

PRESERVATION NEWS

Newsletter of the Wichita County Historical Commission

Volume LIV

Robert Palmer, Chairman

November 13th, 2014

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

4. Program

5. Adjourn

1. Call to Order 2. Introduction of Guests 3. Business

Monthly Meeting: Location: The Country Club. Price for the luncheon is \$17.00 each which includes: salads, main course, vegetables, drink & dessert. Please bring the correct change.

Reservations: Call the Archives (763-0020) and leave your name and number of reservations on the voice mail up thru Wednesday prior to the meeting. Call the Archives Wednesday (763-0020 or 322-7628) if you have a change of plans.

MEETING WILL BE SECOND THURSDAY IN NOVEMBER, NOVEMBER 13TH.

PROGRAM - November 13th

From Italy to North Texas - Robert Fenoglio

From the Desk of Robert Palmer -

The Museum of North Texas History has spoiled us with its many magnificent displays based on North Texas History. Electra's Grand Theatre added to that with its October 11th Western Heritage Day. The Grand Theatre Association planned for months to bring together the first ever display of Western Wichita County Ranch and Old West artifacts and people. The day was a huge success.

Everything began with a Chuck Wagon style breakfast served on the ground, old west style. The chilly wind made the biscuits, bacon, sausage, and eggs that much better. Displays and events were located in the theater and on the surrounding streets. Larry Roeerck from The Texas Blacksmith's Association set up a working Blacksmith Shop where adults and kids could actually make their own knives. The smell of his coal stoked forge brought back memories when Electra had many blacksmith shops. The Red River Renegades, led by Dean Moeller, demonstrated working black powder guns. Everyone jumped when they went off. Beverlene Combest and Trevor Lalk, two of the area's best ropers, demonstrated roping style and, later, gave kids rides on their horses. Mrs. Combest and Rosa Lee Hodges had various animals on display including a huge steer and a very friendly pig. The high school

drama club did an old west shootout complete with outlaws and saloon girls. The Waggoner, "Give me water not oil" scene was re-enacted.

Various contests were held including: cooking, quilts, and best western dress. County officials judged the winners.

Inside the theater, things got Old West serious. Over 45 saddles, representing all areas of western heritage were on display. Several legendary cowboys and ranchers were represented. The founder of The Douglas Ranch, L.P. Douglas's niece Felecia showed his high back saddle from the late 1800s. The opposite of that was the saddle of Swede Swenson who rode a special very low back Olsen-Stelzer saddle. The Foster Ranch showed Frank Foster's high back saddle. A large number of U.S. Cavalry McClellen saddles were on display along with all the other Cavalryman's equipment. Side saddles, Mexican Parade saddles, Argentine saddles, pleasure saddles, and all forms of ranch saddles were on display. A small saddle used by a photographer who fed his family during the Depression by taking kid's pictures on a Shetland pony was on display. (CONTINUED ON BACK)

> >>>>>>>>>>> **Question of the month**

Who were the Mad Medics?

Wichita County Archive News November 2014

The THC sent wording for the Bethania and WGH markers. Corrections were made and submitted back to the THC.

Marker application for the Burkburnett Masonic Lodge was submitted to the THC.

Wichita County was awarded an THC Undertold Marker for Dr. C. B. Fuller.

Brenda Jarrett, member of the Wichita County Historical Commission, was honored as the Wichitan of the Year. Congratulations to Brenda!

(COLUMN CONTINUED)

The photo displays were special. A large collection of photos from the Whiteface part of the Waggoner Ranch showed working cowboys doing what they were paid to do, brand and work cattle. Sonny Propps, longtime foreman of The Whiteface was shown working and, in his pleasure time, leading his Western Band. The Burnett Ranch was represented by a large display of photos that, again, showed cowboys working. One shot showed two legendary cowboys, Curtis Lightfoot and Swede Swenson, during branding time. Other shots represented The Lazy J, The Ancell, and The Patton Ranches. Electra legend Lon Deaton's complete collection of photos from The Buffalo Bill and 101 Ranch Old West shows was on display.

The western art displays were amazing. It was a memorable sight to see Jack Stevens and Peggye McNair looking at each other's displays and telling about what was there. Western sculptures Betty Wilbur and Terrel Silvers showed their work. Leather worker Barry Shaw showed his leather work and allowed kids to work their own piece of leather.

A concert by the combined choirs of the Bethel Baptist Church and the First Methodist Church was performed from the Grand Theatre stage. The Texas Kids, who perform annually in Austin and San Antonio, gave a special performance.

The day ended with a special presentation to Hunter Cure, of Electra, the current World Champion Steer Wrestler. Much more was shown and done, but the goal of bringing together the first ever display of Western Heritage was well accomplished. Congratulations to The Grand Theatre Association for a job well done.