



PRESERVATION NEWS

Wichita County Historical Commission

Robert Palmer, Chairman

Wichita County Archives

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Hours of Operation: Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday 10:00am - 12:00pm & 1:00pm - 4:00pm

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www.wichitacountyhistoricalcommission.org/

Newsletter Editor: Becky Trammell

Wichita County Texas Archives is on Facebook

Volume CCVII

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

Sept. 5, 2019

From the desk of Robert Palmer

PROGRAM - Mike Moody Baseball History of Wichita Falls

On June 7, 1955 three teenagers from Lubbock drove to 3108 York Street in Wichita Falls. Their destination was the Nesman Studio. Sally and Lewis Nesman had relocated from Biloxi, Mississippi in 1949. They, at first, set up a studio about two blocks from the York Street location. They moved in 1952 and a year later began recording. It was basically a garage type operation. When a small building was added, it became a business. Their goal was to be a success. Any thoughts about becoming a Texas legend were overshadowed by the desire to help people record and make money. As a result, no tapes or acetate records were kept. Extras went in the trash. Occasionally, some of the demos show up in area estate sales. The Lubbock teenagers' demos would bring a small fortune!

Lewis Nesman had learned recording at his father's job, a broadcast station. He would watch his Dad and, occasionally, his Dad would let him operate the equipment. Lewis knew the best equipment and installed it in his new venture. He knew how to use that equipment and he understood sound. As a result, his reputation was quietly spreading. The Lubbock boys had tried recording in Dallas, but the sound quality was not what they wanted. Local people knew about the studio. Church singers and local personalities used the studio. The Nesmans initially charged 20 dollars an hour. Later, after stereo came in, they raised their charge to 30 dollars an hour. When they ran out of supplies, they ordered more. Lewis had a day job and Sally often ran the studio by herself. Recording studios today are loaded with a wide array of microphones. The Nesman Studio had just what was needed. One time, when a local television personality was recording, a train went

down the nearby tracks. After listening to the recording, they all laughed. Thinking it added a unique touch, they left the train sound in.

The only written records kept were the bare essentials required by the IRS. Who all recorded was not written down. Old business cards weren't kept. Sun Studio in Memphis became legendary because Elvis, Jerry Lee, and Johnny recorded there. Anything with Sun Studio on it brings high collector money. It is a major tourist attraction. Does Nesman Studio compare? The Lubbock boys were the forerunners to the Crickets. The lead singer playing his Fender Stratocaster was, of course, Buddy Holly. The songs they recorded were used as demos for Decca records. They were so pleased; they came back for a second session. Sally described Holly as, "a hopeful teenager." She said he was quiet, very businesslike, and helpful with sound suggestions. Lewis used to proudly play a tribute recording of local disc jockey Snuff Garret remembering Holly after the plane crash. The television personality who liked the sound of the passing train, was Bill Mack. Mack would later write the mega hit song "Blue" for LeeAnne Rimes and "Drinking Champagne" for George Strait. Others recorded there including television record salesman Slim Whitman. The studio slowly faded away. The legend will remain.

Question of the Month

Who was television station
KSYD named for?

Wichita County Archive News

September 2019

Monthly Report – August 2019
Financial Report – Speaker Fund

Balance from July 2019	120.90
Lunch for Speaker	-12.00
Copies in Archives	4.45
Balance July 2019	113.35

Welcome back Becky Trammell !!!!

-Ann Hunter has been coming into the archives all month to research artists that were members of the Wichita Falls Art Association. Ms. Hunter is the daughter of Polly Cox (author of the book “Wichita Falls in Watercolor” featuring old homes). The Art Association will be celebrating their 75th anniversary soon with a book detailing all the artists that have been members.

-Wichita County Archives has taken on the task of digitizing the Wichita Falls City Council & Fire Department Meeting Minutes Journal dating back to 1892-1904. The meeting minutes book has been stored in the W.F. City Clerk’s office, unavailable to researchers. The City Clerk loaned the minutes book to the archives for the duration of this project.

-Tara Campbell came to the archives to research her grandfather, Jesse F. Hall of Wichita Falls. She was provided with his WWII Draft record and military dates, a newspaper article of when he was wounded during WWII, a birth certificate and a photo of him.

-John Swanson of Wichita Falls was with his family, touring the museum. He wandered into the archives and started asking questions about the railroad. He works for Burlington Northern and was interested in any old photos or information pertaining to the railroad. This is a recent project that is still in the works.

-Nathan Endo, an MSU student, came in a few months ago to research the Newcastle Coal Mines for a school paper he was writing. He came in again and has narrowed his project to the labor unions and railroads involved with the Newcastle Coal Mines. Luckily for him, the archives have an abundance of information on his topic.

-John Yates has continued to impress everyone with his technical expertise in digitizing archive photos. The Loden Panoramic Photo collection has been completed. He also digitized the 1921 Stickney Collection of aerial photos of Wichita Falls (part of the recent aerial photo museum exhibit). Our most recent project was digitizing the large panoramic photos of the Lake Wichita Pavilion and the Burkburnett Oilfield photos in the museum. Great job John!!! Thanks.

Texas Historical Commission to Delay Fall Marker Cycle

The Texas Historical Commission will delay the Fall Marker cycle due this year. With the closing of Southwell Foundry, the producer of the markers, an RFP for a new foundry will be released shortly.

Besides delaying the Fall Cycle, all markers “in the mix” will be delayed until a new foundry is found.

Museum of North Texas History News - Upcoming Events

September 5th - After Hours Artwalk

September 12th - Texoma Gives

September 14th - Stroll ‘N Roll



GRAND OPENING

Visit the NEW Children's Exhibit at the
Museum of North Texas History!
Open special hours:
10:00 am to 7:00 pm

MARK Thursday, SEPTEMBER 12th ON YOUR CALENDAR.
Official opening at 10:00am