



PRESERVATION NEWS

Wichita County Historical Commission

Robert Palmer, Chairman

Bryce Blair, Archivist

Wichita County Archives

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

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wchitacountyhistoricalcommission.org/

Newsletter Editor: Becky Trammell

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

Volume CCXLXII

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

December 3, 2020

From the desk of Robert Palmer

ZOOM MEETING - December 3rd
11:00 am

"The mediocre teacher tells, the good teacher explains, the superior teacher demonstrates, the great teacher inspires." William Arthur Ward, Writer

The outstanding public school teachers we described in last month's newsletter, at one time or another, were inspired by professors at Midwestern State University and its predecessors: Hardin College and Midwestern University. When Hardin College moved into the Taft Street location, history was taught by individuals who would make their mark on the later university and the lives of their students.

At one time, not that many years ago, it was common to hear, "I remember Prof. Edwards told us..." The reference was to Professor E. F. Edwards who taught at Hardin College and Midwestern. Mrs. Merle Anthony quoted him quite frequently in the many speeches she gave. He taught basic history, the founding of our nation, and the events that grew our nation.

I recently acquired a 1943 Wai-kun Hardin annual. This was at the height of World War II. The two history instructors (yes, only two) were Prof. Edwards and D. L. Ligon. Ligon taught history, coached, and taught first aid and gas mask technique in night classes. Edwards taught history and, at night, meteorology. The college taught "war classes" in addition to the normal academic classes. Additional "war classes" taught were: airplane identification, radio, navigation, interpretative aerial photography, and blueprint reading. Women were taught lathe work. College was different then, and it took dedicated people to be part of it.

At one time, when I was a public school teacher, almost half of my fellow teachers were Midwestern graduates. Many were doing graduate work at Midwestern in the summers and nights. Several of us were pursuing Master's Degrees in history. The instruction was excellent. The professors taught their subjects well. Dr. Kenneth Neighbours was a legend. In addition to his assignment at Midwestern, he had served as Chairman of the Wichita County Historical Commission and was a long-time board

member of the Fort Belknap Association. In his classes, you got a strong dose of Native American history and history of the Frontier Fort System, after the Civil War.

Dr. John Cravens was a published author of Texas History. He loved Texas History and Southern History. He was very particular about the subjects his students chose as research topics. He didn't want just a rehash of what others had written. He wanted to see how your research had affected your thought process. One of the most brilliant mentors the students studied under was Dr. Everett Kindig. Dr. Kindig had done his studies at Stanford University. He wanted his students to do detailed research. One of the greatest experiences of my academic career was the discussion sessions after the students presented their research papers in his classes. When those students went back to teach in their schools, they went well armed.

Succeeding History Professors at Midwestern State University have continued the tradition of quality instruction and interest stimulating the desire to share our great history. Michael Collins's book entitled, *TALES OF TEXOMA, Episodes in the History of the Red River Border*, is a very thorough description of the importance of the Red River Valley history. He gives credit to the support he received from Midwestern State University as he prepared the book for publication. This speaks highly of what Midwestern means to our North Texas area. I like reading Dr. Whitney Snow's historical research. She researches what are topics of great interest, but, often, not that well known even to local residents.

Midwestern State University-Texas has contributed greatly to the understanding of our history. The classes taught there became the starting point for the knowledge to flow down through public school teachers to the students in those schools.

Merry Christmas!
Happy New Year!

Wichita County Archive News

December 2020

Wichita County Archives Monthly Report – November 2020

The digitization of photographs can be a lengthy process. After scanning all the negatives that James Wetherbee donated, the real work began. Because our scanner can only scan smaller size negatives, most of them were scanned in sections. John Yates used a computer program that seamlessly stitches the segments together. Then, any information we have about the photo is added to the property details section of the photo. This information, called meta data, enables someone to search our photo library for any particular name or topic. Many of the photos in the Wetherbee Collection were already in the Archives. But to our surprise, there were several images that we had never seen before. One such photo was of the Golden Jubilee Parade in 1932, celebrating the 50th Anniversary of Wichita Falls. This photo was taken from above the reviewing stand looking towards 9th & Scott and shows a long line of Wichita Trucks passing by. Pretty awesome image !!!



We have just scratched the surface in digitizing images and documents that are in the Archives. It is our hope that someday we can acquire better equipment for our digitization process.

MARKER UPDATE

As of November 27th, members of the Wichita County Historical Commission submitted 12 Undertold Marker Applications to the Texas Historical Commission. This is a record for us! Thanks to those who researched and wrote these applications: Bryce Blair, John Yates, Lita Watson, Pamela Dixon, and Elizabeth Hawley. We are optimistic we might get at least one free marker from this group.

Through this application process, we were able to generate community interest in historical markers. This interest might translate into at least one funded marker in the spring.

December 3, 2020

HISTORICAL COMMISSION MEETING AT 11:00AM

Topic: Wichita County Historical Commission

Time: Dec 3, 2020 11:00 AM Central Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/75387952745?pwd=UXU3dFhEUHISYduM3RXWGFGTDBtQT09>

Meeting ID: 753 8795 2745

Passcode: gT1n5v

Museum of North Texas History News

The Museum continues it's opening schedule of Fridays and Saturdays, 10:00 A.M. to 2:00 P.M. We are starting with a reduced schedule to stay on top of our new and improved cleaning procedures. Our goal is to keep our visitors and our staff safe.

The Museum will be closed December 22nd through January 4th.

Membership Renewal

Historical Commission membership is a two year cycle and it's time to renew. We also need to gather information for the yearly report to the state. Please contact the Archives with the following information: 1) Do you wish to continue on the Commission and your current contact information, 2) Your volunteer hours for the year (make a guess for December), and 3) any projects you were involved in related to history.

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