speed, wide open.

He was known for throwing chalk and hitting students who were slow to answer questions. Big secret! He knew those students personally. Most were Crew members. And, yes, he quite frequently hit me with chalk. I was a Crew member!

Wichita County Archive News

April 2019

Monthly Report - March 2019

Archive Activity

- Mr. Loudermilk of Wichita Falls came to the archives to research his boat that was stored on the second level of Hornsby Heavy Hardware. It was placed there by Charles Warman, Jr., son of the owner of Hornsby. The boat was used by Warman for racing.
- Mr. Sandy Johnson called from Illinois trying to trace the story of a pistol he owns. It came from Wichita County and he thought it belonged to Bud Ballew. Could not confirm any of the facts he had.
- Cameron Holley from Crane West came in to research the Humane Society for an anniversary video she is making. She was provided with a large number of photos and articles from the TRN files.
- Heather Dodson from Austin came in doing research for a TXDOT road project. She had to determine if the Wichita County Water Improvement District #2 had any historical significance. The State would be required follow strict guidelines where the road project crossed any of the irrigation canals if it was deemed historical.
- Kay Hardin from the history department at MSU called trying to figure out the 1953 head of the History Dept at MSU. She was furnished with a scan from the yearbook that year, answering her question.
- David Hartwell came in looking for photos of the Burkburnett Oil Boom. He has been hired to complete a historical project in Burkburnett.
- Judy Ditmire from Vernon came in looking for information on a school project she is involved in. She is enrolled in a Boston university with the goal of becoming a certified master genealogist. She was required to visit an archive and find a project that predated 1900. She was offered several letters from the R.E. Huff collection dating back to the 1880s. She found a letter that suited her project and left very satisfied.
- Deanna Scheffe of Windthorst came in looking for information to help celebrate her parent's anniversary. Her father, Raymond Gilleland, is a brick layer that worked in Wichita Falls starting in the 1950s. She was provided with several photos from that period, plus a few newspaper articles about her father. She was very surprised by all the information we found on her family.

Question of the month.....How many poisonous plants can you name that are found naturally in Wichita County? Is it safe to eat any of them?

Museum of North Texas History News

Happy Spring!

Hope everyone is enjoying the sunshine and the warmer weather. We are gearing up for the After Hours Art walks at the museum. The first one is Thursday, April 4, 6:00 to 9:00 P.M. The Museum will stay open late and, during the summer, we will be hosting local artists on our sidewalk. **After Hours Art Walk** is the first Thursday of the month April through October. We have lots of field trips on the calendar in April, so if you would like to quietly peruse the museum, we recommend planning an afternoon trip. In the morning we will be teaching local kids about all the cool and wonderful history in North Texas!

Our neighbors have some great things going on in April. On April 6, **Crashworks STEAM Studio and Makerspace** is hosting their 1st annual "**Foster**" **Fun Block Party**. All the proceeds will benefit local foster agencies. The Museum will have some sidewalk chalk so participants can design their own brands and some coloring sheets with fun facts about North Texas! On April 1, **Wichita Falls Brewing Company** will be hosting a car show right outside our door and we are looking forward to seeing all the cool cars.

Plan to come enjoy all the great outdoor events happening downtown and stop by the museum for nice cool rest and learn about some local history!

Hope to see you soon!

Madeleine Calcote, Museum Director

On Saturday, **June 22, 2019**, **The Saint Jo Historical Society** will host its third annual **Real West Symposium**, "The Real West – Gunslingers & Outlaws". The symposium will be held in the newly renovated Texas Theater on the Chisholm Trail Square in Saint Jo, Texas. Seating is limited and members of the press will be accommodated.

Exceptional speakers will separate fact from fiction about the gunfights, the outlaws, and the gunslingers of the Wild West. Our panel this year includes the following experts.

Tickets are \$35 and include a buffet meal.

For more information, please see www.TheRealWest.org or CONTACT: Patsy Woods-Martin 512-633-3232; PatsyinTexas@gmail.com or TheRealWestSaintJo@gmail.com