



# PRESERVATION NEWS

# Wichita County Historical Commission

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

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[wchitacountyhistoricalcommission.org/](http://wchitacountyhistoricalcommission.org/)

Newsletter Editor: Becky Trammell

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

Volume CCXVIX

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

August 2020

## From the desk of Robert Palmer

## NO SEPTEMBER MEETING

Contemporary writer B.J. Neblett wrote:

"We are the sum total of our experiences. Those experiences - be they positive or negative - make us the person we are, at any given point in our lives. And, like a flowing river, those same experiences, and those yet to come, continue to influence and reshape the person we are, and the person we become."

These words can describe us as an individual or as a people.

When President John F. Kennedy was killed on November 22, 1963, the commentators told us, "We would always remember where we were when we heard the news of the shooting." For me, that has been true. I was a freshman student at Midwestern University. I was in the lower office of the Maintenance Building at MU, the radio was on and I heard the announcement. I immediately went upstairs to the lunchroom and told the maintenance workers. I remember Dave Black, the head plumber saying, "Well, Castro will invade Florida, now!" We are the sum total of our experiences!

How many events in your life do you remember where you were? Starting with the present, Covid has been an event of historical proportion. We will remember how it affected us. We will remember how it affected our lives. It completely changed mine. I suffered through a terrible ordeal of being infected with the disease and then the pneumonia that followed. For some people, it meant just wearing a mask. We are still learning about the long term affect of the pandemic.

September 11, 2001, in the mid morning, our comfort zone was shattered. America was under attack when jetliners began to crash into the World Trade Center Twin Towers. I was Interim Superintendent of the Iowa Park School District, driving to the high school when I heard it on the car radio. I immediately went back to my office and called the School Board President and the campus principals. It was my decision, with their approval, to let the teachers, at all levels, turn on their classroom televisions and let the students see the coverage.

April 10, 1979, my uncle and I spent the day working on a water tank on a 20 foot cement tower. We commented frequently on how many layers of clouds were zipping across the sky. As I arrived back at my house, I heard the news that a tornado had hit Vernon. That was the first of twelve that would hit across North Texas. I was watching Channel 6 when they announced that a massive funnel was forming between Memorial Stadium and Holliday. I walked into my front yard in Electra and I could clearly

see the massive funnel to the east. Where were you?

August 16, 1977, my uncle and I were plowing, he on an open topped tractor, me on a cabbed tractor with a radio. They broke in on the broadcast to announce Elvis has died. I pulled my plow out of the ground and went over and stopped my uncle and told him what had happened. We spent, probably, 30 minutes discussing how people would react and what kind of legacy Elvis would leave.

March 30, 1981, I was the principal of Electra Junior High. My secretary had her radio on. They broke in and announced President Reagan had been shot. I sent a note to all teachers that they could turn their cable televisions on and let the students watch the news reporting.

July 20, 1969, I had just gotten out of the service and had gone with my wife to my parents' house. We watched Neil Armstrong walk on the moon. The discussion was what my children would experience in their lives.

February 6, 1952, I was in the second grade. England was choosing a new Queen. My teacher brought her radio to school and we listened to all the celebration. Of course, this was BT, before television! It made a tremendous impression on me. When I visited England several years ago, all the images I had formed in my mind came rushing back.

April 11, 1951, I was six years old. My dad always led the conversation at the supper table. He was furious. He had served in the military during World War II. He was deeply patriotic. The Generals that had led us to victory in the war were the greatest of heroes. Truman had just fired General Douglas McArthur. It really made no difference why, especially if the decision was political, which it appeared to be. China is a big part of our modern political scene. During my visit to China several years ago, it was apparent that the people of China were still struggling with who they were. It was an historical question of gigantic proportions in 1951. Just like today, The United States was struggling with the question of, "What do we do with China?" History does repeat itself and we learn from History. We, truly are, the sum total of our experiences.

ZOOM MEETING

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 3RD AT 11:00 AM

SEE INFORMATION ON BACK

# Wichita County Archive News

## September 2020

Wichita County Archives  
Monthly Report – August 2020

-The Chamber of Commerce photo collection has kept John Yates and I very busy for the past two months. Hopefully we will finish digitizing all the photos by the end of August.

-Helen Dodson contacted the archives looking for information about our first brick Wichita County Courthouse. She thinks her great grandfather, W.C. Dodson, was the architect. She also asked about the jail that was built a few years after the courthouse. Commissioners Court Meeting Minutes for August 15, 1889 discussed the jail construction. We learned that the Diebold Safe & Lock Company of Canton, Ohio contracted to build the jail.

-Bill Anderson, owner of the 6th Street Winery, called asking if we had any old photos of his building. Regrettably we did not have any. We have photos of the other three corners, just not his. We did perform a little research on his building, clarifying when it was built.

-Daniel Ahearn was sent a photo of the building he used to own at 711 Indiana. The photo was taken in about 1950 when it was the Golden Pheasant Bar.

Facebook - We have posted several Chamber of Commerce photos on our page and received lots of positive feedback. Latest post was about Women's Suffrage.

### ZOOM MEETING - THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 3RD - 11:00 AM

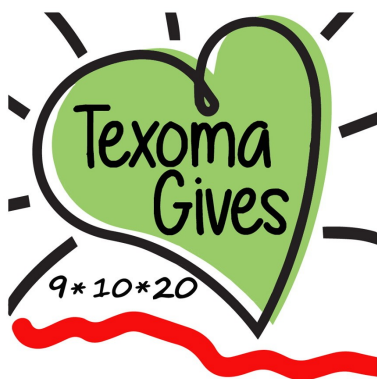
On Thursday, we will attempt our first ZOOM meeting. We know not everyone has the ability to log on for this. However, we thought we would give it a try. We certainly hope that we will be able to meet face to face in the near future.

**Join Zoom Meeting** [https://us04web.zoom.us/j/75799952150?](https://us04web.zoom.us/j/75799952150?pwd=M2k4WmFJaksyWDZ2MFhYNG8xMWpOQT09)

[pwd=M2k4WmFJaksyWDZ2MFhYNG8xMWpOQT09](https://us04web.zoom.us/j/75799952150?pwd=M2k4WmFJaksyWDZ2MFhYNG8xMWpOQT09) **Meeting ID: 757 9995 2150 Passcode: ZH868A**

## Museum of North Texas History News

Due to continued issues related to Covid-19, the Museum remains closed. Please watch our social media for updates.



On Thursday, September 10th, North Texas and Southern Oklahoma comes together to support the area non-profits during a 16 hour day of giving. (Early giving began THURSDAY!) And boy, do all non-profits need a little love (and money) right now! **Texoma Gives** makes it easy to donate and challenge others to donate to their favorite non-profits.

Please remember the **Museum of North Texas History** during this time. Last year, we opened our Interactive Children's Exhibit. This year, we hope to open our doors again very soon. Help us keep presenting the history of North Texas to the public.