



PRESERVATION NEWS

December 1st, 2016

Newsletter of the Wichita County Historical Commission

Volume LXXVIII

Robert Palmer, Chairman

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/

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: Luby's. Price for the luncheon is **\$10.00** each which includes: one meat, salad, vegetables, drink & dessert. Please bring the correct change. **RESERVATIONS NO LONGER NEEDED**

PROGRAM

Kimberley Florsheim and Shirley King

DAR– Proposed Viet Nam Memorial

From the Desk of Robert Palmer -

United Press International, February 1, 1950

TRUMAN REVEALS U.S. WORKS ON HELL-BOMB.

“In a world shaking thirteen line statement, the President ended debate on whether the nation would build ‘The Hell Bomb’”. “President Truman disclosed today the United States is working on the hydrogen super bomb.”

As the nation prepares to inaugurate a new President, many of the problems he will face will be eerily similar to problems faced by the President in office sixty-six years ago. Today, Korea and Iran are working to develop nuclear weapons. This would pose a great problem to their neighbors: South Korea and Japan; Israel, Saudi Arabia, and Iraq. Would it pose a problem for the United States? The answer is quite simple; only if they could develop a delivery system.

The United States stood alone in 1945 as the only nation with nuclear capabilities. This changed dramatically in three short years. Russia quickly developed their nuclear bomb. Having a nuclear bomb and being able to deliver it were two different things. ICBM-Intercontinental Ballistic Missiles had not been developed. The American bombs dropped on Nagasaki and Hiroshima were delivered by B-29 bombers modified to carry the weapons. B-29's had, by modern standards, short flight capabilities. In-air refueling had not been developed. That was why it was so necessary to capture Pacific Islands. Iwo Jima and Guam would serve as take off points for bombing Japan. Tinian was the take off point for the Enola Gay and its sister bomber. Jimmy Doolittle's B-25 bombers, early in the war, had taken off from the deck of an aircraft carrier.

This is where North Texas became involved in the nuclear

race. Sheppard Air Force Base would eventually become a Strategic Air Command Base. Russia had developed a long range heavy bomber. The United States had not. North American Aviation, located in Ft. Worth, was building the B-36 bomber, a reverse engine bomber. When they flew over, they were easily identified by the tremendous noise they produced. Boeing, in Wichita, Kansas, developed a fairly unknown bomber, the B-50 bomber. They built 125 of the aircrafts. They were basically a souped up B-29. The tail wings and tail fin were much larger than the B-29s. Their engines were much larger, creating a tremendous push for an internal combustion motor.

In a test of its capabilities, a B-50, the Lucky Lady II, took off from Carswell Air Force Base in Ft. Worth March 1, 1950. It landed at Carswell 94 hours later. It had become the first aircraft to circle the globe without landing. Air Secretary Stuart Symington announced, “It gives the United States the ability to deliver an atom bomb any place in the world where it is necessary.” The plane had been refueled 4 times by modified B-29s. Symington said the operation had been more secret than the development of the atomic bomb. The refueling had been made over the Azores, Saudi Arabia, the Philippines and Hawaii. Another official said it gave the United States the capability of “round the world mass bombings”. Two years later, B-50s were a memory. The United States had developed, first the B-47 jet aircraft, then the B-52. B-50s lasted two years. B-52s are still in use today.

The new President will need to pay close attention to missile development by North Korea and Iran. Developing the bomb is the first step. Developing a delivery system is the critical step.

QUESTION OF THE MONTH

How many schools in Wichita County have won State Football Championships?

Wichita County Archive News

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Four historic marker applications were submitted during the fall 2016 THC cycle: Wichita Falls Municipal Zoo (Whitney Snow, author), Booker T. Washington Elementary, Hotter’N Hell Hundred, and Lake Wichita (Becky Trammell, author). We are hopeful all will be approved!

It’s also the time of year for “re-applying” to be a Wichita County Historical Commission member. We will be contacting all members in the next couple of months. There is much we can do to preserve the history of Wichita County and education the community.

In case you haven’t heard, Lita Watson plans to retire at the end of 2016. Lita has been the one and only Archivist for the Wichita County Archives for 27 years. A reception in her honor is planned for Sunday, January 15th at 2:00pm at the Museum of North Texas History. The reception is come and go with a short presentation at 3:00pm.

There are no words to express what Lita has contributed to the preservation of history in Wichita County. Please plan to attend as we honor Lita.

**The proposed Vietnam Memorial,
funded by the Daughters of the
American Revolution.**

