

## HAYS COUNTY HISTORICAL COMMISSION



**Thursday, July 24, 2014  
Cypress Acres Ranch  
Eddie & Dorothy Gumbert  
306 E. Summit Drive  
Wimberley, Texas 78676**

The July 24, 2014, meeting of the Hays County Historical Commission (HCHC) was called to order at 6:20 p.m. by Chairman Kate Johnson. A quorum was met as the following HCHC members were present: Delbert Bassett, Marie Bassett, Linda Coker, Jim Cullen, Luanne Cullen, Bonnie Eissler, Robert Frizzell, Dorothy Gumbert, Carmen Imel, Kate Johnson, Richard Kidd, Lila Knight, Jo Landon, SarahAnn Lowther, Ida Miller, Ofelia Vásquez-Philo, Ralph Randow, and Charlie Willis. Nine guests also attended.

**Announcements:** Kate Johnson introduced Evan Thompson, the new executive director of Preservation Texas who spoke about the various historical sites in Hays County especially the Old Wooden Jail now located on the grounds of the San Marcos Academy. Kate presented him with a copy of the Clear Springs and Limestone Ledges book. She also said that the next HCHC meeting would be held in San Marcos at Darlyne Lowman's house on August 28, 2014. She announced that the Caldwell County Genealogical and Historical Society would be presenting a program on the historical importance of Susanna Dickinson on Tuesday, August 5, 2014, at 6:30 p.m. at the Parish Hall of the Church of the Annunciation, 301 Walnut Street in Luling, Texas. Another program of interest was the 14<sup>th</sup> annual ceremony commemorating the 201<sup>st</sup> anniversary of the Battle of Medina on August 16, 2014, in Pleasanton, Texas. Kate also described an open house associated with the Texas Department of Transportation Post-1945 Bridge Mitigation project supported by the Texas Historical Commission. The closest location would be held in the Emmie Seele Faust Memorial Library at the Sophienburg Museum and Archives in New Braunfels on July 29, 2014, from 4:00-6:00 p.m.

1. **Vote on accepting minutes from May 22, 2014**—SarahAnn Lowther moved to accept the minutes; Delbert Bassett seconded the motion. Motion passed.
2. **Oral History Committee Report**—Bonnie Eissler reported that the Oral History interview for Red Simon had been completed and transcribed. Marie Bassett had written an insightful essay about Ofelia Vásquez-Philo based on Ofelia's oral history interview and Marie's additional research.

3. **Cemetery Committee Report**—Jim Cullen reported that the Byrd-Owen Payne Cemetery in old Stringtown south of San Marcos was mowed and trimmed in mid-June by Richard Gomez. He also said that he was waiting on the THC approval of our Historic Texas Cemetery designation application for Antioch Cemetery. At last word from THC in May, it was still far down the line waiting for consideration. Antioch Cemetery also has a Buda Eagle Scout candidate planning to do some preservation work there.
4. **Ecology Committee Report**—Delbert Bassett reported on the Auction Oak in Kyle that had begun splitting and was stabilized with steel cables and removal of 7,000-8,000 pounds of wood from its canopy. Plans have been made to provide root feeding this fall along with a systemic fungicide to encourage healing growth in the injured area and to strengthen the tree. He also said that a “trees-in-peril” issue had arisen along FM 967 from Onion Creek to FM 1626. TxDOT had designated 108 trees to be removed for its three-lane widening project. There are two trees that are in the 400-year-old range and another five in the 300-year-old range. Commissioner Mark Jones and TxDOT had been contacted to save some of these old trees. Delbert also had been asked to look into the historical significance of some San Marcos pecan trees that are thriving westward from Grove St. and Hull St., and he requested information about this grove of trees.
5. **Historical Marker Committee Report**—Betty Harrison sent her report stating that we have received the text of the First Baptist Church NBC marker, and it is under review by the church and by Dan Utley who assisted with the marker application. Betty had also received information about a workshop at the Bob Bullock Museum to be held on September 8 and more information would be sent by email.
6. **Hispanic Committee Report**—Ofelia Vásquez-Philo said that the Centro Cultural Hispano de San Marcos would be hosting the Little Engineers program this summer as well as other activities. She also extended the invitation for everyone to attend the reception at 3:00 p.m. on Sunday, August 3, for artist Rene Perez and to view his artwork.
7. **Courthouse Committee Report**—Linda Coker highlighted the events that included the Courthouse and downtown San Marcos. “Foodstock” would be held on Saturday, July 26, to raise funds for the Hays County Foodbank. “Rhythm of the Street” activities would also be held on July 26 to demonstrate how one block of downtown could be better utilized to suit the needs of the community. The Business Expo, sponsored by the Chamber of Commerce, would be held on August 15, 2014, at the Embassy Suites. Many visitors have been coming to the courthouse museum and more are requesting research information, such as for Michael Sessoms, one of the first three families to arrive in San Marcos. The “San Marcos Passport” to welcome new Texas State University students will be held on the square on Friday, August 22, from 4:00-8:00 p.m. Also, the Down-

town San Marcos Wine Walk will be held Friday, Sept. 12 from 5:00-8:00 p.m.

8. **Col. Peter C. Woods Screenings**—Richard Kidd reported that 500+ people have attended screenings of the Col. Woods documentary in San Marcos, Buda, Manchaca, Driftwood, and Dripping Springs. Showings have also been planned for Dripping Springs for the VFW and in Wimberley with the Wimberley Institute of Cultures. Suggestions were needed for a location in Kyle.
9. **Col. Peter C. Woods Memorial**—Linda Coker reported that the committee included members of Hays County Historical Commission, Heritage Association of San Marcos, the Sons of Confederate Veterans, and other local interested people. Research continues as to the original paint colors of the memorial, and bids are being requested for sandblasting, plumbing, painting, and electrical work. Kate Johnson was notifying the Texas Historical Commission and the Woods family as to the plans for renovation. Hopefully, the work on the memorial will be completed in 2015 to commemorate the sesquicentennial of the ending of the Civil War.
10. **Movable Jail**—Kate Johnson reported that the Old Wooden Jail was placed on the Preservation Texas Most Endangered List in 2012 and was taken from the grounds of the Old Hays County Jail to the San Marcos Academy. The Old Wooden Jail will be restored with help from the Bob Redford Family and the Burdine Johnson Foundation and will be returned to the grounds of the Old Hays County Jail. Hopefully the restoration will be complete in two years and will receive a historical marker to display beside it.
11. **Cultural Arts Committee for the Government Center**—Kate reported that the Cultural Arts Guidelines are on the Hays County website under “Community.” The Hays County Arts Committee invites artists working in all genres to submit their work to be exhibited in the County Government Center. Flyers were distributed describing the “Call for Artists.”
12. **Adjourn**—Dorothy Gumbert moved that the meeting adjourn; Marie Bassett seconded the motion. Motion passed, and the meeting was adjourned at 7:00 p.m.

After the meeting, Eddie Gumbert described the history of their land beside Cypress Creek and the structures on it, including the Julia Ann Ragsdale home which was built in 1879.

Respectfully submitted,  
Luanne P. Cullen, HCHC Secretary

*Photo collage follows on the next page. Thanks to Jim Cullen for the photos.*



