



PRESERVATION NEWS

Wichita County Historical Commission

Robert Palmer, Chairman

Wichita County Archives

Bryce Blair, Archivist

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 CCII

Mar. 7, 2019

From the desk of Robert Palmer

PROGRAM

Watch your email for program announcement

WARNING: This column contains a great deal of name dropping!
 Many things changed after World War II. The war effort greatly changed the nature of agriculture. A deeply embedded manual labor industry rapidly moved into the mechanized age. Better and larger equipment freed up farmers to move into areas they didn't have time for before. Before the war, most farms raised crops and used their pastureland for a milk cow and draft animals. After the war they began to raise beef cattle, an area that had been the domain of the cattle ranchers. The learning curve was tremendous. Cotton farmers now were small scale ranchers. Names became important. These included: Broadcaster Earl Sargent, Soil conservation head Fred Parkey, Vet Dan Roberts, Banker Red Hill, Tank builder Jesse Flick, sale barn owner Neal Collier, and cattle buyer Bill Austin. All of these played critical roles in helping the new ranchers. Young boys learned things they had never thought of before.

In the early 1950s, farm kids now attended schools in town for their elementary years. Most of Wichita County's rural schools closed in 1946. Electra school bus riders all went to Thompson Ward Elementary, a huge three story brick structure. The school doors opened at 8:00 am sharp, no matter what the weather. The flag pole was the gathering place while they waited for the bell. Many high level stories were told, most to show how tough you were. A favorite was to show up with scabs on your arms and face which resulted in the obvious question, "What happened to you!" With a swagger, the skinned up would answer, "We worked cattle!" The scene would have been repeated in Iowa Park, Valley View, and Burburnett. My crowd included Gene Dale Klinkerman, Mike Gilbert, Mike Chesser, Butch Borton, Charles Moeller, Corky Payton, Don Rogers, and Harry, Larry, and Amos McAlister.

There was no idea that the squeeze chute would be invented some day. At that time, you "threw" calves, not a big deal if the calf weighed 40 pounds, a huge deal if it weighed 225 pounds. It was part of growing up. Challenges between older brothers and younger brothers were common. You learned a lot of things that were very important.

Working cattle usually meant: vaccinating, branding, ear notching, and "cutting" bull calves. It also could mean: pulling calves, doctoring for scours, treating for screw worms, treating for pink eye, sticking a bloated cow, repositioning a prolapsed cow, and a multitude of other things that can happen to cattle. All had their special dangers.

What did you learn? Try these out. A cow named "Ole Crazy" is

named that for a reason. Don't believe everything your ornery uncle, cousin, or older brother tells you. Calves have a kick like a Mike Tyson punch. Ropes get loops in them. Don't get your finger caught in one. It is not fun to have to pull off your glove and count your fingers. When the big calf starts kicking, avoid the guy with the cutting knife, the guy with the branding iron, and the guy with the needle. My Dad's best friend Depot will never catch a wide variety of cattle diseases. A misplaced needle took care of that. Always have an escape plan. A just worked 225 pound calf wants to take it out on the nearest small kid. They can run like Usain Bolt. Blue smear, used to treat everything, doesn't wash off. That's why they use it. When treating a cow with a big teat, from behind, remember the cow can be looking straight ahead and still nail your hand. This is another situation which causes you to pull off your glove and count your fingers. That gentle pony you ride all the time becomes a Professional Bucking horse when you have an audience. Ours was named Buckshot. He could create ways to hurt you, standing on your foot while biting your hand. Again, you would pull off your glove and count your fingers. Tighten your cinch strap before trying to pull a cow out of a mud hole with a rope. It may look funny in a Lex Graham or Ace Reid cartoon. It's not funny when you're on the sideways saddle. The guy holding the back legs didn't ever let go, no matter what. If he did, needles, cutting knives and branding irons went everywhere, not a good thing to happen.

Somehow we survived it. Eventually, at all class reunions, we are now in our 70s, turn to, "Remember, when (insert a name) came to school with (insert the description of the injury)."

Old cowboys never quit. Cowboys on the Krohn Ranch were having trouble getting an old cow in the corral, we called them lots. Lon Deaton, former World Champion cowboy and 101 Ranch performer, in his youth, was having fun laughing at them. One made the mistake of saying, "I'd like to see you do it better!" Lon, in his 80's, never batted an eye. He replied, in a non-bragging manner, "If you'll help me on a horse, I'll show you." They did and he did!

Question of the Month

What Call Field regulation, in 1919, involved spurs for pilots?

Wichita County Archive News

March 2019

Monthly Report - February 2019

Archive Activity

- Emily Simmons, MSU student, researched the story behind Witch's Gate at the burned out Keith Home in Clay County.
- Linda Lee Gattis contacted the archives about researching the first spelling bee in Wichita Falls during the 1952-53 school year. She was in 7th grade at Fannin Elementary and won the contest.
- Earl Denney requested photos and historical information on the Coca Cola Bottling Plant for a book he is writing.
- Page Schroeder asked for information on her grandfather, Ward Coston, Viet Nam veteran.
- Joseph Clower of New Mexico came in to research his grandfather, James C. "Hap" Clower. The archives provided Joseph with several photos and newspaper articles on his grandfather. Hap Clower was a successful oil producer and rancher that donated much of his time and money to the Boys Club of Wichita Falls.
- Met with Charles Finnell to discuss the donation of his desk and chair from Austin.
- Interesting Story !!!! Julie Grant called the archives asking for information on her son, Robert Edward Grant. Julie came to Wichita Falls with her husband, John in 1969. John was an airman at Sheppard, here for a few months of training. While here, their son, Robert was born at the SAFB hospital. When mother and son left the hospital they were given a silver spoon. Mrs. Grant wanted to find out who donated the silver spoon to her son. They were getting ready to celebrate their son's 50th birthday and the "silver spoon" was to be highlighted. As it turned out, the Grant family was of meager means, but the baby born with a silver spoon had a fortuitous future. Robert Edward Grant became a multi-millionaire, owning 16 companies, one of which is publicly traded on the stock exchange.

Everyone is invited to join the [Wichita County Texas Archives Facebook page](#). Historical stories of Wichita County are highlighted weekly. Recent posts that have generated lots of interest are: Hospice of W.F./ Johnson Chicken Ranch story, Charles William Wallace, famous Shakespearean researcher turned Wildcatter story, and the J.C. Ward Building/Zale Building revelation. Ideas for future stories are always welcome.

Museum of North Texas History News

Have you ever been across the alley from the Alamo? Have you been taken back to Tulsa because you were too young to marry? Have you plowed your corn with a double shovel? These questions will be asked by Kenny and Susan Mayo with Post Oak on Tuesday, March 5th at the Elk's Lodge, 4205 Seymour Road.

Only a few days left to purchase tickets for our Bob Wills tribute concert! Call 940-322-7628 to purchase tickets today!



Jeff Spencer's presentation on February 7th at the **Museum of North Texas History**, deepened our appreciation of the Benjamin Loden photo collection. The collection was recently donated to the **Wichita County Archives** by the Ogden-Engbrock family of Wichita County. Spencer, a petroleum geologist working in the United States and Europe for the last 36 years, commented after seeing the collection of Loden photos, his opinion of the photographer's work greatly increased. Spencer's presentation centered on his postcard and photo collection of oil field scenes in Electra, Petrolia, and Burkburnett. He donated his book on his collection "Texas Oil and Gas" to the archives. As president of the Petroleum History Institute, Spencer will spread the word to his colleagues about the high quality and varied content of our Loden photo collection.