

## Hays County Historical Commission

Thursday, October 27, 2011  
7A Ranch  
Wimberley, Texas



The October meeting of the Hays County Historical Commission was called to order at 7:06 p.m. by Chairman Kate Johnson at the 7A Ranch in Wimberley, Texas, after a slide presentation in the Opera House and a tour of Pioneer Town. Also present at the meeting were members Linda Coker, Robert Frizzell, Madeline Van Brunt, Richard Kidd, Mary Giberson, Dorothy Gumbert, Betty Harrison, Lu Hickey, Jerry Bullock, LaMarr Petersen, Ofelia Vasquez-Philo, Shelley Henry, Marianne Moore, Jeffrey Jordan, Marie Bassett, Luanne Cullen, Jim Cullen, and Celeste Zygmunt, as well as eight guests.

Kate welcomed everyone and announced that the next meeting will be held on Sunday, December 11 at Linda Allen's Fine Foods and Catering Restaurant in Wimberley and that no meeting would be held in November. Also, registration information from Marjorie Hartag was shared about the Hood's Texas Brigade Association, Reactivated, and its 2011 Sesquicentennial Seminar, November 11-12 at the North Texas State University.

Jim Cullen moved to accept the minutes from the August 18, 2011, meeting, and Betty Harrison seconded the motion. Motion was accepted by all members.

### **Discussion and possible action to consider maintaining the Kyle Auction Oak**

This spreading oak tree on Sledge Street in Kyle has the name Auction Oak because town lots were sold at that site on October 14, 1880, by the International and Great Northern Railroad Company. Concern had been raised that the current owner was putting poison in it to kill bees. Kate hired tree expert who found no poison, but determined that the 263-year-old tree was in poor health and needs maintenance. He is available to maintain it for \$1000 per year. Motion to hire him to maintain tree was made by Madeline and was seconded by Mary Giberson. After some discussion, motion passed by all members.

### **2012 Preservation Texas Most Endangered List**

Shelley Henry and Kate submitted an application to place the two-celled jail log structure (Wooden Kyle Jail) on the 2012 Preservation Texas Most Endangered List and submitted 3 different letters written by Shelley, Richard Gachot, and Lila Knight and the application to Preservation Texas who should let them know of its acceptance by late November or December.

The log jail structure is now stored at San Marcos Academy after being moved in September from the Old Jailhouse grounds in downtown San Marcos.

### **Dripping Springs Downtown Historical District**

Terri Myers from Preservation Central spoke about the procedure of listing downtown Dripping Springs as a historical district on the National Register and described many of its historical and architectural features. She is also looking for people who would know the history of Dripping Springs for possible oral histories.

### **Treasurer's Report**

Treasurer SarahAnn Lowther was not able to attend but Kate shared her report which included the following information-- Historical Jail Report: Checking account \$12,952.55; Savings account: \$127,551.28; total \$140,503.83. The HCHC Operating budget 2012: General supplies, \$1,500.00; Contract Services, \$3,000.00; Printing Services, \$500.00; Cemetery Maintenance, \$3,000.00; Travel, \$1,000.00; Continuing Education, \$1,000.00; Total, \$10,000.00. HCHC Trust Fund: \$10,000.00 Book fund; Documentaries, Revenue \$12,020.00.

### **The committee reports were as follows:**

**Cemetery Committee Report**— Jim Cullen, chairman, said that through Kate's assistance, HCHC has acquired a 100-foot roll of old-fashioned double-loop fencing, which will be used to re-outfit individual gravesites and smaller cemeteries in the county. Antioch Colony's Sam Harper has agreed to re-fence the first gravesite at Coronado/La Luz Cemetery in Goforth on a burial site, unfortunately no longer marked by its original tombstone or cross that once was surrounded by the same type fencing.

**Vox Pop**—Richard Kidd, chairman, said that screening last week in Wimberley was successful with over 200 people in attendance. Many knew Bill and M.F. Johnson as well as Parks Johnson. DVDs sold that night raised \$2430. We also hope to show Vox Pop in November in San Marcos.

**Historical Marker Committee**—Betty Harrison, chairman, reported that the window for submitting applications is Sept. 1-Nov. 15. A few markers are in progress. The THC marker application for the Stagecoach House and Onion Creek Post Office, owned by the City of Buda, has been submitted. Mary Giberson has photos showing it in progress of restoration. The house and post office restoration will be completed in two weeks and the city plans to have an opening December 10, 2011, at 10:00 AM at the site. Mary has given the City of Buda the HCHC names and addresses for their invitation list. Donna Carter is the architect and has done a great job in restoration. The city plans to rename "Stagecoach" to "McEroy/Severns" by the City of Buda City Council in the near future, and the house will be used as a museum. A Texas State University student is writing a marker story. No information is available at this time about Cementerio del Rio's historical marker status.

**Oral History Committee Report**—Richard Kidd reported that the current project is the WWII documentary, and they have shot 5 pieces. Bonnie Eissler has undertaken the task of combining the five into one. Also, the oral history about Alice Worley is in progress. Jeff Jordan reported

on sheriff interviews and said that Paul Hastings is not in good health.

**Old Hays County Jail Restoration Committee**— Kate requested a workday at the Old Jailhouse once a month. Weeds are growing on the grounds an fencing. She asked volunteers to meet from 10:30-11:30 on Saturday, Oct. 29 to spray chemicals on the weeds.

**Jail House Rock Fundraiser**--Linda Coker, chairman, said that fundraiser was great. Richard Kidd's video and Elvis were highlights of the evening. The committee worked hard and community response was positive and appreciative.

**Announcements:**

**Marianne Moore**—A documentary about Aquarena Springs and Ralph the Pig with footage from back in the time, the mermaids, the mermen, the pig, and more is available. If anyone would like a copy of the tape, check the website for information and a copy of the DVD <http://aquarenaandralph.com/>

**Marie Bassett** —The Dripping Springs Heritage Circle's booklet about the Wallace Mountain Cemetery, published for the "If Tombstones Could Talk" event last Sunday, retails for \$12 and a CD of the booklet is \$10. It contains the history of the cemetery, a poem by Doyle Fellers, photocopy of the deed establishing the cemetery plus an updated list of the graves with short notes, as well as the monologues that were spoken by the D.S High School Thespian Club members depicting 15 of the "inhabitants" of the cemetery. It gives a good overview of the history of Dripping Springs. If you would like to order one, please email - [heritagecircle@verizon.net](mailto:heritagecircle@verizon.net) . She also thanked the commission for lending materials for the round table and gave a DVD to HCHC.

**Ofelia Vasquez-Philo** thanked Luanne Cullen, LaMarr Petersen, Shelley Henry, Robert Frizzell, and Linda Coker for helping at the Diez y Seis Celebration which marked the first anniversary of El Centro Cultural Hispano de San Marcos.

**Ofelia Vasquez-Philo** moved that meeting adjourn, and **Jeff Jordan** seconded the motion. The meeting adjourned at 7:58 p.m. Dinner followed.

Respectfully submitted,  
Luanne Cullen, HCHC Secretary

Please see the next page for more photos from 7A Ranch.



