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Among Friends of LBJ

A NEWSLETTER OF THE FRIENDS OF THE LBJ LIBRARY

LBJ Reminisces
(and a note on his portrait for history)

See pages 2-7

Bronze Portrait
by Robert Berks

Lyndon Johnson's Image for History

By Harry Middleton

Lyndon Johnson . . . seems to be under attack from all sides now as reviewers rub their hands over the first volume of Robert A. Caro's hostile biography . . . Some Washington reporters gasp. Sure, there was much to attack. But was this the man we watched in Congress and the White House all those years? How did the nation survive?
— Richard L. Strout
Christian Science Monitor

How indeed?

The LBJ who leers out from Caro's book is a monster of the sort to make horses whinny in fright.

Unflattering portraits of Johnson have been drawn before—those by George Reedy and Ronnie Dugger, also available this holiday season, aren't exactly valentines. Others will be drawn in the future (as of course will favorable sketches.)

Two factors, however, give Caro's book a dubious distinction. One is the extent of his hatred for his subject, a loathing so deep it coats a steamy sheen over his prose. The other is that Caro seems to have set himself a goal breathtaking in its arrogance: he aspires to nothing less than to fix Johnson's image in history; he wants the creature *he* has created to be the man people remember a century from now.

To be sure, some reviewers, reveling in it all, appear ready to help him in this endeavor.

But others have raised formidable barriers, questioning his accuracy, his conclusions, and above all his fairness. David Herbert Donald, in the New York *Times*, notes that Caro weighs the evidence to get the picture he wants and confuses the function of a biographer with that of a judge "—and in this case, a hanging judge." For those seeking to understand Johnson, Donald says, "Mr. Caro's book will seem more like a caricature than a portrait." "The reader hoping to find a fair portrait of Johnson," writes Jonathan Yardley in the Washington *Post*, "—not favorable, merely *fair*—will not do so here. **The Path to Power** is a stacked deck, as unfair and malicious a biography as I have ever read . . . Its importance, if in fact it can be said to have any at all, resides almost entirely in the mind of the man who wrote it."

And these are just a sampling. So it would seem that Caro will not have completely clear sailing in his quest to determine what posterity will think. And for that, posterity should be grateful.

LBJ the political figure, congressional leader and President eventually will be judged on the basis of his programs and policies and actions that affected the public interest.

But what about the man himself—what image of him will carry into the future? God knows he was complicated, so it will be a portrait limned with many brush strokes. Of course history should have the assessment of his detractors—any acquaintance who was ever offended by him, any aide who suffered his wrath or impatience and still nurses a bitterness, any neighbor or classmate or political rival who objected to his style, his personality, his public or private behavior. Those who don't write books on their own behalf should be ferreted out wherever they are and their disaffections preserved.

But other recollections are important, too. And when every unpleasant thing that can be said about Lyndon Johnson has finally been said, there will still remain the memories of those of us who knew him and respected him and liked him, even loved him; who took pleasure in his presence and mourned his passing and miss him now. We knew his excesses and faults. He could be querulous, petty, demanding and earthy (although he had what I always thought was an old-fashioned regard for womanhood, and I heard him make his saltier observations only in the company of males). But these were flaws in his portrait; they didn't dominate it. We treasured him because of his warmth and his wit, his compassion and his generous spirit.

(Drawing by Pat Partridge, Museum staff)

We don't claim that ours is the only valid image of Lyndon Johnson, or that it is a full one. Hanging judges won't pay much attention to it. But no successful effort to fix Lyndon Johnson's place in history can ignore its existence. There are too many of us who hold it.

At a time when so many wild things are being said about him, it would be good to hear his voice again, ranging across all those stops from outrageous to wise, funny to poetic.

So I have asked the editor of the newsletter to turn over to me these next few pages so I can share with you some words of LBJ's that I took down 13 years ago.

I was one of several former aides who helped him put together his Presidential memoirs, published in 1971 as **The Vantage Point**.

In the early days of that adventure, as we tried to determine the shape the book would take, Johnson would often reminisce. Because we hoped his book would capture the flavor of the essential LBJ, we tried to introduce a tape recorder into those reminiscing sessions. But he was no better with that machine than he had been with a TV camera in the White House: as he watched the reels spin, his words would lose their easy informality and become more structured.

But one day—it was in July 1969—at the LBJ Ranch, over a period of some eight hours, I took down everything he said, verbatim, in reporter's shorthand.

When I returned to Austin that night, I went to my typewriter and transcribed those notes. They were never used. Some of the ideas, of course, were developed in **The Vantage Point.** But the style of the book was different—more formal, less revealing. That was the way the President wanted it.

The full text of the Johnsonian reflections I recorded will eventually become part of the Library's collections. Here, to help rekindle your own memories, are some excerpts.

LBJ Reminisces

The 1960 Campaign

Kennedy called me and said he wanted to see me. When I went in he said, "I want you to run with me on the ticket."

I said, "What you want is a good Majority Leader for your programs." I didn't want to be Vice President. The night before I had talked to Mr. Rayburn about it. He thought Kennedy was going to ask me to run with him, and he said, "Don't get caught in that trap. Don't accept." I had told him that I had no plans and no expectation. So I told Kennedy that Rayburn was against it, and he said, "Do you mind if I talk to Mr. Rayburn?" I said, "Of course not, but this is a tough decision I'm going to have to make." He said, "Well, let's talk again later."

That night Kennedy talked to Rayburn, and he turned him around. The way I heard about it later was he said to him, "Mr. Rayburn, we can carry New York and Massachusetts and maybe all the Northeastern part, but no southern states unless we have someone who appeals to them. Do you want Nixon to be President? He's the guy who called you a traitor, you know." And Mr. Rayburn thought Nixon *had* called him a traitor.

Rayburn came in to see me the next morning, and he said, "I think you ought to do it." I asked him what made him change his mind, and he said, "I'm a hell of a lot wiser this morning than I was yesterday." He said "I don't want Nixon running this country for eight years, and we're going to have that just as sure as God made green apples if we don't get somebody to balance a Catholic at the top of the ticket. I went around every part of Texas speaking for Al Smith and telling everyone what a great man he was, and they'd all just turn their faces away from me because I was a messenger from the Pope of Rome. And it's going to be the same thing this time."

No one else among my supporters wanted me to take the Vice Presidential spot. Bob Kerr was the worst of all. He came in and said, "Mr. Leader, I don't know whether what I hear is true or not. But if it is, and if you're going to run on the ticket with this boy from Boston, I'm going to take a Winchester 30/30 and shoot you right between the eyes."

Bob Kerr: Rayburn turned him around.

Rayburn said, "I'm a hell of a lot wiser this morning than I was yesterday."

I don't believe I ever had any bigotry in me. My daddy wouldn't let me. He was a strong anti-Klansman when I was a boy, and that was a time when the Klan controlled this state. But there was a lot of bigotry and a lot of it was against Catholics, in Oklahoma as well as in Texas. Bob Kerr had a lot of it.

But Mr. Rayburn took Kerr into the bathroom and he told me later what he had said to him. He said, "Well, Bob, I know how you feel, I campaigned for Al Smith." And he told that story just like he agreed with him. And he said, "Bob, that's what we're up against. You're a candidate yourself this year." Kerr said he sure as hell wasn't going to identify himself with Kennedy when he ran. But Mr. Rayburn said, "Well, Bob, when you get out there and start explaining, you can't possibly get elected by going against the nominee of your party. The man that does that is deader than slavery. Now I'd rather go to my folks in Bonham and say 'I don't know much about Kennedy or Nixon, but I am going to support Lyndon and if you get him in there he will look out for us.' I don't know Oklahoma, but it seems to me a hell of a lot better if you tell your people you're going to support your desk mate and neighbor and he'll be in there looking out for Oklahoma."

Well, he turned Kerr around, and he turned all the others around, and then they turned me around. But I sure as hell didn't want to do it. A Vice President is generally like a Texas steer. He has lost his social standing in the society in which he resides.

But I don't like to think back that playing on those religious prejudices had any part in what I did. We've moved so far ahead in civil rights and religious freedom in the last few years, it's like looking back on another time.

LBJ Reminisces

The Fatal Trip to Dallas

Dallas has always been a nightmare for me. I've never discussed it.

Kennedy thought our election was in danger. His purpose was to raise $1 million and get identification with Texas to carry the state.

So the plans were made for us to make the big trip to Texas. The President told me to take one 707 and he would take the other.

We had a good meeting in San Antonio. We went on to Houston.

Shortly after we got to the hotel, Kennedy called me and said "I wish you'd come down and have a drink with me." So I went down. He had his shorts on and he proceeded to get dressed. He put his shirt on and then his tie and then his pants. And I remember thinking: there's one difference between Boston and Austin. I was always taught to dress the other way, to put my pants on first and then my shirt.

We had some scotch, and he said, "They've asked Jackie to speak to the LULACS, and I wanted your opinion." I said it was excellent, a fine thing.

He asked me to go with Mrs. Kennedy to the LULAC meeting, and I did. Then we went to Fort Worth . . . He said for me to come by his room. So I went up there. My sister and her husband were in the corridor. I went into Kennedy's room. He was in his shorts again, putting on another shirt. He walked around and talked while he was getting dressed. I told him my sister was in the hall. He told me to bring them in. He was wonderful with them, and said, "You've been awfully good to us in Fort Worth." Then he turned to me and said, "Lyndon, I know we're going to carry at least two states in the fall—Massachusetts and Texas."

We got into Dallas that morning. We got off our plane first and then shook hands with the Kennedys when they got off their plane.

We started on our way. I was very impressed and pleased with the crowds. Then I heard the shots. It never occurred to me that it was an assassination or a killing. I just thought it was the kind of fireworks I had heard all my life.

But when the car lunged and this great big old boy from Georgia said "Get down!" and got on top of me, I knew it was no normal operation. The car zoomed. The driver floorboarded it, and I heard someone say "We're getting out of here."

Youngblood put his body on me, covered me with it, and did that all the way into the hospital. When we got there I had been crushed. I was under orders from him. In situations like that, they're in command. In this door. To the right. Go here. Just like they had it all planned out.

Mrs. Johnson went to see Mrs. Kennedy and Nellie Connally. There were frequent conversations. They then came in and told me the President was dead. So much of it is vague in my mind. But I did know that it was a time when everyone had to be clear. And I knew we had to get back to that plane and back to Washington, all of us.

When we got back to the plane, everyone was saying "Let's get this plane off the ground." But I said no, we are going to wait for Mrs. Kennedy and the President.

After she got there, I noticed none of the bitterness Manchester described in his book. If it existed, I was not aware of it.

Mrs. Kennedy and I always had the finest of relationships.

You know, if Mrs. Kennedy had the feelings that Manchester described, I don't think she would have stood there with me on that plane while I took the oath of office.

I was very impressed and pleased with the crowds.

The Warren Commission

I'm no student of the Warren Commission report, but all I know is this: I concluded that this was something that couldn't be decided in the Massachusetts courts or the Texas courts. We had to seek the ultimate, and who was the ultimate in this country from the standpoint of judiciousness and fairness and the personification of justice? I thought it was the Chief Justice of the United States.

I knew that Warren was going to be vigorously opposed. I called him in. Before he came, I was told that Justice Warren had said he wouldn't do it, that the Court was opposed, and if asked he would say no, and the President should be so informed.

I was convinced this was something that had to be done. I had to bring the nation through this thing.

When Warren came in and sat down, I said, "I know what you're going to tell me. But there's one thing no one else has said to you. In World War I, when your country was threatened, you put that rifle butt on your shoulder. Now when your country is threatened with confusion and division and the President of the United States says you are the only man who can do the job, you're not going to say no, are you?

He said he wouldn't.

I had always had great respect for Warren. From that moment on, I was a partisan.

From that moment on I was a partisan.

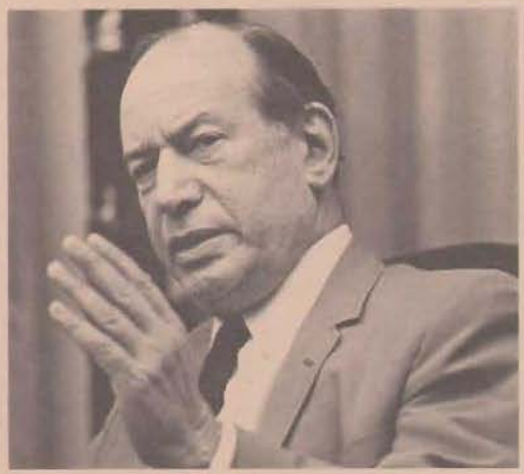
But I can't honestly say that I believe that we still have all the answers. I know that when I came in as President, I heard that we had sent teams into Cuba to try to assassinate Castro, and those people disappeared and were never heard from again. And I've always wondered if this wasn't Castro's answer, I tried to find out, but I couldn't get a damn thing out of the Justice Department's files.

On President Eisenhower

The first few days, in the outer office of the EOB, I saw President Eisenhower—he came just to see if he could be of any assistance—sitting down with Marie Fehmer. Ike had a yellow tablet. He was writing in longhand what he would do if he were in my place. First, try to reassure the country—let them know that I was in charge, that we were one nation. We had suffered a great tragedy, but we had to go on. Forget politics and differences.

The columnists always gave the impression that Ike was not exciting and didn't know what he was doing. I found his knowledge of men and events impressive. I disagreed with his evaluation of conditions. He was too conservative. He told me once, "I want you to know that I'm a mean Republican." I said, "You're not mean at all." He said, "I am on domestic matters." I said, "You're just against my Great Society." He said, "You're goddam right I am." But he was filled with patriotism. And he was a great help to me.

Abe Fortas



Abe Fortas is as good, fine, patriotic, and concerned a human as I ever knew. He has been victimized and it's terrible. We're cruel people.

I made him take the Justiceship. In that way, I ruined his life. I knew he was liberal and able and courageous, and would do what's good for the people.

LBJ Reminisces

The Protests in 1968

In 1968 the times were right for agitation. There was unrest all around the world. And God knows we had been denying justice to the Negroes for 100 years. We had passed some civil rights bills, and they helped, but you don't see the effect of legislation overnight. I knew I had to do what I could to cool things. But my heart was always with those who had been deprived. I always remembered those Mexican kids I taught back in Cotulla, and the hurt look in their eyes that just gets born there when you're poor and you're discriminated against. My heart was with the students, too, although they would never know that, and I don't suppose they would ever believe it. I'd hear those chants "Hey, hey, LBJ, how many kids did you kill today?" and I knew there was a long gulf between them and me which neither one of us could do much about. I was doing what I thought was right, right for them, and right for their country and their future and their children. But they couldn't see that. What we were doing was based on decisions that were made and actions that were taken before some of them were even born, and that's a hard thing to understand. I didn't blame them. They didn't want to get killed in a war, and that's easy to understand. It would be wonderful if there were a way in which each generation could start off fresh, just wipe the slate clean all around the world and say, OK the new world begins today. But nobody's ever found a way to do that. There's a continuity in history that's one of our greatest strengths, but maybe it's one of our weaknesses, too. If a young man says "You're sending me to Vietnam because of the SEATO treaty, but I wasn't around when you passed that SEATO treaty and I don't believe in it and I don't think it's right to put my life on the line for decisions that were made by men when I was in my cradle," well, there's something there to listen to. But it's possible for us to say to young men and women: you're free, you can vote, you can deny the state the right to enter your house, you can speak your mind without fear of prison—and we can say all these things to them because of decisions made and actions taken by men before any of us were born, before our parents and grandparents were born.

The hurt look that just gets born there when you're poor and discriminated against.

My heart was with the students, although they would never know that, and I don't suppose they would ever believe it.

Reflections on the Past

What's In A Name

My father was an outgoing, compassionate, trusting man. He never met a stranger. He ran for office six times, and was always elected. Mama made him quit. He'd stay out for two or three years, and then the people would make him go back. He was in the cattle business, and in cotton. When money went high, he went broke. He made a little fortune but he went broke again after World War I when cotton went from 44¢ to 6¢. But he never belly-ached, never griped, not even through the depression in the '30s.

My mother came from a long line of educators. She came into these hills unprepared for it. I was three months old before I was named. My mother and daddy couldn't agree on a name. The people my father liked were heavy drinkers, pretty rough for a city girl, and she didn't want me named after any of them. Finally, she agreed to name me after one of my daddy's friends. He was a county lawyer, and he drank, too. He'd go on a drunk for a week after every case. His name was W. C. Linden. She said I could be named after him, but only if they changed the spelling. I was in a campaign for Congress in 1937. There was an old man with a white carnation right up in front. He said, "That was a very good speech. I'm going to vote for you. The only thing I don't like is the way you spell your name. I'm W. C. Linden."

Reciprocation

When I taught in Cotulla, the coach and I used to smoke on the school ground. The kids watched us. The superintendent asked us not to do it. So I stopped, but he did it again the next day. The superintendent again asked him not to, and he said "Mr. Superintendent, when I teach until noon, and then have an hour for lunch, I want to relax, and I ought to be able to smoke when I want to."

The old man looked at him, cool, said, "Well, I think you're right. You ought to be able to smoke right in the middle of the classroom, if you want to. But I have a right to select whoever I want to be the coach of this team. And you are fired at the end of this school year."

I've thought about that a great deal.

That fellow was stubborn. He borrowed $30 from me. It's the only money I can remember any man not paying back. If you really trust people, there are very few who don't reciprocate.

Ovie Striggler Joins the Team

When I was a boy, we used to sit around the fireplace in the evening. Everyone in town used to come by my daddy and ask him what to do.

There was a tough race once for sheriff, and the sheriff was the big man in our time.

Old Man Dan Crider came running in one night and said, "Mr. Sam, we've just got to get your help. Ben Jack Stubbs"—he was the sheriff and running to get back in again—"Ben Jack Stubbs is in trouble. They say he is living with another woman. Ovie Striggler said, by God, Ben Jack is the last man he'd vote for." Ovie controlled the German bloc.

My daddy asked, "Well, what does Ben Jack say about the story about him?" Old Man Crider said, "He says it's not true. But Ovie Striggler said he don't believe him."

"Well," my daddy said, "I regret hearing that Mr. Striggler is not going to support us. I was down in the courthouse yesterday and I saw Judge Martin"—old man Martin was the County Judge and he was 84 years old—"and I got to talking to him. He said he was ready to retire if we could find someone to replace him. And I began thinking of Mr. Striggler. I'm sorry to hear that he's flown the coop."

Old Man Crider winked a big wink—I was a little boy, but I can remember that wink—and he said, "I get you."

The next night, Crider was back again, rapping on the door. He said, "Mr. Sam, after I left you, I thought I'd better visit with Striggler, so I went out there today. He was sitting there milking. His wife was in the loft, throwing bales of hay down to the cow while he was milking. I said, I want to talk to you. He just kept milking. So I told him what you had told me about your conversation with Judge Martin. Well, Mr. Sam, he just dropped both teats at the same time and called, 'Mama! Come here and hear the message Mr. Johnson sent me'!"

That's how Ovie Striggler became part of the establishment.

End Piece

I watch the people going into my birthplace there. Everyone who goes in feels grateful to have the chance. Not because of me. But because a President was born there, and they feel there's something tied to their own history.

You know, that birthplace is pretty close to the ranch. And I guess what the old fellow in Johnson City said after I became President sums it all up best of all. He was playing dominos with another old-timer and the first one said, "Old Lyndon sure has gone up in the world, hasn't he?" And this fellow said, "Yeah, up the road about half a mile."

Lady Bird Johnson Echoes Great Society Faith in Education

Acknowledging that the commitment made in the 1960s to universal education in this country is now under question, Mrs. Lyndon Johnson, speaking at Southwest Texas State University in San Marcos in September, echoed the faith in education that was one of the hallmarks of her husband's presidency.

"From our beginnings as a nation," she said, "we have put more faith in education than in any other priority in America. We meet . . . at a time when we as a nation are obliged to look carefully at all our national programs and priorities. In such a time, the question inevitably is raised: Can we afford to make education available to every boy and girl of this land? But the larger question is: Can we afford not to? In considering the answer, one wonders what kind of country would we have if education were not its top priority? What kind of country would we be making if we began closing the doors of opportunity which we have so enthusiastically and dramatically opened?"

Mrs. Johnson spoke at ceremonies inaugurating Robert Hardesty as university President.

She reflected on her initial encounter with the university: "I first became acquainted with Southwest Texas 48 years ago on an August day in 1934 when it was a Teachers College. I had just met Lyndon, who the very next day wanted me to meet his mother and father, and to see the place he had gone to school . . . As was so often the case with Lyndon, it was easier to go than not to go. So we headed from Austin to San Marcos in a Model A Ford upholstered in cow hide with the Running W brand of his boss, who was the congressman from the King Ranch area. We drove the winding road past the prettiest river in Texas, looking up at that handsome landmark—the Old Main Building—dignified, commanding, looming high over this picturesque little town . . . Lyndon had loved this place and I came to love it, too."

Of President Hardesty, who was an aide to LBJ in the White House, she said: "He will bring to the whole procedure an excitement, a daring innovation leavened with the kind of practicality to get the job done. He is a good engineer with the insight of a philosopher."

She ended with a few "final words to the students who are privileged to be here at this time. Your attentions are going to be concentrated on gaining practical skills and that is as it should be in our expanding adventure in education. But I hope you feel that you are enrolled in a lifelong process that begins here, and that you will respond to all the intellectual avenues opening up around you. A university must do more than teach 'how to.' It must provide a new sense of curiosity and wonder that stays with you and never stops. Relatively few of you will yourselves become scholars. But all of you will be citizens—thinking, participating citizens. Your lives, the lives of your children and your country will be enriched if you leave this institution with an educated heart as well as an educated mind."

Mrs. Johnson will receive an honorary doctor of humane letters from the university next May.

Mrs. Johnson and President Hardesty

At the Southwest Texas inauguration ceremonies, Mrs. Johnson was introduced by Mary Hardesty, wife of the University's new President. Following are excerpts from Mrs. Hardesty's introduction:

Not only is Mrs. Johnson a model citizen, who has filled the difficult role of a political wife, and has been in every sense a good mother to her two daughters and their families, but she has developed her own talents as well. She was, and remains an individual. She has been a writer, a public speaker, a botanist and horticulturalist, a radio executive, and investor, a member of corporate and educational institution Boards. She performed each of these jobs with professionalism. Mrs. Johnson is as much an inspiration and a role model to the emerging generation of women as she has been throughout her life to her contemporaries. Rather than being swallowed up or overshadowed by the momentous events which have marked her life, she emerged as an important figure in those dramas.

Mrs. Johnson was married to and loved by one of the strongest men in history. She returned his love with tenderness, his strength with stamina and stability. She drew upon a great personal reservoir of her own, and never lost her own unique view of life which makes all who know her feel exceptionally fortunate to have that privilege.

. . . and Establishes Wildflower Research Center

Lady Bird Johnson celebrated her 70th birthday on December 22 in her own way—by giving the land and "seed money" to launch a National Wildflower Research Center.

The idea for such a center, said the former First Lady, "has been alluringly going round and round in my mind for several years."

Besides her enthusiasm and inspiration, Mrs. Johnson's contribution to the project includes a 60-acre tract of land ten miles from Austin which will be the home laboratory, and an initial gift of $125,000 to put the center into operation with Dr. T. J. Allen, range scientist and well known botanist, heading the research.

"The initial goal is to study three or four of the principal and heartiest wildflowers to see how they can provide successful large-scale use in industrial parks, civic parks, rights-of-way along the highway as well as people's own yards," Mrs. Johnson said.

Improving the beauty of the landscape is one goal, she pointed out, but the development would also be a major economic help to the high costs of maintaining manicured lawns of civic and industrial parks.

"With water tables drying up, with diminishing public and private budgets for maintenance, the research could bring a big savings if we knew how to use native plants throughout the country," she said.

There are about 25,000 varieties of wildflowers in the United States and only 187 have been extensively investigated.

"There is enormous potential for their use throughout the country," she said. "Mowings along highways could be reduced from an average of four times a year to only one which, in Texas alone, would reduce the cost by $24 million a year."

Savings in such natural resources as water and fossil fuel for gasoline, in oil and fertilizer, as well as maintenance and operation are envisioned.

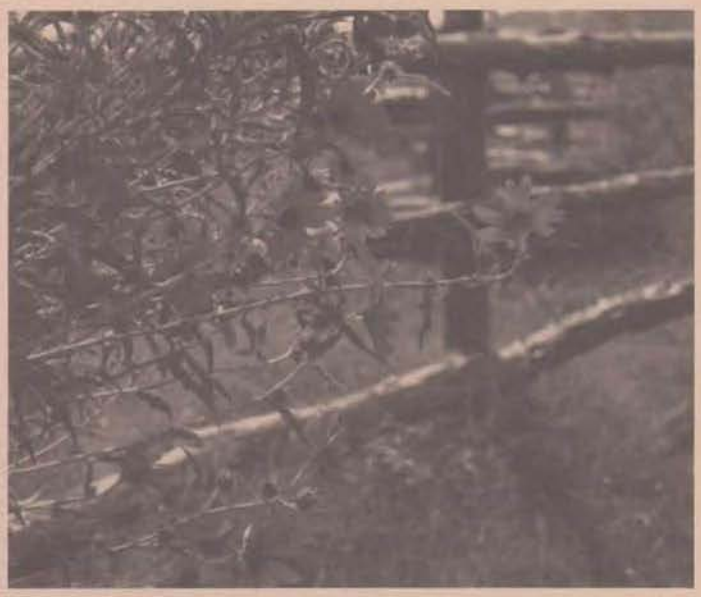
"There is also a mounting interest in the pharmacological value of wildflowers," Mrs. Johnson pointed out. "Investigators have proven that some wildflowers and plants have definite medical uses as indicated in the folklore medicine of Indian tribes. Somewhere out there there's another Foxglove for digitalis or Aloe Vera for burns."

Former President Gerald Ford, accepting Mrs. Johnson's invitation to join the Advisory Committee that will guide the project, predicted that the Center will make a "significant asset to our country and to Texas."

Some 90 members will serve on that Advisory Committee, of which Mrs. Johnson and Helen Hayes are honorary co-chairmen, and Mrs. Marshall Steves of San Antonio is organizing president.

The committee includes such well-known environmental leaders as Laurance Rockefeller, Mary Lasker, Brooke Astor, Jane Engelhard, and Enid Haupt.

Other knowledgeable experts serving on the committee include Nash Castro, director of the Palisades Interstate Parkway; Carlton Leeds, recent vice president of the New York Botanical Gardens; Virginia Calloway, who heads Calloway Gardens in Georgia; Robert Lederer, executive director of the Association of American Nurserymen; and Craig Steffan, supervising landscape architect of the Texas State Highway Commission.



"Aesthetic value they have always had, but there are important uses for them that are just beginning to be explored."

Mrs. Johnson met with University of Texas history students attending a class on the role of the First Lady, conducted by Dr. Lewis Gould (on her right). A nationwide survey of university historians across the country recently rated Mrs. Johnson third among American First Ladies, after Eleanor Roosevelt and Abigail Adams.

Scholars Get Grants for Library Research

Nineteen scholars have been selected as the 1982/1983 recipients of grants-in-aid to study in the LBJ Library.

The annual research program was established with assistance from the Moody Foundation to help students, teachers, and writers use the Library's resources by providing support for travel and living expenses without which they would be unable to undertake their projects.

This year's grant recipients and their topics include: Cathryn Abernathy, "A History of State and Federal Policies for the Aging: Michigan's Experience, 1930s to 1970s"; Frederick P. Bunnell, "The Watershed Period in American-Indonesian Relations, 1963-1967"; Dennis C. Dickerson, "Whitney M. Young, Jr.: A Biography"; Terrence R. Fehner, "W. Averell Harriman in the Kennedy and Johnson Administrations"; Philip J. Funigiello, "American-Soviet Commercial Relations in the Cold War, 1945-1981"; Max M. Holland, "A Full-Length Biography of John J. McCloy"; Rhodri Jeffreys-Jones, "A History of the CIA"; Janet Kerr-Tener, "Eight Studies of Presidential Policy Formulation in Education"; Bruce Allen Murphy, "Abe Fortas: A Political Biography"; John E. Owens, "Interest Group-Legislator Relations in the House Banking and Currency Committee"; Robert L. Peabody, "Congressional Leadership: From Rayburn to O'Neill; Johnson to Baker"; David Plotke, "The Democratic Party—New Deal Political Order, 1936-1972"; Charles Ritter, "Keeping the Faith: Lyndon Johnson and Civil Rights Policy, 1965-1968"; Priscilla Mary Roberts "The 'Internationalist' Tradition of the American 'Eastern Establishment' "; Whitney W. Schneidman, "Process of American Foreign Policy Formulation Toward Portugal, Angola and Mozambique, 1960-1976"; Harold Silver "The Role of Ffancis Keppel as U.S. Commissioner of Education 1962-1965"; Melvin Small "Protest and Policy: The Impact of the Anti-War Movement on Decision-Makers, 1965-1971"; Terry Sullivan, "The Legislative Presidency of Lyndon Johnson"; and Frederick W. Zuercher, "Labor and Political Action: The Movement to Repeal Taft-Hartley's Section 14b."

The Library's research room has been even more active this year than it was during the same period of 1981, as scholars work in the papers of the Johnson Administration. New researchers in the government's fiscal year which ended September 1 totaled 306 as compared to 250 for the previous fiscal year.

Mrs. Lewallen

Mrs. Meadows

Two Original Staffers Retire

Two staff members who have been with the Library from the beginning retire with the year's end. They are Evelyn Lewallen and Lucyle Meadows, both Archives Technicians.

Mrs. Lewallen, who has also served as mail analyst and librarian, worked for 30 years for the Boy Scouts of America before joining the Library staff on January 20, 1969, the day President Johnson left the White House and came to Austin. In her time she also took flying lessons, and soloed, but did not continue long enough to get a license. What will she do now? "After retirement," she says, "I would like to go back to school to learn more about computers. I will probably take more art classes and do more oil painting, travel, and be with my daughter and grandchildren, who all live in the Louisiana-Mississippi area, as much as possible."

Mrs. Meadows, who also dates her service with the Library from the first day of operation, previously worked with schools in San Marcos. She, too, plans to travel ("as much as I can") and looks forward to spending more time with her two children and five grandchildren.

As it happens, both Mrs. Lewallen and Mrs. Meadows handled the correspondence files of President and Mrs. Johnson in the White House and in the post-presidential years. Their retirement at the same time, says Tina Lawson, Supervisory Archivist, "will leave a very large void in our operation."

Also retiring is Sidney Hughes, who as GSA Area Manager for the past 19 years has overseen the physical support given to the Library.

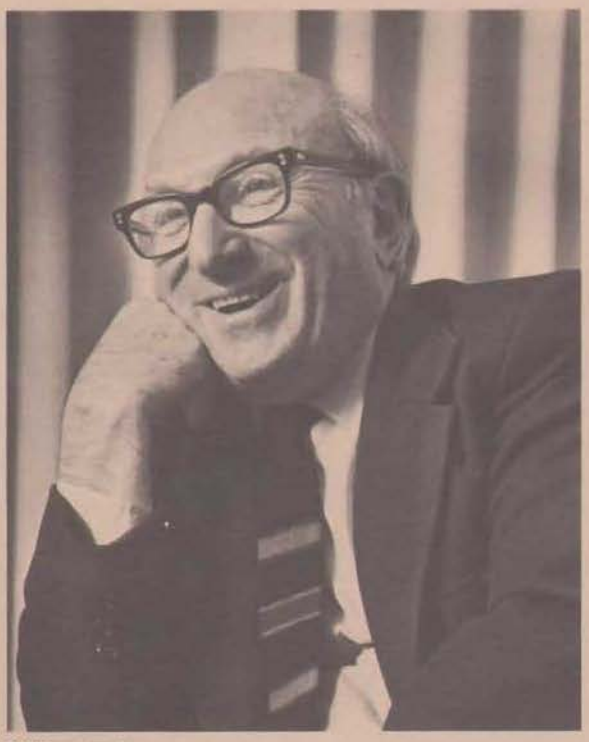
Hughes attended Southwest Texas State Teachers College (now University) when Lyndon Johnson was a student there.

Symposium Will Assess Impact of New Deal

On March 2, 3, and 4—the final day coinciding with the 50th anniversary of Franklin Roosevelt's inauguration—the Library will host a symposium on FDR's New Deal. In the course of the three-day conference, participants will review New Deal programs, consider the impact it had on succeeding administrations and attempt to gauge its legacy, both good and ill, for the future.

The list of participants is not yet complete. But among those who have definitely signed on are former President Gerald Ford, John Brademas, John Kenneth Galbraith; many "alumni" of the New Deal including James Roosevelt, Senator Jennings Randolph and Congressman Claude Pepper; distinguished journalists, and some 40 scholars of the New Deal period.

Symposia at the Library are traditionally co-sponsored with the University of Texas. In addition, this one has two other sponsors: The Franklin D. Roosevelt Library and Virginia Commonwealth University.



Wilbur Cohen
Photograph courtesy of the UT News and Information Service.

Students Show Political Savvy at Library

The Library holds rigidly to the stance that it is completely nonpolitical. But a couple of weeks before the elections last November, it let down the barriers and invited in a group of political experts.

They were pupils in the schools of Austin who for several weeks had been conducting their own surveys and interviewing candidates for a number of offices. On the night of October 28 they came to the Library—as students in other cities across the country assembled in other institutions, including at least one other Presidential Library—to present the results of their work. So far as Texas elections were concerned, the predictions emerging from their surveys were remarkably close to the actual election results.

Reporting on the meeting at the LBJ Library, the Austin *Statesman* reported: "The students . . . said they were surprised at how little knowledge voters have of many of the candidates. They said the study of the election had increased their own political awareness and that they plan to vote when they're eligible."

Commented Gary Yarrington, Museum Curator, on that report: "That's not a bad result from a meeting in a building which endeavors to add to people's knowledge of the country's political institutions."

Tomorrow's citizens hold mock elections in the Library.
Photo courtesy of Cheryl Darnell

Health Legislation Archive Developed for LBJ Library

Wilbur Cohen has undertaken to develop a historical archive of materials relating to health legislation in the U.S. over the past 50 years, which will be placed in the LBJ Library.

Professor Cohen, who holds the Sid Richardson chair in the LBJ School of Public Affairs, is tackling the project with a grant from the Commonwealth Fund.

Primary focus of the archive, Cohen said, will be on the political and legislative background leading to the enactment of Medicare and Medicaid during the Johnson Administration, in which Cohen served first as Under Secretary, and later as Secretary of The Department of Health, Education and Welfare.

The archive, Cohen said, will serve as a resource for scholars conducting research on public policy decisions on the major health measures of recent times.

Cohen played a role in the design and administration of every major piece of health legislation enacted in the U.S. from 1934, when as assistant to the executive director of President Franklin Roosevelt's Cabinet Committee on Social Security, he helped draft the original Social Security Act.

Christmas at the Library

Christmas trees in the Library's Great Hall this season are decorated with ornaments which adorned the yuletide trees in the White House during the Johnson Administration.

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