

Since 2014

Waco, Texas History in Pictures

www.wacotexashistoryinpictures.com wacotexashistoryinpictures@gmail.com

Randall Scott, Editor

Volume I, Number 1

February, 2021

Welcome to Our New Online Magazine!

We are excited to present our first magazine...a magazine for those who call Waco "home", no matter where they may live. Our goal is to present the best of photos and information that has been posted to our Facebook GROUPS..."Waco, Texas History in Pictures", "1953 Waco Tornado Memorial", "The Old Lake Waco and Dam", and "Historical Bosqueville, Texas" as well as our PAGES "Waco, Texas: That's My Hometown", "Waco, Texas Centennial: 1849-1949", and "Waco, Texas: African American Heritage". We do our best to acknowledge the photographer and source for each photo, but please let us know if we make an error. Photo credit is very important to us! You can email us at wacotexashistoryinpictures@gmail.com.



Bird's Eye View of Waco, Texas, 1917

Photo by F.Mann on October 11, 1917

F.Mann was a photographer who was associated with Camp MacArthur, the WWI training camp that was in North Waco from 1917 until 1919. This photo was taken from the American Amicable Building, which had just been completed six years before. In the center of the town square is the old Waco City Hall, which had been built in 1887 and was demolished in 1929. Today, the 1930 Waco City Hall sits on the site. At the extreme right side of the photo is the old McLennan County Courthouse at Second and Franklin, which was built 1877. It was three-stories tall, with a clock tower. The growing McLennan County had outgrown this building by the late 1890s, and they also had expanded into office space in the Provident Building, which was located at Fourth and Franklin. In the early 1900s, it was sold to the Crow Brothers and became Crow Brothers Laundry. Their logo, two crows, was painted where the clock had previously been. The fourth and current courthouse, on Washington Avenue between Fifth and Sixth Streets, was completed in 1902.

In this issue...

Russell Lee Visits Waco, 1939.....Page 2
Waco's Cow Pasture Golf Course by Virginia Plunkett..... Page 6
The Great Snow of 2021...and Earlier Days!.....Page 8
Welcome to our New Website.....Page 14
Where Were They?.....Page 15

RUSSELL LEE VISITS WACO, 1939

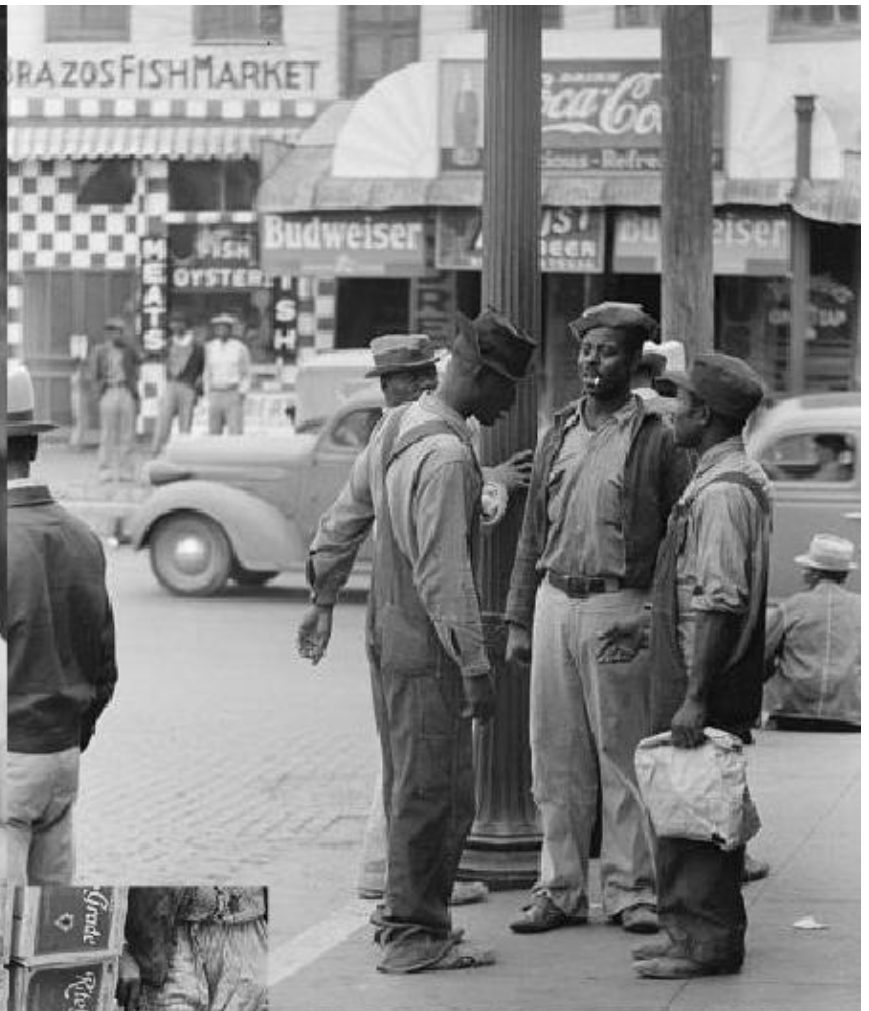
Russell Werner Lee was born on July 21, 1903 in Ottawa, Illinois. He attended LeHigh University and received a degree in Chemical Engineering in 1925. He became interested in photography and purchased a camera. He became a photographer for the United States Farm Security Administration (FSA) between 1936 and 1942, and is best known for his photographic documentation of the effect of the Great Depression. He eventually settled in Austin, Texas where he established the photography program in the art department of the University of Texas, teaching from 1965 until he retired in 1973. He died on August 28, 1986 at the age of eighty-three.

He came to Waco in 1939 to take photos to document how the Depression had affected life in a small town. All of these photos were taken on the Waco City Square. These photos are from the Library of Congress, Prints & Photographs Division, Farm Security Administration-Office of War Information Photograph Collection.



Top Left: The Brazos Fish Market was at 114 South 2nd Street and was owned by Ernest Henry. Top Right: The corner of South Second and South Side Square. The Palace Drug Store is behind those sitting on the corner at 200 South Side Square. Bottom Left: These men are sitting on a bench on the sidewalk in front of the Jockey Club Barber Shop at 131 South Second. Bottom Right: We believe this is John Fears, who was a watch repairman on the south side of the Square at 206 1/2 South Side Square. He was the only watch repairman listed around the Square in 1939. According to the 1939 Waco City Directory, he also lived at that address and was not married.

Follow the "Waco Blog" at www.wacotexashistoryinpictures.com







R.L. Melton Feed Store at 118 South Second.

The alley that ran beside it was an extension of Banker's Alley, but was nicknamed "Death Alley".



All photos in this article are by Russell Lee and are from The Library of Congress, Prints and Photographs Division, Farm Security Administration-Office of War Information Photograph Collection.



Waco's Cow Pasture Golf Course by Virginia Plunkett

If you live in the Twenty-Ninth and Washington Avenue neighborhood and you run across an old beat up golf ball or two, it might further surprise you to know that here was the first golf course in Waco.

The 16th Century sport, born in England, was brought to Waco by a Scotsman, A.H.O. Ramsey, who represented the Scottish-American Loan Company. On one of Ramsey's trips back to England, Walter V. Fort went with him and when they returned they brought back the first golf clubs and balls to appear in this area.

Ramsey and Fort, with a few interested friends, built a 4-hole golf course on what happened to be a cow pasture. Sand mixed with dirt and other "ingredients" were spread on putting greens which, because of the color mixture, were called "browns".

Members of the Waco Golf Course only knew to grip their clubs like baseball bats until a pro, visiting here from Austin, showed them the proper grip. The members along with Ramsey and Fort were Dr. J.W. Hale, R.G. Patton, F.J. Baker, H.H. Shear, Jack Dickson, Pratt Smith, C.A. Boynton, and District Judge Marshall Suratt.

The golfers converted a two-room shack into a clubhouse where wives and sweethearts brought basket lunches for a picnic after the game. Often, the story goes, play was temporarily suspended while a cow or two challenged competition as they ambled across the putting "browns".

Interest in the game grew and the course was improved and enlarged to nine holes. And, about this time, ladies who became interested in "following the little ball around" were Mrs. J.W. Hale, Mrs. C.A. Boynton, and Mrs. J.E. Boynton.

In the early 1900s, among caddies who became excellent players were Ed Humphreys who caddied for R.G. Patton, and the Bagby boys—George, Ray, and Frank, who carried the bags for A.H.O. Ramsey, Walter Fort, Dr. J.W. Hale, F.J. Baker and H.H. Shear. And then a teenager who started swinging clubs on the Waco course was George V. Rotan, son of Kate and Edward Rotan, who became an enviable golfer and, before entering Yale, young George had won a number of State tournaments and was chosen as a member of the U.S. Walker Cup Team along with the immortal Bobby Jones.

By 1910, the club had lengthened the fairways, increased the holes and made the putting greens "green". Club members increased and they organized the Huaco Country Club with a spacious clubhouse built on Sanger Avenue between Twenty-Eighth and Twenty-Ninth Streets.

The fee was 25 cents for nine holes and 40 cents for eighteen holes. E.C. Bolton was president and the Huaco Club's new members included other prominent Wacoans—Clint Padgitt, Bob Killough, T.F. Bush, Langdon Luedde, Bruce Duncan, Dr. R.H. Stewart, Ross Padgitt, Charlie Schuler, Jim Wentworth, Charlie Wilson, C.M. Hubby, Turner Hubby, Sid Gay, Dr. J.O. Hall, W.L. Wollett, Ralph McLendon, Ernest Day and R.S. Thorp.

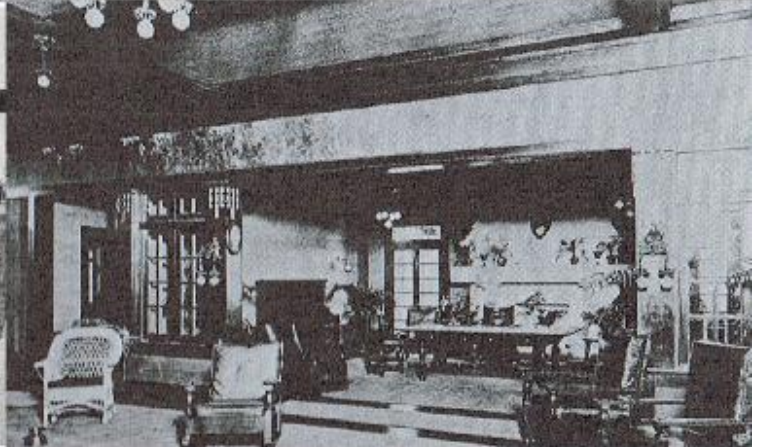
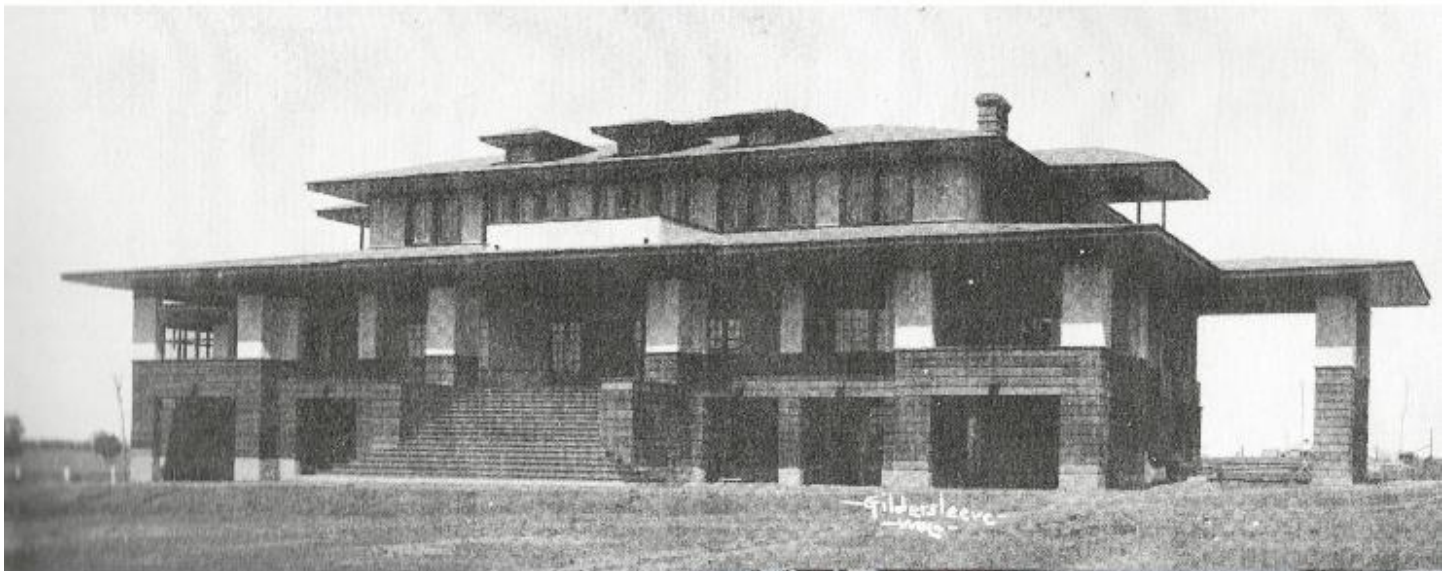
In 1916, the Huaco Clubhouse burned to the ground. The golfers eyed the Day's Lake area and in 1917, Spring Lake Country Club with an 18-hole, grass-greens course was the pride of Central Texas.

The game of golf had indeed "taken" Waco. In 1928, Billie Smith, Tom Bush and Lee Lockwood built an 18-hole municipal course. Four years later, in 1932, Homan Easley landscaped his Lake Waco property for an eight-hole course (one hole was used twice to make a nine-hole course), but this was the beginning of Easley's 18-hole Lake Waco Golf Club course. Ridgewood Country Club began manicuring its golf course in 1947.

Thus is the 86-year-old history of the golf club's swing into Waco.

This article is from the book "Around Again" by Virginia Plunket.)

(NOTE: The Huaco Club was built in 1912 by Architect Roy Lane. The top and bottom photos on the following page are by Fred Gildersleeve. From the Gildersleeve-Conger Collection, The Texas Collection, Baylor University. The photographer of the middle photos is unknown to us.)



THE GREAT SNOW OF 2021!

It doesn't happen every year, but it did this year. On January 10, 2021 Waco was covered in snow! "The heaviest single-day snowfall in the Waco area in nearly four decades brought out sledders and snowball fighters on Sunday, closed Cameron Park and led school districts to announce Monday closures...Fluffy snow fell continuously for most of the day, and by 6 p.m., Waco Regional Airport reported 4.4 inches, the most since January 13, 1982 when 6 inches were recorded." (*"Waco Gets Heaviest Snow in Decades as Schools, Cameron Park Close"* by Rhiannon Saegert in *The Waco Tribune-Herald*, January 10, 2021.)

Our members contributed some amazing pictures. Here are a few of them:



(l) St. Francis on the Brazos. Photo by Jaime Martinez Mejia. (r) Photo contributed by Sarah Pullen.

Joanne Forti Spitz took our challenge to get out and get pics seriously, and took the one below and on the following page!







CHERYL CHACHERE-BALLOU



MICKEY PITCHER



DOT GRAHAM



JOHN MOORE



BRENDA GEURIN BECKWORTH



JANET EDGECOMB ROLLER



Carol Ellsworth Kitchens



ANGELA MONTROYA RICE



Dorothy Lindsey Scott



MIKE JONES



Top photo "McLennan Crossing" by Robert G. Glinski.

Middle left: "Munroe House" at 2417 Ethel by Bland Schwarting.

Middle right: "The Castle" by Scott McAllister.

Bottom left by Valerie Duty Citrano.

Be sure to find all of the amazing photos and videos that were posted of the 2021 Snow at our Facebook Group "Waco, Texas History in Pictures".

Past Snow Days in Waco...



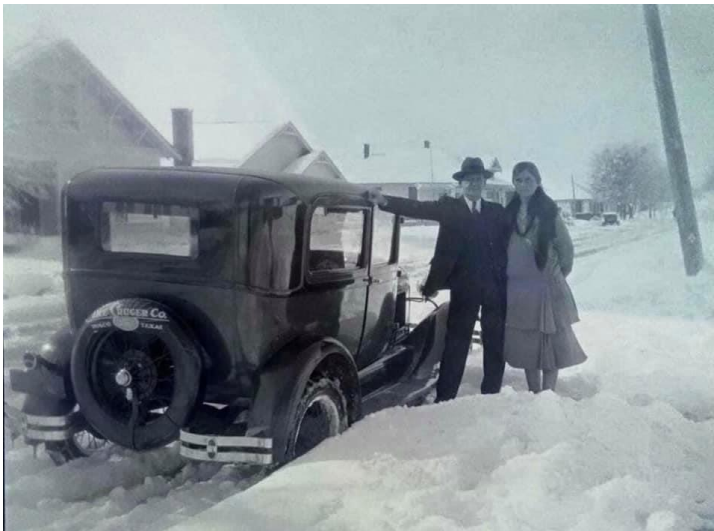
The Suspension Bridge, February, 2015. Photo by Spencer Moore. www.drspencermooorephotography.com



Skating on the Brazos-1899 Freeze. Photo contributed by Mickie Enders.



Skating on the Brazos-1899 Freeze. Photo contributed by Mike Meyers. From the Southwestern Historical Quarterly.



(i) Deanna Courreges contributed this 1929 photo of her grandparents at 2007 Herring.

(r) Beverle Reed contributed this 1949 pic of her mother at 2011 Bosque Boulevard.



The Waco Suspension Bridge and The Elite Café in 1983. Photos taken by and contributed by Mike Cumpston.

Waco, Texas History in Pictures



What You'll Find at our Website:

Fourteen Photo Galleries:

- Early Waco
- People
- Historic Buildings
- Historic Homes
- The Square
- Waco Resource Materials
- The Suspension Bridge
- The Amicable Building
- 1912-14 Waco Hand Book
- Russell Lee Visits Waco
- Houses of Worship
- Waco Schools
- African American Heritage
- Oil Paintings at McLennan County Courthouse

You'll also find our Waco Blogs:

- St. Basil's College
- The Jersey Lilly in Waco
- 4 McLennan County Courthouses
- Bob Wills and the Texas Playboys...Waco, 1939
- The Snagboat Waco
- The Circle
- Pete Griffin Grocery
- Waco City Hall in the Square
- Hillcrest Baptist Hospital
- Thirty Spellings of "Waco"

There will be more photos added to existing photo galleries, and NEW photo galleries will be added regularly.

"Follow" the Waco Blog to receive new updates.

Welcome to Waco, Texas History in Pictures!

We are glad you are here! Please visit our [Galleries](#), photo albums that record the rich history of Waco. Click the main photo to see the contents of each gallery, then click the individual photo to enlarge and read the photo credit. And feel free to SHARE via your social media. Each gallery will grow, and new galleries will be added regularly, so check back often. **To stay up-to-date, please follow our Waco Blog.**

Our cover photo showing the historic Waco Suspension Bridge and our hometown is by Waco photographer Mark Randolph, and appears courtesy of Mark Randolph/City of Waco.

We exist to preserve the history and memories of Waco, Texas. There are many photos on this site, and we have made every effort to identify the original photographer and source of each photo. We do not own the copyright on any of these photos, and they are used here for non-commercial, educational, fair use. Please contact the photographer or contributor for their terms of use before sharing or making prints.

If you feel that YOUR copyright has been violated, or if you were not properly credited for a photo shown on this page, please contact us at wacotexashistoryinpictures@gmail.com. Copyright claims are taken seriously. If you hold the copyright to content posted here and notify us, the content will be removed immediately.

We welcome you to join our family of Facebook Groups: "[Waco, Texas History in Pictures](#)"; "[The Old Lake Waco and Dam](#)"; "[Historical Bosqueville, Texas](#)"; "[The 1953 Waco Tornado Memorial](#)" and our Facebook Pages: "[Waco, Texas: That's My Hometown](#)"; "[Waco, Texas Centennial:1849-1949](#)"; "[Waco, Texas:African American Heritage](#)"; and "[Bosqueville-China Spring, Texas: Now and Then](#)".

We are thankful for our friends at [The Texas Collection](#), [Historic Waco Foundation](#), [Waco McLennan County Library](#), [Waco History](#), [Waco Masonic Lodge No. 92](#), and the [Texas State Historical Association](#) who have been preserving Waco history for a long time, and have been so helpful to us. Visit their websites for more information about our great city!

We are not affiliated with the City of Waco.

WHERE WERE THEY?

The Google Earth photo below shows the City Hall, just as it stood in 1939. Franklin Avenue is at the extreme right side of the photo. South Second Street was where the left-to-right row of trees in the parking lot, at the top of the photo, are now. It ran behind the City Hall all the way to Washington and beyond. The storefronts on the South Side of the Square were roughly where the median runs top to bottom in the picture.

The Jockey Club Barber Shop was at 131 S. 2nd Street, close to Franklin Avenue. R.B. Melton Feed Store was at 118 S. 2nd Street. Brazos Fish Market was across the alley at 114 S. 2nd Street. Most of the fruit stands and markets were on the South Side of the Square, as was The Gem Theater. Today, all of that is a parking lot. Below, notice the present-day location of some of our favorite Russell Lee photos.



Happy St. Valentine's Day

From Waco, Texas History in Pictures!

Keep an eye out for a Valentine Photo Album...Coming Soon!



Goldstein-Migel Co.

Downtown • Lake Air

Valentine's Day
February 14th

Heart-to-Heart Gifts for your Valentine



The Vanity Fair

A New Piece for Ladies
The Vanity Fair is a new piece of jewelry for the modern woman. It is a beautiful piece of jewelry that is both elegant and practical. It is a piece of jewelry that is sure to be a hit with every woman who loves to look her best.

Marshall
"Dura-Wire" Shirts
New Tensile-Resistant Fabric
These shirts are made of a new fabric that is both strong and comfortable. They are perfect for the man who wants a shirt that will last and feel great.

| | |
|--------------|--------|
| Long Sleeve | \$3.95 |
| Short Sleeve | \$3.50 |





a style for every Valentine!

PENDANT WATCHES

10.95



12.95
14.95
16.95
18.95
20.95
22.95
24.95
26.95
28.95
30.95
32.95
34.95
36.95
38.95
40.95
42.95
44.95
46.95
48.95
50.95
52.95
54.95
56.95
58.95
60.95
62.95
64.95
66.95
68.95
70.95
72.95
74.95
76.95
78.95
80.95
82.95
84.95
86.95
88.95
90.95
92.95
94.95
96.95
98.95
100.95



McCREGON

LE SHIRT KNIT SHIRTS

A great new knit shirt for the man who wants a shirt that is both comfortable and stylish. It is a perfect shirt for the man who wants a shirt that will last and feel great.

\$3.95





Give Her Gloves by Hester

12.95
14.95
16.95
18.95
20.95
22.95
24.95
26.95
28.95
30.95
32.95
34.95
36.95
38.95
40.95
42.95
44.95
46.95
48.95
50.95
52.95
54.95
56.95
58.95
60.95
62.95
64.95
66.95
68.95
70.95
72.95
74.95
76.95
78.95
80.95
82.95
84.95
86.95
88.95
90.95
92.95
94.95
96.95
98.95
100.95





"KISSES IS FOR SISSIES"—Roses are red, violets are blue, sugar is sweet and so are—what **ARE** little boys made of, anyway? Here it is Valentine's Day. And little boys are still acting like little boys. No doubt, eight-year-old Luther Staton of 3900 Cobbs Drive will grow up to regret this moment. The pretty little miss puckered up for a kiss after a Dean Highland Valentine program is Dianne McDonald, 3917 Ethel. (Windy Drum Photo.)

**GIVE
OUR CANDY FOR
VALENTINE DAY**
In Valentine Boxes
PALACE of SWEETS
The Original

COUPON

Video Sales & Rentals

VALENTINE'S SPECIAL

Present this coupon
for

**1 FREE MOVIE
RENTAL**

(One coupon per family)

Expires 2-18-84

COUPON

FREE Membership
VIDEO SHACK
Latest selection of VHS-Beta movies

2225 Speight
9-6 Mon.-Sat.
756-3515

COUPON