

Hays County Historical Commission
John O'Quinn Ranch, Wimberley
Thursday, October 28, 2010

The main entrance to the O'Quinn Ranch lies in Wimberley Valley, along the scenic Blanco River and is lined with magnificent oak trees. The ranch stretches for miles along the river and up steep bluffs through southern Hays County alongside Fulton Ranch Road, where the view of the valley below is magnificent.

The meeting was called to order at 6:25 pm in the ranch's pavilion by Chairman Kate Johnson with members Coker, Cullen, Eissler, Frizzell, Giberson, Gumbert, Henry, Keese, Kidd, Petersen, Vasquez-Philo and 12 quests present.

Announcements: Lane House Marker dedication will be November 3 at 10:15 am.

Member Ofelia Vasquez-Philo has been recognized as an Outstanding Hispanic Woman of the Year in San Marcos.

HCHC volunteers are needed on November 6 Day of the Dead (Dia de los Muertos).

NO November meeting. Our next gathering is at Marianne Moore's home at 2 pm on December 4 for a Christmas party.

Chairman Johnson presented graduating Hays High School senior Chrissie Smith a plaque in appreciation for making all digital



images of all Hays County tombstones as a Girl Scout project. Her parents Sandra and Randal Smith were present for the award. Check for the icon on HCHC website for hot link to her work.

News Flash: Club 21, Uhland burned to the ground, caused by two cars crashing through the building. The Mazda crashed through the bar and electric panel starting the blaze.

Grant Hays, great-grandson of Jack Hays was introduced. He brought several pieces of memorabilia that had belonged to his great-grandfather for display.



Dorothy Gumbert moved to accept minutes from September 23, 2010. Shelley Henry seconded. Motion passed.

Betty Harrison reminded us again the window for Historical Marker application closes November 15, so let her know of anyone who might be interested before then. The Antioch marker has arrived. Mary Giberson is working with the City of Buda and Eagle Scout candidate Grant Garcia to prepare the area where it will be installed. Jim Cullen is writing an application for a cemetery marker for the Cementario del Rio. Ofelia Philo plans to write one for the Southside School building. The Wimberley family who had expressed an interest in a marker decided to wait another year. Mary Giberson added Grant Garcia should be through with the Antioch marker project to have an unveiling on December 18.

Bonnie Eissler reported there will be a WWII Oral History training seminar in Rockdale on November 1 she is planning to attend to pick up some ideas for our WWII project. Oral History committee still has several people to interview. She contacted Janie Botkin in Dripping Springs for assistance with WWII oral histories. Botkin is a retired DS High School teacher, current president of DS Heritage Circle and experienced in gathering local oral histories.

Richard Kidd said there have been no real changes on HCHC website.

Old Hays County Jail: Richard Gift low bidder at \$169,311 with two alternate bids: Restore the roof \$6,500. Restore Chimney \$4,500 for a \$185,000 total. Contract was approved by Hays County Commissioners. Chairman Johnson will apply for another grant to Burdine-Johnson Foundation to finish the project. Certificate of

Appropriateness has been pushed back a month. Schedule Check for presence of lead (paint) or asbestos is needed.

Cemetery Committee report by Jim Cullen says Cementerio del Rio application for historic marker is being prepared and should be submitted before November 15.

An Eagle Scout candidate performed excellent service with a crew of volunteers within the last month at Coronado/La Luz Cemetery. Up dates will be provided as this young man finally receives his eagle Scout award.

We have had recent contacts, re: Dye Cemetery in Dripping Springs (family history). Chairman Johnson has received info on a Dripping Springs man who knows about undocumented burial sites in northwestern Hays County.

Richard Gomez mowed/trimmed at Byrd Owen-Payne Cemetery today. He additionally did a little tombstone repair. A large tree trunk left in the middle of Cheatham-Hohenberg Cemetery was removed this week.

Chairman Johnson introduced Deputy Sheriff Jeff Jordan with the Hays County Sheriff's Department, who has taken on the task of updating their information when he discovered there was no mention of fallen officers in their last (1980) publication. There were several other inconsistencies and errors. He has been diligently working to collect photos and update all information for their website. He is currently looking for information about George Columbus Prator who lived in San Marcos and died in office, serving from August 4, 1856 to March 1857. Of the many interesting facts he has discovered was that six sheriffs were Texas Rangers, including William Moon who served under Jack Hays. Jordan presented Johnson with a Sheriff's pin and offered his help with the Old Hays County Jail display and requested our help with a memorial for first responders.

Richard Kidd introduced Pat and Tom Bender from Wimberley Art League. Bender took photo stills during Jack Hays documentary shoot and has a collection of eight – two of which are



already printed on stretched canvas, which he brought and displayed.

Robert Frizzell displayed a collage poster he made for Edward Gary (first WWII casualty of Hays County) to display at the Centennial Boy Scout Anniversary held in Austin recently. Gary was a 1933 Eagle Scout.

Linda Coker reported her group spent the afternoon of October 14 giving courthouse tours to Leadership San Marcos 2010 class.

Ofelia Vasquez-Philo invited all to Dia de los Muertos celebration at Centro Cultural Hispano de San Marcos, 211 Lee Street at 2 pm on Sunday.

Linda Coker moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:05 pm for dinner and a movie. Dorothy Gumbert seconded. Supper was scrumptious and the Buck Winn movie delightful. At 9 pm we slowly wound our way out of the ranch and home.



Linda Keese
Recording Secretary