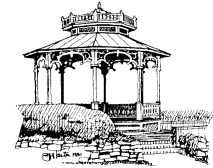


HERITAGE



Heritage Association of San Marcos Bi-Monthly Membership Newsletter

Jul/Aug 2023

HISTORY HAPPY HOUR “Growing Up San Marcos”

WHEN Thursday, October 12, 2023, 5:30-7:00pm
WHAT Wine, Cheese & Appetizers
WHERE Under the Tent at Crystal River Inn

Guest speakers, Bill Pennington and Terry Surer, are full of stories about the buildings, businesses and personalities that shaped downtown San Marcos during the 40's, 50's, and 60's. Terry's Varsity Shop dressed most of the prominent people in town, and Bill's funeral home buried them, so these guys were "in the know" on just about everything and everybody in those days. Their historical insight will give you an enjoyable glimpse of life as it was back then. **RSVP** (text preferred) to 512-787-6294. HASM members, guests and potential new members are welcome to attend.

VERAMENDI PLAZA AWARD OF HONOR

WHEN Monday, October 16, 2023, 5:30-8:30pm
WHAT Award of Honor presented during **Annual Dinner and Meeting**
WHERE La Cima Activity Center, 301 "A" Central Park Loop, San Marcos 78666

Each year the Heritage Association's Riverwalk Park Committee recognizes a member (deceased during the previous year) who has made distinguished contributions to HASM and to the San Marcos community. A presentation is given at the HASM Annual Meeting in October and includes the family of the honoree. Nominees must have been a member of HASM and passed away in 2022. A brass plate with their name will be affixed to the Heritage podium in Veramendi Plaza. Last year Jack Byrom and Alison Tudor were recognized for their many contributions. If you would like to nominate someone to receive this award please send their name and reasons for the nomination to Jeff Kester, Chair of Riverwalk Park Committee at jeffreykester@gmail.com. **DEADLINE: AUGUST 31, 2023**

HERITAGE ARBOR DAY AWARD

WHEN Friday, November 3, 2023, 5:00pm
WHAT Arbor Day Award presentation outdoors
WHERE Memorial Grove in Veramendi Plaza Park, 400 E. Hopkins St., San Marcos 78666

Heritage Arbor Day is an event planned and conducted by the Riverwalk Park Committee to honor a deceased distinguished citizen who made outstanding contributions to the enhancement of life in this community. A significant cultural tradition since 1979, it is held outdoors each year at the Memorial Grove in Veramendi Plaza on the first Friday in November, this year November 3, (Texas Arbor Day). Nominees are individuals who have made outstanding and enduring contributions to the community; they are distinguished by selfless service and dedicated leadership to improve the lives of their fellow citizens. A Tree is planted in their honor and a bronze plaque is placed at the base of the tree identifying the honoree. Last year, for the first time, the honor went to two wonderful citizens - Ted and Frances Breihan. Nominees are not required to have been a member of the Heritage Association, but they must have resided in San Marcos for 5 years or longer, and have passed away in 2022. If you would like to nominate someone to receive this award, please contact Jeff Kester, Chair of the Riverwalk Park Committee at jeffreyhkester@gmail.com with their name and reasons for the nomination. **DEADLINE: AUGUST 31, 2023.**

BANDSTAND UPDATE

Once upon a time...there was a Bandstand on the Hays County Courthouse square. It's short life ended in 1939, but served the public in many important and entertaining ways in its 30 years. Fast-forward to 2023: 1993 plans to reconstruct the Bandstand have resurfaced and the Heritage board is working with Hays County to see if it can be reconstructed as part of an ongoing project the county is sponsoring – the restoration of the courthouse square. Heritage board members recently met with County Judge Ruben Becerra and other stakeholders to plot a path to make this initiative a reality down the road. A meeting with the Texas Historical Commission's architect is set for August 2nd to review the project and discuss appropriate siting for placement of the Bandstand. For more detailed information on the Bandstand initiative, please see the HASM website www.heritagesanmarcos.org
More to come!

A 50 YEAR SALUTE TO THE BICENTENNIAL BELLES

In 1973, the National Bicentennial Commission announced that San Marcos was one of eight cities to receive this designation and the Bicentennial Belles were born. The Belles would serve as hostesses for ceremonies and later as docents for the Tour of Homes. In other words, they became the ambassadors of San Marcos, Texas until the big celebration in 1976.

Bobbie Gilbert wrote about those years in an article submitted for the Heritage Highlights in the summer of 2002: "There were all kinds of events that took place between 1972 and 1976. Since the San Marcos River was a main focal point for the City and one of the Bicentennial goals, there were numerous programs and ceremonies on the River. The first three San Marcos Bicentennial goals dealt with water. The goals were: (1) make a pedestrian and bike trail along the bank of the river, (2) construct new city park gardens and a swimming pool in Rio Vista Park, (3) obtain support for appropriate flood control and (4) restore the Charles S. Cock House. Dr. Ralph Harrel was responsible for arranging the SWT musical groups to perform on the river banks. In addition, the Air Force Band of the West performed in the morning and held a concert in the evening. A mounted platoon from the 1st Cavalry of Ft. Hood led a parade down to the San Marcos River. Now this was about mid-June and it was quite hot, but the Belles wore their pretty blue and white dresses with red trim and eventually wore picture hats to be protected from the sun. Some of the Belles passed out programs, sold soft drinks and corn on the cob. I didn't think it would sell very well especially since it was kept hot in a roaster, but it turned out to be the best money maker."

Bobbie went on to talk about serving coffee and cookies in the Cock House, fashion shows, selling cookbooks, medallions and notecards, performances by the Liberty Belles, docent teas held at Crookwood, planting of the Andrew Jackson magnolia tree and the impressive Dedication Ceremony attended by Ladybird Johnson.

Her last paragraph reads, "It was a wonderful experience to be involved in the San Marcos Bicentennial Program. It made me proud of this City and all its natural beauty, particularly the River. Many tourists come because they find San Marcos very attractive. Nearly all of the homes in the Historic District have been restored and that adds greatly to the beauty of San Marcos. We should be proud of San Marcos and continue to help keep our city and river clean. Most of all, I enjoyed working with so many longtime and new friends in the Bicentennial Belles and have continued this friendship with the Heritage Association."

Everything the Belles did over the years reflected our mission statement to support the preservation of buildings and historical sites as well as to perpetuate traditions that beautify and enrich the community life of this city. We are indebted to these gracious ladies for their endless contributions and for being instrumental in embracing our heritage.

The Bi-Monthly Membership Newsletters keep us connected. We share stories and bring you updates. Contact Renee at rrg51@sbcglobal.net or 214.641.5841 if you have something to share.

NEW MEMBERS:

Frank King: 2600 Hunter Road, Apt. 4103 (Mariposa), San Marcos, frank@texaskings.com, 972-533-9588
Karen Cornell: 318 Dancing Oak Lane, #105., San Marcos, elephant92648@verizon.com, 714-580-8070

HERITAGE LEGACY MEMBER

July/August 2023 Highlight



LINDA COKER

Linda Coker is a chronicler of stories, not only those journeys from her own life, but legends she inhales from history and those long tales of others from crossed paths. She is fierce and independent and indignant with more passion and love than I will ever be able to gauge in one soul. She's feisty and rolls up her sleeves for the scrimmage but when you are on as many boards, commissions, committees and clubs as she is, you need to be spirited.

She is currently the chair of the Hays County Historical Commission (HCHC), on the board of Heritage Association of San Marcos (HASM), the board and membership committee chair of the San Marcos Lion's Club, Preservation Texas, El Centro, Convention & Visitors Bureau, Downtown Comprehensive Plan, 2nd City Center Development Committee, Downtown Alley Naming Committee, Chamber of Commerce Education Advisory Board, and Daughters of the American Revolution. She was on the Salvation Army Board, Library Board, Central Texas Library System Board, San Marcos Commission for Women, two Blue Ribbon Bond Committees, Naming of Trace Area Elementary School Committee, and Chamber Ambassador.

A few accolades she has received: the San Marcos Women's Hall of Fame, Sertoma Club's Service to Mankind Award, Heritage Association Community Volunteer of the Year, Heritage Association Member of the Year, induction to both the State and National Multiple Sclerosis Society Volunteer Hall of Fame, SM Chamber of Commerce Ambassador of the Year, and Main Street Downtown Volunteer of the Year and President's Service Award San Marcos Lions Club..

Lubbock is known as the birthplace of rock 'n' roll legend Buddy Holly. Well, that explains a lot of things about Linda. She learned from the best after being born and raised in Lubbock. She was only 19 when she ran off and married her first husband. Clint was 42 years old and promised her an El Dorado. "Honey, if you marry me, I'll buy you a Cadillac." Next day they were driving off to Hobbs in a midnight blue beauty with a marriage license. Their son, Jack arrived in 1979 and shortly after that Linda called home to say, "I'm coming home."

Linda married David Cross in 1984 but eventually found his obsession with Alabama football a little more than my Texas Tech heart could handle and divorced him in 1990.

Robert was in the news department with an NBC affiliate in Chattanooga and they married in 1991. When Linda got homesick for mom who was living in San Marcos, Robert got a job at the university in the political science department; however, they divorced in 1996.

In 2006, Linda met Larry on his 50th birthday. They've been together ever since. They married in 2017 when Linda's three grandchildren needed a home and the courts required the grandmother to be married in order to adopt them. We had already had custody of them for two years. All of the balls are in the air. Erica is 17. Wesley is 13. Willa is 9. But that's not all. There are also six cats, three dogs, one hedgehog and a partridge in a pear tree. Like Mother Goose, it's a weighty tome.

Linda's roots are here in San Marcos and she is a fervent caregiver of her community. She always sets the bar high and is diligent about achieving her goals for the good of all.

Considering the ongoing projects, committees, dinners to cook and the many steps taken to get to this point in her life, Linda has no regrets viewing each milestone as part of a richer story. Sometimes it's almost as if the story is writing itself and if you just let it happen, there is always a happy ending.

ONE-DAY TREASURE SALE

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 30, 2023, 10am-3pm

COCK HOUSE, 400 HOPKINS STREET, SAN MARCOS

Shop incredible selections at incredible prices—new & vintage including antiques, art, books, jewelry, housewares, men/women/children apparel, collectibles, toys and more.

EVERYTHING MUST GO!

DROP OFF YOUR DONATIONS

Donations accepted for the treasure sale during the week of Sun., Sept., Sept. 17th thru Sat., Sept. 23 **ONLY**

Clean out your closets and garage to start your holiday season uncluttered!!

Absolutely No Donations Accepted After Sat., Sept. 23rd.

Please leave donations on the Charles S. Cock House front porch.

We do not accept anything broken or requiring cleaning. Thank you.

PRESIDENT'S LETTER

I hope everyone is getting through this hot Texas July. This time of year, I always add a burlap tent over my most delicate landscape...it works great and the price is right.

As you read through the newsletter, you will see that HASM has several exciting things for our members to enjoy. The Bandstand plan is making its way through the channels of the County and the City. We hope to have a great update for you at our Annual Meeting in October.

The next time you drive past the Cock House, take a look at the progress being made on the renovation plans. The ADA access on the West side of the house has been completely rebuilt with beautiful stonework at the door. Another long-delayed project being done now is the correction of the front steps. Some of you may recall that the left side of the stairs were not equal to the right side; this created a stumbling hazard that we have long been hoping to have corrected...well it may be 100 degrees outside, but our cold day has arrived and the front steps are being rebuilt! Once the front steps re-build is complete, we can move forward with our collaboration with the City to take care of the many other restorations needed in this treasured home.

Please mark your calendar for the Annual Meeting, scheduled for Monday, October 16, 2023, at the La Cima Activity Center, 301 A Central Park Loop, San Marcos. We have a wonderful program being put together and I hope you will save the date to join us.

Stay safe as you make your way through the next two months of grueling heat...it is always worth it when that first cool front arrives in September... well, let's pray it is in September.

Debbie Austin, President

*"Get out of the heat.
Let's go bowling!"
-Bobbie and George
Gilbert*

**Book your next event at the
charming Chas. S. Cock House
at an affordable price—Call
Marianne Moore 512-665-6048
today to make a reservation.**

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Jul/Aug 2023 Issue**