

Hays County Historical Commission

Thursday, March 24, 2011

Dr. Joseph M. Pound Historical Museum

Dripping Springs, Texas



The Hays County Historical Commission meeting was called to order at 6:58 p.m. by Chairman Kate Johnson with members Betty Harrison, Dorothy Gumbert, J. Marie Bassett, Samantha Bellows, Ofelia Vasquez-Philo, SaraAnne Lauther, Linda Coker, Lu Hickey, Bonnie Eissler, Luanne Cullen, Jim Cullen, Mary Giberson, Shelley Henry, Marianne Moore, Richard Kidd, Madeline Von Brunt, Robert Frizzell, Celeste Zygmunt, Clemmie New, Jeff Jordan, Jerry Bullock, and Richard Gachot and six guests present. Prior to the meeting, tours of the Pound House were conducted.

Kate announced that the THC Distinguished Service Award for HCHC would be presented by Judge Bert Cobb at 8:45 a.m. on Tuesday, March 29 at the Hays County Courthouse. All members are encouraged to attend. She also mentioned the passing of Frances Stovall who had been an advocate of Hays County and was knowledgeable of its history. A clipping of her obituary was provided for everyone to read.

Kate welcomed all members, both "old" and "new." The minutes from the December 4, 2010, meeting were accepted as published. Shelley Henry nominated Luanne Cullen as secretary for HCHC, Betty Harrison seconded the nomination, and all members voted to accept her.

The committee reports were as follows:

Buck Winn Committee—Richard Kidd, chairman, stated that the committee met last week and discussed the need for awareness of Buck Winn's work and need photos to document them. They are currently getting a complete list of his work and are trying to find locations for many of them. The Hays County government has been asked to accept murals to place in the new center. The Morning Glories at Aquarena Springs need restoration and a possible new location to ensure their preservation.

Cemetery Committee—Jim Cullen, chairman, said that updates include an upcoming visit of the Hohenberg Family descendants who visited their family burial plot—adjacent to Cheatham Cemetery—last summer and cleared the site. They are returning Saturday, April 2 for a family funeral in San Marcos Cemetery and will visit the more remote site following the funeral.

Courthouse Committee—Linda Coker, chairman, said that this HCHC committee participates in everything that the courthouse presents. On April 14, the annual County Employees' Day will be held at the Hays Co. Civic Center with the theme "Military." Any military-related materials are welcomed to be included in the presentations, such as postcards, uniforms, Commemorative Air Force items, etc. Jeff Jordan said that Camp Mabry loans items and gives re-enactments. Linda is in charge of decorations and will take donations of flags, etc. Food is being catered and lunch will be served from 2:00-4:30. Help is needed setting up displays. Linda also stated that the committee gives tours of the courthouse and committee members will be meeting to discuss the inside and outside of the courthouse for future tours.

Documentary Committee—Richard Kidd, chairman, said that plans are being made to begin work about Parks Johnson and the History of Kyle and the Railroad. Jeff Jordan is currently working on more information about the sheriffs of Hays County and the old county jail.

Oral History committee—Bonnie Eissler, chairman, said that the WWII project is underway and should be ready for viewing by Veterans' Day 2011. Mary Giberson provided a list of other names for consideration to interview and videotape.

El Camino Real Committee—Kate Johnson, chairman, said that the committee met at Bordeaux's on March 22 and discussed the 3 major historical roads in the county including the two Spanish colonial roads. Upcoming decisions will include ways that the information can be used for educational purposes.

Hispanic Committee—Ofelia Vásquez-Philo, chairman, described the new Centro Cultural Hispano De San Marcos at the old Bonham school (previously the Southside School) which is located at 211 Lee St. in San Marcos. Furniture donations have been made, and piano, folklorico, mariachi, cooking, and art lessons are being offered. Because they want to give the center a place of honor, Ofelia and Betty Harrison will attend the Commissioners' Court to seek funds for a historical marker.

Historical Marker Committee--Betty Harrison, chairman, said that the payments for Southside School and Cementerio del Rio were submitted to THC last week so those

markers will be coming during the next few months. The marker at Jacob's Well Cemetery has been installed and will be unveiled on Saturday, April 30. Clemmie New will help plan the event. HCHC is also joining with the THC in inventorying the Recorded Texas Historical Landmark markers in Hays County. Bonnie Eissler and Dorothy Gumbert have photographed markers in Wimberley and Dripping Springs, and others in Buda, Driftwood, and Kyle need to be documented. The deadline for submission to THC is May 31, 2011. Kate said that they are planning to place photos and information on each commissioner's precinct website to show the locations of the various markers and of communities that no longer exist, such as Goforth, Science Hall, and Antioch. THC had written to ask if HCHC would like to co-sponsor a workshop to learn more about the marker process on July 12. After discussion, the consensus was to have the workshop in early fall rather than in July.

Old Hays County Jail Restoration Committee—Kate reported that the stabilization (phase I) process was to cost \$169,000 and the work on the surrounding area (chicken coop, garage, fencing, etc.) was to cost \$24,564. The decision had been made to tear down the carport and sell the copper roofing for extra funds. For the restoration process (phase II), funds are needed to buy roofing materials. Hopes are that the commissioners' court will apply for a grant to cover the cost. The cost for restoring the jail is now \$200,000.

Jail House Rock fundraiser is scheduled for September 24 at the jail site. Sub-committees were assigned: Show/Sounds/Lights etc- Richard Kidd; Food/Alcohol- Bonnie Eissler; Fundraising- Samantha Bellows; PR- Shelley Henry; Decorations and Invitations- Diane Dupont-Marlow (community volunteer). "Houston Elvis" will be in attendance. Donation levels range from Judge to Inmate.

Publicity Committee--Shelley Henry, chairman, said her committee met on March 6 to brainstorm ideas, such as submitting a county newsletter. Because March is National Women's Month, several notable women of Hays County could be highlighted. Also programs about HCHC will be offered to community groups to share our many activities and responsibilities. The HCHC brochure is due for an update, and more information will be added to the website about Jacob's Well. Clemmie New suggested getting information from the Jacob's Well website.

After announcements, Kate said the next meeting would be held April 28, 2011, at the Winfield Center in Kyle.

Meeting adjourned at 7:50 p.m. Dinner followed at the Creek Road Café in Dripping Springs.

