



Webb County Historical Commission



NEWSLETTER VOLUME 1 NO. 1 MAY, 1987 EDITOR: Jan I. Carter

NOTICE SPECIAL MEETING

Wednesday, June 17th at 6:00 P.M.

TO BE OR NOT TO BE . . .

will be a hard line question facing the Historical Commissioners who have been entrusted with recommending the fate of the old jail building by the County Commissioners when they attend a special meeting that will take place at the County Courthouse. Historical Commissioners be prepared to discuss and vote on:

1. Whether or not the building is of significant historical value.
2. Recommendation to Commissioner's Court on disposition of same.

PRESERVATION COURTHOUSE Out Of The Ashes

The austere, stately elegant Webb County Courthouse awaits the most dynamic renovation project enthusiastically endorsed by the Historical Commissioners and the County Judge and Commissioners. At the June 1st meeting, Rick Reyes, Judge Andres Ramos' administrative assistant, reported that Judge Ramos solidly supports the renovation of the WCCH, and he has pledged support in acquiring needed funding. Thus, Judge Ramos requested that the Historical Commission set the work goals and the thresholds which will be followed. Work must begin soon!

In retrospect, when the first WCCH burned in 1906, the present courthouse was built in 1909 by the English Architect, Alfred Giles who saturated northern Mexico and Texas with spectacularly designed structures from buildings to bridges. While in Mexico with a branch office in Monterrey at the

turn of the century, Giles, a prolific architect, had as many as eight of his signature buildings within a four-block radius in downtown Monterrey, the 1901 grand dame Banco Mercantile building and the Arch of Independence on Avenida Pino Suarez attest to his touch of the classic which spilled over into Giles-designed homes and buildings in Saltillo, Puebla, Durango, and Chihuahua. In Texas, synthesizing the classical style with a touch of Mexico, courthouses in El Paso, Bexar, and Webb, and other structures, such as the Menger Hotel in San Antonio across from the Alamo, stand in tribute to the inimitable Giles.

VIDEO TAPING HISTORY

SO YOU'RE GOING
TO BE IN PICTURES. . .

Can't you just imagine Bill Haynes in high boots, whip in one hand, and a megaphone in the other shouting --"Lights, Camera, Action!!" Well, Yes!! As chairman of the picture recording committee, historical buildings and sites that may be lost in the future from erosion, age, or demolition will not escape Haynes' camera sights from the ground or the air.



Chairwoman Brown and Commissioners unanimously approved the formation of a Picture-Recording Committee at the June 1st meeting, certainly one of the most exciting enterprises under the auspices of the Education Committee, Lucy Cardenas, Chairwoman. Committee members include Henry Flores, Bill Haynes, Pam Dietze, and Margaret Minto.

The committee will conduct extensive research, coordinate filming, and narrators from the public-at-large.

HISTORICAL RESEARCH. . .

BROCHURES

Webb County History

Kudos to Dr. Stanley Cooper Green, researcher extraordinaire, for his magnanimous contributions to the community. The beacon bearer of Laredo History will now author a brochure on county history for publication by the commission. Copies will be made available to the schools, chamber, and county offices.

Webb County Courthouse

Jim Warren, archaeologist, has been commissioned by the historical commissioners to photograph and write a brochure on the past and present history of the WCCH. The publication will be used for promoting the renovation project.

HISTORICAL MARKERS

City Hall

Commissioner Jo Anne Balzar reported that she has been diligently chipping away through the records, searching, ever searching, for any information on the City Hall. She hopes to complete marker research by December, 1987.

San Agustin Church

Historian, Dr. Jerry Thompson will leave another indelible mark when he provides historical marker information on Laredo's most recognizable historical landmark - San Agustin Church. He should be completing marker research by the end of the year.

COMMITTEE ACTIVITIES

RED *LETTER DAYS

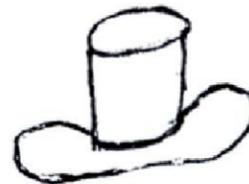
Southern Texas Hospitality

The Webb County Historical Commission, a branch of county government, will be host to the Texas Historical Commission convention on October 22 and 23rd.

Happy Birthday, Webb County!

Formally organized on January 28, 1848, the County of Webb will soon reach its 140th anniversary. To commemorate the county's inception, Commission Vice-Chairwoman Rose Trevino will head a committee to plan the celebration.

Since the county was named for Judge James A. Webb, formerly a Secretary of the Treasury of the Republic of Texas, Webb's granddaughter will be honored during the jubilee.



MEETINGS

Hidalgo County



Saturday and Sunday, September 26th & 27th

The award winning Hidalgo County Historical Commission will host a meeting and tour for the Webb County Historical Commissioners in order to share and exchange innovative ideas.

WCHC

Chairwoman Brown and John Hickey will soon meet to discuss renovation plans and to plan for a ramp for the handicapped at WCCH.

Junior Historian Program

Chairwoman Brown and Education Chairwoman Lucy Cardenas plan to contact Mr. Vidal Trevino to organize a Junior Historian program. Commissioners accompanying the chairwomen will be Ramiro Uribe, Ricardo Floyd, and Norma Benavides.

By-Laws

Chairwoman Brown will soon meet with the By-laws revision committee that consist of the chairman, vice-chairman, and commissioners Norma Benavides, and Jan Carter. Chairwoman Brown will contact other key members.

Finance Committee

Carl Barto, who was recently named chairman of the Finance Committee, will meet with Chairwoman Brown to discuss committee members and future plans. He will provide a report at the July meeting.

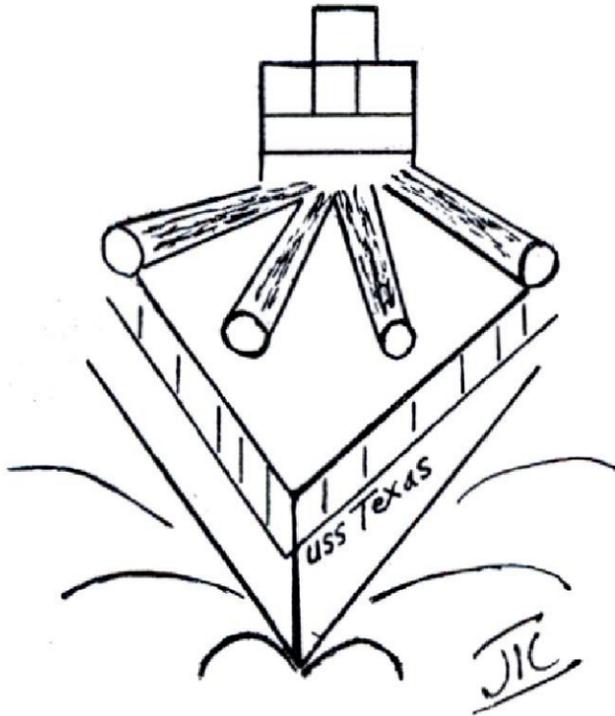
Newsletter

Chairwoman Brown on June 4th, 1987, met with Commissioner Carter who will be writing the newsletter. Any information to be included needs to be directed to Chairwoman Brown for dissemination.

FUNDRAISERS

Battleship Texas

The "Save the Battleship Texas" state-wide Historical Commission project will be chaired at the local level by Vice-chairwoman Trevino. Webb County Navy personnel and school children will participate in the one-day donation drive.



Fundraising Committee

Jan Carter will form a committee to organize two fund-raising events. Norma Benavides will assist her. Carter will provide a progress report at the July 27th meeting.

The committee will be looking into two possible County-wide activities: the idea of an "Old-fashioned social-A Street Dance" and a "Fiesta de Quinceañera." A place, date, and details will be recommended to the commission.

All Members Will Be Needed To Participate!!

HISTORICAL COMMISSION MEMBERSHIP

FUTURE COMMISSIONERS

Historical Commission Membership

At the June 1st meeting, Chairwoman Brown received the following names for membership recommendation:

Oscar Perez
Carmen and Hector Gomez
Mary Alice and Victor Guerrero
Ann Escamilla

Dates To Remember

Special Meeting:

Wednesday, June 17th at 6:00 P.M. at WCCH

Regular Meeting:

Monday, July 27, 1987 at 6:00 P.M. at WCCH

Hidalgo Meeting:

Saturday and Sunday, September 26 and 27, 1987

Contributions

For their recent donations, the commission wishes to recognize and thank local philanthropist Matias de Llano, and Willis Gentry of Gentry's Garden Center.

Webb County Historical Commission, a branch of County government mandated by the state of Texas, for preservation, commemoration, and designation of historical buildings, sites, and artifacts.

WEBB COUNTY HISTORICAL COMMISSIONERS

| | |
|--------------------------|-----------------------|
| Joanne Ancira | Laredo, TX 78041 |
| Joanne Balzar | Laredo, TX 78041 |
| Carl Barto | Laredo, TX 78041 |
| Norma Benavides | Laredo, TX 78040 |
| Manuel B. Blanco | Laredo, TX 78040 |
| Elizabeth Brown | Laredo, TX 78040 |
| Lucy Cardenas | Laredo, TX 78041 |
| Dr. Norma Cantu | Laredo, TX 78040 |
| Jan Carter | Laredo, TX 78040 |
| Richard L. Deibel | Laredo, TX 78041 |
| Pam Dietze | Laredo, TX 78041 |
| Henry Flores | Laredo, TX 78041 |
| Laura Floyd | |
| Ricardo Floyd | Laredo, TX 78040 |
| Minita Freeman | Laredo, TX 78040 |
| Jorge Gonzalez | Laredo, TX 78040 |
| Dr. Stanley Green | Laredo, TX 78041 |
| Luciano Guajardo | Laredo, TX 78040 |
| S. Carol Gunter | Laredo, TX 78042 |
| W. E. (Bill) Haynes | Laredo, TX 78040 |
| Ricardo G. Hernandez | Laredo, TX 78041 |
| Juan Ibarra | 1003 Zaragoza |
| Dr. Jose Roberto Juarez | Laredo, TX 78040 |
| John Keck | Laredo, TX 78042 |
| William Layton | Bruni, TX 78344 |
| David Leyendecker | Laredo, TX 78041 |
| Julio Madrigal | Laredo, TX 78040 |
| Graciela Martinez | Laredo, TX 78040 |
| Oscar Mendieta | Mirando City, TX |
| Mrs. Margaret Minto | Laredo, TX 78041 |
| Hermelinda Murillo | Laredo, TX 78040 |
| Bee Ann Nanez | Laredo, TX 78041 |
| Lilia Ortiz | Laredo, TX 78041 |
| James Parish, Jr. | Laredo, TX 78040 |
| Mrs. Lilia Perez | Laredo, TX 78041 |
| Margorie Pearson | Laredo, TX 78042 |
| Maria Nela Ramirez | Laredo, TX 78043 |
| J. J. Rodriguez | Laredo, TX 78041 |
| Maria de J. C. Rodriguez | Laredo, TX 78041 |
| Sandra Sanders | Laredo, TX 78041 |
| Ramiro Sanchez | Laredo, TX 78040 |
| Verena Sanchez | Laredo, TX 78040 |
| Geraldine Sisco | Laredo, TX 78041 |
| Jerry Thompson | Laredo, TX 78041 |
| Rose Trevino | Laredo, TX 78041 |
| Ramiro A. Uribe | Laredo, TX 78041 |
| Carlos Valle | Laredo, TX 78041 |
| Ignacio Vallone | Laredo, TX 78041 |
| Luxandra Vela Comer | Laredo, TX 78040 |
| Forrest Wahl | Laredo, TX 78041 |
| Jim Warren | George West, TX 78023 |
| Margie H. Weatherford | Laredo, TX 78040 |
| Ken Wolfe | Laredo, TX 78041 |