

HAYS COUNTY HISTORICAL COMMISSION



Thursday, January 28, 2016
Historic Kyle RR Depot
Freight Room
Front Street
Kyle, Texas 78640

The January 28, 2016, meeting of the Hays County Historical Commission was called to order at 6:27 p.m. by Chairman Kate Johnson. A quorum was met as the following HCHC members were present: Delbert Bassett, Marie Bassett, Eric Beckers, Linda Coker, Jim Cullen, Luanne Cullen, Cathy Dillon, Robert Frizzell, Irma Gaitan, Eddie Gumbert, Dorothy Gumbert, Betty Harrison, Shelley Henry, Carmen Imel, Mark Jackson, Melody Jaramio, Kate Johnson, Richard Kidd, Jo Landon, SarahAnn Lowther, Jerry Moore, Karen Moore, Trisha Randow, Ralph Randow, and Ofelia Vásquez-Philo. Five guests also attended.

Announcements—Kate Johnson announced that the next meeting would be held on February 25, 2016, in Driftwood, Texas. She also outlined expectations for members' attendance at the meetings (RSVP promptly, provide reasons for not being able to attend, other people are on the waiting list to join, etc.) She also said that there would be several one-day workshops held throughout the year for new members to learn how to operate successfully as a County Historical Commission and registration would open February 1. She encouraged members to bring their own agendas to the meetings to save printing costs. She also appreciated everyone's hours that they spent last year volunteering for HCHC and felt that her annual report to the THC would allow us to receive another Distinguished Service Award this year. Because she always needs to include the number of meetings each committee had during the year, she asked committee chairmen to include that information at each meeting. An extra column would be added to the sign-in sheet. Irma Gaitan was invited to describe her experiences at the Corpus Christi symposium on historic tax credits on January 13 sponsored by the THC. Members were invited to view the video, *Next Stop Kyle*, which will be available to visitors to the depot.

1. **Vote on accepting minutes from December 9, 2015**—Irma Gaitan moved to accept the minutes; Dorothy Gumbert seconded the motion. Motion passed.
2. **Historic Kyle RR Depot**—Kate noted the extensive work on the Kyle Depot and thanked Linda Coker and Richard Kidd for their hard work. A soft opening was held on January 23 along with the *Images of America: Kyle* book signing with Betty Harrison. Betty described the process she followed getting the book

- written, the photos accessed, and the printing finalized. She felt that the biggest challenge was in gathering photos. Other book signings would be held on Friday, January 29 at the Kyle Public Library and on Saturday, January 30 at the Texas Pie Company in Kyle. Kate also spoke of the need for a committee for the Kyle Depot in order to coordinate the museum and Visitors' Center. She asked for volunteers to submit names to Luanne Cullen.
3. **Buck Winn Murals**—Kate said that we have raised \$55,000 for the restoration of the two murals. Donations from two private foundations and from individuals have provided enough for one mural to be restored. During the time of restoration, other fundraising efforts will be made to restore the second mural.
 4. **Oral History Committee Report**—No report was provided.
 5. **Memorial Day Flood Documentary**—No report was provided.
 6. **Cemetery Committee Report**—Jo Landon reported on the committee's actions during the month. The THC requested additional information about the Antioch Cemetery and was finally reviewing the HTC Application. She had an inquiry about permission for a burial for the Pleasant Valley Cemetery, Fischer Store Road, but she was not able to locate a current land owner or overseer of cemetery. The family had the remains cremated and will spread ashes there. She visited with Mac Stringfellow, who owns property adjacent to the cemetery, and he is willing to maintain the property. She also contacted THC for guidance on "permission for burial at an inactive cemetery." Their response was lengthy, but basically if unable to locate property owners, plot owners, or descendants, an organization would need to create a cemetery organization and petition for conservatorship. HCHC was contacted by two separate individuals about markers in their possession. After research, one marker belongs at San Vincente Cemetery and the other belongs in South Austin at Williamson Creek Cemetery.
 7. **Flowers, Shrubs & Trees Report**—Delbert Bassett reported that the Kyle Garden Club and the Master Gardeners have prepared the beds around the Kyle Depot. Linda Keese, a former HCHC member and a Master Gardener, donated antique roses to be planted at the depot.
 8. **Historical Marker Committee Report**—Marie Bassett said that the 2016 historical markers will be reviewed and voted on at the Texas Historical Commission's quarterly meeting on Friday, January 29. All applicants will be notified of the decisions on Monday, February 1.
 9. **Hispanic Committee Report**—Ofelia Vásquez-Philo said that the Cultural Center (Centro Cultural Hispano de San Marcos) continues to stay busy. She invited all HCHC members to attend the March 9 membership meeting at 6:00 p.m. at the Center and encouraged everyone to join. Membership forms are available at the Center as well as on their website.
 10. **Courthouse Committee Report**—Linda Coker reported that the Courthouse had wrapped up the Christmas events and had begun preparations for next Christmas. Upcoming events included the trail riders on February 8 and the Western Swing Fest on April 1-3. She anticipated working with Braden Moon, Kendall County Historical Commission, in May to visit various San Marcos historical sites, such as the Courthouse, the Old Jail, Price Center, Cock House, and Merriman Cabin. The meeting room continued to be used by organizations such as CASA,

Leadership San Marcos, and DRT. Several cemetery enquiries had been received and forwarded to the Cemetery Committee. She was also working with SM Public Library on digitizing the Hays County Historical and Genealogical Society books. She shared information about a program, *Songs of Susanna*, about Texas heroine Susanna Dickinson, which would include songs, verses, and lecture by author/historian Donaly Brice and songwriter Fletcher Clark. The presentation would take place at the monthly meeting of the Hays County Genealogical Society, 7:00 p.m., Tuesday, February 2, 2016, at the Church of the Latter Day Saints, 120 Suncrest in San Marcos. The public was invited. Also, an enquiry as to the background of Laura B. Negley, for whom a Kyle elementary school was named, had been received. Discussion followed as to information about Laura Negley that could help answer the enquiry.

11. **Adjourn**—Delbert Bassett moved that the meeting adjourn; Jerry Moore seconded the motion. Meeting adjourned at 7:16 p.m. Supper followed.

Respectfully submitted,
 Luanne P. Cullen, HCHC Secretary
(photos courtesy of Jim Cullen)



MISSOURI PACIFIC LINES TRAIN INFORMATION									
DATE Sun 23 1971									
WEST OR SOUTHWARD			EAST OR NORTHWARD						
TRAIN NO	TIME DUE	ON TIME WHERE LAST OR LATE REPORTED	TRAIN NO	TIME DUE	ON TIME WHERE LAST OR LATE REPORTED	OT	OT	OT	WHERE LAST REPORTED
12	10:45	OT Austin	251	11:30	OT	Sun	Mon		S.A.
KATY	12:30	OT Austin	33	5:15	OT				S.A.
4	2:00	OT Austin	12	7:00	Late				S.A.
			2	7:30	Late				S.A.

