



PRESERVATION NEWS

Wichita County Historical Commission

Robert Palmer, Chairman

Bill Steward, Archivist

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/

Wichita County Texas Archives is on Facebook

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

Location: Luby's

Reservations no longer needed

Volume XC

January 4, 2018

From the desk of Robert Palmer

Music has been an important part of Wichita County throughout its history. Many county residents learned the basics and appreciation for music through participation in public school and university bands. Directors such as Electra's Howard Smith, Iowa Park's Greg Miller and Ed Hefti were legends in the lives of their students and schools. They developed students such as Charlie Bradberry, Wayland Rapp, Tim Youree, and Karen Thomas, who became outstanding in their own right as directors. Three directors, James A. Jacobson, Charles Enloe, and Buddy Richardson, were outstanding in their schools and in the community music world.

James Jacobson was born in Montrose, Colorado. He graduated from Northern Colorado University, Texas Christian University and Vandercook College of Music. He served in the Army Air Corp and was assigned to Sheppard Air Force Base. While there, he developed an appreciation for Wichita County. After finishing his military time, he became the band director at Northwestern University. From 1945 to 1955, he developed a full band program and choir program. While there, he developed the 8 to 5 system of marching. He participated in numerous music programs throughout Wichita Falls. In 1955, he left to become director of the Texas Christian University Band. At the 1959 Cotton Bowl, his band performed the Moving Diamond technique which became a standard movement for marching bands. His recognition was nationwide.

Charles Enloe was born in Wichita Falls June 18, 1920. He started playing trombone for Paul Seeds at the age of 11. Seeds was all over Wichita Falls with his music programs and young Charles was involved in all of them. He played in The Texans, a local community band, and in the Grant Street Methodist Church. He played in numerous dance bands, starting at the age of 14. He graduated from Wichita Falls High School in 1938 performing in the band and lettering in track. He joined the Army Air Corps in 1942, was assigned to England, North Africa, and Italy being part of a music group at each location. Usually, he had to search to find an old instrument to play. After the military, he attended and graduated from S.M.U. Then he started his music teaching career teaching in Highland Park Elementary. From there he moved to Mexia, Nederland, Seymour, Monahans, back to Seymour, and then to Rider High School where he became a legend. He was a member of the Wichita Falls Municipal Band, American Legion Band, numerous Professional and Dance Bands, Dallas Union Concert Band,

PROGRAM

Wichita Falls Banking History Douglas James

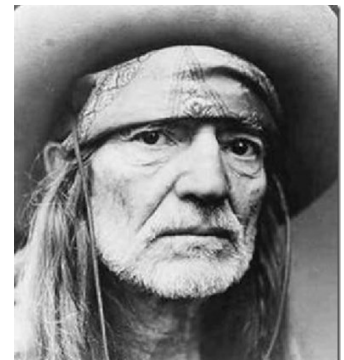
Beaumont Symphony Band, Wichita Falls Symphony Band, And the All Texas Bandmaster's Band. In his retirement, he became a special advisor to the Iowa Park High School Band, developing a close working relationship with Greg Miller and Ed Hefti. He greatly influenced Wichita Falls High School Band Director Buddy Richardson.

Buddy Richardson was a native of Henrietta. He graduated from Northwestern University and entered the United States Army. He studied at the United States Naval School of Music in Washington, D.C. and became a member of the Fourth Army Band at Ft. Sam Houston in San Antonio. After leaving the service, he became the band director at Tipton High School in Tipton, Oklahoma. He then moved to Hirschi Junior High, Holliday High School, Assistant Director Rider High School, and, then, Director at Wichita Falls High School where he won 21 Sweepstakes Awards. He became a co-organizer and Director of the Oil Bowl Band. He played in the Masket Temple Drum and Bugle Corp, Wichita Falls Symphony, First Baptist Church Orchestra, Floral Heights United Methodist Church Orchestra, and the Gordie Kilgore Orchestra.

He shared and told a story that Charles Enloe often told on himself. Both were playing in a local band on risers. Charles was on the back row. He really got into the song so much that he leaned back as he extended his trombone, falling off the back! Buddy immediately ran to see if he was alright. He was so much so that he was still lying on his back, playing his trombone!

Question of the Month

What is the name of Willie Nelson's guitar?



Wichita County Archive News

January 2018

A Texas Historical Commission Marker honoring Dr. Annie Davis Roark will be dedicated on Monday, January 15th at 1:30pm (Martin Luther King Day). The marker is located at 424 Flood Street. This is the location of the former ISIS Theater, built and owned by Dr. Roark. Please attend to show your support for bringing forward the stories of the East Side.

Museum of North Texas History News

All memberships for the Museum of North Texas History are due in January. The best time to renew your membership is at the **Annual Membership Meeting**. The meeting is scheduled for **Wednesday, January 31st**. The Board will have an abbreviated meeting at 6:00pm and all members are invited to attend. Heavy hors d'oeuvres will be served.

The annual membership meeting, beginning at 6:30pm, will follow. The membership meeting is an opportunity for you to have input on exhibits and activities at the Museum. There will also be a summary of 2017 for the Museum and what is planned for 2018. Plus, the new slate of Board of Directors Officers will be introduced.

Watch your mail for further information or call the Museum at 322-7628.

Wichita Falls and Music

From R. L. Neeley's 1964 thesis, "Wichita Falls, Texas: From Frontier Settlement to City"

The first recorded band in Wichita Falls was in 1888. **Harry Daughtery** was the director and the band played at both civic and social events.

1909 was an important year for Wichita Falls. **J. S. Bridwell** arrived by accident. A late train and a brass band playing a Sunday afternoon concert was the trick that changed Bridwell's plans. In later years he expressed it this way, "I decided a town had to be good with such a brass band. So I just stayed." Bridwell later was given the title "Mr. Agriculture" for his contributions to the area.

From Louise Kelly's 1982, Wichita County Beginnings

The Ernest Katz orchestra played for the Sunday night suppers and social events (at the St. James).

EMORY KENT AND HIS ORCHESTRA



"A GRAND BAND FOR A GRAND TIME"

Dear Friends,

A lot of nice people are having a lot of fun at the Dance every Saturday night at the W.O.W. Hall (over the HUB on 8th St.) The music is **grand**, the floor is the **best** to be found and everything possible is being done to assure you a good time. (1942)

WICHITA FALLS COLLEGE OF MUSIC

When James L. McKee came to Wichita Falls as pastor of the First Presbyterian Church in 1909, he brought with him a great asset to the cultural life of the town — his wife. Mary Ritchie McKee (1861-1955) was an 1883 graduate of the Cincinnati Conservatory in piano and voice and taught there while giving concerts. She also studied in Europe. She had been head of the music department in a Kentucky college before she married. From 1900-1909, she continued to teach and give concerts in addition to her church work. In Wichita Falls she taught voice and piano in her home (1005 Tenth, Presbyterian manse) and in January, 1910, she led in organizing the Musicians' Club.

In 1911 she launched the Wichita Falls College of Music. In 1912 she built a two-story studio opposite the high school, opening it January 25, 1913, and brought in well-known teachers and drew talented students who gave concerts in Wichita Falls and in area towns. She also brought in touring artists.

When Mr. McKee left in July, 1915, to become president of Fairmont College in Weatherford, she "sold" the college to Mrs. Elizabeth Hoyt Ayer, voice teacher, who operated it for a year. She sponsored the presentation of Handel's Messiah in the spring of 1916 in the Wichita Opera House under the direction of Joseph E. Maddy, who had been hired by Mrs. McKee to be head of the violin department. They brought soloists from New York, Cincinnati, and Kansas, where Maddy had given the oratorio the year before.