

## Hays County Historical Commission

Thursday, May 26, 2011

Dick's Classic Garage (Car Museum)

San Marcos, Texas



The May meeting of the Hays County Historical Commission was called to order at 6:22 p.m. by Chairman Kate Johnson at Dick's Classic Garage (Car Museum). Also present at the meeting were members Linda Coker, Jerry Bullock, Ofelia Vasquez-Philo, Bonnie Eissler, Marie Bassett, Shelley Henry, SarahAnn Lowther, Lu Hickey, Richard Kidd, Clemmie New, Madeline Van Brunt, Dorothy Gumbert, Robert Frizzell, Celeste Zygmunt, Jeff Jordan, and Luanne Cullen, and seven guests.

Kate announced that the next meeting will be held June 23 at the Blanco Chapel in Kyle and that the speaker will share information about German Heritage in the area. Also, the Kyle Depot (the only depot left in Hays Co.) will soon begin restoration. It will be restored to its 1917 appearance with the recreation of the Colored waiting room and the White waiting room, as well as the train master's office. It should be finished by the end of the year.

Dorothy Gumbert moved to accept the minutes from the April 28, 2011, meeting and Linda Coker seconded the motion. Motion was accepted by all members.

**Treasurer's report**—SarahAnn Lowther, treasurer, presented members with a written report that detailed the balances for the HCHC operating expenses, documentaries' expenses, Jail Restoration expenses, and HC Trust Fund, Cemetery Preservation Fund, and the Claiborne Kyle Log Cabin.

The committee reports were as follows:

**Buck Winn Committee**—Richard Kidd, chairman, stated that the committee keeps finding Buck Winn's items. Dorey Schmidt received information from a lady from SpringHill, LA, who said that the high school had a giant mural which is going to be torn down. It is a Buck Winn bas relief dated 1951 and is not on any existing paperwork.

Guest, Kevin Huffaker, Tx State, volunteers as Vice Chair of SM Arts Commission and is interested in the Buck Winn Morning Glories at Aquarena Springs. He said that the Buck Winn documentary helped to convince TxState administration to take steps in keeping them in their inventory.

**Vox Pop**--Richard and Kate went to the Museum at Maryland where they conducted interviews and received materials about Parks Johnson and Vox Pop. They also went to Rockland, ME, and interviewed a lady who is an expert about the 1930's who was dressed in 1930s dress and hair. Then they went to Vermont to visit a lady who was 95, had lived in Wimberley, was friends of Parks Johnson, and also knew Buck and Kitty Winn.

**Cemetery Committee**—Jim Cullen, chairman, was not able to attend but sent his report that said that May was a very quiet month for cemetery committee; just the usual contacts from out-of-town people seeking information on Hays County cemeteries. Kate added that the daughter of Mr. Scoville contacted HCHC and wanted permission to film in the Kyle Cemetery. Kate gave her Jane Kirkham's name as a contact who gave permission. Kate also related the story of Samuel G. Washington, nephew of George Washington, who became a shoe peddler and died near Mountain City in 1868. He was buried in a pauper's grave at Kyle Cemetery. The satchel he carried had documents and items, such as a staff and ceremonial sword belonging to George Washington, but the location of the satchel is unknown. A granite headstone has been made for him, and a ceremony will be held to place it in his memory.

**Oral History committee**—Bonnie Eissler, chairman, said that Travis Garnett's oral history video is being edited and will be presented in July.

**El Camino Real Committee**—Kate Johnson, chairman, said the committee went to view a number of sites along the El Camino Real. On east Highway 150 in Kyle, they visited the Porter Property Spring. Santa Ana is said to have spent nights at a camp along the oak trees. In Buda, an oak tree had a cross on the tree that signified that the Spaniards had visited. They then visited the historic stagecoach site (Historic Stagecoach Park) and found a number of Indian sites. The creek along the oaks showed tracks from those wagons and stagecoaches. Post Office had been moved and there is some concern about the deterioration of the blocks. They also learned about documenting sites with GPS and will do more surface surveys.

**Hispanic Committee**—Ofelia Vásquez-Philo, chairman, said that a one-day celebration will be held at El Centro Cultural Hispano de San Marcos for its one-year anniversary on Sept. 18. She would like to set up a booth with books, food, raffle, etc. to raise money for the jail.

**Historical Marker Committee**--Betty Harrison, chairman, was not able to attend but sent her report:

*RTHL (Recorded Texas Historical Landmark) Inventory:* Thanks to help from many people, the inventory is almost complete. Dorothy Gumbert documented the Wimberley markers; Marie Bassett, Driftwood; Bonnie Eissler, Dripping Springs; and Marianne

Moore, San Marcos. She described the various markers that still need to be inventoried and asked for assistance in photographing them before the May 31 deadline.

*Marker/cemetery workshop:* HCHC will host a marker/cemetery workshop, conducted by THC staff, on Wednesday, August 17 at the Historic City Hall in Kyle. Eight RSVPs have been received from Travis and Comal Counties. The workshop will be held from 11:00 to 3:00, with a break for lunch, and there is no charge to participants. She hopes that several of our commission members will attend.

Clemmie New said that 88 people attended the Jacob's Well marker dedication on April 30, and she appreciated those HCHC members in attendance.

**Old Hays County Jail Restoration Committee**—Kate reported that \$100,000 did not go out until 2-3 weeks ago due to the county's delay in accepting and approving the funds. Copper roofing from the carport has not been picked up. As was reported last month, the old wooden jail was not taken to 5 Mile Dam because the county workers thought that it would go to the Claiborne-Kyle Log House. She is looking for suggestions as to its placement.

**Jail House Rock fundraiser**--Linda Coker handed out written information about the Jailhouse Rock event and asked members to share information with any connections they have. Committee met today and decided that a banner will be created to place above the LBJ and Guadalupe streets in San Marcos. She shared the new Community Impact newspaper that included a story about the Old Jailhouse. In order to publicize the fundraiser, Richard Kidd will place a link on the website, she will create a Facebook page, and county employees will be asked to share the information. She also encouraged all HCHC members to reach out to their contacts for sponsorships. The fundraiser will be held Sept. 24 at the jail from 7:00-9:30 p.m. Dinner will not be served but heavy hors d'oeuvres will be provided.

Jeff Jordan said that security services for the event would be \$30 per hour, \$10 per vehicle. He also mentioned that the sheriff's department will be getting rid of cars and wanted to let HCHC know about the sale if it wants to purchase one. A deputy gave the first patch that was worn in Hays Co. that had never been seen, and Jeff suggested that a set of patches could be made available for jail fundraising.

**Historic Roads Committee**, Richard Gachot, chairman, was out of town, but Robert Frizzell said that we want to use the Sanborn maps as a basis to build on the database.

#### **Announcements:**

**Jeff Jordan** reported on the Texas Peace Officers' Memorial Services.

**Linda Coker** moved that meeting adjourn, and **Dorothy Gumbert** seconded the motion. The meeting adjourned at 7:20 p.m. Dinner followed in the Car Museum event room and members were invited to tour the museum.

Respectfully submitted,  
Luanne Cullen, HCHC Secretary

(Photo collage follows on the next page.)

