

## HAYS COUNTY HISTORICAL COMMISSION



**Thursday, December 15, 2016**  
**San Marcos Baptist Academy**  
**2801 RR 12**  
**San Marcos, Texas 78666**

The December 15, 2017, meeting of the Hays County Historical Commission (HCHC) was called to order at 6:17 p.m. by Chairman Kate Johnson. A quorum was met as the following members were present: Delbert Bassett, Marie Bassett, Eric Beckers, Linda Coker, Jim Cullen, Luanne Cullen, Robert Frizzell, Irma Gaitan, Shelley Henry, Melody Jaramio, Kate Johnson, Richard Kidd, Jo Landon, SarahAnn Lowther, Trisha Randow, Ralph Randow, and Ofelia Vásquez-Philo. Five guests also attended.

1. **Announcements**—Kate Johnson said that this meeting would be the last for the HCHC’s biennium 2015-16 and encouraged members to reapply if they were interested in continuing. She provided updates on the restoration stage of the Buck Winn “History of Ranching” murals the HCHC is purchasing and described the location of another section of the mural at a bank in Shreveport, Louisiana that is being considered for removal because it depicts blacks working in cotton fields. She passed around a book created by Richard Kidd that showed pictures of Buck Winn’s work.
2. **Vote on accepting minutes from October 26, 2016**—Delbert Bassett moved to accept the minutes; Ralph Randow seconded the motion. Motion passed.
3. **Kyle RR Depot and Heritage Center Report**—Trisha Randow reported that the Halloween and Christmas events at the Depot were very successful. Ralph Randow was the Train Engineer at the Halloween celebration and was Santa during the Christmas events. Community assistance was available through the 4-H club, the Lehman High School Lobo Thespians and Honor Society. Four benches that had been at the Hays County Courthouse have been donated to the depot. The concrete indentions outside the depot had been repaired and stained. Some of the upcoming projects included the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Opening of the Depot on Feb. 10-11, 2017; installing fencing between the tracks and depot; addressing the application for a historical marker; renovation of the caboose; signage; and locating docents for the museum.
4. **Flowers, Shrubs, & Trees Report**—Delbert Bassett said that the floral gardens at the Kyle Depot had been completed with assistance from the Hays County Master Gardeners and the Kyle Gardening Club. These area gardeners have

- worked under the leadership of Valerie Marburger and the supervision of Trisha Randow. Roses were blooming and bluebonnets were anticipated in the spring.
5. **Cemetery Committee Report**—Jo Landon said that she had not heard from Jerry Borscherding about Pitts Cemetery maintenance. The Kyle Family Pioneer Cemetery had been recently cleared of brush and trees trimmed. However, there seemed to be missing markers as she could not find Vinnie Kyle's marker. Girl Scouts wanted to clean a cemetery as one of their projects, possibly San Vicente, so she provided them contact information.
  6. **Hispanic Committee Report**—Ofelia Vásquez-Philo said that the Centro Cultural Hispano de San Marcos was continuing to grow. Piano, guitar, and accordion lessons were popular classes. On December 10, the Amigas (which includes about 100 ladies) met. The Centro would be closed from Dec. 16-Jan. 5.
  7. **Historical Marker Committee Report**—Marie Bassett reported that the marker application window for 2017 was closed. Her committee was waiting to see if the resubmitted Kyle Family Pioneer Cemetery and Stringtown subject-marker applications would be approved. There was a marker dedication ceremony in Wimberley on November 5th for the Wimberley-Hughes House as a Recorded Texas Historical Landmark (RTHL). There were 16 Wimberley descendants in attendance. One, Dr. Annette (Morris) Newberry, who lived for several years in the house as a child, gave an excellent account of N. E. Hughes' multi-faceted career. A tour of the house, where many family artifacts were on display, followed. Refreshments were served in the Wimberley Institute of Cultures.
  8. **Courthouse Committee Report**—Linda Coker said that on November 19, the HCHC co-sponsored a program at the San Marcos Library: *Courthouses of Central Texas* with architect and author Brantley Hightower who spoke about the development of the Texas county courthouses. The holiday lighting of the courthouse was spectacular with the addition of new lights. A large frame allowed guests to take pictures with courthouse in the background. The Kissing Tree development requested information about getting copies of the Stringtown book so they can give them to new residents. The THC and Main Street program are planning for a workshop in the spring. The Old Jail is included in the Main Street program. She told of mysterious lights that had been seen in the Old Jail when no one was there but no reasons had been discovered. Linda said that the Santa visits at the courthouse had been successful but she needed more volunteers to serve in the next two weekends.
  9. **History of Ranching Report**—Richard Kidd reported that the documentary is continuing, and in January, he should be conducting interviews when the murals are available.
  10. **Old Hays County Jail Report**—Kate Johnson reported that she was in the process of writing an RFQ for the Old County Jail which would be known as the Original Texas Outlaw Museum. We would need an architect alongside a museum exhibitor to do all of the research, including what the jail would have looked like in the 1900's. She would provide an update at the February meeting.

**Adjourn**—Marie Bassett moved that the meeting adjourn; Jo Landon seconded the motion. The meeting adjourned at 6:51.

After the meeting, Shelley Henry introduced her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Jimmie Scott. Mr. Scott, who is President of San Marcos Baptist Academy, described the history of the school from the establishment of the old campus in 1907-08 (now part of Texas State University) to the current campus which opened in 1982. Supper followed.

Respectfully submitted,  
Luanne P. Cullen, HCHC Secretary  
*(photographs provided by Jim Cullen)*

