

Hays County Historical Commission  
Centex Wing, Commemorative Air Force  
Ghost Squadron at San Marcos Municipal Airport  
Saturday, August 28, 2010

Rare vintage aircraft, privately owned and CAF maintained, housed on base in a wooden, WW11 hangar are silent, stark reminders of a hard-fought war long ago, in far away lands. The Centex Wing also has a WW11 exhibit that features Gary; San Marcos Army Air Field and Hank Potter; Tokyo Raid Rooms and an extensive Stokes Aviation Library. They are open to the public Monday, Wednesday, Friday and Saturday from 9 am to 4 pm. More can be found at [www.centexwing.com](http://www.centexwing.com). HCHC was meeting in the Officer's Lounge upstairs.



Most members were delayed by the train that wouldn't move. The meeting was finally called to order in the officer's lounge at 10:24 am by Chairman Kate Johnson with members Linda Coker, Jim Cullen, Bonnie Eissler, Robert Frizzell, Mary Giberson, Dorothy Gumbert, Betty Harrison, Shelley Henry, Linda Keese, Richard Kidd, Marianne Moore and eleven guests present. She thanked everyone who brought breakfast treats. (She furnished the gourmet coffee.)

Chairman Johnson compiled a smaller Texas Preservation Handbook for HCHC members to keep on hand for easy reference to answer questions. Easy to keep in a large purse.

Hood's Texas Brigade monument will be re-dedicated on the Texas Capitol grounds in Austin October 15 at 9 am. Everyone is invited to come, especially historical commission members. Lunch is at 11.45 am. More information is on [www.hoodstexasbrigade.org](http://www.hoodstexasbrigade.org).

HCHC has applied to the Texas Historical Commission for a \$20,000 grant to digitize photo and oral history. Lila Knight will write the grant.

Mary Giberson moved to accept HCHC June 24, 2010 minutes. Dorothy Gumbert seconded. Motion passed.

Shelley Henry moved to accept HCHC January 28 2010 minutes. Jim Cullen seconded. Motion passed.



Richard Kidd: Buck Winn project has entered the editing phase as all photos (at twelve different locations), interviews and script have been completed. Is putting together the final piece, which will be close to one hour long because of material covered. Challenge is to keep everyone awake. Background music from UT quartet Murio, James Dick of Round Top and Rick Rowley of Austin, both pianists; because Buck listened to classical while he worked on his art. WIC asked for presentation at their September meeting and an update on the project. Hopefully it will illicit interest from the Wimberley area. Plan to have edit complete in October so we can burn DVD. Richard compiled two (color and black/white) books detailing life and works of Buck Winn with photos of his art projects to have for handy reference of Winn's work while selling DVD's.

Betty Harrison: All historical marker applications submitted last year have been approved except Jacob's Well Cemetery, which is in the process now. The Lane House marker has been shipped from the foundry to the owners (Franklin family) in Wimberley.

The new “window” for applying for historical markers is from September 1 thru November. Let her know of any applicants for markers or give them her contact information.



Chairman Johnson passed out several Texas Sales Tax Exempt certificates to commission members who would be buying supplies. Guard them with your life!

Bonnie Eissler: HCHC hosted one Oral History video screening for Cecil Clark of Buda to a large group of more than 80 people and sold 29 DVD's.

Committee will begin interviews in September with 92 year old Dr. McCormick of Buda, who delivered most of the babies in the area for several decades. Jim Cullen will arrange and conduct interview.

Another high-priority interview is Dee Ann Story of Wimberley, “Dean of Texas Archeology”, who is the leading expert on East Texas Caddo Indians. Chairman Johnson recommended Lila Knight to interview. Johnson will let us know when Story is ready.

Interviews with Hays County WWII veterans will be in the works. Committee has some info related to these years from previous histories including Bradley Davis, Bill Johnson, Moe Johnson, Bob Barton, Jr., Ofelia Vasquez-Philo, Burrel Cochran and Gwen Smith. They still

need more, which means new interviews and revisiting some already interviewed, specifically related to WWII years.

Still need more volunteers: Someone to help with WWII project by identifying people to interview and meeting with them. Local VFW's good place to start.

Someone to help Richard to set up equipment before screenings. Must arrive early and stay after to clean up.

Someone to make arrangements for screenings: Schedule event, find new venues, send info to Shelley for press release, plan refreshments and double check interviewee, guest-of-honor will be there and hasn't forgotten. Sounds like a lot, but extra hands will make it easy. Talk to either Bonnie or Richard.

National Trust Conference: Passed out catalog for members information. Register online.

Old Hays County Jail restoration: George Wilcox from Clayton, Levi, Little Architects described phase #1 as structural stabilization to stop decay and create solid foundation, with a new roof to keep the building dry for future restoration work. The firm issued stability drawings for bid and Thursday they received replies. One bid received from a well-qualified firm was quite a bit lower at \$180,00, to repair all masonry, tear down and rebuild walls with new concrete and new roofing. The total scope stabilization addresses water and plant infiltration into masonry. A new roof plus frame around building will wick water away. Stripping away plants will expose masonry for repair and stop decay. He is excited to get the jail back in shape, which should be a 4-6 month process...depending on what damage is found as masonry is torn down. It could be 8 or 9 months. First phase will be walls, foundation and roof. Windows will be boarded up. Not a habitable building – just stable. He brought detailed drawings to discuss with any or all of members. Available funds are those on hand and grants from THC and Burdine-Johnson foundation. Second phase will be wiring for lighting, air-conditioning, plumbing and new windows, which will make the building habitable.

Shelley Henry: Old Jail Fundraiser will be postponed till spring. Work site could be managed to have fundraiser at jail according to Wilcox. Thinking April at the jail site with food and drink. “Jailhouse Rock” is the theme with an Elvis impersonator. Need five silent auction items from each HCHC member or one very large (\$\$) item for live auction.

SarahAnn Lowther, Treasurer: Buck Winn has a balance of \$16,695.41, Operating \$2,228.28, Old Jail \$3001.87, Publishing \$5003.44, Historical Commission \$1,4487.05, County Preservation \$6,683.62.

Jim Cullen Cemetery Committee: The biggest news of the summer is that the THC has approved our application for designation of Cementerio del Rio as a Historic Texas Cemetery. For cemeteries, this is the first step toward securing a THC historic marker. There will be a marker application ready for this year's THC consideration period.

It will join one for Coronado-La Luz Cemetery, which received its Historic Texas Cemetery designation several months ago. The third application - for Cocke Cemetery – is in the final stages and should go within a week or so. The fourth – for Antioch Cemetery – is anticipated in the next 30 days. If all are approved, we will be in a position to apply for four

cemetery markers this winter...and should be considering plans to pay for them before applications are submitted.

Thanks again to Jerry Borchreding and J.P.Garza of Hays County Road Dept. for their efforts in putting together a request proposal through Commissioner Barton's office to remove a number of dead trees from Antioch Cemetery. Hays County Commissioners approved the request this past week. We appreciate their continuing support.

Coronado-La Luz Cemetery and Cocke Cemetery are now being maintained through a county contract with Gene Bagwell, so the only cemetery we have specifically maintained this summer is Byrd Owen – Payne Cemetery, south of San Marcos off Hunter Road, with Richard Gomez doing the work for HCHC.

Marianne Moore: Historical news from San Marcos. Much improvement going on at Veramendi Park around the Cock House with sidewalks, fountain and drainage. Cottage Kitchen starts Friday from 11- 1 pm. with the Riverwalk Committee hosting.



Linda Coker moved to adjourn the meeting. Dorothy Gumbert seconded. The meeting was adjourned. Kate Johnson introduced our tour guide for the hanger and museum, Mike Colahua, who lead us through all the nooks and crannies...then finally, the gift store. He told us San Marcos AFB was renamed in 1953 after San Marcos resident and aviator Gary who was killed at Clark AFB at the same time Bergstrom was killed. Two lives lost – on the same day – who lived not far from each other. In addition to watching vintage planes come and go on the

