



Among Friends of LBJ

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NEWSLETTER OF THE FRIENDS OF THE LBJ LIBRARY



DO YOU KNOW WHO THIS PRESIDENT IS? See page 6

LBJ LIBRARY DEDICATES ERWIN ATRIUM



The atrium on the Library's eighth floor was dedicated last October to the late Frank C. Erwin, Jr., who served as President of the LBJ Foundation from 1969 until his death in 1980. As foundation president, and as chairman of the University of Texas Board of Regents, Erwin was deeply involved in the Library's construction and in the improvements subsequently made in the building—including the transformation of the atrium itself from what was originally an open, and seldom used patio.

To mark the occasion, John Connally, who served as governor of Texas and Secretary of the Treasury, was the first in what is planned to be an annual series of Erwin lectures.

LBJ School Professor Barbara Jordan, accompanied by Walt Rostow on the piano, delivered a powerful rendition of "My Way," which many look upon as Erwin's theme song.

Flanking a drawing of Erwin by Phil Vaughn donated to the Library by Nick Krajl, are Lake Erwin, brother of Frank, Mrs. Johnson, John Connally, Frank Erwin III, a son, LBJ School Dean Max Sherman and Library Director Harry Middleton



Erwin's successor as LBJ Foundation President, Tom Johnson, with Ben Barnes and John Connally

DISTINGUISHED VISITORS TO THE LIBRARY

Mme. Jehan el-Sadat, widow of Egypt's slain President Anwar Sadat, spoke at the Library in February. She was on the campus of the University of Texas to launch a Distinguished Visiting Lectureship established in honor of—and named for—Liz Carpenter. In her public lecture at the University, Mme. Sadat's topic was "The Road to Peace." Her remarks at the Library were made at a luncheon hosted by Mrs. Peter Flawn, wife of the University of Texas President.



LBJ School Professor Wilbur Cohen conducts a tour of the Library for Congressmen Frank Guarini from New Jersey, Jake Pickle of Texas and Charles Rangel of New York. The group was here for an informal public discussion sponsored by the House Oversight Subcommittee on Ways and Means.

LIBRARY HOSTS EVENING WITH BESS ABELL

A highlight of the Library's Christmas season was "An Evening With Bess Abell." Mrs. Abell, who served as Social Secretary in the White House during the Johnson administration, delighted the audience with an account of entertaining during those years and in Washington generally.

Following are excerpts from her remarks.

... Parties in Washington are serious business. On any given night in Washington, there are dozens of them. Diplomats entertain to create contacts and goodwill for their countries, lobbyists entertain to create contacts and goodwill for their clients and columnists to build goodwill with news sources, corporations to create contacts and goodwill for their business. All this mingling is serious and useful because in Washington things are made to happen. The need to communicate is as compelling as hunger and thirst and sex. And in Washington, parties seem to combine all those drives. Hunger and thirst and, sometimes, a little sex, and the need to communicate into one activity—to party with a purpose. All those dressed up politicians in ballrooms and dining rooms aren't just being frivolous... those folks in black-tie and velvet... they're working overtime.

Entertaining to make things happen in Washington has been going on since before Washington even existed. George Washington never really served there, but he really invented the Washington party. He'd been wise enough to marry an heiress and he entertained with pomp and style. He didn't shake hands, he just bowed. Later in the 1880s, when the city of Washington became the capital, it wasn't really much; it was the White House and a few public buildings and streets that weren't even paved. Congressmen lived in frame boarding houses clustered around the capitol, and their social life was a little more than five or six chairs pulled up around the fire in the evening. But from the start, social life in Washington was looser and more open. It was easier to crack. It was younger... was quicker than other cities to accept someone new.

Socially it has been said that in Boston the important commodity is brains, in Philadelphia it is family, in New York it is money—and in Washington it's power. But power shifts and each election changes the cast of characters. Many who come to Washington with fancy titles believe that all that attention and all those gilt edge invitations are due just to their charm and their good looks—and it's a dreadful shock when the title is gone to find the mailbox is not quite so stuffed, and that the phone doesn't ring as often. One hostess called an attractive Washington bachelor and said, "If that story is true about your getting that important promotion, come for dinner next Wednesday. But if it is not true, and you'll still just be in your assistant secretary's job, come in after dinner for dancing."

The real stars at the top of the social ladder always, are the occupants of the White House. And White House parties almost always have a purpose. President William Howard Taft was quite frank about using his dinners to win support in Congress. Sometimes he served two kinds of wine: he poured vintage wine for guests whose support he was courting... and he poured cheap table wine for everybody else. White House style dictates the city style sometimes to perfectly ridiculous degrees. Guests at the White House watched President Grover Cleveland carefully pour his coffee and then his cream into his saucer... and they followed suit. They carefully poured their coffee and then their cream into the saucer. And then they watched very care-



fully as the President leaned down and put his saucer on the floor for his dog!

When I worked as Social Secretary in the Johnson's White House, the President and Mrs. Johnson always reminded me that, for many people, their party at the White House would be a once-in-a-lifetime experience. They wanted it to be a wonderful memory, and for the most part I treasure all those wonderful memories, but I also remember the disasters.

Like the time Robert Merrill, the great baritone from the Metropolitan Opera, came to the White House to sing for the Prime Minister of Great Britain. The day before the dinner my phone rang and it was Walt Rostow. He said, "You can't be serious. You can't sing for the Prime Minister, who's ending British presence east of Suez, 'On the Road To Mandalay!'" And you can't sing for the President who just devalued the British pound, "I've Got Plenty of Nothin'!" Well, the British and the American press were already having a field day with the story. And as it happened, the first negotiations between the President and the Prime Minister were about whether or not to change the program. They finally decided that would be even more embarrassing, and so Robert Merrill added an encore to his program: he sang "It Ain't Necessarily So." And I re-learned an old and very important lesson that in the White House, *everything*, even opera, is political!

The Johnsons' hospitality reached out to include all sorts of guests... children, diplomats, friends, democrats... Mrs. Johnson even had a party for Lassie when Lassie was the poster dog for the Anti-Litter Campaign! And long before the days of Women's Lib, Mrs. Johnson honored women of achievement at White House luncheons—writers and bankers, scientists, politicians, and an occasional old friend. To one, she invited her pal of many years, Claudia Marsh. And just before that lunch, Mrs. Johnson came up to me and asked me, "Who's that lady in the beige hat?" I said, "Why, Mrs. Johnson, that's your friend, Claudia Marsh." She said, "It's not *my* Claudia Marsh!" Well, I'm sorry to say, it wasn't the only time that we invited the wrong person. But I am glad to say—they always had a grand time!

Among our most successful parties were the White House



Country Fairs, complete with a ferris-wheel and a merry-go-round, cotton candy and a fortune teller's tent. I called a company in New York to rent a crystal ball, and the man taking the order said, "Where do you want me to send it?" I said, "Send it to the White House." There was a long pause, and then he said, "Lady, I'll send it, but you tell the President it won't help him a bit!"

The years pass and the names and faces change, but the rules in Washington stay very much the same. The White House sets the tone, but the same groups still share power—the old families, the cave-dwellers, the rich and nouveau riche, diplomats and public officials; but now two new groups have been added—lobbyists and journalists. Today in Washington they lead the pack. Money and background count, but merit and power and ambition and personality count more. Still it is often a surprise who makes it in the social swim—what about that short stout German professor named Henry Kissinger? If he had arrived in Washington married, it never would have happened. Hostesses adore a single man—especially a single man who works in the White House.

Diplomats come and go, some stars flash and vanish. Ardeshir Zahedi, who made the Embassy of Iran the "place to be" on the party circuit—today his Embassy is on the auction block and he's in exile in Switzerland.

For all the changes, Washington is still a town of parties. I suppose there will always be stories like the one about the late Senator Theodore Francis Green, who was seen one evening at a party studying a list on a little 3 by 5 card, and someone came up to him and said, "Senator, trying to figure out your next stop?" He said, "Hell no, I'm trying to figure out where I am now!"

Well, it may seem frivolous but I think Washington's social life does in a way help tell us where we are. One night at the White House I found that great black jazz singer, Sarah Vaughn, who had just finished a concert in the East Room. She was standing all by herself and tears were streaming down her face. I asked her, "What's the matter?" She said, "Nothing is the matter. This is just simply the most wonderful evening of my life." She said, "When I first came to Washington, I couldn't even get a hotel room, and tonight I sang at the White House and I danced with the President."

The Johnson's brand of hospitality was unique. After the Johnsons had put on two large, highly publicized weddings for Lynda and Luci, Fannie Flagg, the comedienne, added a line to her impersonation of Mrs. Johnson and she said, "We're having



Mrs. Abell greets White House friend Bob Hardesty

just a small, intimate wedding—only the immediate country!" Well, in a way, it was true. For President and Mrs. Johnson, it was not out of character to include the immediate country—to invite everyone—to open doors. I think it is accurate to say that that idea to include "everybody" is the very essence of their contribution to our country. The way they entertained was the way they were.

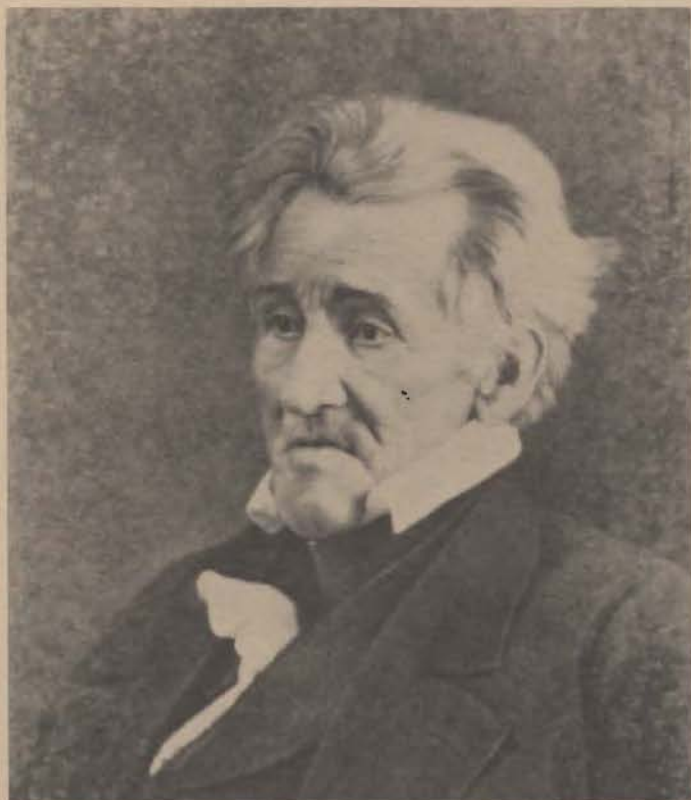
They were Americans, and so their parties were as exciting as America. They were Texans, and so their parties were big, like Texas! And, they were most of all, themselves. And so their parties were warm and easy and enjoyable, like Lyndon and Lady Bird Johnson.

THE PRESIDENCY SEEN IN PHOTOGRAPHS

On The Cover: Franklin Pierce

An exhibition titled "Photographing the American Presidency" came to the Library from the prestigious George Eastman House in Rochester, New York. It includes likenesses of Presidents beginning with John Quincy Adams through Ronald Reagan. All are original prints or produced from original negatives. Included are tintypes, daguerreotypes, albumen prints, gelatin silver prints and chromogenic development prints. Photographers represented are Mathew Brady, Alexander Gardner, Timothy O'Sullivan, Napoleon Sarony, Edward Steichen, Nickolas Murray, Cecil Stoughton, David Kennerly and others.

The exhibit opened February 22 and will continue through April 21.



(Above) Andrew Jackson



(Above) James Polk and party

(Below) President Cleveland delivering his Inaugural Address, 1893.



(Above) Theodore Roosevelt with envoys of Japan and Russia, 1905



(Left) Harry S. Truman taking the oath of office after the death of President Roosevelt.

(Below) Ronald Reagan with Nixon, Ford and Carter, October 8, 1981



(Right) WASHINGTON, Jan. 20—THE SITUATION DRAWS MIXED REACTIONS—Outgoing President Harry Truman, at right, and Mrs. Dwight Eisenhower, in center, appear to be sharing a joke on the presidential inauguration stand but ex-President Herbert Hoover, behind Truman, takes a serious view of the situation. Left to right: Mrs. Truman; Mrs. John Eisenhower; Mrs. Richard Nixon; Maj. John Eisenhower; Mrs. Eisenhower; William R. Castle, former undersecretary of state in the Hoover cabinet; Hoover and Truman.



(Above) Lyndon Johnson being sworn in aboard Air Force One with Mrs. Johnson and Mrs. Kennedy.

(Below) Woodrow Wilson with Clemenceau and Lloyd George.





WHITE HOUSE PHOTOGRAPHY

Another view of the Presidency is recorded in the annual exhibition of the White House News Photographers Association.

More than the President is covered in the exhibit, however. Fifty-five award-winning photographs from 1982 include such unpresidential subjects as Mother Teresa, unemployment, the arts, the Ku Klux Klan marches, sports events and bird watching.

The exhibit, a Library of Congress traveling exhibition, will be at the Library through March 31.

The photograph at left, from the exhibit, is titled "There She Is," by Dennis Cook.

Gary Gallagher, Library archivist, is the author of *Stephen Dodson Ramseur: Lee's Gallant General* recently published by the University of North Carolina Press. The book is a biography of one of the youngest generals in the confederate army during the civil war. One critic, James I. Robertson, Jr., said of the book: "Gallagher has written the best biography of Ramseur we are ever likely to have. His research is impeccable, and he writes in a smooth and lucid style. The strategy of letting Ramseur talk—via letters—is most commendable and will make the book highly quotable for present and future historians."



ARTS TRAINING FUND NAMED FOR L.B.J.

A proclamation honoring President Johnson for his leadership in establishing the National Endowment for the Arts accompanied an announcement made at the Library about an endowment named for LBJ. The \$100,000 endowment, created by the Texas Assembly of Arts Councils, will be used to train interns in art management.

The legislation setting up NEH was signed by President Johnson in 1965. Accepting the proclamation, Lady Bird Johnson said, "I remember his sense of long-lasting satisfaction in signing this act."

A letter sent by President Reagan, read at the ceremony, said in part: "We know today that without the influence and strength of our 36th President and his spouse, these endowments would have never come about."



MUSEUM ROVING

By Gary A. Yarrington, LBJ Library Curator
(Excerpted from the November-December 1984 issue of *Austin Guide*.)

My father took me to my first museum when I was seven years old—a great art museum in Kansas City, Missouri (you museum people know the one).

It was an awe-inspiring experience—cool marble courtyards, life-size sculptures of people who lived in ancient Rome, paintings of so many delightful colors I wanted to take them home. I could tell you more about how I felt at the time, but you really should make your own discoveries—and there are enough opportunities to fill a lifetime.

Fortunately, there are practically as many different types of museums as there are personal tastes. And museums come in a variety of sizes. I recommend the following approaches for museum roving.

Large metropolitan museums. They are too large to experience all at once, so relax and see them a gallery at a time. This means you'll have to make a return visit, but that's all right. Recent museum attendance surveys indicate that once you enter a museum, you'll be back.

Museums have directories, so select the subject that sounds interesting and explore only that section. One hour is enough. It is a wise person who leaves wanting more, and before "museum

fatigue" sets in. A longer visit, however, can be successful if you plan a lunch or similar break to provide a small diversion.

The medium-size or smaller museum. You can tour the smaller museums in one hour. This isn't to say that in one visit you can exhaust the entire museum's holdings and should never return. But at least now you are familiar with the collection, and you know what you want to see on the next trip. You will be surprised what you missed on your first or even your fifth visit.

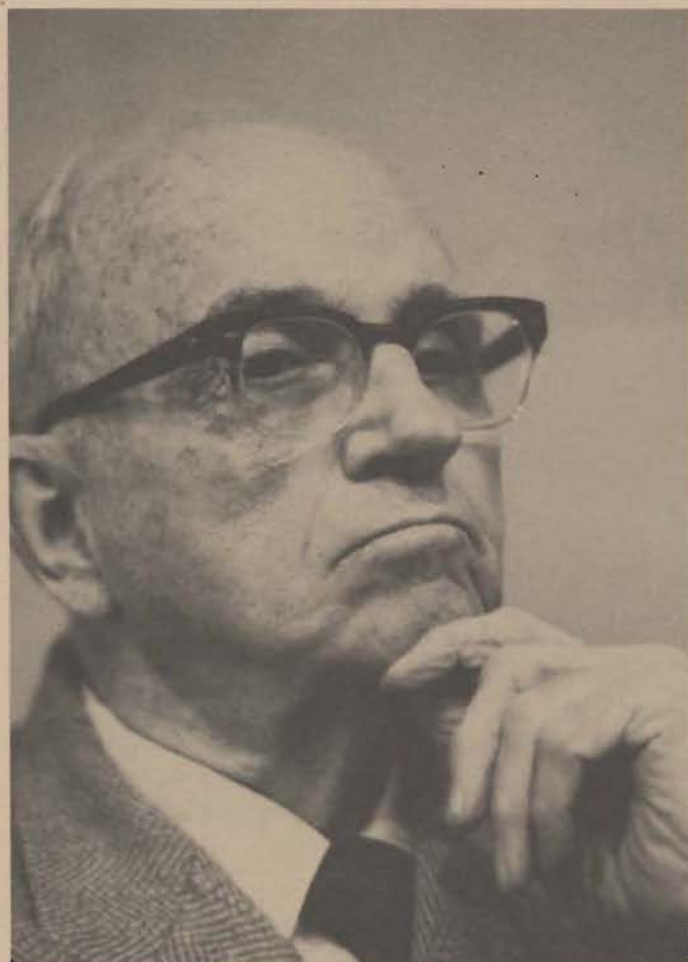
The special exhibition. This may be one of the best developments in the museum world. A single subject is portrayed in an area of 3,000-10,000 square feet. It usually features dramatic lighting, sound, and special effects. You might compare it to seeing a new play or musical or even a five-dollar movie, except that the special exhibition has a brilliant but short life span. After three or six months, it's gone. All that remains is a poster and an exhibition catalog—memory pieces.

Special exhibitions are expensive to produce, and a lot of their success is based on attendance. Therefore, you are far more likely to hear or read about a special, new, temporary exhibit than the permanent collection that has been at a museum for many years.

LIBRARY VOLUNTEERS HEAR MICHENER



The author and his audience



Michener ponders a question

James Michener, one of America's most prolific and popular writers, who has been an author in residence at the University of Texas for the past year writing a novel based in the state of Texas, and who was recently conferred the title Professor Emeritus by the University, met with the Library volunteers, at the request of volunteer supervisor Annette Sadler. He answered questions ranging from his approach to writing in general to his work-in-progress in particular.

Some excerpts from his presentation:

How do you go about writing a book?

I have never in my life decided to write a book *about* something. I have looked around at great situations which provide interesting characters, and I try to find one that is harmonious with what I'm thinking about, one that's big enough to enlist my interest for the next three years, which is about what it takes to write a long book. One day I hit upon one and I say, "okay, this is it." Then, I read very widely, very, very widely. I don't take any notes, but just find out about that area in general. And when I have done that for about a year, I take a sheet of paper and write down the outline of the book—usually 12, 13, 14 subjects. Then, I really go to work and do all of my reading over again—but only that which pertains to the 14 subjects.

I now hit 3 or 4 or 5 *big* themes that I *know* I am going to have to write about. For instance, in my book, *Chesapeake*—I had a shipping company, I had a bank, I had an Episcopal Church, and I had a railroad; and I really knew everything about these subjects that was possible. Having done that tremendous amount of work in those subjects, you have a vertical structure which is almost like sinking piles into ooze in order to get a structure in which to build a building. Then when you interrelate and mention the year 1841, you know what the bank was doing, you

know what the church was doing, you know the condition the ship-builder was in, you know what the railroad was doing.

I, then, am ready to go to work on what I'm going to write.

How do you discipline yourself?

I do not wait upon my muse . . . I have lived with her or him for 70 years, so we have a pretty good relationship. I work every day—holidays, everything else. I get up around 7:30 every morning, go right to work. I get out of bed and I'm at the typewriter literally within five minutes. I don't eat breakfast, which I'm told is a very bad habit, but that's what I've contracted. I work until about 12:30. I think that every human being is wise and lucky if she or he finds what the daily rhythm is and conforms to it—not to what somebody else thinks it ought to be.

Who will figure in your book on Texas?

If you look at all that I've written, you would find that I try

never to take the biggest city, or the first boat, or the lead missionary, or anything else. I always try to come in on the third wave. And that means that this book isn't going to be a novel about Sam Houston although he figures prominently; it is not going to be a novel about Stephen Austin, although I almost revere that man; it is not going to be a novel about Jim Bowie, or Travis. In the latter stages of the book, it certainly is not going to be a novel about Lyndon Johnson. I wouldn't do that. I don't know enough for one thing, and it would throw my whole project out of perspective.

Now, the force of Johnson, and what Johnson stood for, comes in very strongly. I knew Mr. Johnson very favorably. I was especially pleased with his work in regards to NASA where I was on the board. So the shadow of Johnson is very omnipresent but I'm not going to even endeavor to bring that tremendous controversial and wonderful figure into the book as a character. I wouldn't do it with him; I wouldn't do it with Chief Bowles, the great Cherokee; I wouldn't do it with Sam Houston, because that is a special form of writing which I have always avoided.



The volunteers also met with LBJ School Professor Emmette Redford, in the First Ladies Theater. Dr. Redford reminisced about early days in Johnson City, when he was a boyhood friend of Lyndon Johnson. He also gave a report on the LBJ School's preparation of an administrative history of the Johnson Presidency, a massive project of which he is the editor-in-chief.

CONSTITUTIONAL REFORM COMMITTEE MEETS IN LIBRARY



Meeting at the Library in February was an organization which calls itself "The Committee on the Constitutional System." Co-chaired by Senator Nancy Kassebaum of Kansas, C. Douglas Dillon, who served both as Secretary of the Treasury and Under Secretary of State, and Lloyd N. Cutler, former Council to the President, the committee—whose 300 members represent a broad range of the political, social and economic spectrum—describes itself as a "non-partisan, non-profit corporation devoted to the study and analysis of our constitutional system as it nears its 200th anniversary in 1987."

The committee's objective, as Lloyd Cutler described it in the meeting at the Library, is to determine, after consultations with scholars and political and civic leaders across the nation, whether to recommend to the Congress of the United States possible improvements in the constitutional system to meet the changing times.

Meeting at the Library, at the committee's invitation, were members of the University of Texas community and state political leaders.

COMING EVENTS

Symposium—"The Great Society: A 20 Year Critique"
April 18-19.

Special Exhibit—"A White House Diary," based on Lady Bird Johnson's book, will open May 1.

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