



# PRESERVATION NEWS

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Newsletter of the Wichita County Historical Commission

Volume LXXV

Robert Palmer, Chairman

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

http://www.wichitacountyhistoricalcommission.org/

## 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: Luby's. Price for the luncheon is **\$10.00** each which includes: one meat, salad, vegetables, drink & dessert. Please bring the correct change. **RESERVATIONS NO LONGER NEEDED**

## PROGRAM

Tim Hunter

History of the Texas A&M Experimental Station

Iowa Park, Texas

From the Desk of Robert Palmer -

School Days, School Days,  
Good Old Golden Rule Days.  
Reading, Writing, and Arithmetic,  
Taught To The Tune Of The Hickory Stick.

The coming of Labor Day used to bring the beginning of school. Well, that's long gone! So are many other school traditions. Black boards, Big Chief Tablet, and No. 2 pencils have been replaced by Chrome Books and Smart Boards. Teachers, fifty years ago, focused on the essentials: math, reading, spelling, and good handwriting. Teachers now focus on S.T.A.A.R. test preparation and trying to do well on the T-TESS evaluation.

Teachers are much different and the profession may be evolving back to its roots. In the early part of the 1900s, men and women wanting to teach spent a summer at North Texas State Teacher's College at Denton or East Texas State Teacher's College at Commerce and taught that fall. Suddenly, the state is moving back that direction. A sharp decline in college students entering the teaching profession has created serious discussion to allow less certified teachers along with the reintroduction of Emergency Certification. This was supposedly eliminated by The Gilmer-Eiken Act of 1949 which required teachers to be degreed and certified.

Students returning to school in the early 1900s went through annual rituals. New shoes were purchased to replace the bare feet of summer. They were usually bought one size too large to allow for growth. Levis were bought too long, also, and were rolled up at the beginning of school like John Wayne's in the movie "Stagecoach". Some rural students wore Osh-Kosh overalls with their pin stripes. d

Boys playing football didn't worry about tough practices because it was far better than chopping cotton and hauling hay, barefooted. Girls wore dresses, no exceptions, until freezing weather appeared. Back to school haircuts were often home produced with the bowl over the head design, known at the time as Buster Brown cuts.

Many rural schools were taught by husband and wife teams: Reese and Zeluma Stroud at Barwise Rural School, Mr. and Mrs. P. E. Karney at Sunshine Hill, and Mr. and Mrs. George Hargrove at Rocky Point. They often taught multiple grades at the same time. Older students tutored younger students and "double promotions" were common for high achieving students.

Discipline was quick and effective. Parents backed the teacher. Elaborate measures were employed to keep Mom and Dad from hearing about the trouble you caused at school. The switching or paddling you got at school was much gentler than the razor strap you got at home!

Many students brought their own lunches. In the rural schools, it could be sausage and biscuit sandwiches in a lard can covered in a thin layer of grease. Rural students who ate at school often got red beans and corn bread, prepared by the teacher-team wife who gave the students a writing assignment while she made the lunch.

Rest rooms weren't rooms at all, but a path to the "small building". Winter time trips were as quick as possible. First Ward Elementary School in Electra had outdoor restrooms until the mid-1930s.

Somehow, it was all survived!

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## QUESTION OF THE MONTH

What was a Circuit Rider Preacher?

# H H H Celebrates 35 Years

Mr. H H H Delivers for Wichita Falls in Several Key Ways

*Times Record News, November 4, 1995*

By Jim Mannion

Staff Writer

Known unofficially as "Mr. River" and "Mr. HHH," Wichita Falls Postmaster Boby Christie has his hands in numerous projects to benefit the community.

Christie is chairman for the annual Hotter N Hell Hundred bicycle ride and chairman of the board for the Wichita Falls Bicycling Club.

His primary responsibility with the club is spending a considerable portion of the year with other board members

discussing how to improve the HHH, making it a greater value to the community and more fun for riders.

He said he thinks the ride is good for Wichita Falls, not just for the money it brings into the city, but also because it spotlights the community's best aspect



CHRISTIE

— its people.

"The event, I think has been real important in that it provides a lot of Wichitans an opportunity to focus on our community in a real positive way. The event shares our most important resource with the rest of the world — and that's the people of Wichita Falls and the Hotter N Hell Hundred volunteers," he said.

Christie, who has been postmaster here since March 1993, said although he is not a native Wichitan — he has been working in Wichita Falls permanently since 1973 — he's proud to call the city home.

And the HHH is just one example of what Wichita Falls' residents can do when they set their minds to it, he said.

"Wichita Falls, in my estimation, comes in first in a lot of things, but even if we can't come in first," Christie said, "we are known for putting on the best bicycle ride anywhere."

Christie also serves as projects coordinator for Streams & Valleys, the organization that originally raised money for the falls. Since the falls have been built, the group has been raising money for other park projects and river development.

Streams & Valleys is working toward completion of the "Wee-Chi-Tah" sculpture by Jack Stevens. When finished in the near future, the sculpture will be placed at Berend's Landing at the site of the original falls. Christie said he is particularly excited about this bringing some native Indian culture back to Wichita Falls.

As program chairman of Streams & Valleys, Christie is involved in the Berend's Landing project. With the help of volunteers, the store has been remodeled, and the grain elevator — 100 years old this year — is in the process of being remodeled for an indoor climbing gym.

Through Streams & Valleys, Christie is in charge of the "natural adventures" — the Flipper, Zipper and Gripper — each year at Falls Fest. This involves a three-month commitment to build the attractions, get people to operate them and tear them down.

He is a member of the Southwest Rotary Club, where his favorite activity is the placement of flags at residences during the nine major holidays.

Christie is an alumni of Leadership Wichita Falls, which he said showed him the value of being involved in the community. He not only was in a class, but has since helped put on seminars for several years.

Christie said he goes the extra mile for Wichita Falls because he feels a need to pay the city back for the good fortune he has experienced here.

"I take a lot of pride in being a Wichitan to begin with. The Hotter N Hell Hundred gives me an opportunity to pay back to a community that has been very good to me and my family. I'm not a native Wichitan and Wichita Falls has let me and my family be happy and prosper here, so it's my opportunity to give back all I can," he said.

Most recently, the group has been providing land for the River Bend Nature Works project. The bicycle club bought some property at the site, and Streams & Valleys has added to that land, as well as moving 60 tons of debris from the site before it was given to Nature Works.