

PRESERVATION NEWS

Newsletter of the Wichita County Historical Commission

Volume LXIII

Robert Palmer, Chairman

August 6, 2015

Wichita County Archives

720 Indiana Avenue

Wichita Falls, Texas 76301

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

Telephone 940-763-0020

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

AGENDA FOR MEETING

Lunch at 11:30am Meeting 12:00 Noon - 1:00pm

5. Adjourn

1. Call to Order 2. Introduction of Guests 3. Business

4. Program

Monthly Meeting: Location: The Country Club. Price for the luncheon is \$17.00 each which includes: salads, main course, vegetables, drink & dessert. Please bring the correct change.

Reservations: Call the Archives (763-0020) and leave your name and number of reservations on the voice mail up thru Wednesday prior to the meeting. Call the Archives Wednesday (763-0020 or 322-7628) if you have a change of plans.

PROGRAM

Lucille Glasgow - Clay County Museum Babb Family Massacre and Kidnapping

From the Desk of Robert Palmer -

Wichita County residents have always loved their sports. They loved to fish, hunt, race cars, and play a multitude of athletic contests. Frequently, the question arises as to who was the best. That's difficult to answer for several reasons. One, sports includes a lot of areas. Two, best how? Are we talking at the local level, at the state level, or at the national or world level? For the sake of clarity, our focus will be: all sports and at the highest level.

World wide, one Wichita County resident stands out above the others and the others, whom we will list, are very good. She, yes, she, is considered the best ever at her sport. She made her sport important in America. She played junior high football at Notre Dame Catholic School in Wichita Falls. She played soccer for Notre Dame High School. She never scored a goal. From there she went to Lake Braddock High School in Virginia, The University of North Carolina and, from there, to professional soccer. She was All -American in college. Of course, we are describing Mariel Margaret "Mia" Hamm. She was World Player of the Year in 2001 and 2002. She led the American team to the World Championship. She is in The Texas Sports Hall of Fame and The World Football Hall of Fame. The Washington Post called her the most important athlete in the world over a 15 year span.

Richard Skelton won 8 world team roping championships from the heeler position. He qualified for 21 world championship contests. When Singer George Strait made a movie involving roping, he sought out Skelton to teach him how.

LLoyd Ruby is best known for his close finishes at The Indianapolis 500. He won many world class events. In 1965 and 66, he won the 24 Hours of Daytona. He won the 1966 12 Hours of Sebring. He won the 1966 World Sportscar Championship. He is in The Indianapolis Motor Speedway Hall of Fame, The Texas Motorsports Hall of Fame, The National Midget Auto Racing Hall of

Fame, and The Motorsports Hall of Fame of America.

Eddie Hill won Drag Racing Championships on land and water. He had the first drag race in the 4 second range, 4.990 seconds. In 1987, he became the first person to hold world records on both land and water. He is in The Motorsports Hall of Fame of America, The Drag Racing Hall of Fame, and The Texas Motor Sports Hall of Fame. By 1999, he had 12 national season point championships on land and water.

Joe Howard Williamson of Iowa Park competes in cutting horse events. He has won 3 NCHA World Championships in the non-pro division. He is in The NCHA Non-Pro Hall of Fame.

Brenna Moore of Burkburnett and Midwestern State University was a State Champion Golfer in high school. She was named College All-American in 2014. In 2015, she became the first athlete from Midwestern State University to win a national collegiate championship.

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Question of the month

What Wichita County baseball player holds what many consider the most memorable major league record ever?

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Come to the Museum of North Texas History to see the featured exhibit on the racing greats, *The Need* for Speed: The History of Racing in North **Texas**, after the paragraph on Eddie Hill.

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Perkins-Prothro House was approved for National Register of Historic Places. It has also been approved for the Texas Historic Commission - Recorded Texas Historic Landmark.

National Register of Historic Places in Wichita County

Depot Square Historic District; Hamilton, William Benjamin, House; Hodges-Hardy-Chambers House; Frank Kell House; Morningside Historic District; Weeks House; and Wichita Falls Route Building.

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Who was the best track athlete ever in Wichita County?

If you ask people from Iowa Park who the greatest track athlete was, they will tell you, Bobby Gilbreath. Bobby won 7 state first place medals in Texas UIL State competitions. Two of those were individual medals. In 1959, he won the state 880 yard run. In 1960, he won the 440 yard dash. Very importantly, his freshman year at Texas A and M, he set the freshman national record for the college 440 yard hurdles.

Electra's Lawton Thomas won 4 state first place individual medals. There were only two divisions in Texas at that time. Electra competed in the large school division. Thomas won the 100 yard dash in 1923, setting a state record. He won the 440 yard dash in 1922, 23, and 24; setting the stage record in 1923. Electra won the state champions in 1923. He went on to star at Rice University, qualifying for the USA Olympic team.

Jayson Lavender won the state pole vault in 1988, 89, and 90.

The best, Leo Baldwin of Wichita Falls. Baldwin won the high hurdles in 1923 and 24, the low hurdles in 1923, the shot put in 1924, and the high jump in 1923 and 24. Wichita Falls won the state championship in 1924. Their closest competition was Electra, the 1923 state championship.



The Need for Speed: The History of Racing in North Texas

We have videos of sprint car races from the 1960s featuring some of the biggest names in Indy car racing. It's one thing to see a car like that (which we have in the exhibit), but it is another thing to see them racing on dirt tracks,

and these videos will give you a real feel for that kind of racing. We also have several videos about the career of Eddie Hill and a video of one of Lloyd Ruby's Indy races. We will be showing these regularly in our theater, so come check them out!