



PRESERVATION NEWS

Wichita County Historical Commission

Robert Palmer, Chairman

Wichita County Archives

Bryce Blair, Archivist

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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/

Newsletter Editor: Becky Trammell

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

Volume CCLXI

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

September 2, 2021

From the desk of Robert Palmer

Terrel Silvers - Western Artist

If this column looks like a list, that's because it is. Recently I got into a discussion with a group of my friends about things that no longer exist and, in some instances, very barely. Here's the result of their remembrance. . .

Not in any particular order: watch shops, radiator shops, carhops (except for Sonic), 13 cent Griff's burgers, frozen food lockers, record shops (my first buy - Buddy Holly's Peggy Sue), shoe repair shops (you waited while your shoes were half soled), drug store soda counters (great milkshakes), television repairmen (came to your house), skating rinks (like Sand Beach), drive in movies (that's a whole column in itself - where I bought my first corn dog).

Miniature golf courses (not the indoor ones like now, go cart tracks), tamale sales carts (the sales pitch was as good as the tamale), newspaper boys and newsstands (many young men including Wichita Falls lawyer Frank Gibson got their start on a downtown corner), scales with weights printed on a movie star card (an Electra Goldsmith's Drug Store specialty), bicycle repair shops (there's actually one left in Wichita Falls), ice houses and ice delivery trucks (when we still had "ice boxes"), door to door milk delivery (put your empty on the front porch early), sno-cone

vans (and kids running after them), full service filling stations (Mrs. Brownlee stood on a ladder to wash your windows), telephone operators and party lines (you didn't have to watch the news), air conditioner shops (in particular water cooled - there was something special about sleeping on a pallet in front of the "swamp cooler), chicken dealers where you could buy or sell chickens (you could earn extra money by working there cleaning chickens at Christmas or Thanksgiving).

Wringer washing machines and wash houses, maps, neighborhood grocery stores (you maintained a special relationship with the owner and credit was allowed), tailor shops (last Sunday I was, officially, the only person in church with a tie on - the preacher let me down), and while we talk about church - Tent Revivals (I worker in my Uncle's tent revival as a teenager - that's definitely a column by itself), medicine shows (Hadacol was definitely the best), custard stands (nothing better on a hot summer afternoon), and bait shops (hey, I'm a fisherman).

We'll give you the chance to list yours at our meeting. Yes, our world has changed, for the better, well, maybe, if sticking a phone in your ear is your thing!

Wichita County Archive News

August 2021

Monthly Report

-Carol Rudd, one of the volunteers at the Archives, has completed the task of entering all our accession records into our computer database. Now she has taken on the monumental task of organizing all the books that we have on the shelves in the Archives. Her work is greatly appreciated.

-Marilyn Cummings Wood of Faith Baptist Church in Wichita Falls contacted the Archives about any old newspaper articles that we have on their church. Several articles were found about the church's beginnings in 1952 at the intersection of Abbott & Thomas Avenue in Faith Village. Other articles told of the April '79 tornado hitting their new church located at Southwest Pkwy & Rhea Rd. Mrs. Wood also asked if we had a copy of the front page Times Record News article of her getting the first polio vaccine in Wichita Falls on April 25, 1955. All the students were given the vaccine to help prevent the spread of the disease. That sparked a conversation of why today's COVID vaccine has been met with so much resistance.

-Shelley Moore Bennett of McKinney, Texas contacted the Archives through our Facebook page. She asked if we would be interested in some old photos and relics she cleaned from an old woman's house that was from Wichita Falls. Naturally we said yes, so she sent them. We have yet to finish going through the collection. One of the names that stand out in this collection is James Earl King, born in 1912 in Wichita Falls. Other names are Mildred and Buddie Pope. We are lucky this collection didn't end up in the trash can.

-John Yates has really gotten into the digitization of our collection of oral interviews. He has also been adding to our collection of tapes by interviewing Don Burkman. Next on his list of interview candidates is Robert Palmer. John has donated a conference microphone which is permanently attached to the Archives computer. Now, with touch of a couple keys we can record (with permission of course) conversations in the Archives office (we are always having historical conversations that can now be easily recorded).



Legend of North Texas
Eddie Hill will be honored on Wednesday, October 6th, 11:30 AM at the Forum, 2120 Speedway Avenue, Wichita Falls, Texas.

Tickets are \$50 each and a table of 8 can be purchased for \$360. Please call **940-322-7628**, email director@museumofnorthtexashistory.org, or visit <https://museumofnorthtexashistory.org/> to purchase tickets. (*picture from NHRA.com)

The Museum of North Texas History

2021 Legend of North Texas Eddie Hill

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At The Forum; 2120 Speedway, Wichita Falls, Texas