



PRESERVATION NEWS

Wichita County Historical Commission

Robert Palmer, Chairman

Bill Steward, 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

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 XCVII

Sept. 6, 2018

From the desk of Robert Palmer

Program

**Danny Taylor – Former Superintendent, BISD
The History of Burkburnett Schools**

Many people believe that the root of our perceived societal problems is the lack of solid values by our teen-agers. Throughout the history of our county the movement from childhood to adulthood meant living and surviving the tumultuous adolescence years.

Native Americans had very defined ways on how this transition occurred. Young boys were taught, early, the skills necessary to later be a contributing member of the tribal organization. Often, this meant being left in the wilderness to learn, first hand, survival skills. Young girls had very little say about who their eventual spouse would be. Agreements were made by the adults and, almost always, involved gifts of horses or other valuable items.

When the first settlers came to the area, young people had very little opportunity to meet other young people. If a school or a church had been built, young people were given the opportunity to socialize. I vividly remember T.H. Barwise, Jr. telling me that he was a teen-ager before he got up the courage to converse directly with young ladies. Life on a farm in north central Wichita County was very isolated and rules in the rural schools were very severe and strictly adhered to. The roaring twenties greatly changed that.

Movies and radio opened up a whole new world for young people. The young people were flooded with images they had never experienced before. Girls and boys, alike, dressed much differently. Skirts got shorter and boy's hair got slicker. Fathers began to realize that it wouldn't destroy the family if the son took the Model A on a date.

Following World War II, things really livened up. Soldiers returning from the War were not nearly as restrictive as their fathers had been. In my home town of Electra, the first real date was usually the 8th grade banquet and dance. The ritual began in early March when boys started lining up their dates. The Electra police usually turned a blind eye to that night and unlicensed drivers were ignored. Most intelligent citizens avoided driving that night. I doubled dated with my best friend George and our dates were Linda and Bonnie. Parents were actively involved. Buying the corsage was a terrible experience mostly conducted by the boy's mother. Marty Robbins had a hit song, at that time, entitled "A White Sports Coat and a Pink Carnation". With the exception of a couple of boys whose mother's insisted they wear suits, we all wore white coats with, even hard to say now, pink carnations.

When boys got their drivers license near the end of their sophomore year (after driver's training), they were "pushed" into dating. In a small town, dating usually meant going to the movies, the Grand in Electra. Coke dates were quick, "I'll come by and let's go get a coke." In Electra, that meant going to the Whistle Stop. You had to be careful who you asked out because you were very carefully scrutinized by all your friends. For girls, if you seldom got asked out for a coke, it was heart-breaking. Most survived without personal pain.

College was a whole different story. Girls expected more money to be spent. A date to the movies or a concert meant eating a meal at a good restaurant first. I would say, "Do you want to go to Pioneer, Lester's, or some other good restaurant?" Unfortunately, some of my dates made choices that caused me to eat 13 cent Griff Burgers all the next week.

Boys had been taught to be respectful. You "yes sired and no sired" the girl's parents. You opened the car door for the girl. That was the biggest change I saw in the 60s as a school teacher and principal. Respect for girls began to disappear. Some girls conducted themselves in a manner that encouraged the disrespect. Old school teachers fought accepting this change in attitude. Some still do. We are different in many respects. Some of the change has been good. Some has not.

Question of the Month

How many of you had a roll in the first Hotter 'N Hell 100? Clue, it was in 1982 and part of the County's Celebration.

