

Hays County Historical Commission

Thursday, April 28, 2011

Winfield Inn

Kyle, Texas



The meeting was called to order at 6:26 p.m. by Chairman Kate Johnson with members Betty Harrison, Dorothy Gumbert, Marie Bassett, Samantha Bellows, SarahAnn Lowther, Linda Coker, Lu Hickey, Bonnie Eissler, Luanne Cullen, Jim Cullen, Mary Giberson, Shelley Henry, Marianne Moore, Richard Kidd, Madeline Von Brunt, Robert Frizzell, Celeste Zygmont, Clemmie New, LaMarr Petersen, Adam Wagner, and Richard Gachot and seven guests present. Prior to the meeting, tours of the Winfield Inn were conducted.

Kate announced that the Jacob's Well dedication event on April 30 needs about 40 chairs by the 29th and asked members to bring them if they are available. Clemmie New will bring lemonade and cookies and HCHC will provide coffee and donuts. She also reminded members of the May 1 showing of Buck Winn video. Also, next month is County Employees' Appreciation Month with the Military theme, and Marie Bassett has written about Dr. Pounds' Civil War Experiences with a picture of him in his uniform. Also, artist Betty Richie emailed and said that the Salt Grass Restaurant in San Marcos has a picture of the old jail and she will make a painting of it. She asked Kate how the sign would have looked like on the jail in order to incorporate it into the painting. She will bring the picture and photo to a future HCHC meeting.

Linda Coker moved to accept the amended minutes from the March 24, 2011, meeting and Dorothy Gumbert seconded the motion. Motion was accepted by all members. Richard Kidd said all minutes were now on the website.

No treasurer's report was given.

The committee reports were as follows:

Buck Winn Committee—Richard Kidd, chairman, stated that Robert Frizzell found one of Buck Winn's projects that has been restored and is located at the Ripley House in Houston, Texas. Photos have been taken. This project consists of 5 concrete bas relief panels which are Greek themes of art, education, athletics, drama, and music.

Robert Frizzell said that the University Star newspaper from Texas State has an article about the Morning Glories at Aquarena Springs. Kate mentioned that we want to be involved with university about the future of the sculptures.

Vox Pop (voice of the people) committee—Richard Kidd, found a man who lives in Hunt and has interviewed and videotaped him. He had been given a silver service from Parks Johnson and is still using it. Kate and Richard are planning a trip to Maryland in May and will visit the museum of broadcasting to go through the material for information about Parks Johnson and Vox Pop. [Additional information from Richard: Vox Pop was the name of a national radio program on CBS from 1935 to 1948. It was originated by Parks Johnson, the father of Bill Johnson from Wimberley. Parks and his wife Louise (from San Marcos) were active in the Wimberley community, and they retired there until his death in 1970. Because Vox Pop was such a success (top 10 national radio program) and because of Parks' connection to Hays County, we are doing a documentary on "our" connection to early radio and one of its pioneers. Bill has collected a large resource of material on his father and was very active in the broadcast's early years. He moved to Manhattan with them and is seen standing beside his dad at numerous shows. MF announced that she and Bill were getting married on a Vox Pop broadcast from San Antonio.]

Cemetery Committee—Jim Cullen, chairman, said he and Luanne Cullen checked on Cementerio del Rio in early April and noted that a portion of the old fence line on the sides of the cemetery is in disrepair and is allowing cattle access from the adjacent ranch property. County Commissioner Debbie Ingalsbe was notified, and she indicated a work order would be written for the County Road Department to repair the fence.

Courthouse Committee—Linda Coker, chairman, said that tomorrow (Friday, April 29, 2011) at 2:30, she will be giving a tour of the courthouse for Republicans and Student Republicans. Also, she has received artifacts from Camp Mabry from Vietnam and WWII, including uniforms, toiletry packets, etc. that will be used during the County Employees' Appreciation Day exhibit of Military items.

Oral History committee—Bonnie Eissler, chairman, said that in the last month, two interviews have been finished (Travis Garnett and Augustin Lucio) which will be a part of the WWII series. Documentary will be ready by Nov. 11, 2011. Alice Worley, Bobby Rodriguez, and Louise Hall will be interviewed in May.

El Camino Real Committee—Kate Johnson, chairman, said the committee didn't meet but hopes to identify physical features along or close by the Camino Real in order to use specific GPS on Google maps. Al McGraw will teach about conducting Field Surveys and documenting historical resources which include ruts and swales. None of the routes of the Camino Real have been documented. Committee will meet on May 8 at the Kyle City Hall.

Hispanic Committee—Ofelia Vásquez-Philo, chairman, sent a report saying on behalf of the Board of Directors of Centro Cultural Hispano de San Marcos, she wanted to thank Betty Harrison and all members of HCHC for their support of the Historical Marker for Southside School. It was unanimously approved by the San Marcos Consolidated Independent School District school board on March 28, 2011. She has also been busy assisting a family from out of state to get their loved ones' tombstones repaired at Guadalupe Cemetery located on Post Road, San Marcos, and has been assisting with the oral histories of Augustine Lucio and Bobby Rodriguez.

Historical Marker Committee--Betty Harrison, chairman, said that the dedication of the marker at Jacob's Well Cemetery will be held on Saturday morning, April 30 at 10 am. Her committee is still working on the inventory of the RTHL (Recorded Texas Historical Landmark) markers in Hays County and will submit it to THC by the end of May. HCHC will host a cemetery/marker workshop (which THC will present) on Wednesday, August 17 from 11 - 4 at the Historic City Hall in Kyle. It is on the THC calendar already, and they will publicize it. We are not providing lunch, so there is no charge for the workshop. She encouraged anyone who is considering applying for a marker to attend the workshop.

Old Hays County Jail Restoration Committee—Kate reported that we have finished the first phase of the Old County Jail; the second phase will be the restoration of the windows, doors, etc.

The wooden jail on the grounds will be moved to 5 Mile Dam next week. The copper roof of the carport will be sold to the Luling company, Tiny Texas Homes. They offered a better price than Green Guy Recycling, and the old gasoline pump and the kerosene pump also will go to the Green Guy Recycling because they are too far gone to have an antique company to buy it.

Linda Coker--Jail House Rock fundraiser is scheduled for September 24 at the jail site. We have gotten the deposit paid on Houston Elvis and will be getting deposits on the chairs. The committee will have a meeting at Cock House at noon next Tuesday. Bids will be coming in for refreshments and alcohol. Everyone will be needed to help in setting up.

Publicity Committee--Shelley Henry, chairman, said that she sent a press release on the Jacob's Well Cemetery Marker to area outlets. The San Marcos Record gave a nice front page spread, but it hasn't appeared in the Wimberley paper yet; hopefully it will appear in today's issue. She also sent out a release on the Dripping Springs Buck Winn documentary screening on May 1.

She talked to the Daily Record about doing a follow-up story on the jail and the progress of the renovation, and they said they don't have time to do the reporting/writing, but they would be glad to print a story. She will have to either write it or see if any of the committee members wants to write one. She also asked if anyone has ideas for articles for the next county newsletter (the May/June issue) and will take any submissions for that.

Map committee, Richard Gachot, chairman, said that this committee will be using maps to document the original roads of Hays County and to show how other roads and areas of development were added.

Linda Coker said that TxState students have been researching the history of the buildings on the SM square, and research will be posted on the San Marcos library website.

Richard Kidd said that Driftwood had requested a documentary of Driftwood Schools, and "Driftwood School Memories" was produced which includes interviews of 5 former students. There will be a May 7 viewing at the Driftwood Community Center.

LaMarr Petersen announced that he was wearing the T-shirt about the Jailhouse Restoration and others are for sale. Linda Coker said that sponsors will have their names written on the backs.

Marianne Moore said that the SM Heritage Association is presenting the book Historic San Marcos: An Illustrated History. Copies of the book will officially go on sale April 29 for \$29.95 and will be available at the Home Tour and at the Cottage Kitchen. The proceeds will benefit the Heritage Association. For a signed copy, author Rodney van Oudekerke will be available at the Cock House from 1:00-2:00 p.m. on Friday.

Also, she reminded everyone of the Heritage Association Home Tour, Saturday and Sunday, May 7 and 8. Craftsman Style houses, including that of Patrick Rose, will be featured. Tickets are \$12 dollars in advance and \$17 on day of sale.

Mary Giberson said that restoration on the old stagecoach property in Buda has begun. She is working with Betty Harrison to apply for a historical marker.

After announcements, Kate said the next meeting would be held May 26, 2011, at Dick's Classic Car Museum in San Marcos.

Betty Harrison moved that meeting adjourn, and Dorothy Gumbert seconded the motion. The meeting adjourned at 7:03 p.m. Dinner followed on the porch of Winfield Inn.

Respectfully submitted,
Luanne Cullen
HCHC Secretary

