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## WEBB COUNTY HISTORICAL COMMISSION

### ANNUAL REPORT

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**TO:** WEBB COUNTY COMMISSIONERS COURT  
**FROM:** JEANETTE HATCHER, WEBBCOUNTY HISTORICAL COMMISSION CHAIR  
**SUBJECT:** 2014 ANNUAL REPORT  
**DATE:** JANUARY 12, 2015

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The Webb County Historical Commission (WCHC) has enjoyed a very productive year in 2014. As a friendly reminder to the commissioners' court, the WCHC was composed of the following volunteers: Douglas M. Alford, Dr. Elizabeth Alford, Ph.D., David Cardwell, Jeanette Hatcher, Alice Herrera, Olivia Garza-Gongora, Elisa Gutierrez, Lily Perez, Nelda Rodriguez, Dr. Corinne Stern, M.D. and Mary F. Treviño. The WCHC met officially nine times during 2014 and held numerous additional officer as well as subcommittee meetings throughout the year.

WCHC activities for 2014 included the following:

- In June 2014, the WCHC was given the Distinguished Service Award by the Texas Historical Commission (THC). According to the THC, the WCHC demonstrated concerted efforts to preserve the history and character of Texas and this award acknowledges the WCHC's stewardship of our state's cultural and historic heritage.
- Presentation of WCHC information and recruiting booth at the Downtown Laredo Farmers Market in June, August and October. Information regarding local history and historical preservation (including activity & coloring pages and crayons) were provided to the public free of charge. A photo exhibit and video were also on display. All items were provided at the expense of WCHC members.
- Unveiling and dedication ceremony for the Lala's Café Texas State Historical Marker in Mirando City, Texas in January 2014. ~300 people attended this event.
- Successful application for Coal Mining in Las Minas the Santo Tomas Coal Field historical marker. Unveiling & dedication ceremony for Las Minas Texas State Historical Marker, on December 27, 2014. ~200 people attended this event.
- Continued development of the WCHC's Junior History Reading Program after our successful pilot program launched in November 2013. We are hoping to launch the next phase of this program in 2015.
- Continued cultivation of new Texas State Historical Markers for Webb County. In 2014, Webb County had two historical markers approved for the upcoming year by the Texas State Historical Commission Undertold History program. Only 20 applications were approved for the entire state and only two counties were granted two markers Webb and Harris.
- Continuing effort to clean and restore historical markers throughout the county.

In closing, for several years the activities of the WCHC have been subsidized by various generous WCHC members. The dedicated volunteers that comprise the WCHC ask that the commissioners' court remember our service and dedication when our application for third party funding is submitted later this year. This is the primary source of funding for our historic preservation efforts. For several years the WCHC has requested increased funding but are only granted \$2,000 per year. Please consider that to mint a single historical marker costs \$1,800, which does not include other associated costs (such as the dedication ceremony). Our many programs and projects, developed primarily to serve the people of Webb County, continue to expand and we are requesting that the Commissioners Court consider more actively supporting these efforts in future.