



PRESERVATION NEWS

March 2nd, 2017

Newsletter of the Wichita County Historical Commission

Volume LXXXI 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

From the Desk of Robert Palmer -

There are many angles to the telling of history. In many of these, animals such as horses, cattle, sheep, and hunted animals are featured. One of the most interesting angles involves dogs. Dogs have been part of North Texas history for over 10,000 years. The first Native Americans had dogs. They used them in hunting. They were pets. They were sometimes a source of food. The first ones still had a wolf like appearance. All of the famous area tribes had dogs. Today the original Native American dogs are considered extinct. Mostly they were bred out of existence by the dogs brought to the new world by the English, French, and Spanish.

Yes, the Spanish brought dogs with them. A true painting of Coronado's expedition and the expeditions along the Red River would show dogs running along the side of the horses and oxen.

Early settlers brought Feist or fice dogs. These were small dogs that showed no fear of man or beast. William Faulkner told about them in his book, **THE BEAR**. They were use in hunting and as guard dogs. All early settlers had fice dogs.

The first specific breeds came with settlers from the east. Most came from Europe. The rat terrier was very common. They did just what their name implied. They killed rats, a very necessary function on early farmsteads. Hunting breeds such as the English pointer and the gray hound were common. The Scots brought the beautiful

Border Collie. These were very common in North Texas.

In the early 1920s it got really strange. The movies appeared. They showed breeds of dogs that were fictionalized as the kinds of dogs people wanted. And, then, of course, people wanted them. Lassie brought the desire for Collies. A market developed and people bought Collies. Rin-Tin-Tin appeared and people wanted German Police Dogs. That urge was strengthened when Roy Rogers got Bullet. Hunters in the area bought exotic bird dogs including: English Setters, Irish Setters, Brittany Spaniels, and more English Pointers. Eventually, these were not just hunting dogs, but, also, pets. The Irish Setter was so bred for beauty that it lost the ability to hunt.

The pet urge brought the desire for small pets that could be kept in the house. North Texas became the home to many small breeds of dogs. In some instances, they got smaller and smaller.

Dogs have been with us for a long, long time. They are an important part of North Texas history.

QUESTION OF THE MONTH

Where is the only original log cabin in Wichita County located?

Wichita County Archive News

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Welcome to new member, Max Luedeke. Max is the son of Joreen Luedeke.

The dedication of the Midwestern University Desegregation Texas Historical Marker will be this **Saturday, February 24th** on campus. Please attend.

Lita is still the Archivist. If you know of anyone who would be interested, please **CONTACT NOW!!!!**

Looking for topics for Undertold markers for the 2017 cycle.

Saving furry lives

■ Kennel request
meant to reduce
euthanasia rate

