

## HAYS COUNTY HISTORICAL COMMISSION



**Thursday, March 23, 2017**  
**Fritz Holt & June Levy**  
**12737 Silver Creek Road**  
**Dripping Springs, Texas 78620**

The March 23, 2017, meeting of the Hays County Historical Commission (HCHC) was called to order at 6:12 p.m. by Chairman Kate Johnson. A quorum was met as the following members were present: Marie Bassett, Eric Beckers, Linda Coker, Luanne Cullen, Robert Frizzell, Irma Gaitan, 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 Ralph Randow. Four guests also attended.

1. **Announcements**—Kate Johnson thanked the hosts, Fritz Holt and June Levy, and presented them with a set of DVDs created by the HCHC, the book *Clear Springs and Limestone Ledges*, and a framed picture of Colonel John Coffee Hays. She also gave door keys to the courthouse to the Committee Chairmen. She invited members to attend the April 8 book signing event at the Katherine Anne Porter House in Kyle. The author of *The Blanco River*, Wes Anderson, would be speaking about his book (which includes a chapter on the Johnson's Halifax Ranch) and signing copies. She also said that the next HCHC meeting would be held in Wimberley on April 27.
2. **Vote on accepting minutes from February 23, 2017**—Ralph Randow moved to accept the minutes; Jerry Moore seconded the motion. Motion passed.
3. **Kyle RR Depot and Heritage Museum Report**—Trisha Randow reported that the Kyle Depot was given a 2017 Honor Award by Preservation Texas at their Summit in Waco at the end of February. The award recognized successful efforts to save irreplaceable and authentic endangered historic places in Texas, and the Kyle Depot was one of 17 projects to receive it. She also discussed the various issues involved in getting signage for the Depot according to the City of Kyle's requirements. The committee was soliciting ideas and pricing information from three sign companies. Maintenance work was in progress such as rerouting downspouts, touching up painting, water sealing the platforms, etc. The Easter Bunny would be showing up at the Depot on Saturday, April 15 from 10:00-2:00 for photo opportunities. Before work could begin on the caboose, approval would be needed from the Depot Board.

4. **Oral History Committee Report**—Richard Kidd said that the committee met the previous week and a list of people to be interviewed was created. He asked HCHC members to send other names to the committee for consideration. Those people should have lived in Hays County and are notable for their accomplishments or significance.
5. **Horticulture Committee Report**—Irma Gaitan described her participation in the Lone Star Tree Appraisal Workshop in Buda on March 3. The workshop included topics as wrongful removal, tree accidents, damage by fires, floods, aerial pesticides, eminent domain, trees in cemeteries, rural property vs. urban property, heritage trees and cost to replace.
6. **Cemetery Committee Report**—Jo Landon described updates on several cemeteries. At the Abel Ranch Cemetery, Jo had communicated with Buddy Abel’s daughter, Erin, who now owns the house and property. Erin said that the Kissing Tree development was building a wall to separate their property from the cemetery on her property. Erin would like to be notified if anyone is interested in visiting the cemetery, and she is not interested in pursuing an HTC (Historic Texas Cemetery) designation. As to the Cheatham-Hohenberg Cemetery, the HTC designation had been received and recorded with the Hays County Clerk’s office. The property has been locked so a project plan to outline how to provide fencing for the Cheatham side of the cemetery is needed. Information about the maintenance plan for the Pitts Cemetery was also discussed. Jo is working with Dorothy Gumbert and her relatives to create a quitclaim deed with reasons the county should take over maintenance. Fritz Holt mentioned a cemetery off McGregor Road west of Dripping Springs that needed attention.
7. **Hispanic Committee Report**—Because Ofelia Vásquez-Philo was not able to attend, Luanne Cullen reported that the Centro Cultural Hispano de San Marcos had been busy and more children were attending the events and classes. The Centro needs to hire a staff member to help coordinate activities, but because of government cuts to arts programs, the Centro was needing help in raising funds. A gala event will be held in September at the Embassy Suites in San Marcos. On May 5, the annual Cinco de Mayo lunch would be held as a fundraiser. Kate said that she would be purchasing tickets for one or two tables for HCHC. More information would be provided at the April meeting.
8. **Historical Marker Committee Report**—Marie Bassett reported that THC had sent a list of paid-up marker application for 2017 and our two marker applications, Stringtown and Kyle Family Pioneer Cemetery, had already been paid. Stringtown is holding an official ribbon-cutting ceremony for the Kissing Tree development on April 14 and perhaps a mention of the marker would be included. A list of 2017 markers by county was available on the THC website. She also said that work on the Antioch Cemetery marker application was almost finished and should be ready for May 1 when the Undertold Stories window opens. The Jacob’s Well marker application was underway. Tinka Eoff was applying for a National Register of Historic Places designation for the Buck Winn House but such applications do not come back to the county for comments until the THC has given its final approval.
9. **Courthouse Committee Report**—Linda Coker described upcoming events in the courthouse and on the square and asked for volunteers to help cover the museum, etc. Events included the “Western Swing Festival,” April 8, and the “Wine and

Art Walk,” June 9. The Texas State Historical Association (TSHA) will be having their 2018 Annual Meeting in San Marcos and contacted Linda to help them in planning a historic San Marcos tour. She was pleased that about 150 fourth-grade students toured the courthouse on March 7. She was hoping to have a Courthouse Committee meeting on April 15 to help inventory the museum and office contents.

10. **History of Ranching Report**—Richard Kidd said that a trip to Pennsylvania was being planned to interview the restorers of the Buck Winn murals. Those interviews would be included in the documentary.
11. **Announcements**--The Art Reception at the Hays County Government Center would be held on March 30 from 6:00-8:00 p.m. A showing of the Jack C. Hays documentary would also be held on March 30 at the LBJ Museum in San Marcos at 7:00 p.m.

**Adjourn**—Marie Bassett moved that the meeting adjourn; Eddie Gumbert seconded the motion. The meeting adjourned at 7:10 p.m. Fritz Holt provided a history of the Triple Creek Ranch with a tour of special sites. Supper followed.

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

