

HAYS COUNTY HISTORICAL COMMISSION



March 28, 2019
Barbara LaBorde
4721 FM 150 West
Kyle, Texas 78640

The March 28, 2019, meeting of the Hays County Historical Commission (HCHC) was called to order at 6:19 p.m. by Chairman Kate Johnson. A quorum was met as the following members were present: Delbert Bassett, Marie Bassett, Eric Beckers, Gary Bryson, Linda Coker, Luanne Cullen, Cindy Daugherty, Robert Frizzell, Irma Gaitán, Dorothy Gumbert, Eddie Gumbert, Faye Haskins, Kate Johnson, Richard Kidd, Jo Landon, Jo Ann Lowe, Cindy Meyer, Ralph Meyer, Jerry T. Moore, Trisha Randow, Gina Rogers, Daphne Tenorio, and Lila Knight (ex-officio member). Six guests also attended.

Introduction of Host—Kate Johnson introduced Barbara LaBorde and thanked her for hosting the HCHC meeting in her home. Kate presented her with the HCHC's eight documentaries of the local history of Hays County, the Hays County history book *Clear Springs and Limestone Ledges*, and items from the Kyle Railroad Depot and Heritage Center (two mugs, postcards, refrigerator magnet, and notecards). Kate also thanked her husband, Bill Johnson, for his continued support of the HCHC including purchasing the meals at each meeting. She introduced and welcomed two new HCHC members who were not able to attend last month's meeting. Daphne Tenorio and Cindy Daugherty received their HCHC name badges and told the members about their interests in history. Welcome, Daphne and Cindy!

Vote on accepting minutes from February 28, 2019—Delbert Bassett moved to accept the minutes; Marie Bassett seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Program: Kate introduced Brian Hunt, Senior Hydrogeologist with the Barton Springs/Edwards Aquifer Conservation District, who spoke about the underground water systems in Hays County and ways to manage water pumping through science. He described the importance of the aquifers with maps and charts of the area and then led the members to a sinkhole on Mrs. LaBorde's property. He and Jim Feely explained how caves in our area have collapsed to become sinkholes through weakening of the cave walls and ceilings.

Committee Reports

1. **Historic Kyle RR Depot & Heritage Center**—Trisha Randow said that, with Daphne Tenorio's support, the Kyle City Council approved a variance for a Depot sign which allows for one to be purchased and installed. The first co-sponsored event with the Kyle Library was the showing of the movie *Murder on the Orient Express* on March 16 which was free to the public. Another event, Kyle's *Pi Social* was held on March 14 and featured a pie-eating contest and tours of the Depot. Trisha spoke at the Kyle Area Senior Zone (KASZ), and two people signed up to be volunteers at the Depot. One of them has offered her connection with a website, *Justserve*, in order to bring

more volunteers. The caboose remodeling had continued with bids for electrical, lighting, HVAC, landscaping, and decks as well as the final portion of work by Harold Schroeder. The Easter Bunny (AKA Willie Tenorio) would be returning to the Depot on Saturday, April 21, 2019, for Easter photos and other events that will also include refreshments and children's activities. Jo Ann Lowe had been busy taking care of the plants around the Depot and would be getting more plants at the Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center.

2. **Old Hays County Jail**—Kate said that the committee had a short meeting at the Old Hays County Jail on March 8, 2019. They met with the architects and met the exhibit team. The exhibit specialists asked if we had a vision concerning the restoration of the building, and Kate told them that we hoped to find that vision with their help. They toured each room and discussed how the exhibits could be placed. Kate thanked member Quincy Kennedy for providing a longer chain for the gate. The next meeting was scheduled for Monday, April 1, at the County Courthouse at 9:00 a.m.
3. **Cemeteries**—Jo Landon said that the committee met on March 2 at the Kyle Railroad Depot and discussed upcoming projects. She had visited with Charlie Haydon and his cousin, Iris Lane, about an HTC designation for the Pleasant Valley Cemetery. They will discuss the marker idea with their family at a reunion in June. Jo said that work continues on an HTC application for the Driftwood Cemetery.
4. **Historical Markers**—Marie Bassett reported that the Undertold Story Marker applications came online on March 1. The submission window is now from March 1 until June 15. On March 10, eight members of the HCHC attended the W. T. Chapman marker unveiling and open house in Dripping Springs which was sponsored by Charlie Haydon. A Marker Committee meeting was held on March 27 at the Kyle Depot. New members were introduced, types of markers and the application process were reviewed, and plans were made to inventory existing markers by photographing them. That project would help determine which ones require refinishing and provide a basis for compiling a third volume of Historical Markers in Hays County—from 2003 to 2019. Member Quincy Kennedy has expertise in computer mapping and volunteered to explore plotting the markers. A dedication ceremony will be planned for the Kyle Family Pioneer Cemetery.
5. **Horticulture**—Delbert Bassett said that the committee was continuing to plan for upcoming field trips including one to the Zimmerman property.
6. **Tejano History**—Irma Gaitán reported that Gene Randall, Station Manager of KZSM Community Radio of San Marcos, attended the committee meeting on March 24 at the Kyle Depot. Other items discussed at the meeting included the following: 1) Gina Rogers provided an update of her application for an Undertold Marker for the Alba Ranch; 2) July Moreno recommended that a slogan campaign “Mermaid Capital of the World” for the City of San Marcos be created; and 3) Irma updated the efforts of the Memorial Highway Dedication for San Marcos Police Officer, Alfonso Rodriguez. Irma congratulated committee member, Daphne Tenorio, for her election as President of the Association of Hispanic Municipal Officials for the State of Texas. Irma reminded everyone that Daphne's husband, Willie Tenorio, had recently been elected President of the Mexican American School Board Association. The next committee meeting was scheduled for Sunday, April 7, in Buda at 3:00 p.m.

7. **Courthouse**—Linda Coker said that there would be an Easter Egg Hunt on the Courthouse lawn on Friday, April 19, organized by County Judge Ruben Becerra. She also mentioned that the Hays County facilities manager reported possible paranormal activity because people were seeing figures in the courthouse that were not really there.
8. **Oral History**—Luanne Cullen said that the committee was continuing to search for various types of audio/video equipment and comparing options and prices; checking with the county treasurer on a possible budget; compiling a resource list of other historical organizations and commissions that have oral history projects; determining “internet safe practices” for uploading interviews; and locating all transcripts and tapes from our previous interviews, etc. The next meeting would focus on creating a defined plan as to how and where the oral histories will be saved, for selecting people to interview, and for purchasing the best equipment for our projects.
9. **Certified Local Government (CLG)**—Kate said that the CLG was contacted by Rebekah Dobrasko, Historic Preservation Specialist at TxDOT, asking to review a sidewalk project in San Marcos. TxDOT will be constructing ADA ramps at some of the corners in the downtown area which is both a National Register Historic District and a locally designated historic district. CLG determined that none of the ramps would be on the courthouse square around the County Courthouse, and the ramps around the square are on the bump-outs and do not impact our historic buildings. The CLG did ask for continued communication from TxDOT if they changed the scope of work on the courthouse grounds.
10. **Return of the Buck Winn Murals**—Kate said that John Hartmann, of *Hartmann Fine Art Conservation Services, Inc.* from Carlisle, Pennsylvania, had contracted with US Art Shippers to deliver the murals to the Hays County Government Center on April 23 or 24. John and his staff planned to arrive on April 28 to begin installing the murals. A reception will be planned to present the murals after they are installed.

Announcements—Kate thanked Daphne Tenorio for volunteering to present Kate’s speech to the State Legislature’s Transportation Committee on March 27. The speech was in support of naming a portion of FM 150 (from its intersection at the Hays City Store Café and the intersection of FM 150 and RR 12) the “William B. Travis Heritage Trail.”

Lila Knight invited HCHC members to the Preservation Texas Bassett Farms Conservancy Open House and Historical Marker Dedication near Kosse, Texas, on May 4.

Kate said that the next HCHC meeting would be held at Jacob’s Well in Wimberley on April 25.

Adjournment—Delbert Bassett moved that the meeting adjourn; Jo Landon seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 7:43 p.m. Supper followed.

Respectfully submitted,
Luanne P. Cullen, Secretary HCHC
(Photos courtesy of Luanne Cullen and Eric Beckers)

