



# PRESERVATION NEWS

# Wichita County Historical Commission

Robert Palmer, Chairman

Bryce Blair, 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 CCVI

# June 6, 2019

### From the desk of Robert Palmer

### PROGRAM

**Jana Schmader**

**Director - Downtown Development**

The personal lives of Americans are changing dramatically. Over 95% of the population, 315 million people, own cell phones. Over 75% own lap top computers. Worldwide, 62% own a cell phone. That is 4.68 billion people. In the U.S., 25% say they are on their devices 50% of their waking hours. The number of cell phones in the U.S. exceeds the population. Many millions are on their cell phone at the same time. How is that possible? There are a limited number of radio frequencies. The answer is tied to the Burkburnett Oil Boom. It is possible because of the patented invention of one of the stars of the movie BOOMTOWN.

She was born Hedwig Eva Maria Kiesler in Vienna, Austria November 3, 1913. As a teenager, she starred in Austrian movies. She became known worldwide as an actress in the movie ECSTASY. She married and divorced Fritz Mandl, a wealthy Austrian who manufactured munitions and sold them to the Nazis.

She fled to the U.S., where she signed a contract with MGM. She was an instant success, primarily because of her tremendous beauty. It is said audiences gasped when they first saw her on screen. After a series of name changes, she became Hedy Lamarr.

When she heard, in 1940, MGM was going to make the movie BOOMTOWN, she actively sought the role of Karen Vanmeer, a sophisticated lady who "had been around." She badgered the director, John Conway, for the part. He knew she was perfect for the role. It wasn't too far from her own character. It was MGM's biggest hit in 1940 and she loved being in it.

In addition to her great beauty, Lamar was very intelligent. She wanted to know the why and how about everything. In 1942, the American Defense Administration asked the public for invention ideas that would help the war cause. She had learned about

munitions from her first husband and, from conversations with war personnel, had heard that there was a problem with radio controlled torpedoes having their frequencies jammed by the enemy. She developed an idea for "Spread Spectrum" signals that would alter a radio signal from the source to its destination. She got the idea from looking at the strings of a piano. The signal would be altered at infrequent intervals, but be intact at the end. With a pianist friend, Gerge Anthiel, she received a patent. It worked!

After the war, the invention was rarely used until the Cuban Missile Crisis. Then it was used to get radio signals past the Soviets. It surfaced, again, when the idea of portable phones for everyone began to develop. It made them possible.

The invention, eventually, got many important awards. In 1997, Lamar and Anthiel received the Electronic Frontier Foundation Pioneer Award. That same year she became the first female to receive the Gnass Spirit of Achievement Award, the BULBIE, considered the Oscar of invention. She actually had many more inventions, none in the scope of the "Spread Spectrum".

Her personal life was often tragic. She married six times. Although quite wealthy, she was arrested twice for shoplifting. She became reclusive and died January 19, 2000. She remains a fascinating lady: beautiful, intelligent, creative, and, just maybe, one of the most influential people on today's society.

She often said, "Any girl can be glamorous, all you have to do is stand still and look stupid!"

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**Question of the month:** What member of the Wichita County Historical Commission was in the movie, **TEXASVILLE?**

## NO MEETING IN JULY - SEE YOU IN AUGUST

# Wichita County Archive News

## June 2019

Monthly Report – May 2019

### Financial Report – Speaker Fund

Balance from April 2019	74.00
Sale of Duplicate Books	25.00
<u>Copies made</u>	<u>0.50</u>
April 2019 Balance	99.50

-Lita Watson went through the books in the archives and found several duplicates. We decided to sell the duplicate books. Sixteen books were offered for sale on the archives Facebook page. So far, four books have been sold for a total of \$25.

-Michelle Derr from the Heritage Society came in to research a couple historical homes in Wichita Falls. She was furnished several newspaper articles and a couple photos. She gave the archives a favorable mention in her report to the Heritage Society. Ms. Derr is owner of the Holt.

-John R Ballew from Memphis, Texas came in to visit. Ballew is the volunteer archivist for Memphis, Hall Co., Texas. He was amazed at the depth of information we maintain in the Wichita County Archives. He inquired about the history we have on the black citizens in our community. Once again, he was amazed at the information we have. In Hall County, they have virtually no history of their black community.

-Jim Johnston came in to research Robert M. "Bob" Waggoner. He owns an oil painting that came from the Bob Waggoner estate and wanted to know more about the man.

-Dani Blackburn from Bowie came in to research the Wichita County Courthouse for an article she is writing for Livelt Magazine. She was furnished with several photos and a detailed history of each of our different courthouses.

- Anthony Inman of Inman Construction came in to see if the Archives had a photo of a downtown building he purchased. The building in question is at 500 Tenth St. (between Bryan's Plumbing & the railroad tracks). The building will be their new office and warehouse. They are doing an extensive renovation of the entire building, making it another jewel in the historic district of our community. The building was constructed in about 1910 by Moore & Richolt and served as a warehouse for their building supplies.

**\*\*Assistance Needed** – An aerial photo of the Inman building was located in the archives, but it is a poor quality Xerox copy. The copy was provided by Jim Pettyjohn in 1995. He passed away in 2012. Anyone with knowledge of the whereabouts of his photo collection is asked to contact the Archives.

**NO MEETING IN JULY - SEE YOU IN AUGUST**

## Museum of North Texas History News

On Tuesday, June 18th, at 7:00pm, **MONTH** presents a **FREE CONCERT** by Kenny & Susan Mayo and Post Oak. Their performance will feature the music of Texans: Charlie **W**alker, Billy **W**alker, Don **W**illiams, Gene **W**atson, **W**illie Nelson, **W**aylon Jennings, and Bob **W**ills. See you there!!

