




WCHC November 2019.pdf

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PRESERVATION NEWS

Wichita County Archives
720 Indiana Avenue
Hours of Operation: Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday 10:00am - 12:00pm & 1:00pm - 4:00pm
E-mail Address - archives@co.wichita.tx.us

Wichita County Historical Commission
Robert Palmer, Chairman
Bryce Blair, Archivist
76301
Telephone 940-763-0020
www.wichitacountyhistoricalcommission.org/
Newsletter Editor: Becky Trammell

Wichita County Texas Archives is on Facebook

Location: Luby's

Lunch at 11:30AM

Meeting 12:00 Noon - 1:00pm

AGENDA FOR MEETING:

1. Call to Order

2. Introduction of Guests

3. Business

4. Program

5. Adjourn

From the desk of Robert Palmer

The Capitol Building for the State of Texas is made of beautiful pink granite mined from the area around Marble Falls. Many counties have used the native stone in their area to build courthouses and other magnificent structures. What about Wichita County? A quick response would be that we don't have any natural stone that could be used for that purpose. Actually, that is not true. Wichita County has two stone types that can be used for building structures, and have been used. Where is it and how did it get here?

The exposed stone strata in and around Wichita Falls are the products of one ancient period deposition. Many, many years ago geological events occurred that left sediment that is now stone in our area. Specifically, the rocks found in and around Wichita Falls resulted from southwesterly flowing Permian streams that deposited sands in channels and silts and clays on the surrounding floodplains. Pleistocene erosion removed the younger rock exposing the current strata. The Petrolia Formation dominates the exposed Permian Strata in Wichita County with the formation of 360-400 feet of weakly or unstratified mudstone with laminated, cross-bedded sandstone. What does all that mean?

In simple terms, Wichita County has a lot of brown stone with sandstone in various layers. Electra native and noted geologist, Tom Patty was recently honored, along with Commission member Ginger Beisch, at Electra's Homecoming ceremonies. Patty has studied and written extensively about the Beaver-burk Limestone rock formation and how it has been used. The Beaver-burk is the natural, brown rock that lies from Beaver Creek to the Burk Station west of Iowa Park. It has a deceptively simple look. In appearance, the stone is a drab brown. When used to construct a structure, it has a beautifully, strong look. Where has it been used? Actually, the stone has been quite extensively, all over the county.

In the 1930s, the CCC used it to construct the Electra Swimming pool building and the nearby high school shop building. It was used to build the bridges that crossed the

PROGRAM
Marilyn Meador - NTGA
In Search of Henry W. Strong

small stream wandering through the Electra City park. The bandstand, the picnic tables, the drainage ditches, and fire pit circle were built from it. The gateway to the Continental Gas Plant near Rocky Point was built from the brown limestone and is still standing even though the Gas Plant is gone.

Several houses were built from the stone. The Doc Preston house in Electra is a beautiful dwelling. My friends, when I was growing up, would tease me about living in a castle. Yes, our house that my Dad purchased in 1948 was built of the leftover rock from the City Park project. It sat on the hill south of the park and had a tall peaked roof. It was warm in the winter and cool in the summer. It was surrounded by large cedar trees. Before air conditioning, my Dad would spray the trees with a garden hose and the combination of the wind and the rock made for wonderfully cool sleeping on hot summer nights.

One of the most awesome structures built by the stone is the Old Tanner building in Iowa Park. The main quarry for the stone was located near Fowlkes Station. There are, surely, more buildings made from the stone. I remember one in Wichita Falls, but can't remember where. All of this is to say, "Yes, native stone was used in construction in Wichita County." Is this a future industry?

Question of the Month

What are other types of natural stone are found in Wichita County?

Wichita County Archive News November 2019	
Financial Report – Speaker Fund	
Balance from Sept 2019	111.85
Copies in Archives	0.55
Books Sold	5.00
Balance Adjustment	53.25
Speaker Declined Lunch	0.00
Balance - Oct 2019	170.65
<p>-While cleaning out a drawer in the archives, two envelopes of money were found. One was labeled, "Copies" and contained \$42.21. The other envelope was labeled, "Cookbook Postage" and contained \$11.04. The total amount of \$53.25 was combined with the Speaker Fund.</p> <p>- Randy Johnson came into the archives to pick up the scanned images of his 1919 panoramic photo of Burkburnett Oil Field. He was very pleased with the service we offered and donated \$100 to the archives and \$150 to the museum. The Archives portion was deposited in the WCHC bank account.</p> <p>-Kaye Holland of the League of Women Voters came to the Archives to research their organization's history in Wichita Falls.</p>	