



# PRESERVATION NEWS

DECEMBER 3rd, 2015

Newsletter of the Wichita County Historical Commission

Volume LXVII

Robert Palmer, Chairman

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

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## 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

**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.

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## PROGRAM

### Lita Watson - Wichita Falls High School and the Junior College Movement

#### From the Desk of Robert Palmer -

When communities develop from completely new beginnings, many institutions develop, too. This includes banks, merchandise stores, churches, and, eventually, newspapers. People want to know more than word of mouth can provide. This was the case in Wichita Falls.

The first newspaper was the *Wichita Mirror*, a four page, 6x8 paper first published in 1883. It was printed on a little hand press owned by 19 year old Steve Reynolds. The *Wichita Herald* was published weekly from the early 1880's until 1908. The publisher was Beauregard Bryan, great nephew of Stephen F. Austin. The *Herald* exposed open gambling and associated it with some officers and the mayor. The then publisher, Frank Daugherty, was physically assaulted and lost some advertisers. He eventually moved the paper to Iowa Park where it became the *Iowa Park Herald*.

The *Wichita Light* was being published in 1888 as an extension of the Seymour Scimitar. The paper was a weekly and got the city legal printing at five-cents a line. The *Wichita Falls Post* was published weekly in 1892. The *Wichita Post-Democrat* was published in 1893. The *Wichita County Democrat* was published, at least, from 1893 to 1895. In 1896, the *Wichita Warrior* bid to publish county tax delinquent lists. The list goes on.

The *Dinner Horn* was published by J.B. Barnett in 1897. The *Wichita Ledger* was published in 1902 by

Neil Bigger. It was chosen to publish city notices. The *Wichita Daily News* was published in 1910 and 1911 by a group who were opponents of another publisher named Ed Howard, a name that would become very important to Wichita Falls newspaper history. The *Wichita County Socialist* was published weekly in 1912.

March 20, 1907 would become a landmark date for Wichita Falls newspaper publication. J.A. Kemp persuaded Ed Howard to organize the Times Publishing Company. It would publish the *Wichita Daily Times*. Joseph Kemp and Frank Kell both put up \$1500.00. Howard put up \$5000.00. The first copy was taken off the press by Rhea Howard, Ed Howard's son, and given to his mother. The first comic strips appeared in 1912. In 1946, the *Times* operated a radio station, KTRN which stood for *Times Record News*, a morning paper bought by Howard in 1928. The papers had separate reporters, but shared common business offices and advertising departments.

Rhea Howard's career included work as a newsboy, head of various departments, and, eventually, president, publisher and editor.

## QUESTION OF THE MONTH

Early maps of Wichita County show blocks of land marked with school names and railroad names.

What does this mean?

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## Wichita County Archive News

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#### NEED VOLUNTEER HOURS IN JANUARY

Wording has been received for the Burkburnett Masonic Lodge Marker. Revisions have been submitted to the Texas Historical Commission.

Marker application for the Booker T. Washington Elementary School in Burkburnett has been submitted to the Texas Historical Commission.

Bethania Hospital Marker is here. We are waiting for United Regional to schedule the dedication.

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As we prepare this newsletter on November 17, we note that 85 years ago today, Joseph Kemp died. The entire front page of the *Wichita Falls Daily Times* was a tribute to Mr. Kemp. But, Joseph Kemp was not just known locally. The following tribute was authored by Colonel Hugh Nugent Fitzgerald, veteran editor and writer.

In the ranks of the empire builders of Texas, the name of Joseph Alexander Kemp will ever have a place high and proud as one of the chiefs of the Lone Star commonwealth. . . . .

Joseph Alexander Kemp was the acknowledged father of irrigation in Texas - that is of the modern system. He has associates scattered over the state. They saw the need for drainage and irrigation legislation and the storing of the flood waters to be used when needed for the development of agriculture and its varied interests in many sections of the commonwealth. . . . .

. . . He was one of the most tireless and intelligent workers and builders Texas has known. He built lakes and reservoirs in his own section, or led the movement for their building and demonstrated just what could be done to enrich the people by storing the floodwaters for irrigations purposes. He was one of the most modest of men, one of the most generous in his benefactions. . . .

Yes, he was a builder and he built for those who come after him.



**Do you recall some words of wisdom from a favorite teacher?**