



# PRESERVATION NEWS

# Wichita County Historical Commission

Robert Palmer, Chairman

Wichita County Archives

Bill Steward, Archivist

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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 XCVIII

## Oct. 4, 2018

### From the desk of Robert Palmer

In 1964, Bob Dylan sang,

“Come mothers and fathers throughout the land  
And don’t criticize, what you don’t understand.

Your old road is rapidly agin.....  
For the times they are a-changin’.”

We historians study the past and cringe when some of the wonders we grew up with fade away. We know that everything we are now has grown upon what came before, but the times they do change.

Recently, I attended a meeting in Downtown Electra, my home town. After the meeting I walked to my car and noticed a new sign that read, “No bicycles on sidewalks”. The first thing I noticed, that if there were bicycles on the sidewalk, they would be the only thing. There was not a person anywhere on the sidewalks. I went to my car and sat there a moment, remembering. When I was a boy, our Saturday mornings meant one thing: riding our bicycles downtown on the sidewalk, dodging all the people, parking in the huge rack in front of The Liberty Theater, paying our 9 cents, going in, and enjoying Johnny Mack Brown, Whip Wilson, Lash LaRue, or Jimmie Wakely while they ran down the outlaws.

As I sat there, I looked at all the empty buildings and my mind was instantly flooded with, “How it used to be.” There was Edwards Time Shop where Mr. Edwards could fix any kind of watch. There was Smith’s News Stand where newspapers, magazines, and cigars were sold. I could remember its unique smell of newsprint and tobacco floating out to the street. There was Cole’s Shoe Repair where you sat and waited while your shoes were resoled. Again, the smell was there of shoe polish and leather. Old Drugstore’s locations brought back memories of sitting on the revolving stools and sipping on a chocolate

### Program

Dr. Randall Hallford - MSU  
Christian View of Creation

milkshake. The corner where the A and P stood gave images of the huge black diamond watermelons, the odor of the butcher shop, and the pungent smell of fresh ground coffee.

I could see all the people on the sidewalks, hustling and bustling, talking, and then, all stopping, when a steam engine train went through town. The noise of the whistle stopped all conversation and, then, the whole downtown was covered in dense, black smoke when the prevailing southwest wind blew the smoke from the engines through the space between the buildings.

Then my mind wondered, “What else was gone?” Gone was the ice delivery truck, Lee’s Dairy home milk delivery, Bob Brownlee’s full service gas station, Cliff Waggoner’s radiator shop, Burkhalter’s steam laundry (where young boys ran through the cloud of steam pouring out on a cold morning), and Star-Cash Hardware where my Dad bought wind mill leathers and sand points. I could hear the clickety-clickety sound of a hand pushed reel mower, the popping sound of baseball cards held by a clothespin hitting bicycle spokes, dogs barking, and lots of dogs barking. Other sounds floated by, kids playing in their yards, tent revival evangelists, and on and on.

Now, when I go to Wal-Mart and see the teenagers and smaller, wandering around, totally unaware of everything around, with their thumbs playing a game on their I-phone....Oh, well, you know what I mean!

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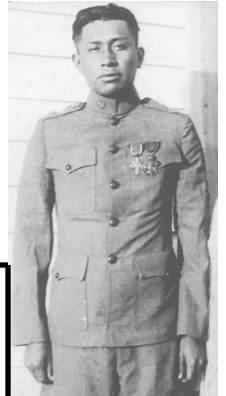
### Question of the Month

Dance studios are coming back. Who were the people who ran The Authur Murray Dance Studio in Wichita Falls?

# Wichita County Archive News

## October 2018

Robert Atchavit, who is a full blood Comanche from the Penateka band came by the Archives this week. The nature of his visit was his uncle, Pvt. Calvin Atchavit. Calvin Atchavit was a Comanche Code Talker who served in Company A of the 357th Infantry Regiment of the 90th (Texas-Oklahoma) division of American Expeditionary Force in France in WWI. Here are the medals he earned: Distinguished Service Cross \*; Purple Heart; World War I Victory Medal; Belgian War Cross (Croix de Guerre); and Occupation of Germany World War I Medal.



**Armistice Day** is celebrated every year to commemorate the armistice signed between the Allies of World War I and Germany. The signing took place at the "eleventh hour of the eleventh day of the eleventh month" of 1918. The **Wichita County Archives** and the **Museum of North Texas History** are planning an event to occur on Sunday, November 11th to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the end of World War I. We'll let you know as plans are finalized.

**Dr. Roark Headstone:** Many of you contributed to the effort to have a headstone placed for Dr. Anne Roark. On Saturday, October 20th at 10:00am, Dr. Roark's headstone will be dedicated at Lakeview Cemetery. Please join us as we honor both Dr. Roark and her husband, Daniel Roark.

## Museum of North Texas History News

**North Texas Legend:** This year's North Texas Legend will be **Roby Christie**. Roby was instrumental in the first Hotter 'N Hell race when he suggested it as an alternative to a rocking-chair race. Join us Tuesday, October 16th at the Kemp Center for the Arts. For more information, call 322-7628 or 704-1281, Deadline for reservations is Friday, October 12th.



**"Boots On, North Texas"** will highlight the history of the development and popularity of Cowboy Boots and the boot makers from north Texas. Historic, antique, and classic boots from Dixon Boot Company, Nocona Boots, and Olsen-Stelzer will be on display. We have plain boots, fancy boots, hard-worn



boots, and even some very exotic boots. Learn the history of the companies, the men and women who made them, and the celebrities who bought them. And of course, see the boots made by these historic companies.