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Among Friends of LBJ

A NEWSLETTER OF THE FRIENDS OF THE LBJ LIBRARY



MUSIC ON THE PLAZA

(See Story page 2)

Gala Program, Expanded Exhibits, Usher in

The Library's renovated museum, three years in the planning and almost a year in execution, opened to the public on June 5. On the evening before, 800 members of the Friends of the Library gathered for a preview of the new displays, a buffet supper on the plaza and a gala program of entertainment by Opera Diva Leontyne Price, Broadway star Carol Channing and Folk Singer Bobby Bridger. (See Cover.)

Mrs. Johnson, noting that "tonight we set our pen to a new chapter" in the Library's history, quoted a line from President Johnson's inaugural address ("It is the excitement of becoming—always becoming, trying, probing, falling, resting and trying again") to describe what the evening's celebration was all about: "That's why we're here tonight," she said. "Inside this building, we have tried to portray for the future a time when men and women of good will did struggle to make life better for our unfinished America. That was a time of trying, not always succeeding, but always seeking solutions."

The renovation, undertaken by the University of Texas, doubles the gallery space in the museum. The exhibits in the expanded galleries, produced with a grant from the LBJ Foundation, go substantially more into detail in both domestic programs and foreign affairs than did earlier exhibits. In addition, displays focus for the first time on the Congressional and Senate years of LBJ.

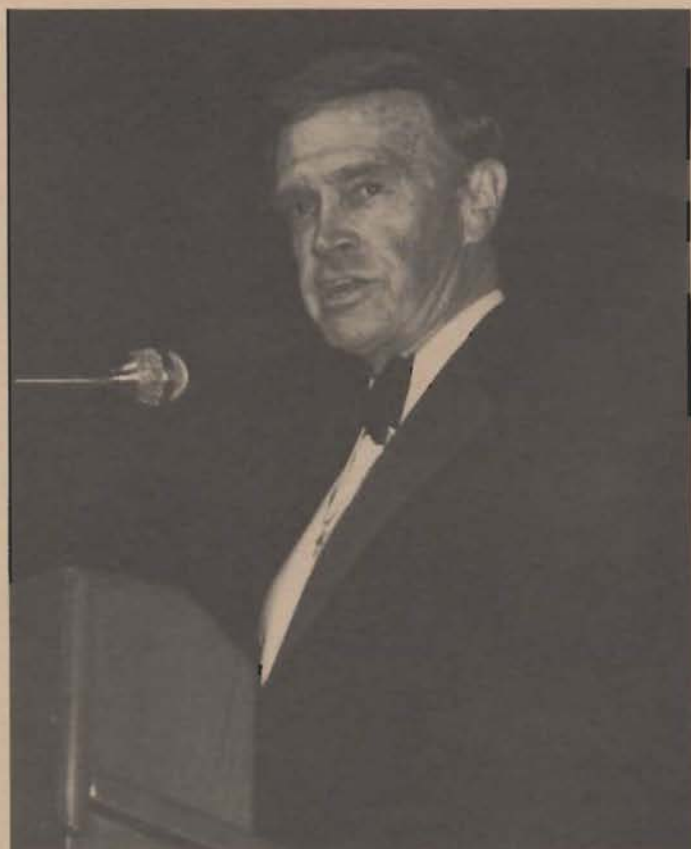
To the press, a few days before the opening of the renovated area, Library Director Harry Middleton explained: "No museum should go more than 10 years without taking a look at itself and revising and updating its exhibits." The new exhibits, he said, will enable the Library to "provide greater insight into the span of government and history over the half century which marks the Johnson era."

In her remarks to the assembled guests on opening night, Mrs. Johnson cited two other Library activities which have distinguished the institution in its first 11 years and which will continue in the future: "This," she said, "is where the civic community—in its broadest sense—and the academic community meet to probe issues of great concern." And "this is where our *special* exhibits, ever changing, capture for a time some past but significant events in our national story."

"As I look into the future," she said, "I hope this Library will be always animated by those words—'always trying and always gaining'."

Mr. Bridger sang a collection of Hill Country songs. Miss Channing and Miss Price evoked memories of LBJ's 1965 inauguration—Carol Channing with her "Hello, Lyndon" adaptation of "Hello, Dolly," and Miss Price repeating "America the Beautiful." With the last notes of that number, a display of fireworks lit up over the Lady Bird Johnson Overlook in front of the Library, concluding the evening.

The following pages of the newsletter give a sampling of some of the new exhibits in the Library.



Cactus Pryor was Master of Ceremonies for the evening's program.



Some 800 guests were served a buffet supper on the plaza.

"New Chapter" in Library's Life



The special ceremony coincided with the annual meeting at the Library of the LBJ Foundation Board of Directors. Above, Directors Lew Wasserman and Henry Fowler, with Edie Wasserman, look at one of the new exhibits. At right, Directors Tom Johnson (Chairman) and Mary Lasker join the audience to watch the program.



a outside the Library.

ORIENTATION FILM TRACES LBJ'S LIFE AND CAREER

Visitors to the Library now begin their tour in a new orientation theater on the first floor. With 100 seats, the theater has a long (17') horizontal screen, on which is shown a nine-projector, 20-minute slide presentation which traces the life of the 36th President. The sound track is made up entirely of voices of some of the people who knew LBJ. The audio-visual presentation was produced by Guggenheim Productions of Washington, D.C.

On these two pages are captured some of the images in the film, with the words—in the voices of different persons—which accompany them.



"I think Mr. Johnson had a feeling of government as personal to people. And that he conveyed this to Lyndon. Government is not an alien force; it's something that can be intimate in the lives of people."



"To understand life at that time in Johnson City is not so much to understand the difference between rich and poor. It's to understand the difference between then and now."



"He's probably the only teacher the school ever had who had the vision and, well, the love for them. And every one of those children loved him."



"... Clearly the greatest parliamentary leader we ever had as majority leader."

"History will write that one of the greatest things Lyndon Johnson did was to take us through the transition [after] the assassination . . . The one man who knew more about the government than any other person was there and became President."





"He said, 'just give 'em the vote. Once they have the vote the politicians will listen.' And he was right."



"In the Johnson years . . . over 200 bills that you would consider to be landmark legislation in education, in civil rights, and the economy and tax reform, and conservation and medical care and education."



"[Vietnam] took a terrible toll on him and it was visible. You could see it."



"When he'd get up against the wall, even when he didn't, he'd say, 'Bird, what do you think?' She had far more influence than anybody with any President. Much more to say, and he listened."



"He cared deeply about doing what was right for this country. And he tried. God knows, no one ever tried more."

Two Exhibits focus on Family Life



"The Early Years" follows the events of the first two and a half decades of the life of a future President: boyhood in Johnson City; college and school-teaching; congressional assistant; marriage to Lady Bird (including the photo he gave to her before the wedding) (right); service as Texas director of the N.Y.A.



"A Family Album" concentrates on the family life of Lyndon and Lady Bird Johnson, beginning with their early married years in Washington and extending to photographs of the Nugent and Robb children today. Among the pictures displayed is one of Mrs. Johnson with her grandchildren, taken at the LBJ Ranch on Christmas 1980. (right)



A popular item on display is a Presidential limousine which transported President Johnson through the streets of Washington and Austin.

The Congressional Years



Photo courtesy of the Austin Travis County collection.



LBJ's efforts as a Congressman to help create a series of dams to prevent the kind of flooding that had long plagued Austin and the hill country (see photo top, left) and his record as a master persuader and consensus-builder when he was Senate Majority Leader (captured in the cut-out photographs) are two of the stories detailed in an exhibit entitled "The Road to the Presidency." (below)



Social Programs of the 1960s docum



Visitors study a painting, "Thirteen Americans," by Alfred Leslie, at the entry to the "Great Society" gallery. The painting is the artist's depiction of the cross section of America for whom the Great Society was designed. At right, Mrs. Johnson chats with Mr. Leslie, who is from Amherst, Mass.



The Great Society exhibit concentrates on five major programs of the Johnson Presidency. Introducing each one is a massive photograph, such as the one on the left which leads into the War on Poverty display. Accompanying the photo is this statement of LBJ's: "Poverty begins with an infancy of deprivation, continues in a youth of hopelessness, extends to a jobless adulthood, and finally ends—for those who survive—in a bleak and despairing old age."

Other quotes introducing the various areas:

On Civil Rights: "In far too many ways American Negroes have been another nation: deprived of freedom, crippled by hatred, the doors of opportunity closed to hope."

On Education: "We just must not, we just cannot afford the great waste that comes from the neglect of a single child."

On Health: "I am proposing that every person over sixty-five years of age be spared the darkness of sickness without hope."

On Environment: "All my life I have drawn sustenance from the rivers and the hills of my native land. I want no less for all the children of America."

ented in "The Great Society" exhibit



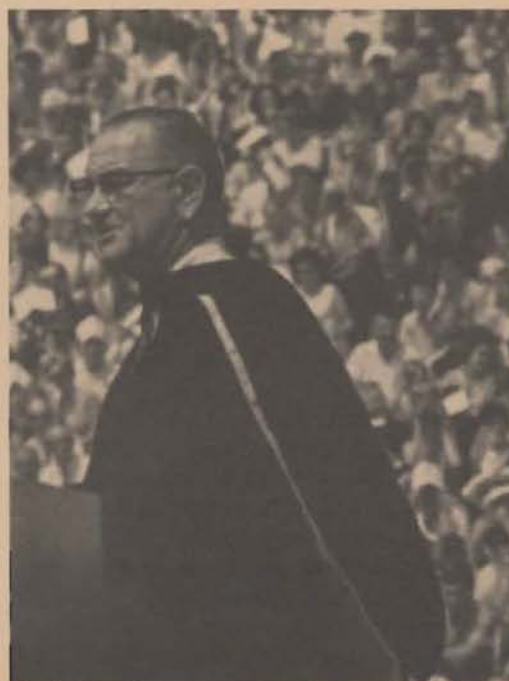
Each of the five Great Society exhibits pertaining to social programs, like the one on Civil Rights, shows—through original documents and artifacts in the Library's collections—how the administration tackled a problem. Each ends with a brief video documentation of an individual who was affected by a particular program. A sixth exhibit is devoted to the Arts.

Johnson believed in the national commitment which had been made [in the New Deal], and he considered the first work of the Great Society to be finishing the agenda of social reform which men and women of good will had initiated in the days of his own youth. Then would come "the urgent work of preparing the agenda for tomorrow"—cleaning and preserving the nation's environment, restoring its beauty, protecting its consumers.

These were the programs, and his was the faith, of an activist president. It was a faith he never lost . . .

He lived to see the pendulum begin to swing away from the activism he represented. But that did not disturb his own conception of the forward, if sometimes halting and uneven, push of progress. For an impatient man—as he was—he had a long view of history. Some of his programs, he believed, would survive intact. Others would be felled in the backswing of the pendulum—but even those would see another day. Poverty would never again be invisible. Nor would hope be forgotten. The American people of another time would return to his agenda, as the people he led had returned to F.D.R.'s. The Great Society, he said, "is not a safe harbor, a resting place, a final objective, a finished work. It is a challenge constantly renewed." And it would be the labor of many generations.

—From the panel of text introducing the exhibit on "The Great Society."



President Johnson making his Great Society address at the University of Michigan.

"Foreign Affairs" Spotlights Vietnam,

The foreign policy of the Johnson Administration, says the text panel which introduces the exhibit on Foreign Affairs, was built around the proposition that the United States would try to accomplish four purposes:

1. *Deter and resist aggression.* Continuing policies that began in the Truman Administration, this required the U.S. to "maintain military power of such magnitude that no nation would dare attack it." It also applied the lesson of World War II, "as the nation's leaders saw it," to the 1960's: "territorial encroachments by Communist nations had to be resisted with limited military force, or they would result in World War III. It was this principle which led to America's involvement in the war in Vietnam, as a

decade before it had prompted U.S. intervention in Korea."

2. *Seek an accommodation with the Communist world.*
3. *Promote economic and social progress among the developing nations.*
4. *Encourage cooperation among nations of the same region.* Noting that this principle had resulted in new strains of rice and wheat being developed in the Philippines and Mexico, the text concludes: "The story of foreign policy in the Johnson years is not yet over. We still hear echoes from the gunfire in Vietnam. There is no sound in agriculture's 'green revolution,' but it rolls on in silence. History waits to make its final assessment of them both."



The exhibit on Vietnam endeavors to present an overview of the war from its beginning to its conclusion, show the divisions it created in the country, and let the visitors see the documents and the advice President Johnson looked at when he made the critical decisions of his administration.

Television, carrying war into the living rooms of America for the first time, brought a new dimension to the Vietnam conflict. The exhibit dramatizes this point through the suggestion of a living room setting. Facing an easy chair are a number of grim images of the war, presented as if on TV screens.

the Six-Day War, the Glassboro Summit



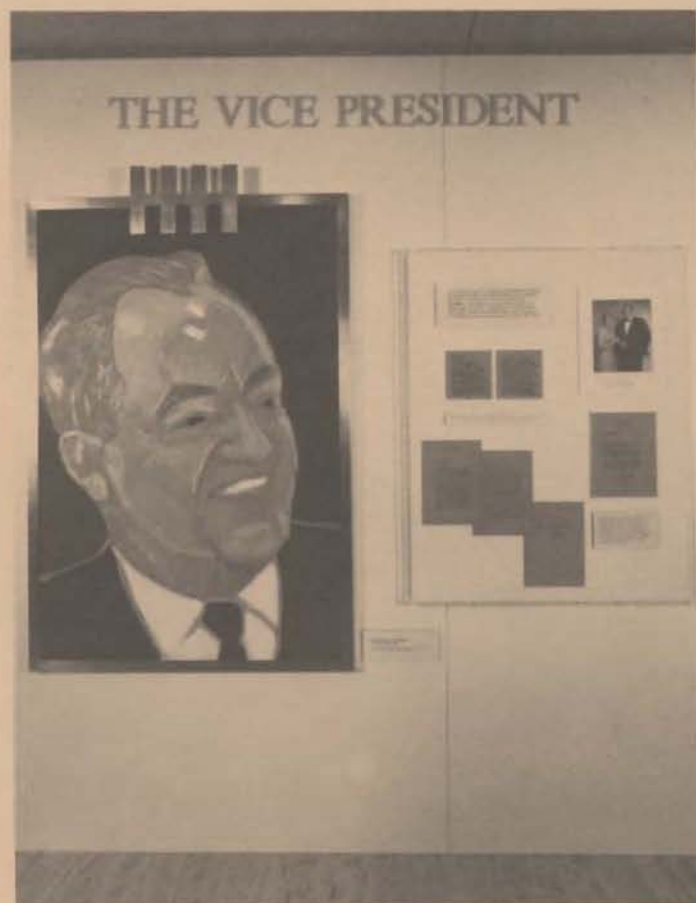
"The Six Day War" features a replica of the "hot line"—the communication link between Washington and Moscow, designed to provide the leaders of the two nations immediate access to each other—which was used for the first time in the conflict that broke out between Israel and Arab nations in June 1967. Most visitors are surprised to learn that the "hot line" is actually a teletype circuit, and not a red telephone as is popularly believed.

The site of a summit conference between the leaders of the United States and the Soviet Union is re-created in "The Glassboro Summit." On display is the furniture used by President Johnson and Premier Kosygin, along with the notes taken by LBJ and the joint communique issued after their two-day conference. At Glassboro, the introductory text states, "a step—halting, tentative, but a step nonetheless—was taken toward reducing the weapons of nuclear war."





THE PRESIDENT'S CABINET. Mounted on one side of a giant photograph of a Cabinet meeting are photographs of the 29 men—whom LBJ called “idealistic, energetic and strong-minded people”—who served in Johnson’s cabinet, which he described as “among the best that ever served this nation.” Also on display are minutes of a Cabinet meeting and memorabilia from individual Cabinet members, including an appointment book kept by Secretary of State Dean Rusk and a letter to President Johnson from Attorney General Robert Kennedy, offering to serve in Vietnam “in any capacity.”



THE VICE PRESIDENT features a bold “pop-art” painting of Hubert Humphrey by Edward Weiss, and documents tracing the long relationship between HHH and LBJ. After their administration had ended, Humphrey wrote Johnson: “I have given you some difficult moments. These have not been easy times for either of us, but, Mr. President, I was very proud to serve you—to be your Vice President. I predict that the Johnson years in the Presidency will command admiration and respect . . . I am eternally grateful for the opportunity that was mine to share even ever so little in what was planned and accomplished.” Johnson responded: “If historians do note that we made life better for the American people, they will give credit to a Vice President—and before that a Senator—who was a compassionate man of the people.”



THE FIRST LADY THEATER is now the name of the theater on the second floor of the Library. Its walls are decorated with photographs, gowns, documents, awards and other artifacts depicting Lady Bird Johnson's activities when she and her husband were in the White House, focusing particularly on her work in beautification. Also on exhibit there is Aaron Shikler's painting of Mrs. Johnson (right). The documentary motion picture, "The First Lady: A Portrait of Lady Bird Johnson," is shown on a regular basis in the theater.



Part of the renovation project in the Library included putting a skylighted roof on what was once an interior open patio on the eighth floor. The newly created room, joined by a retractable glass wall to a large conference room, provides flexible space which can be used for many purposes, including meetings, symposia, special exhibits and activities.

SOME OLD EXHIBITS REMAIN,



Not all the exhibits in the museum are new. Some long-time favorites have been re-mounted in new casings. Gifts to the President from other heads of state—many of them art treasures such as those shown on this page—are now displayed in large bronze cases in the Great Hall of the Library. (above)



BUT IN NEW SURROUNDINGS



Another exhibit long popular with visitors is "The Humor of LBJ," an audio-visual presentation in which a sound track of the President as story-teller is played against a series of photographs. A text panel in the alcove where the exhibit is now housed notes that Johnson's storytelling ability was "not widely known to the American people because he rarely used humor on television. But in his untelevised appearances, and particularly his encounters with small groups, his skill as a raconteur delighted his audiences."



"The gifts, some of them hand-crafted, some heirlooms, come from every part of the nation, from every walk of life, from every stratum of society," reads the text which accompanies a display of gifts given to President Johnson by the American people. "They represent a variety of talent and taste, and because of this they show a cross-section of the country's popular art and treasured possessions. All of them, Lady Bird Johnson observed, 'come wrapped in love'."

LBJ SCHOOL AMONG TOP 10 IN QUALITY

The Lyndon B. Johnson School of Public Affairs, in a recent rating for quality among similar schools nationally, was ranked sixth among both private and public institutions and third among state-supported schools.

The top 10 in the survey, which was conducted by components of the University of Oklahoma and the University of South Carolina, were Syracuse, Harvard, University of Southern California, Indiana University, University of California at Berkley, LBJ School, Princeton, University of Pittsburgh, University of Michigan and University of Georgia.



Hardesty



Cater

DOCENTS START NEW YEAR

A total of 87 volunteers have signed on to work at the Library during the coming academic year—75 as docents to conduct tours for school groups and other visitors and 12 to assist in registering items in the museum's collections.

LBJ ALUMNI HEAD UNIVERSITIES

Two former assistants to President Johnson, Robert Hardesty and Douglass Cater, will be inaugurated as college Presidents in the next two months. On September 23, Hardesty will formally take over the reins of Southwest Texas State University, LBJ's alma mater, in San Marcos, Texas. Cater's inauguration as President of Washington College in Chestertown, Maryland, is on October 16.



This light moment of President Reagan's, captured on film, is among prize-winning photographs on exhibit in the Library through October 17. The exhibit contains memorable scenes preserved for history by members of the White House News Photographers Association and are included in the Association's 39th annual awards exhibitions, on loan to the LBJ Library from the Library of Congress. The photo of President Reagan, titled "Custom Fitted," taken by Charles Tasnadi of the Associated Press, won Honorable Mention.

AMONG FRIENDS OF LBJ is a publication of the Friends of the LBJ Library

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