

HAYS COUNTY HISTORICAL COMMISSION



Thursday, October 24, 2013
Judge Bob Shannon's Ranch
11800 West FM 150
Driftwood, Texas 78619

The October, 2013, meeting of the Hays County Historical Commission was called to order at 6:28 p.m. by Chairman Kate Johnson. A quorum was met as the following HCHC members were present: Delbert Bassett, Marie Bassett, Sue Cohen, Linda Coker, Luanne Cullen, Bonnie Eissler, Robert Frizzell, Dorothy Gumbert, Betty Harrison, Shelley Henry, Carmen Imel, Kate Johnson, Richard Kidd, Jo Landon, Ida Miller, Jerry Moore, Clemmie New, Joe New, Jude Prather, Ralph Randow, and Charlie Willis. Seven guests also attended. Kate introduced Judge Bob Shannon who spoke about his historic house which was built in Bastrop, Texas, in the 1840-50's using timber from Bastrop pine trees. The house was moved from Bastrop to its current location near Driftwood, Texas in 1969. After describing the house, Judge Shannon then led tours of the house. The meeting continued after the conclusion of the tours.

1. **Announcements & Introductions**—Kate Johnson said that Mrs. Janice Woods Windle, author of True Women, Will's War, and Hill Country, was invited to this meeting, but was unable to attend because of her husband's medical issues. Kate also announced that the next HCHC meeting would be held in December but the day and location had not been decided.
2. **Vote on accepting minutes from September 26, 2013, HCHC meeting**—Joe New moved to accept the minutes; Dorothy Gumbert seconded the motion. The motion was accepted by all members.
3. **Courthouse Committee Report**—Linda Coker reported that the Courthouse/Museum had hosted large tour groups, such as Leadership San Marcos, Texas Historical Foundation Board of Directors, Main Street San Marcos, Heritage Association of San Marcos, DRT, and the City of San Marcos Downtown Parking Forum. She also said that we had participated with Hays County Food Bank and the Food Stock. The Texas State Wine Walk on September 27 was so successful, the United Way of Hays County and Main Street San Marcos decided to host a

- Wine and Wassail Walk on November 15. A sign-up sheet was passed around for members to volunteer their time. Ida Miller has been working on biographies of County Judges—photos are being reframed and will be hung on the first floor of the courthouse. People are visiting the museum during Saturdays and days that Linda and Kate are working in the office. Linda was pleased to report that the old plastic globe on top of the Wood's Fountain has been replaced with period appropriate glass globe.
4. **Colonel Peter C. Woods Documentary**—Richard Kidd reported that the voice-over narration of the Colonel Peter C. Woods documentary is almost finished. Civil War re-enactors in Houston will be filmed for the documentary.
 5. **Oral History Committee Report**—Bonnie Eissler said that Sue Cohen and Jo Landon interviewed Bill Pennington in October. Pennington Funeral Home is a family-owned business that has served San Marcos for well over 100 years. Sue is transcribing the interview. Bibb Underwood's book *Ordinary People: Heroes, Creators, Survivors – Folks of San Marcos and Hays County* is an example of the kind of book we envision for our oral histories. Mr. Underwood's book, published in 2005, features more than 150 individuals and began as a series of articles for the San Marcos Daily Record. She also reported that there will be a screening of Ranch 101 documentary at the Dripping Springs Community Library on November 9 at 3:00 p.m.
 6. **Cemetery Committee Report**—Luanne Cullen reported for Jim Cullen that Texas State Anthropology Professor Dr. Ana Juarez met with Texas Historical Commission Cemetery Coordinator Jenny McWilliams at the Abel Ranch Cemetery to allow McWilliams the opportunity to see the site and to offer her recommendations. She did so and restoration efforts at the Abel Ranch Cemetery continue under the auspices of the Texas State University Anthropology Department.
 7. **Ecology Committee Report**—Delbert Bassett said that the Texas Forest Service is publishing a new edition of Famous Trees of Texas and will be sending material to the printers in February 2014. According to Eric Beckers, Texas Forest Service, Hays County, the estimated age of the large oak tree at the Burleson site is 200 years. Delbert said that his committee will meet with Texas State Archaeology department for use of photographs that have referenced historic trees.
 8. **Historical Marker Committee Report**—Betty Harrison reminded the members that the marker application period ends on November 15 and to let her know of any possible leads for markers.
 9. **Old Hays County Jail & Calaboose Report**—Kate Johnson reported that the exterior of the Old Jail is finished and she is working on raising funds for the interior work (only \$400,000 to go). She was hoping that the Calaboose Board would be interested in working together with HCHC because their jail is located close by and parking spaces could be shared. She mentioned items from the Old Jail that could be auctioned off (remnants of several movie sets and old doors that were used to cover the windows, etc.) which would support the renovations and raise awareness of the jail.

10. **Hispanic Committee Report**—Linda Coker reported for Ofelia Vásquez-Philo that El Centro Cultural Hispano de San Marcos would be sponsoring a 5K Run/Walk on November 2. Funds raised would be used to support the various programs of the center.
11. **Community announcements**—Dorothy Gumbert said that the Kendall County Historical Commission is interested in visiting our Old Jail. Marie Bassett said that Andrea Larsen is the new director of the Pound House in Dripping Springs. Shelley Henry said that November 2 is the date for the Cemetery Walk in the San Marcos Cemetery which is sponsored by the Heritage Association of San Marcos.
12. **Adjourn**—Jerry Moore moved that the meeting adjourn; Delbert Bassett seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 7:46 p.m. Supper followed.

Respectfully submitted,
Luanne Cullen, HCHC Secretary

