



PRESERVATION NEWS

MARCH 3rd, 2016

Newsletter of the Wichita County Historical Commission

Volume LXX

Robert Palmer, Chairman

Wichita County Archives

720 Indiana Avenue

Wichita Falls, Texas 76301

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

Telephone 940-763-0020

E-mail Address - archives@co.wichita.tx.us

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

Dr. Whitney Snow - Malabar Farms

From the Desk of Robert Palmer -

Last week's ceremony marking the display of Judge P.A. Martin's photograph in the 89th District Court reminded me of one of most local historian's favorite mind games. That is, "What are the most important historical artifacts in the history of Wichita County?"

History is ideas, occurrences, and people, but it is also artifacts. They are solid symbols of the other elements of history. Museums show the ideas, occurrences, and people, but, most importantly, they show artifacts. So, what are Wichita County's most important artifacts? Here is my list.

Number one would be The Jenny. It represents Wichita County in so many ways. It shows the progress, the innovative minds, the connection to the military, and the connection of the county to the needs of a nation. It is a great historical symbol.

Next on my dream list would be Judge J.H. Barwise's deed to his original land purchase. We know his words, but the deed would be a physical symbol of his commitment to Wichita County.

My number three has two people and a physical symbol of them, W.T. Waggoner's hat and S.B. Burnett's pistol. Have you ever seen a picture of Mr. Waggoner without a hat? Books have been written on Mr. Burnett and his pistol!

Do I have you thinking? Let's get truly historical with symbols of The Texan-Santa Fe Expedition of 1841 and the Randolph Marcy Expedition. These were the first two attempts to truly map the county. The John Tower family presented one of the rifles from the Texan-Santa Fe Expedition to the Bob Bullock Museum. It was valued in excess of \$125,000.00. A rougher version of one is in a private collection in Wichita County as is a stone survey marker.

My next two would be a program from Amelia Earhart's

speech at the Woman's Forum and a program, preferably autographed, of Babe Ruth playing at Spudder Park. How about a Spudder program showing Don Larsen as a member of the team?

My next one is one of the greatest lost treasures in county history, the blueprint of the Littlest Skyscraper. How many historical arguments would that settle?

Let's go back to sports with my next choices. First are track shoes from Electra's Lawton Thomas, Iowa Park's Bobby Galbreath, and Reginald Robinson. Bobby's are actually in the high school library in Iowa Park. Golf can be represented with clubs from Rufus King and Don Cherry and, maybe, the first championship medal from the Wichita Falls Country Club. All of these are in private collections in Wichita County.

Back to programs from events would have to include a program from Elvis Presley's appearances at Municipal Auditorium and M.B. Corral.

Truly historical items would take us back to artifacts from the two discovery oil wells, Clayco No. 1 and the Fowler Well. The boiler from the Clayco well is on display in Electra. Or how about Quanah Parker's War Bonnet or Teddy Roosevelt's rifle? Again, these two are in private collections in Wichita County

Let me end today's discussion with two of my personal favorites: Matilda Moissant and Jimmie Kolp's leather flying caps. These two ladies were far ahead of their time showing women could accomplish great things!

So what would be on your dream list of Wichita County's most important Historical Artifacts?

QUESTION OF THE MONTH

What position did Catherine Clack and Kenneth Neighbors hold in Wichita County History?

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New Meeting Location: Beginning in March, we will meet at Luby's Cafeteria, 1801 9th St at 11:30am. You can through the back line and give Don \$10.00 or you can go through the front line and pay there for your meal. Reservations are no longer needed.

"Bit of History", to celebrate Texas Independence, is scheduled for Sunday, March 20th at 2:00 pm. At the Museum of North Texas History. Sherry Cannedy will speak and members of the Daughters of the Republic of Texas will be in costume They will also bring a trunk that they use in schools to show some artifacts of long ago.

We welcome three new volunteers to the Archives: Ginger Beisch, Genie Ratliff, and Whitney Snow. Thanks, thanks, thanks for your help.

Wichita County Courthouse as it appeared from 1917 until the renovation in 1962

