



# PRESERVATION NEWS

February 2nd, 2017

Newsletter of the Wichita County Historical Commission

Volume LXXX 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

Surprise, part two

### From the Desk of Robert Palmer -

My third grade teacher at Thompson Ward Elementary School in Electra in 1953, Mrs. Barnes, had a creative approach to keeping students interested in the lesson. When we practiced the "ups and downs and loop-de-loops" of writing, she would play music. One of her favorite "games" was to have the best drawers in the class go to the blackboard. She would whisper what you were to draw and the class would try to guess what it was. One day, I easily won drawing a duck and, then, a tree. When she whispered, "Vacuum Cleaner", I was in trouble. At the age of nine, I had never seen a vacuum cleaner or a picture of one. We didn't have one and the movies I saw starring Tim Holt, Lash LaRue, Whip Wilson, and Wild Bill Elliot certainly didn't show them. Television would come in later in 1953. I just drew lines having no idea what I was drawing. I told this once and it led to a discussion of "what we had then" and "what we have now".

When my mother whipped cream or whipped egg whites to make desserts, she used her favorite whipping spoon and whipping bowl. She would either count the whips or sing a little melody tune to know when the cream or egg whites were whipped. Our first electric "whipper" came when my aunt sold her bakery in Iowa Park. In the days before gasoline mowers, we had a reel type push mower. If the yard grass and weeds got too high, you knocked it down with a yo-yo first, then mowed it. Telephones were another story. We had only one and it hung on the hallway wall. Of course, it was a party-line. All the family and, sometimes, neighbors, knew when you called a girl to make a date.

Nobody washed clothes on Wednesday in Electra. That was

trash burning day. The whole city had a cover of smoke that day. Clothes dryers were unheard of and everyone hung their clothes on the clothesline. A person who burned their trash on the wrong day got a good chewing out. Can you still smell that fresh smell of clothesline dried clothes?

My dad's razor strap, that he got in the army during World War II, still hung by the bathroom sink although he had long since gone to a safety razor. He still used a shaving brush and shaving cup. When I went in the army in 1967, we still had to have a shaving brush in our field locker display, even though everyone had gone to canned shaving cream. Of course my dad's razor strap served a dual purpose! When you bought a new pair of socks, the elasticity of the top lasted about two washings. You then twisted it slightly and rolled it down a couple of rolls to keep it up on your ankle. My grandfather never mastered that art and his socks always hung around his ankles.

I loved going to my aunt and uncle's furniture store. My aunt was the bookkeeper and she used a crank handle adding machine. She was an artist with that adding machine! When I became a school principal at First Ward Elementary School in Electra in 1977, we still used a crank handle adding machine!

My dad paid for everything in cash, no credit cards then. He always knew to the penny how much money he had in his pockets. Things certainly have changed!

Before our next meeting, think of things we did back then that we don't do now.

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### QUESTION OF THE MONTH

What is horology?

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## Wichita County Archive News

### February 2017

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**Dedication of THC Marker commemorating Midwestern University Desegregation is tentatively scheduled for Saturday, February 25th.**

**Undertold Markers: Applications accepted from May 1 through June 15. Start working on your topics and research now.**

**From Archivist Emeritus Lita Watson:**

What a wonderful party! Thank you so much for your contributions, well wishes, attendance and kind words. I will always cherish memories of that special occasion. *Lita*



**REMEMBER WHEN. . . .**

