

## HAYS COUNTY HISTORICAL COMMISSION



**Thursday, October 25, 2018**  
**Brenda and H.C. Kyle**  
**711 West San Antonio Street**  
**San Marcos, Texas 78666**

The October 25, 2018, meeting of the Hays County Historical Commission (HCHC) was called to order at 6:23 p.m. by Chairman Kate Johnson. A quorum was met as the following members were present: Delbert Bassett, Marie Bassett, Eric Beckers, Linda Coker, Luanne Cullen, Robert Frizzell, Irma Gaitán, Eddie Gumbert, Dorothy Gumbert, Kate Johnson, Richard Kidd, Jo Landon, Jo Ann Lowe, SarahAnn Lowther, Cindy Meyer, Ralph Meyer, Jerry T. Moore, Henry Oles, Marian Oles, Trisha Randow, and Gina Rogers. Two guests also attended.

**Announcements**—Kate Johnson reminded HCHC members that the 2017-2018 biennium for HCHC membership was ending and that those who are interested in submitting an application for the 2019-2020 biennium should complete the application form and send it to Kate by January 15. Luanne Cullen would send the form to current HCHC members in November.

Kate also thanked Brenda and H.C. Kyle for hosting the meeting at their home in San Marcos. She presented them with the book, *Clear Springs and Limestone Ledges*, the eight HCHC documentaries about the local history of Hays County, and two mugs from Kyle Railroad Depot and Heritage Center.

She also said that the next meeting would be held in San Antonio at the Hotel Emma on December 15, 2018, with possible information from John Hartmann about the installation of the Buck Winn murals at the Government Center. The meeting would include lunch.

1. **Vote on accepting minutes from September 27, 2018**—Ralph Meyer moved to accept the minutes; Delbert Bassett seconded the motion. Motion passed.
2. **Historic Kyle RR Depot**—Trisha Randow reported that the Depot’s application had been written, and she thanked Marie Bassett, Lila Knight, Faye Haskins (volunteer), and the Marker Committee for their hours spent in research and writing. The City of Kyle needed to sign off on the application since they own the building and were concerned that the historical designation would cause them difficulty in maintaining the building. Kate Johnson had been in communication with them and had taken care of that issue.

Trisha had met with the City of Kyle regarding the signage for the Depot. They were not receptive to our idea of using the hand car on which to mount the sign and insisted that a monument sign should be used in order to conform to the sign ordinance. They offered to help pay for that sign but wanted the Depot to be open two to three days more per week. The Depot committee had gone to SignArts for a quote on the cost of a monument sign.

The Kyle Depot is now a member of the Kyle Chamber of Commerce. Diane Hervol, one of our Depot Board Members, was kind enough to pay for our membership. Trisha was hoping that the membership would include a listing in their “Things to Do in Kyle” which should help increase the number of visitors.

The City of Kyle was going to sponsor the Center Street Trick or Treat on Saturday, Oct. 27, from 1:00-4:00 p.m. The Depot would extend their hours (10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.) on that day to coincide with the event. Trisha thanked Jo Ann Lowe for gathering decorations. Henry Oles would be wearing his conductor outfit for photo ops and others would be dressing up as well. They would be handing out candy, the train coloring books, and crayons.

Henry Oles said that exterior of the caboos was complete and that they were developing a budget to finish the work on the caboos, such as the extension of the platform over to the caboos, the park area, electrical system, HVAC, and other issues. The pot belly stove was in place as were the stainless steel toilet and sink. They hoped the caboos project would be finished by the end of the year.

3. **Old Hays County Jail Report**—Kate said that she had sent the official letter to Hutson | Gallagher Architects instructing them to proceed with the restoration of the Old Jail, including the landscape around the building. She was waiting for their reply. Henry Oles suggested that we might consider a community open house.
4. **Cemetery Committee Report**—Jo Landon said that they had ordered a marker, Medallion with Name and Date Plaque, for the Antioch Cemetery. She stopped by the sales office for the subdivision surrounding the Hector Cemetery and found out that, with the exception of four homes, the land surrounding the cemetery will be part of a park developed by the HOA. She also needed to check on land ownership and changes by the Cheatham Cemetery. Jenny McWilliams, from THC, introduced Jo to Kathy Pittman from Kyle. The Pittmans want either to file a notice of existence of a cemetery or to apply for a HTC designation of a cemetery near their home off Old Stagecoach Road. It is a very old cemetery with only one “formally” marked grave. There may be as many as 50 graves, marked with stones and/or encircled with stones. Irises and Vinca (periwinkle) covered

the entire cemetery, which may be as large as an acre or more. Jenny had also created a ‘drop box’ to gather information about the Mary Bunton headstone at the Lehigh Cement Plant.

5. **Historical Marker Committee Report**—Marie Bassett said that four applications were being prepared for submission by November 15. For Recorded Texas Historic Landmark (RTHL)—Kyle Railroad Depot. For subject marker — Alba Ranch, La Sociedad Mutualista Cuauhtémoc, and Riverhead Farm.

The McGehee Crossing marker, originally installed in 1986 near the actual crossing, but now at the intersection of SH80 and Old Bastrop Road, had recently been destroyed. This was at least the second time this had happened. It is hoped that the culprit would be found and that his/her insurance would pay for a replacement. The Baugh family members, who sponsored the marker originally, had been notified. It had been suggested that another less accident-prone site be found. This is also the proposed site for the Cheatham-Hohenberg Cemetery marker which had been delayed at the foundry.

THC was reviewing several marker texts during the last week of October, including the one for W. T. Chapman, and Marie hoped that the committee would know soon if it was approved or not.

She had heard nothing further on the Jacob’s Well marker that was granted as an Undertold Story marker. She said that it was possible that the African American Old Baptist Church in San Marcos could be included with an Undertold Story marker application.

Marie encouraged anyone who had a marker application they wished to submit for 2019, to get it to her as soon as possible, preferably by November 1.

6. **Horticulture Committee**—Delbert Bassett said that the recent rains had prevented the committee from meeting.
7. **Tejano History Committee Report**—Irma Gaitán said that the committee had been fine-tuning the narrative reports submitted by Gina Rogers for the Historical Marker applications for the Cuauhtémoc Hall and the Alba Ranch. The committee had attended two Cuauhtémoc Board Member meetings. The Hays County Matlachines had been invited to perform at a fundraiser which would have honored Texas First Lady Cecilia Abbott, but rain and extreme weather conditions cancelled the event. The Annual Matlachines Retreat would be hosted by the St. Louis the King of France Catholic Church in Austin on October 27.

The Indigenous Cultures Institute scheduled its Sacred Spring Powwow for November 17-18. The Tejano History Committee had received other invitations, including a memorial 5K Run in honor of Ofelia Vásquez-Philo; a cooperative group for family businesses that are entering third generation (a name and bylaws to be adopted); and the Centro Cultural Hispano de San Marcos. Irma said that there is no longer a Hispanic Chamber of Commerce in San Marcos. In addition, she had visited with Mrs. Margaret Lindsey who had served with her on the San Marcos Women’s Commission in 1983-84.

8. **Courthouse Committee Report**—Linda Coker reminded the HCHC members of the presentation of a Texas Treasures Business Award to Ronnie Mendez, owner of the Landis Shoe Clinic, on November 9, 6:00 p.m. at the Hays County Courthouse. Also, Linda would be receiving the Downtown Volunteer of the Year

award (because she was organizing the event, she knew about the award ahead of time). Decorations were going up at the courthouse. The lighting of the tree and square would be held November 27.

**Adjourn**—Delbert Bassett moved to adjourn the meeting; Irma Gaitán seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 6:59 p.m.

Afterward, H.C. Kyle, III described the history of his home and neighborhood. Ignatius Bramwell Rylander built the house in 1912-13 which the architect Roy L. Thomas designed in the colonial revival style. H.C.'s father (H.C. Kyle, Jr.) bought the house from his grandfather's estate (H.C. Kyle) in 1943.

Respectfully submitted,  
Luanne P. Cullen, HCHC Secretary  
*(photos courtesy Luanne Cullen)*

