



## PRESERVATION NEWS

Newsletter of the Wichita County Historical Commission

Volume LIII

Robert Palmer, Chairman

September 4th, 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

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### 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: **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.

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### PROGRAM

#### *From Poland to Texas - James H. Kapelski*

#### **From the Desk of Robert Palmer -**

Wichita County is blessed with a large number of historical buildings that have histories that are representative of the county itself. These buildings were built and used while the county was moving from a grassy prairie to a modern agriculture and industry based economy. Historians are great at dates, facts, people and events, but not so good at making judgements. We don't like to say what is best or greatest. This column will challenge you to do just that. Based on the history of the county, what buildings best represent the tremendous history of the county? I will describe my two choices.

The Tanner building in Iowa Park is one of the great buildings in the county. The man who had the building constructed was Captain R.W. "Dick" Hyde. Captain Hyde fought for the South during The Civil War. He came to Iowa Park in 1889 and, in 1893, opened a hardware store to serve the local farmers and citizens. The four foot corner stones were quarried from sandstone on The Wichita River south of present day Iowa Park. A man named Jobert carved the stone. The stone had to be carried out by teamsters who paid D.M. Smith 10 cents to cross his property. Hyde sold the store to William Jackson around 1900, bought it back, then sold it to J.A. Tanner in 1908. Under the Tanners it became a community institution. (The two-part building served as home for the Lady Lions and the Senior Citizen Center. In later years it served several businesses and currently is the home of Bobby Collins Insurance. He is in the process of restoring the building and keeping its historical importance intact. Lita)

The building did and still does contain a well. The

building apparently was built around the well. When automobiles became common, the Tanners added a gas pump out front. The Tanners operated a Funeral Parlor across the street from the hardware store. The building has seen many uses. It is a splendid example of small town enterprise when towns were growing up in America.

The present day Electra City Hall really has no formal name. It is a tremendous example of Electra history. The first building in Electra was The Dan Waggoner General Store. Quannah Parker stopped there many times. Electra town lots were sold in 1907. The City Hall building was built in 1908, the first brick building in the new community. For much of its history, it was a bank. In many early pictures, it stands supremely among tin shacks and shops along the board sidewalk. In its most famous picture, it has the word TEXACO painted, in large letters, along its second story. It was the headquarters for their oil operation in North Texas. A large wagon pulled by a very large set of teams stand in the mud rutted street. The first movie theater in Electra was located on the second floor. It was a nickelodeon theater. The second floor eventually became offices. The lady aviator Jimmy Kolp ran her oil interest operation from one of the offices. In the early 1950s, to make it modern the crowd had the building covered with a facing. Fortunately, time is taking care of that and the original brick is beginning to show through. These are just two Wichita County buildings. What are your nominees for most representative building?

\*\*\*\*\***Question of the month**\*\*\*\*\*

Who were The Little Hamburger Boys?

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# Wichita County Archive News

## September 2014

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### Downtown Is Coming Back

...not as before but with new focus and new energy

*Here are some of the preservation and restoration highlights of the past several months with new uses for old buildings:*

Will Tucker is in the process of purchasing and restoring the **old post office**, across from Farmers' Market.

**Sidecar Brewery** will be located in the Big C Appliance building

The **Sears Building** will be used for internal storage and owners have also purchased the former **Maskat Temple**, perhaps to restore as apartments.

Christy and Rick Graham have restored the Texas Electric building into **Centre Point** for offices and rental for special events

Downtown Proud is restoring the first home of **Zales Jewelers** at 8<sup>th</sup> and Ohio

**Big Blue** has new owners and its first tenant

**S5 Concept and Design** offers screen printing at 711 Indiana

**Brian's Plumbing** has a new home in the old Baker-Duncan Van and Storage building

**8<sup>th</sup> Street Coffee Shop** seems to be doing well. Other new restaurants are **Hargraves** at 8<sup>th</sup> and Indiana, **Bistro 21** on 7<sup>th</sup> St., and **The Broken Tap** on Indiana