

A History Museum for Kerrville?

by Joe Herring



Many communities in the Texas Hill Country have history museums. Bandera, Mason, Junction, Fredericksburg and Comfort all have fine museums to tell the story of their communities.

For some reason, however, Kerrville does not have a museum. Or at least no longer has a history museum.

For many years the Hill Country Preservation Society operated a nice history museum at the Charles Schreiner Mansion in downtown Kerrville. Mrs. Josephine "Dodo" Parker led that effort, and the museum was made possible by the efforts of many volunteers. Families from all over the county contributed items for display there. It was a well-visited site, and people from all over the world learned a little bit about the Texas Hill Country after viewing its displays.

Sadly, that museum is now gone. In early November, 30 people gathered together to discuss the possibility of starting a new history museum for Kerr County. They met in the basement meeting room of the Kerr Arts and Cultural Center, housed in the old downtown Kerrville post office; the center is a wonderful asset for the Kerr County.

The first question, of course, was whether those gathered there thought Kerr County

needed a history museum. There was a lot of discussion, and the group agreed that it does need one.

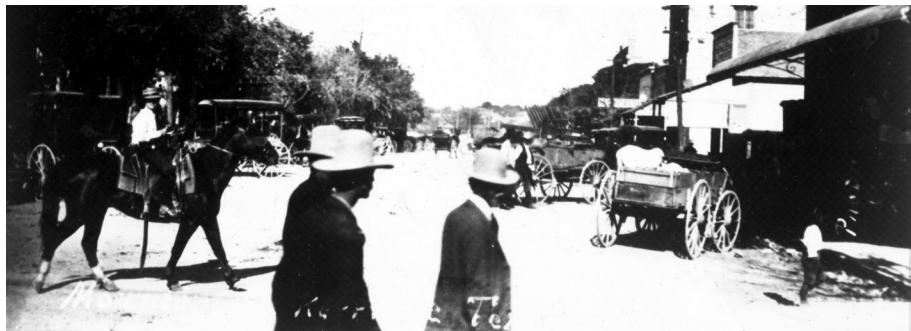
But what would it look like? What would it display? On what would it focus?

There is a wealth of history in Kerr County, from prehistoric times to the present. The group felt like any museum should cover more than just the 175 years or so since settlers made their homes here; it should include the story of the Native Americans who have passed through the area since the end of the last ice age.

The museum should also be inclusive: it should also tell the story of Hispanic-American and African-American families who have contributed so much to our history.

While no firm plans were made at the meeting, it was a good first step. It's always a good thing when people gather to discuss ideas, to hear different opinions, and to dream a little. The group plans to meet again in early December.

For more information about the effort to create a history museum for Kerr County, please visit www.kerrcountymuseum.org



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