



# PRESERVATION NEWS

May 4th, 2017

Newsletter of the Wichita County Historical Commission

Volume LXXXIII 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

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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

Early Oil Field Manufacturing –Wichita Falls Area  
Douglas James

### From the Desk of Robert Palmer -

The number of Veterans from World War II has gotten very small. Many have passed on, but their sacrifice for their country and their service to humanity must never be forgotten. World War II was a monumental moment in the history of the world. We know that our life is just a small dot on the timeline of history, but we also know that there are moments, in time, that shape the years that follow for generations and generations. Many people served in various capacities during the five short years the United States was involved in the war. Some were on the battlefield, some were in ships, and some were in the air. Many served on what we call the home front. One of my favorite news photos of the time was of a group of ladies from a local beauty college taking half the springs out of the chairs in the beauty college to donate as scrap for the war cause. It spoke volumes about the attitude of the people of Wichita County.

Carter McGregor came from a prominent Wichita County family. He wrote a very fine book about his experiences as a B-29 pilot during the war. THE KAGU-TSCHI BOMB GROUP recounts the training and missions of the 40th Bomb Group. KAGU-TSCHI, in Japanese mythology was the God of Fire. For the Japanese, fire was the force of nature most difficult to control or combat. Carter had taken ROTC at Cornell University and was called to active duty on July 1, 1941 as an Infantry Officer. He was assigned to the 368th Infantry. The 368th was an all-black unit except for the officers. While on maneuvers in the desert near Ft. Huachuca, Arizona, a group of airplanes flew over. Your mind works wonders when you are on foot, in 115 degree heat, carrying a 30 pound pack and an M-1

rifle. He applied for transfer to aviation training. He called his father to tell him what he had done. His father said, "I hope you know what you are doing." and hung up.

Carter was trained in a PT-17 Stearman at Thunderbird Field #1 at Glendale, California. Ironically, a Stearman was what his friend, Jimmie Kolp, was flying from her field near Electra in Wichita County. After graduation from Flight School, he was assigned to Roswell Army Air Base to learn to fly B-17s. The first time he saw a B-17, his first impression was that this plane could not possibly get off the ground. He soon became quite comfortable flying the big, bulky machine.

After being thoroughly trained on the B-17, he was next trained on the relatively new, but unbelievable B-29. Then the orders started coming in. He was sent to Newfoundland to prepare, what he thought, was on to England and into the European Theater. Instead, he was ordered to fly to Africa and then to India. His thoughts were that this was a strange way to fight Germany. What was occurring was a move to strike the Japanese from India, through China. To follow his story, you have to read his book.

Earlier, I mentioned Jimmy Kolp. Two great stories of aiding the fight against our enemies, but staying in Texas, involve Mrs. Kolp and Wichita County rancher Rusty Bradley. Both were accomplished pilots. Both joined the Civil Air Patrol to fly coastal patrol along the coast of the Gulf of Mexico during the war. Their job was to spot enemy vessels and to report their location. Rusty did spot a German submarine. Reportedly, it was then sunk.

All Veterans of all times are important. All left their families to serve or country. As Americans, we must never forget their service and the service of the people on the Home Front who served to protect Freedom.

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### QUESTION OF THE MONTH

What is the largest natural lake in Texas?

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## May 2017

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The Red River Boundary of The Republic of Texas Marker Dedication is this *Saturday, April 29th* in Burkburnett at 1584 E. 3rd., just off of I-44.

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### Wichita County WWII- Industry and Individuals



#### **Wichita Truck**

During World War II, made aircraft parts.

#### **WAGGONER ELECTRA REFINERY**

In the early years of World War II, they produced high octane gas for the war planes; during the latter years they shipped “coke” to France.

#### **June 12, 1941**

Sale of national defense bonds by the three Wichita Falls Banks and the post office was just under \$500,000 and it is believed this city's per capita average of approximately \$10 will be near the top for cities in this population bracket.

#### **February 21, 1942**

Back to the farm direct from a substantial office job, came Ethel Aline Malone to become one of the first women in Wichita and Clay Counties to fill a man's job as a result of the rapid drafting of man power for this nation's armed forces.

#### **October 4, 1942**

Wichita County will muster every man, woman and child this week for the greatest mobilization in its history the collection of scrap metal to keep the boys at the front scrapping with the Axis. Collections by school children will be teaming with 30,000,000 throughout the nation. John F. O'Donohoe is the chairman of the school committee.

#### **June 6, 1943**

Food for Freedom At Its Best - From victory garden to pantry shelf is the route taken by much of the huge production of Wichita Falls' amateur gardeners, who for the last two weeks have been in the midst of a bumper harvest of vegetables.

#### **October 9, 1945**

Wichita County Victory Bond goal set at \$4.3 million dollars.

#### **October 29, 1945**

Wichita county today became first in the nation to complete its Victory Loan Quota. An appreciative citizenry topped its \$4.3 million goal by \$2.42 million as a tribute to the Lost Battalion and other returning service men.

**Real-life Rosie the Riveter.** Armentha Waldron worked for the Rhor Aircraft Corporation in Chula Vista, California. Mrs. Waldron was from the Seymour area.

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