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A Wichita Public Library Podcast

Show Notes

Season 6 Episode 4: **A Presidential Odyssey** **(to Abilene, KS)**

September 4th, 2026



In this episode

In this episode, podcast hosts Daniel Pewewardy and Jenny Durham take a trip to Abilene, KS to visit the Dwight D. Eisenhower Presidential Library, Museum & Boyhood Home. They interview Jim Ginther, Supervisory Archivist for the library and talk about unique items in the collection, how they are celebrating America250, and why you don't have to be a scholar or history buff to visit a presidential library.

Topics discussed in this episode (with timestamps)

- Jim talks about his background as an archivist 4:35
- How the Eisenhower Library is celebrating America250 5:30
- History of the Eisenhower Presidential Library, Museum & Boyhood Home 8:30
- What makes the Eisenhower Presidential Library unique compared to other presidential libraries 14:30
- A day (or year) in the life of an archivist at a presidential library 16:55
- Ike's Work Exhibit 20:57
- History and culture of the Abilene, KS community 30:30
- Luna 2 32:07
- Eisenhower's "In Case of Failure" letter 35:10

- Eisenhower's demerit book 40:25
- How presidential libraries are different from other types of libraries and archives 43:33
- Who can visit the library and how to plan a visit 47:17
- Planning a visit to the museum and Eisenhower's boyhood home 52:00
- What new visitors find most surprising about presidential libraries 1:00:55
- America250 celebrations and Eisenhower's legacy 1:05:00
- Jim's book recommendation to learn more about President Eisenhower 1:09:15

Books, authors, films & other media mentioned in this episode

- *At Ease: Stories I Tell To Friends* by Dwight D. Eisenhower

Relevant links to topics mentioned in this episode

[Dwight D. Eisenhower Presidential Library, Museum & Boyhood Home](#)
[The Vietnam Center and Sam Johnson Vietnam Archive @ Texas Tech University](#)
[Library of the Marine Corps: Archives Branch, Marine Corps History Division](#)
[KCLYradio.com: The Eisenhower Presidential Library and Museum Presents The Well-Lit Shadow, Play Based on Archival Material from Eisenhower Administration \(May 19, 2026\)](#)
[National Archives and Records Administration \(NARA\)](#)
[National Archives: Presidential Library History](#)
[The Presidential Libraries Act of 1955](#)
[Eisenhower Foundation](#)
[Eisenhower Presidential Library: Current Exhibits](#)
[Visit Abilene, KS](#)
[Nasa.gov: 60 Years Ago Luna 2 Makes Impact in Moon Race \(September 12, 2019\)](#)
[Eisenhower Presidential Library: Ike and Mamie's Favorites](#)
[Miller Center @ The University of Virginia: The Age of Eisenhower](#)

Link to episode transcript

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Credits

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