



PRESERVATION NEWS

Wichita County Historical Commission

Robert Palmer, Chairman

Bryce Blair, Archivist

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

E-mail Address - archives@co.wichita.tx.us

wchitacountyhistoricalcommission.org/

Newsletter Editor: Becky Trammell

Wichita County Texas Archives is on [Facebook](#)

Volume CCLXII

Location: Museum of North Texas History Meeting 12:00 Noon - 1:00pm

AGENDA FOR MEETING: 1. Call to Order 2. Introduction of Guests
3. Business 4. Program 5. Adjourn

October 7, 2021

From the desk of Robert Palmer

John Yates - Voices Of History

The last song had been sung; the last invitation offered.

In the late summer of 1954, the crowd had been sparse, indicative of what was moving through America. Several men stood around discussing what would have to be done to take down the tent, load the chairs, and put it all away for another year.

Several mentioned the dark clouds growing in the southwest sky with occasional spikes of lightning. The storm struck with full fury two hours later. A lifestyle had changed. The tent revival was no more.

It could be argued that the tent revival was already dying. A small electronic box called television was already striking a death blow not only to tent revivals, but, also, to medicine shows, donkey baseball games, and anything else that got people out into the evening.

The tent revival had always been Barney Clemon's dream.

As a young boy selling newspapers on the streets of Wichita Falls in the early 1900s, he looked at the businesses around him. He vowed, someday, he would own a business of his own. Many years working as a roughneck for Continental Oil Company had given him the funds to buy the four-story brick Miller Furniture Company on North Main in Electra. It was quickly followed by: a mattress factory, a clothing store, a lumberyard, a moving company, a storage company, and many rental houses.

Electra, with its booming oil fields, was a perfect place to paint entrepreneurship and Barney was the perfect artist. But still in the back of his mind was what he had learned as a young boy attending Holiness Churches and sitting, completely awed, as brush arbor evangelist preached the gospel. He saw himself on a mission from God.

With his new financial success, in the late '30s, he bought the joined Wofford Hotel and the Electra Hotel which had been moved by mules three blocks to become a new hotel. Barney made it a church, doing numerous renovations. With his alliance to The Nazarene Church, he soon had a preacher, piano, and song leaders. With the end of World War II, the church grew. Many battle-weary soldiers

returned with a strong desire to serve the Lord.

The message was loud and clear. The music would grab the emotions of people and prime them for what was going to occur.

It was a highly emotional time!

The tent revival was always his dream. With the surplus of war supplies, he bought a truck, wooden folding chairs, and a huge tent. He roamed the streets in his big Chrysler, speakers blaring telling people to come to the services. His 12-year-old nephew, a future writer of history, was absorbing it all.

The revival was a huge success. He had his preacher, an army veteran named Alvin Maule. Alvin had incurred a sucking chest wound on a lonely South Seas Island thanks to a Japanese sniper. Sucking chest wounds were traumatic. Each breath sent a spray of your blood into the air. As this was happening, Alvin made God a promise.

If he would get him home, he would devote his life to preaching the gospel. God kept his side of the bargain and so did Alvin. His last sermon of every revival was "God in the Foxhole," preached in a white dinner jacket. Alvin's booming voice delivered God's message.

On that late summer evening in 1954, the last sermon had been "God in the Foxhole." God's message would still be delivered but in a more contained manner. The age of the tent revival was over.

Events in history have changed our lifestyle: the automobile telephones, the computer, and the cell phone. Television may have been the greatest changing force!

**Texas Historic Marker
Undertold Marker Cycle
October 1 - November 15**

Wichita County Archive News

September 2021

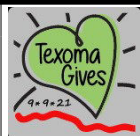
Monthly Report

-Erica Towery of Wichita Falls brought several items from the Eastside to the museum with hopes of selling them. Madeleine brought them to the Archives to see if we would be interested in any of the items. In this collection, there was a military recruiting poster dating back to WWI. Amazingly, it was a poster meant to try and recruit black men into the Army. The poster was framed and in a very fragile state. We were able to get a scan of the poster, adding to our collection of Eastside images. We painstakingly placed the poster in a double thickness, clear vinyl sleeve to help preserve it. We are undecided about trying to purchase the poster.

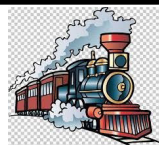
-While researching in the Archives, two photos were found in the Barwise Collection. The images were school class photos taken at Seymour Public School in 1905 and 1906. The only person identified in those photos was Nina Barwise. Scans of the photos were sent to the Baylor County Historical Society. The Public Library in Seymour published the images in their newsletter. Amazingly, we are now capable of sharing our historical images with others.

-Another shared photo was to Nadine McCown of the Kell House Heritage Center. They were having an exhibition involving Prohibition and Speak Easys for their upcoming event. We sent them a couple of photos of law enforcement officers posing at the courthouse with confiscated whiskey stills. Nadine was very pleased with our contribution.

-Carol Rudd has started a new volunteer project at the Archives. She is organizing and indexing a collection of newspaper articles clipped from the Bicentennial Edition published Feb 29, 1976. There are so many new things happening at the Archives.



Thanks to everyone who contributed to the Museum of North Texas History during Texoma Gives!



HINT, HINT, HINT
Pulling into the Museum
November 2021

Unfortunately, the **Museum of North Texas History** is canceling the 2021 Legends of North Texas Event honoring Eddie Hill due to concerns about the COVID-19 cases in the North Texas Area. We are hopeful that the event can be rescheduled sometime next year. We are in the process of issuing refunds for all tickets purchased. If you have not received your refund yet or have any questions, please call 940-322-7628, email

director@museumofnorthtexashistory.org,

