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Media Personality Addresses Audience of Friends

Cokie Roberts, star of television and National Public Radio, and the daughter of Congressman Hale and Congresswoman Lindy Boggs, delighted an overflow audience with her analytic deftness and ready wit.

Ruefully admitting her veteran status, Roberts noted how the passage of time affects her perspective.

"Each successive election gets me more upset.... All these beautiful boys, who do their hair with blow dryers, and they call me 'Ma'am' and all that, and it gets pretty depressing. But I've decided that any election where Strom Thurmond is still there is a good election...." However, Roberts recalled that there is another side to the Senator from South Carolina which gives her less comfort: "Strom Thurmond is ninety-five years old. And all of his children are younger than mine."

And that recollection led her to a not unrelated observation: "Bob Dole goes and tells the world that he's on Viagra. Who needed to know that?"

Ms. Roberts treated the audience to some cogent political analysis, accurately predicting the straight party-line vote for impeachment in the House Judiciary Committee, which occurred several weeks later.



Noting the increasing role of nontraditional voters, Ms. Roberts believes that the days of the strictly white male party are done. Successful political parties in the future will be those which attract women and minorities. A related question from the audience about Mrs. Clinton running for office prompted this amused response: "I must say that I never thought I would get to see the day when I came to Texas and found a man raising the question of Hillary Clinton for president."

Americans today are quite unconcerned with foreign policy, said Roberts, and that mood is reflected in Washington. "You can't get a member of Congress to serve on the Foreign Relations Committee. You have to promise them another committee to get them to do it. It used to be considered a great jewel. There is a sense that as long as the country is not at war, and we don't have any hostages held anywhere, that we don't have to worry about foreign affairs. There's a lot of missed opportunity going on here, because we are the only superpower. I think there are times when we do have to be the world's policeman, and Iraq is probably the best example of that."



Cokie reacts to a question from the audience: "Is Sam Donaldon's hair real?" Her answer: "All I can say is, it's attached."

"The Last Roundup": Birth of a Symposium

It began with a notion that the Library organize a symposium to examine LBJ's relationship with the press. Then George Christian suggested broadening the focus to include other themes from the sixties. A special committee of Great Society veterans decided that Christian's concept should be developed, so a select committee set to work deciding an agenda for the event and who the participants should be.

The result is a symposium titled "Legacy of the 1960s," scheduled for Wednesday-Friday, May 12-15. Its purpose will be to examine the sea change which transformed America in that turbulent period, and what the change has meant for the nation. "LBJ Remembered," a round-table discussion involving several former LBJ staffers and such Washington journalists as Ray Scherer, Hugh

Sidey, Sid Davis, Marianne Means, and Bonnie Angelo, will open the event Wednesday night.

Thursday morning the conference itself will begin with a keynote address by Arthur Schlesinger, Jr.

Sheldon Hackney will chair a panel on the counter-culture movement.

Julian Bond is to moderate a group discussing "Civil Rights: The Situation Now."

Professor Elspeth Rostow is preparing an address on foreign policy in the sixties.

Jim Hartz will serve as chairman for a panel on space which will include former Apollo astronaut Pete Conrad; Walter Cronkite will deliver the final word in that session.

Joe Califano is set to lecture on "The Legacy of the Great Society."

Historians Michael Beschloss, Robert Dallek, Doris Kearns Goodwin, and Haynes Johnson will examine "LBJ Thirty Years Later."

Roger Rosenblatt will give the final comments.

There will be entertainment from the sixties as well. On Thursday evening Jack Valenti will introduce performers Carol Channing, Gregory Peck, Peter Yarrow (of Peter, Paul, and Mary), and Van Cliburn.

The Library's special thanks go to the planners who have helped put this program together: Ed Dorn, Liz Carpenter, George Christian, Betty Sue Flowers, Bob Hardesty, Robert King, William Livingston, Robert Mettlen, Stephen Monti, Shirley Bird Perry, Thomas Staley, Lowell Lebermann, Elspeth Rostow, Louann Temple, and Sam Winters.



Julian Bond addresses a symposium on civil rights at the LBJ Library in December, 1972. It was the Library's first such gathering.

The First Lady's Gallery: The Legacy of Lady Bird Johnson



The "Today Show" crew prepares to film Luci Baines Johnson for a segment on the opening of the Gallery. The show aired nationally on December 17.

An exhibit featuring Mrs. Johnson had been on the Library's agenda for a long time. Although Lady Bird Johnson appears many times in the Museum's permanent exhibits, nowhere was there significant space specifically dedicated to explaining the crucial role she played in public service with President Johnson, nor in the private life they shared.

It was a dual question of space and money. To tell Lady Bird's story properly would take up a large Museum area, and that would require scrubbing other important exhibits. But which? That was the dilemma, until the problem was solved when the Library's eighth floor was closed for a year for renovation. The Library seized that opportunity to move Mrs. Johnson's office, with her approval, to the opposite end of the floor. The vacated space, located next to the replica Oval Office, proved to be an ideal spot for a new gallery.

The quandary of financing the project remained. There would be significant costs, which the Museum budget was unprepared to cover. That problem vanished when the Allbritton Foundation generously offered to underwrite the entire scheme.

While the rest of the eighth floor was being renovated during 1997-98, the Gallery took form. There was a major facelift. Plumbing was ripped out; the wiring completely redone, walls demolished and new ones constructed, the floor destroyed and resurrected. And then, of course, there

was the matter of the exhibits. Picking which artifacts to use, from among an avalanche of objects, was a major challenge. Among other items, Museum Curator Lisa Royse examined selected notes from which Mrs. Johnson constructed her memoir, A White House Diary; over thirty hours of navy White House film footage, and every piece of home movies the Johnsons had—and they had quite a bit.

Nearly every section of the Library and Museum staff has contributed materially to the final product.

The completed First Lady's Gallery tells the story of Lady Bird Johnson from the time she met Lyndon Baines Johnson in 1934, to her role as First Lady, and then into life after the White House. Because her own words permeate the exhibits, a remarkably personal touch resides here. White House mementoes, personal belongings, and short films add texture. Mrs. Johnson's original Library office is preserved, exactly as she used it for over twenty-five years, with her original desk and furniture. The room has an incomparable view, extending from the Texas State Capitol to the far southern horizon, and visitors may see it for themselves.



Cutting the ribbon. Lynda and Luci cut the ribbon to open the gallery. Luci is getting help from her grandson, Johnson Covert, whose mother Nicole holds granddaughter Claudia. Senator Charles Robb looks on.



Mrs. Johnson gets a first look, accompanied by Lynda and Charles Robb.

A tour of the gallery begins with the year 1934, when Claudia Alta "Lady Bird" Johnson (nee Taylor) met LBJ. Their first date was over coffee at The Driskill hotel in downtown Austin, and it is commemorated in an original painting commissioned especially for the gallery. Visitors can hear Kirk Douglas and Helen Hayes reading from the love letters the young couple wrote during their courtship. This part of the tour includes never-before-seen footage from family home movies which Mrs. Johnson herself took. The gallery concludes with photos of family and travels from Mrs. Johnson's personal photo albums, and special tributes from presidents, first ladies, and close friends.



Mrs. Johnson and her daughters share a moment with Lowell Lebermann, a long-time family friend.



From the December 22 opening until December 31, more than five thousand visitors walked through the Gallery.

The First Lady's Gallery opened on December 22, 1998, Mrs. Johnson's eighty-sixth birthday. Her daughters Lynda and Luci did the honors at the ribbon-cutting. The U.S. Post Office commemorated the event with a spe-

cial cancellation which was presented in honor of the day. Several mementoes of the opening are available at the Museum store, including signed copies of *A Life Well Lived*, Harry Middleton's tribute to Mrs. Johnson, with written contributions from Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis, Presidents Nixon, Ford, Carter, Reagan, and Bush; and posters of "Breakfast at the Driskill," the original artwork memorializing the Johnson's first date.

At the dinner party for special guests on the evening of opening day, former congressman Jake Pickle delighted the crowd with a personal evaluation of his gallery experience: "I felt like taking my shoes off," he declared. "It's holy ground."

And one young visitor named David wrote this in the Gallery visitors' book: "Brefe, but good."

(The two young boys on the cover are Sam and Elliott Richter of Austin, grandsons of Ted Gittinger, editor.)



Most of the women who have worked in Mrs. Johnson's office at the LBJ Library gathered for a special preview of the First Lady's Gallery. From left to right they are: Carole Bryant, Jonanna Reidinger, Marge Morton, Pam Hanvey, Peggy Pryor, Mrs. Johnson, Martha Tiller, Robin Pegler (in front), Betty Tilson, Patsy Chaney, Janis McCullough, and Shirley James. Not shown are Helene Lindow Gordon, who is recovering from a broken foot, and Betsy Leonard.

President Harding's First Lady Was a Modern Woman



"Florence Harding's is not a name which has resonated down the years with the ring of immortality that has accompanied that of Abigail Adams, or Eleanor Roosevelt, or even Mary Todd Lincoln," said Library Director Harry Middleton. He was introducing historian Carl Sferrazza Anthony to a crowd of seven hundred Friends, who came to the Library to hear him discuss his latest work, a biography of President Warren Harding's First Lady.

Mrs. Harding was a suffragette; the first presidential spouse to hold press conferences, and the first to fly in an airplane. She learned the hardware business, banking, and real estate under her father's tutelage. She played the piano. She had a son out of wedlock, by a man named Henry DeWolfe. After her marriage to Warren Harding, she took over the business end of his Marion Star newspaper and made it the most successful daily in Ohio. When in the White House. she made the cause of disabled veterans her own, and championed them.

When Harding ran for the U.S. Senate in 1914, Mrs. Harding managed the campaign, the finances, and the publicity. And when he was sworn in as president in

March, 1921, she was overheard to say to him, "Well, Warren Harding, I got you the presidency. Now what are you going to do with it?"

The "Duchess," as Harding had nicknamed his wife long before their White House days, did not poison her husband, as has long been rumored, Anthony said. But he maintained that she may well have been an unwitting accessory to the medical malfeasance which caused his death.

Biographer Anthony summed it up this way: "She was...the first of the really modern first ladies. She not only created a campaign role for herself that had not previously existed; she used her visibility not merely to set fashion trends, but to create a national constituency of her own. Warren Harding may ultimately remain rated as our worst president, but Florence Harding should rate close to the top as a first lady."

At the conclusion of Anthony's presentation of a 1920s riddled with scandal, sexual highjinks, pilferage at the cabinet level, and dark suggestions of mayhem, Middleton said that Anthony made "Washington in the 1990s read like Rebecca of Sunnybrook Farm."



Historian Anthony makes a point.

Two Great Society Veterans Look Back

Joseph A. Califano, Jr., Special Assistant to President Johnson, 1965-69; Secretary of HEW under President Carter

Excerpted from the Washington Post, November 18, 1998.

The president most responsible for the Democratic victories in 1998 is the stealth president whom Democrats are loath to mention: Lyndon Johnson.

In March of 1965, when racial tension was high and taking a procivil rights stand was sure to put the solid South (and much of the North)

in political play, President Johnson addressed a joint session of Congress to propose the Voting Rights Act. Flying in the face of polls that showed his position was hurting his popularity, he said that ensuring everyone the right to vote was an act of obedience to the oath that the pres-



ident and the Congress take before "God to support and defend the Constitution."

Looking members on the floor straight in the eye, he closed by intoning the battle hymn of the civil rights movement, "And we shall overcome." One southern congress-



man seated next to White House counsel Harry McPherson exclaimed in shocked surprise, "God damn!"

That summer, with Johnson hovering over it, Congress passed the Voting Rights Act.... Well, if he was looking down on us on Nov. 3-and I'm sure he was up there counting votes—he saw his dream come true. Without the heavy black turnout, the Democrats would not have held their own in the Senate, picked up seats in the House and moved into more statehouses. Here and there across the country, the black vote provided the margin of victory for Democratic governors and congressmen-and where Republicans such as the Bush brothers attracted large percentages of Hispanic and black voters, helped roll up majorities with national implications.

The Voting Rights Act is not the only thing Democrats can thank LBJ for.... It is his Medicare that Democrats promised to protect from Republican sledgehammers. LBJ was the president who ratcheted up Social Security payments to lift more than two million Americans above the poverty line.

Together, Medicare and Social Security have changed the nature of growing old in America, and freed millions of baby boomers to buy homes and send their kids to college rather than spend the money to help their aging parents.

Isn't it...time for Democrats to come out of the closet and recognize the legacy of the president who opened the polls to minorities and established federal beachheads in education, health care and the environment? After all, it's the Democrats' promise to protect these beachheads and forge forward that accounts for much of their success this November and offers their best chance to retain the White House and recapture the House of Representatives in 2000.

Charles M. Haar, Assistant Secretary, HUD; Chair, Presidential Task Force on Model Cities

From the *Journal of Urban History*, November 1998.

You know, this whole Great Society period represents an aspect of the human spirit that I think remarkable. As I look back on it, I'm struck with how different we are today, with sophistication bringing skepticism, even passivity. We did believe that progress in human affairs was attainable. That sounds strange and perhaps naive today, the Promethean fallacy. But we did believe in change for the better; that the development of cities in metropolitan areas could be improved by government actions; that somehow the racial and ethnic divisions that are tearing at the country now could be dealt with and resolved. Indeed, the assumption was that national urban goals and remedies for what ailed us were within reach, that we had the requisite national commitment and national leadership. I really think the President embodied that hope. He was always striving to push ideas to actuality. He kept saying, "Give me the best program. Don't worry about the politics. Only consider the merits. If I think it's good for the country, I'll get it through politically." He would have accomplished those resplendent goals, I suspect, but the resources just weren't there. That was the agony shared by all who were close to him.

Joe Califano (back to camera) and Charles Haar confer with LBJ. Taken in 1966, the picture predates Mr. Califano's present anti-smoking position.

From Indian Clubs to Golf Clubs:



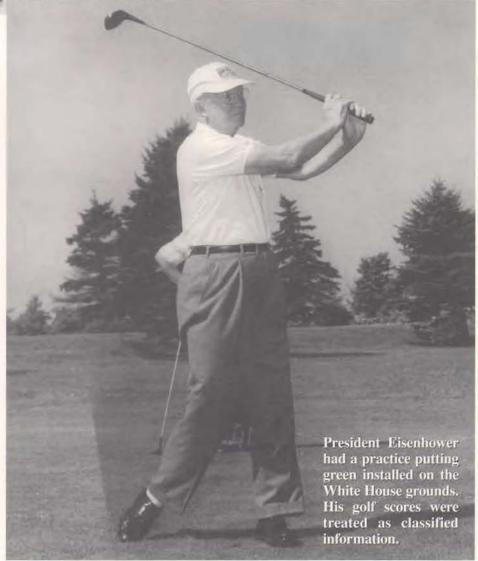
Gerald Ford showed good form at the University of Michigan.



Former Yale baseball infielder George Bush displays his form at horseshoes.

A temporary exhibit on the Library's second floor, officially titled "Flexing the Nation's Muscle," featured sports and fitness memorabilia from all the presidents of the twentieth century. Depicted were Jimmy Carter's softball games, and Gerald Ford's three-point stance as a college football lineman.

Theodore Roosevelt was the first athletic president to catch the public eye with his penchant for strenuous exercise. He sparred in the White House with professional fighters, and lost the sight in one eye as a result. Everyone past a certain age remembers the Kennedy touch football games, and how Eisenhower's golf prompted much curiosity as to his scores (but the Secret Service was loyal—they never leaked that



Physical Fitness in the White House

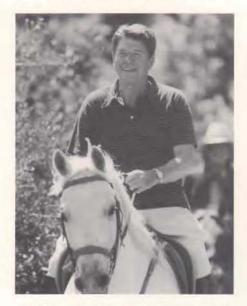
information). Herbert Hoover invented a variation of volleyball which used a ten-pound medicine ball instead of the regulation one. One got more exercise in less time, he reasoned.

Not so well known were the sporting habits of other presidents. Of course there is that famous photo of Taft on the golf course, but who knew that he also had been a powerful wrestler in college? Wilson played golf too, as did Nixon; the clubs of all the presidential golfers were on display. LBJ played occasionally; he was a long if erratic hitter off the tee. He once played a match with Air Force Chief of Staff John McConnell. LBJ won. "We played by his rules," the general recalled.

One particularly poignant item recalled how one president strove to overcome a disability in pursuit of fitness. Beside a photo of FDR catching a large tarpon in the Texas Gulf Coast, stood the actual leg braces he wore.

Most of the hundreds of items on display were on temporary loan from the White House exhibit, a joint creation of the National Archives and Records Administration and the President's council on Physical Fitness. Truman Museum Curator Clay Bauske designed the exhibition, which has been shown at other presidential libraries.

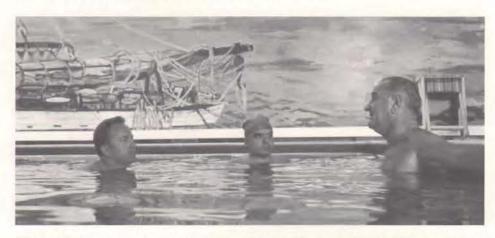
The exhibit closed on January 3.



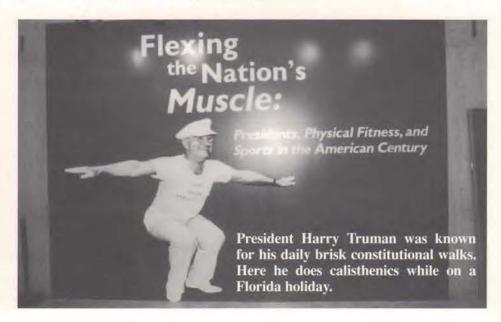
President Reagan enjoys a favorite pastime.



The Kennedy family's love for sailing was famous.



LBJ takes a dip in the White House pool with Special Assistant Jack Valenti (in the shower cap) and Chief of Protocol Lloyd Hand. The mural in the background is from St. Croix, Virgin Islands.



Ike's Grandson David Visits Library

He wrote his first novel at age ten, recalled Professor David Eisenhower, grandson of President Dwight Eisenhower. He sold a copy of it to then-Vice President Richard Nixon for fifteen cents. He has been writing ever since.

Library staffers, docents and guests from the University assembled in the Library Atrium to hear Eisenhower talk about his writing, about his famous grandfather, and his current teaching project at the Annenberg School at the University of Pennsylvania. He brought a group of five students to do research on President Johnson's speeches. (By coincidence, this was the second such group to visit the Library this fall. See article on page 13.)

Eisenhower finds fascinating parallels between the 1958 intervention in Lebanon and the situation in the Middle East today. In 1958 the

Baathist Party, just having taken power in Baghdad, threatened to reclaim Kuwait as Iraq's nineteenth province. President Eisenhower responded by sending the marines to Lebanon, while the international community by and large looked on approvingly. Today, Sadam Hussein, now leader of the Baathist Party, still claims Kuwait and threatens the equilibrium of the area, and the international community looks to the United States for preventive action, Eisenhower saw, however, at least one major difference between 1958 and today: the Congress was united solidly behind Ike, while today the Congress is divided over what action the President should take. Eisenhower believes that Senate Majority Leader Lyndon Johnson made the crucial difference in 1958, by lining up Senators to back the President.

On a lighter note, Eisenhower reported that Ike played professional baseball in 1908, using the alias "Wilson" lest his eligibility to play sports at West Point be affected. Forty years later a reporter, who had uncovered Ike's secret, accosted him during a game at the Polo Grounds and asked if it were true. Ike admitted it. "There were two Wilsons in that league," noted the reporter, "which one were you?" Flashing his famous grin, Ike replied, "The one who could hit."



Professor David Eisenhower recalls his grandfather's Middle East policy.

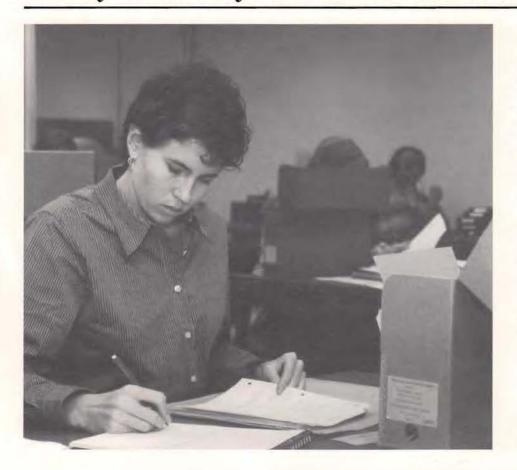
Raptor Favors Library With Visit

This young red-tailed hawk was first seen haunting the Library's eighth floor ledge in early December. He disappears occasionally for days at a time, but so far has always returned (the building's pigeon population may have something to do with that). Staffer Patricia Schaub rushed out and enlisted camera-bearing visitors Mr. and Mrs. Bill Burkes of McGregor, Texas, to take this photo through the window of Walt Rostow's office.

The Library staff has named the caller "Henry."



Trinity University Students Examine LBJ Speeches



Professor Moya Ball of Trinity University, San Antonio, brought a number of her students to the Library's Research Room in mid-October. They are doing an honors seminar in political communications, specifically, on how presidents communicate. "There is nothing like archival research in original documents to fire student interest," says the British-born Dr. Ball, who did her M.A. thesis on Vietnam policy. One of the students, Rachel Martin of Sealy, Texas, is doing an honors thesis on how southerners used the Declaration of Independence to redefine the American character during the time preceding the Civil War. Martin expects to graduate next May, and then begin graduate school.

Trinity University student Rachel Martin digs into the LBJ archives.

After 31 Years, Retired Navy Officer Still Seeks Answers

William L. McGonagle, who commanded the USS Liberty at the time it was attacked by Israeli air and naval forces in 1967, was in the Library's Research Room recently to see what new documents on that tragedy had been opened since his last visit. McGonagle was pleased that there had been progress, but he remains critical of both Tel Aviv and Washington for the slow pace in getting everything out in the open. Captain McGonagle says that his research has convinced him, against his will, that the attack was no mistake, that the Israelis knew exactly what they were doing.



Captain McGonagle at work in the Research Room.

Author of Hill Country Delights Crowd



On October 9, Janice Woods Windle came to the Library to talk about her latest book, *Hill Country*, a biography of her grandmother, Laura Hoge Woods, friend of LBJ's mother, Rebekah Baines Johnson, and survivor of a lifelong struggle against misfortune.

The book traces Laura's experiences, from an early brush with Indians through a series of disasters. It ends in an episode of symbolic triumph: after falling down while fetching water from a wilderness stream, soaking wet and covered with mud, weighed down even more heavily with family tragedies, for a time Laura cannot summon the will to continue her errand, or perhaps even to go on with her life.

But she gets up, and in doing so she reclaims her life, her selfrespect, "and the pieces of my soul that had been scattered along the Devil's Backbone from Blanco." "You can do this," she tells herself, "and the next thing, and the next thing, and the next." Ms. Windle relates the moment of her grandmother's triumph this way: when Laura's daughter, seeing her mother's disheveled appearance as she returns with the buckets of water, blurts, "Momma, you look terrible," Laura looks within herself and serenely replies, "I am not."

Conference on the Congress

Some of the nation's leading experts and historians on Congress and congressional history will meet at the Library on February 19, 1999 to discuss legislative leadership and power in the Congress. Expected speakers include nine former winners of the D. B. Hardeman Prize. William Livingston, Senior Vice President

of The University of Texas, will moderate.

Robert V. Remini, winner of the 1997 Hardeman Prize for his masterful biography of Daniel Webster, will participate. D. B. Hardeman was a long-time aide to Speaker Sam Rayburn and a serious historian of Congress. He donated his extensive collection of rare books on Congress to the LBJ Library and the funds to award a prize each year for the best book written on Congress and congressional history.

The afternoon panels are open to the public.

University Offers Evening Courses on Texas and Texans

Three semester-long evening courses of special interest to LBJ and Texas history buffs will be given through UT Austin's University Extension in the spring of 1999. Professor James Enelow will offer "Texas Power in Washington, 1931-1989" (Thursdays, 6:00-9:00 p.m.), which covers the rise and fall of Texas' influence in our national gov-

ernment, particularly in the Congress. President Lyndon Johnson will be a central figure in this course.

Professor Don Graham, well-known author of *Cowboys and Cadillacs* and *Giant Country*, will teach "Texas in the Movies," (Wednesdays, 6:00-9:00 p.m.). Using many classic films, he will offer a critical examination of the history and mythology

of Texas from 1908 through the present. In "Texas: Myth, Image and Experience," (Wednesdays, 6:00-9:00 p.m.), Dr. Patrick Cox will survey the image and perception of Texas from sources as diverse as Cabeza de Vaca, in his classic *Relación*, to Larry McMurtry's vision in *Lonesome Dove*.

For information call 471-2900 or see www.utexas.edu/dce/univext.

Visitors from Deutschland

Three German choral groups recently came through the Library's doors in quick succession. It was pure coincidence, none of them knew of the others. One was a young people's chorus, the Dorf Spätzen (Little Village Sparrows) from Niederelbert Montabuar V.G. There was also a Männerchor, or male chorus, called the Fröhe Sänger (Happy Singers) from Herschbach, which is the sister city of Fredericksburg, Texas. When asked if the men had a brochure or card, their leader produced a beautiful and completely professional-looking CD, one of ten they have recorded. It is titled "Hallo Westerwald," which freely translated is "Hello, Western Woodland." Two of their other albums are titled "Love Me Tender" and "Oldies But Goodies." Honestly.



Changing the Guard

In addition to his duties as Assistant Director of the LBJ Foundation, Larry Reed is taking on

the tasks which Yolanda Boozer once performed. So after overseeing sixtyeight issues of this newsletter, Larry is passing the editor's baton to Ted Gittinger, director of Special Projects.



The latest picture of the LBJ Library and Museum staff. In the middle of the front row, in the dark three-piece suit, is the Archivist of the United States, John Carlin.

Coming Events, Winter-Spring 1999

February 2 An Evening with Mary Beth Rogers, author of Barbara Jordan: An American Hero.

February 19 2:00-5:00 p.m.: Former winners of the D. B. Hardeman Prize meet to discuss the state of the

Congress, past and present. Erwin Atrium, eighth floor, LBJ Library. Open to the public.

February 23 An Evening with Juan Williams, author of Thurgood Marshall: American Revolutionary.

March 6 Exhibit opening: "David Douglas Duncan: One Life, A Photographic Odyssey."

March 8 An Evening With David Douglas Duncan.

March 17 An Evening of Folk Music with Jerry and Cathy Supple, and John Kirk and Trish Miller.

April 1 Exhibit opening: "Florence Nightingale and Her Legacy for Nursing."

April 12 An Evening With Ballet Austin; their premiere performance of "Rodeo," by Agnes de Mille.

May 12–15 Symposium: Legacy of the 1960s.

LBJ National Historic Park Events

April 19–25 National Park Week

May 8 Cowboy poetry and song (Please call 830-868-7128 to verify times.)

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Editor: Ted Gittinger

Technical Assistance: Larry Reed, Char Diercks

Research Assistance: Char Diercks, Barbara Biffle, Kim Head

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The LBJ Library is one of ten presidential libraries administered by the National Archives and

Records Administration.

