

HAYS COUNTY HISTORICAL COMMISSION
Thursday, March 28, 2013
Camp Ben McCulloch
18301 FM 1826, Driftwood, Texas 78619



The March 28, 2013, meeting of the Hays County Historical Commission was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Chairman Kate Johnson after a supper of barbecue from the Salt Lick. A quorum was met with the following members present: Marie Bassett, Linda Coker, Jim Cullen, Luanne Cullen, Matt Floyd, Robert Frizzell, Dorothy Gumbert, Betty Harrison, Shelley Henry, Carmen Imel, Kate Johnson, Richard Kidd, Jo Landon, SarahAnn Lowther, Jerry Moore, Clemmie New, Joe New, Ofelia Vásquez-Philo, Jude Prather, Ralph Randow, Charlie Willis, and Celeste Zygmunt. Seven guests were also present.

1. Announcements:

Kate said that the next HCHC meeting would be held on April 25 in Dripping Springs and that we would be going to the headwaters of the Blanco on June 29, 2013.

She also reported that the Texas Historical Commission is presenting the Annual Historic Sites Free Day on Sunday, May 12, in celebration of National Preservation Month and the Texas Travel and Tourism Week. Texas historic sites include Casa Navarro State Historic Site in San Antonio, the National Museum of the Pacific War in Fredericksburg, Fannin Battleground State Historic Site near Goliad, and many more which can be viewed at

<http://www.thc.state.tx.us/preserve/projects-and-programs/thc-state-historic-sites> .

Richard Kidd announced that MOCHA—Manchaca Onion Creek Historical Association.—has invited HCHC members to hear the musician, K. R. Wood, perform historic Texas songs at their meeting on Saturday, April 6, at 1:00 p.m.

2. Vote on accepting minutes from February 28, 2013--Betty Harrison moved that the minutes be accepted; Dorothy Gumbert seconded the motion. The motion passed.

3. **101 Ranch Documentary**—Richard Kidd said that there have been two screenings of the “101 Ranch.” In Wimberley, about 190 guests attended the Wimberley Institute of Cultures (WIC) event with standing room only. On March 26, 35 people attended the showing in the Kyle Library. An upcoming showing will be held in Buda, Thursday, April 18, at noon at the Senior Citizens Center. Other showings will be coming to San Marcos and Dripping Springs with dates and locations to be determined soon.
4. **Oral History Committee Report**—Luanne Cullen read the report sent by Bonnie Eissler. She is waiting for a confirmation from one of the people to interview but our next “Voices of Hays County History” interview will be with recently retired Judge Charles Ramsay. She hopes to schedule this for next week or the week after, but is waiting to hear when Richard Kidd is available. Also, she would like to have the committee meeting next week (Thursday, April 4th) but will make final details after she hears from the committee members.
5. **Cemetery Committee Report**—Jim Cullen said that he will try to have committee meetings at the cemeteries. Cementerio del Rio has recently received the historical marker and the dedication will be held on Nov. 2, Día de los Muertos. It has substantial fencing, but many of the stones are broken, leaning, or down. He said that he is planning for a meeting there on April 6, 7, or 8 and that Ofelia needs to be there because of her knowledge of the cemetery. He will send an email to committee members to set up the meeting to make a list of needs. He met with Dr. Ana Juarez on March 2 with Kate Johnson and Luanne Cullen to discuss the offer of an intern from TxState to help about 10 hours per week this summer. He also discussed the book Hays County, Texas—Cemetery Inscriptions that Dorothy Kerbow and Jo Ann Hearn wrote and is considered the best reference for cemeteries in Hays County. Copies are available at the courthouse and can be ordered from the HCHC website.
6. **Courthouse Committee Report**—Linda Coker reported that the County Employee Appreciation Day and Dinner will be held on May 9 which is for the employees and their families. Kate Johnson had suggested a display on County Judges and Robert Frizzell is beginning the research. Anyone else who is interested in researching those judges is welcome. Door prizes will be given and any ideas and/or prizes will be accepted. She also said that graduate students from TxState are making progress on museum display. The exhibit will be “Journey” and will focus on different demographics. A Courthouse Committee meeting will be held soon at the courthouse. A children’s author, Vernique Hahn, is going to write a historical fiction book about Jack Hays and is in the research phase at this time. Linda reminded everyone that the courthouse would be open on Saturday, April 6, for the First Saturday event in San Marcos.
7. **Ecology Committee Report**—Marie Bassett presented the report for Delbert Bassett and said that the Ecology Committee has yet to hold its first organizational meeting and hopes to accomplish that in April. Thus far, we have

discovered ten trees with significant potential to be recognized as a Historical Tree of Texas. The Big Tree program is not progressing as rapidly as its historical counterpart. Two live oak trees have been suggested and will be measured soon. We need more candidate trees. We are also interested in large pecan trees, cedar elms, bur oaks, Spanish oaks, bald cypress, and all the other variety of trees we see daily.

8. **Historical Marker Committee Report**—Betty Harrison said that she and Ofelia Vásquez-Philo met with the Superintendent of the San Marcos CISD, Mark E. Eads, and he said that he would like district participation in the Southside School Historical Marker Dedication Ceremony which is to be held on April 20 at 10:00 a.m. Betty also reported that we have received the text to review for the Bunton Branch Bridge and the Stagecoach House (McElroy Severn House) then to forward it to THC in order to have it sent to the foundry.
9. **Old Hays County Jail Report**—Kate Johnson reported that we were going out for contractor bids in early March but that has been moved back to April 17 when Hays County will receive sealed bids for a General Contractor. Clayton & Little, architects, have already applied to San Marcos for a building permit and now need to get permission from the San Marcos Historical Commission to move forward. After this phase to complete the exterior, the third phase will be to address the interior which could cost between \$500,000 and \$800,000.
10. **Member announcements:**
Shelley Henry spoke for the San Marcos Heritage Association and said that the Cottage Kitchen would be closed on Good Friday, March 29, but would be open every Friday in April. A Tree of Honor ceremony will be held April 19 at 5:00 p.m. to honor Nettie Serur and Jim Pape. This is an annual event where Heritage members who passed away during the previous year and who made significant contributions to the association and to the community are recognized. It will take place in Veramendi Park near the Merriman Cabin. The Tour of Homes is scheduled for May 4-5 on Hopkins Street as well as the Price Seniors Center on San Antonio Street. Tickets are \$10 and are available at any of the tour sites or at the Charles S. Cock House.
11. **Darrell Rhodes and Sandra Coe** spoke about the history and traditions of Camp Ben which will celebrate 117 years of camp reunions the week of June 14-21, 2013. It is the last of hundreds of confederate camps throughout the country to still have reunions of Confederate descendents.
12. **Adjourn:** Linda Coker moved that the meeting adjourn; SarahAnn Lowther seconded the motion. The meeting adjourned at 7:53 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Luanne Cullen, HCHC Secretary



