

AMONG FRIENDS *of LBJ*

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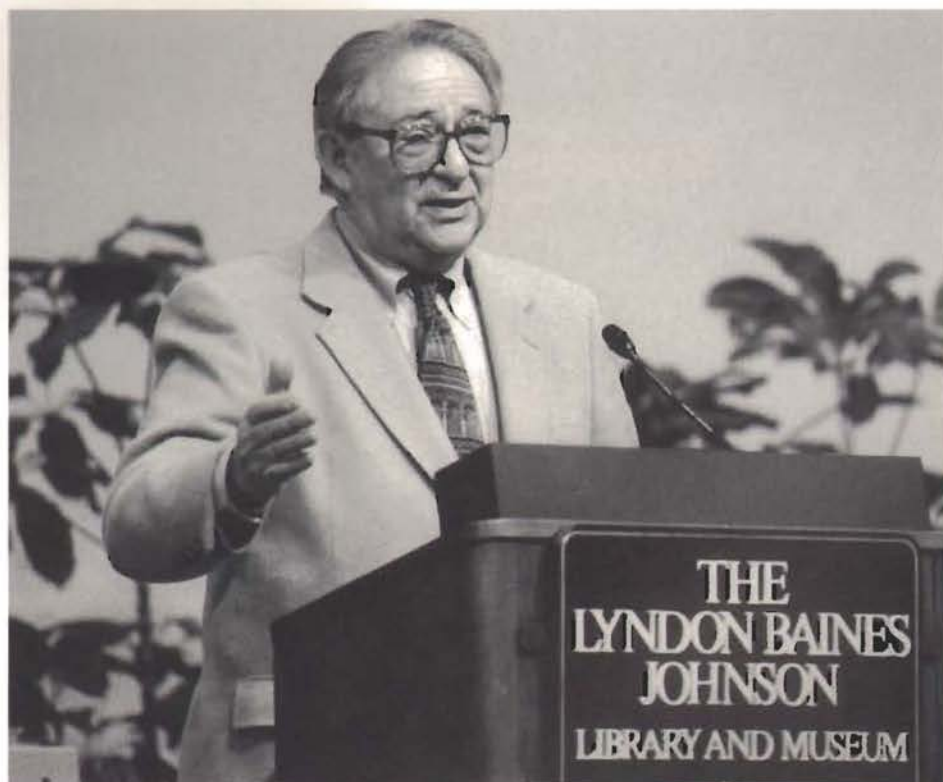
LBJ Reminiscences
(see page 6)

Programs at the Library



Clifton Truman Daniel, grandson of President and Mrs. Harry Truman and son of Clifton and Margaret Truman Daniel, recounted his memories of his illustrious grandparents and his life growing up in a distinguished family. His first awareness that he came from a famous lineage occurred when he was seven years old and he went with his parents to visit President and Mrs. Johnson in the White House. Everything about that event impressed him, particularly LBJ's style. As they were leaving, he asked his mother: "Why does the President talk like a cowboy?"

Irving Bernstein, Professor of Political Science at the University of California at Los Angeles, discussed his recently published *Guns or Butter: The Presidency of Lyndon Johnson*. His address gave—as does his book—special attention to LBJ's domestic programs. "Lyndon Johnson has been short-changed," he says in his preface. "He has been charged with what went wrong, and he has not been credited with what went right... The literature on the Johnson Presidency is badly skewed. There are an enormous number of studies of Vietnam... On domestic policies there is only a respectable literature on civil rights."



Two historical figures came to life on the stage of the LBJ Auditorium. The first was Abigail Adams, in the person of Rebecca Bloomfield, who has created a one-woman show on the celebrated—and outspoken—wife of America's second President.



The other was Will Rogers, the cowboy philosopher who was one of the most popular figures in American life until his death in 1935. He was impersonated by Cy Eberhart, whose presentation was based on Rogers' words.

Senator Chafee receives First Lady Bird Johnson



Senator John Chafee, Republican of Rhode Island, came to the Library to accept the first Lady Bird Johnson Conservation Award, created by the Board of Directors of the LBJ Foundation to honor the former First Lady.

A committee of four environmental leaders, acting at the request of the Foundation, selected Senator Chafee, Chairman of the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee, as the first recipient of the award.

In his remarks as he accepted the award, Senator Chafee noted the hostility toward environmental laws and regulations displayed by many in the Congress today despite "the long bi-partisan history of environ-

mental protection—as well as the very clear strength of public opinion on the subject." The reason, he suggested, was that "in their anti-regulatory zeal, many of the freshmen legislators...have misunderstood their mandate. The electorate may very well want environmental laws that are less cumbersome, but they still want fresh water and breathable air."

He predicted that "the attacks will subside, giving way to the weight of public sentiment," and said "the great environmental issue of the day is how to recognize and face up to hazards less obvious and more subtle than those that spurred remedies in the 1960s and 1970s."

He proposed five points for future action:

- an understanding of *true threats* to the environment (toxic waste, cigarette smoke, radon gas, formaldehyde gas from building materials, for example).
- wide-spread *education* of citizens and businesses about the need for protection and their role in achieving it.
- *governmental actions* that are based on incentives to cooperate rather than punishment.
- *awareness* of the interrelationship of all forms of life. ("It isn't enough just to list 30 animals on the brink of extinction—we have to save everything that surrounds them.")
- U. S. assumption of *leadership* in international environmental treaties.

Conservation Award

Texas Senator Kay Bailey Hutchison commended Chafee as “clearly one of the leading environmentalists” in the nation.



Former Environmental Protection Agency Administrator William Reilly, a member of the committee selecting the award winner, introduced Chafee, calling him “The Senate’s premier environmentalist.”

Chafee on the Johnsons

Mrs. Johnson’s appreciation for natural beauty—and how profoundly it affects society—made an indelible mark on American thinking about the environment. In 1965, she told a White House Conference on Natural Beauty that, “Our peace of mind, our emotions, our spirit—even our souls—are conditioned by what our eyes see.”

President Johnson was the second truly environmental President—

the first being Theodore Roosevelt. LBJ summed up his philosophy when he signed legislation establishing the Assateague Island National Seashore: “If future generations are to remember us more with gratitude than with sorrow, we must achieve more than just the miracles of technology. We must also leave them a glimpse of the world as God really made it, not just as it looked when we got through with it.”

That philosophy pervaded President Johnson’s work, as he laid the groundwork for the major environmental laws of the 1970s. He signed anti-pollution and open space legislation into law, including the creation of The Redwoods National Park, the Wilderness Act, and the Land and Water Conservation Fund.



Willis Hurst, cardiologist who attended President Johnson through the years, came to the Library to launch a book of reminiscences about LBJ compiled by Dr. Hurst and his colleague, the late Dr. Jim Cain of the Mayo Clinic, also a long-time friend of the Johnson family.

The book, titled, *LBJ: To Know Him Better*, contains recollections of Johnson by some 40 persons who were associated with him.

There were "two reasons," Hurst said, "why Jim Cain and I felt that we should put this little book together. First, our generation of physicians believe it is important to know and understand the person

being treated. We were trained to observe and analyze the person as a person. So in addition to diagnosing and treating LBJ we became friends with him and made observations that perhaps others might not have the opportunity to make. We observed his reactions when he was succeeding, we observed his reactions when he was having difficulties, we observed his reactions when he felt well. We saw him when he was very ill, and he was challenged then by all the human emotions. And we were standing by to observe and learn from him.

"Secondly, I at least, have become convinced that we probably

don't know very much about any of our leaders because it is through television and newspapers that we are aware of their monumental decisions. We don't really know the person. But it's a conglomerate of little things—like kindness, humanness, thoughtfulness, worrying about someone, humor—that come together and coalesce to make up the person. Most of the books written about a leader are written by people who did not know him, and therefore do not know all of the small but terribly important aspects of his life and his personality. That's the message we wanted to come through about LBJ."

Book Recapture LBJ

Hurst's favorite story in the collection is by the Reverend George Davis, who was LBJ's pastor in Washington.

Because Lyndon Johnson cared, a little lad from Sicily was brought to the United States for needed complex surgery. The case had reached the president through the "sample correspondence" from all the departments and agencies that regularly crossed his desk. It caught his attention.

"He was advised, "But Mr. President, your time and energy won't allow you to bother with all these details. You know you can't respond to all of even the most worthy requests."

His reply was, "If I'm not supposed to read this mail, don't send it to me merely as a formality. If it is sent, don't tell me how to respond, if even by coincidence I read it. The boy will be brought here, and his papa and mama if he has such, so he won't be lonely in a strange land. It is certainly true we can't respond to all the requests. It is true I can't do everything. But this I can do, and I do it now."



Former Congressman Jake Pickle, one of the story tellers.

Limited numbers of the Hurst-Cain book are available for purchase (\$10) at the Library's Museum Store. Anyone interested can call

(512) 476-0029 or 1-800-874-6451.



In a forward to the book, Lady Bird Johnson writes, "This is a celebration of Lyndon's life, and by the telling, a triumphant reunion of beloved friends."



The University of Texas Inner-visions Gospel Choir was one of four choral groups who sang in the Library auditorium to commemo-

rate Black History Month in February. The others were the St. James Episcopal Church Choir, the Wesley Intergenerational Choir

and the Huston-Tillotson College Concert Choir.



The Volunteer Program at the Library and Museum has completed its 16th successful year, with volunteers working as docents, giving tours to visitors,

and in other parts of the Library.

At their annual luncheon, five volunteers were recognized for their decade of service.

Flanking Mrs. Johnson are: Susan Carol Ward, Linda McKinney, Dorothy L. Sullivan, Helen Schmookler, and Emma Walbridge.



LBJ Pen Vetoes Bill, Creates Flap

To veto a congressional budget bill that he said was a "Republican attack on The Great Society," President Clinton borrowed a pen from the LBJ Library with which President Johnson signed the legisla-

tion creating Medicare at the Truman Library in 1965. The incident stimulated a minor furor when commentator Rush Limbaugh, comparing pictures of the two Presidential signings, charged that Clinton was not using the LBJ pen after all. He was, though. It was President Johnson's habit to use multiple pens to sign important leg-

islation so he could give some of them away as souvenirs. The pen he was using when the picture was taken 30 years ago in Independence, Missouri, was different from the pen taken out of storage in the Library's museum area when the White House called. But it *was* a Medicare pen.



Pat Borders, Assistant Director of the Library, posted the notice closing the Library officially for three and a half days in November when the government ran out of money.

Museum Curator Retires



Gary Yarrington, curator of the Library's museum from the beginning, resigned at the end of March to pursue a full time career as a sculptor. (At right is a 33-inch bronze example of his art, titled "Young Dancer.") Yarrington, above, in front of a panel of the Library's new permanent exhibit, which he designed, was hired by National Archives in the summer of 1968 for the staff of the LBJ Library, then in the planning stage. He has been at the helm of all the Library's exhibitions since then.



Canadian Ambassador to the U. S. Raymond Chr tien and his wife, here being given a tour through the museum by Docent JoAnn Jentz, were among the Library's visitors. Also among that number was Diana Carlin, professor at the University of Kansas and wife of the Archivist of the United States.



In Memoriam: Jordan, Gronouski, Thornberry, Rusk



Four persons once members of the extended Johnson family died recently. Barbara Jordan, whom President Johnson considered something of a protege, and who held the Lyndon Johnson Chair at the LBJ School of Public Affairs, lay in state in the Great Hall of the Library after her death from leukemia. Her passing summoned memories of her pronouncement on Johnson at a conference in 1990: "Lyndon Johnson attacked what was wrong aggressively, persuasively. He was not unmindful of the risks. But he knew that what he desired for America was right, and that rightness seemed to ennoble his vision. [He] took his vision and actualized it in law. What is it he believed that was so extraordinary? It was simple. Lyndon Johnson believed that every citizen was entitled to as much respect and dignity as every other citizen... Laws testify to his commitment. He left us a legacy of hope."

Two other departures:

- Homer Thornberry, who succeeded to the congressional seat vacated by LBJ and ended his illustrious career as a U. S. Circuit Court of Appeals Judge. He was called by the *Austin American-Statesman* "a true legend in his own time."

- Virginia Foise Rusk, widow of Dean Rusk, who served as Secretary of State throughout the Johnson Administration.

John A. Gronouski, Postmaster General and later U. S. Ambassador to Poland in the Johnson years, was the first Dean of the LBJ School of Public Affairs. A memorial plaque in the lobby of the Library commemorated his death.



Library Awards Grants to Scholars

Following the Foundation's policy of giving grants twice a year, 15 recipients were selected for the second half of the 95/96 period. The funds, which total \$30,000, result from a grant from the Moody Foundation to help defray travel and living expenses for researchers using the Library's resources.

Those receiving grants-in-aid and the titles of their proposed projects are: David G. Armstrong, "The Stages of Growth of Walt Whitman Rostow"; Robert A. Bauman, "A Tale of Two Agencies: The Implementation of the War on Poverty in Los Angeles"; Philip E. Catton, "The Strategic Hamlet in South Vietnam, 1961-1964"; Jeffrey E. Cohen, "Strategic Management of

the President's Legislative Program: Lyndon Johnson's Success with a Large Agenda"; David R. Jardini, "RAND Goes Domestic: The RAND Corporation Diversification into Social Welfare Research, 1958-1972"; Victor Kaufman, "Argument and Accord: Anglo-American Relations Toward China, 1948-1972"; Jaap W. Kooijman, "Access Denied: The Historical Development of the American National Health Insurance Debate within a Theoretical Perspective of American Exceptionalism"; Dieu T. Nguyen, "Water, War, and Peace: The Mekong River and the Struggle for Indochina"; Stephen I. Ruken, "American Intervention Decisions: Building a Theory"; Stephen C.

Sturgeon, "God's Dams: Wayne Aspinall and the Politics of Western Water"; Elena Vorobiova, "The Republican Party in the South in the 1968 Presidential Election"; Philip A. Walker, "Senator Lyndon Johnson and Mexico"; William O. Walker, "The Johnson Administration and Cuba"; David A. Yalof, "White House Consideration and Selection of Nominees to the U. S. Supreme Court, 1945-1987"; Nancy Beck Young, "Wright Patman: Congressman to the Nation".

The Committee which evaluates and recommends grants is composed of U.T. Faculty members Bruce Buchanan, Government; Richard Schott, LBJ School; and Robert Divine, History.



Tatum Rebekah Nugent, first great grandchild of President and Mrs. Johnson, is registered in the Johnson Family Bible at the Library by her parents, Lyndon and Nicole Nugent.



The Library's annual President's Day party for Head Start children entertained youngsters from the Mary Bailey Head Start Center in Georgetown, Texas, as well as the Round Rock, Texas Head Start Center, with puppets, balloons, clowns and music.

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The LBJ Library is one of nine presidential libraries administered by the National Archives and Records Administration.

