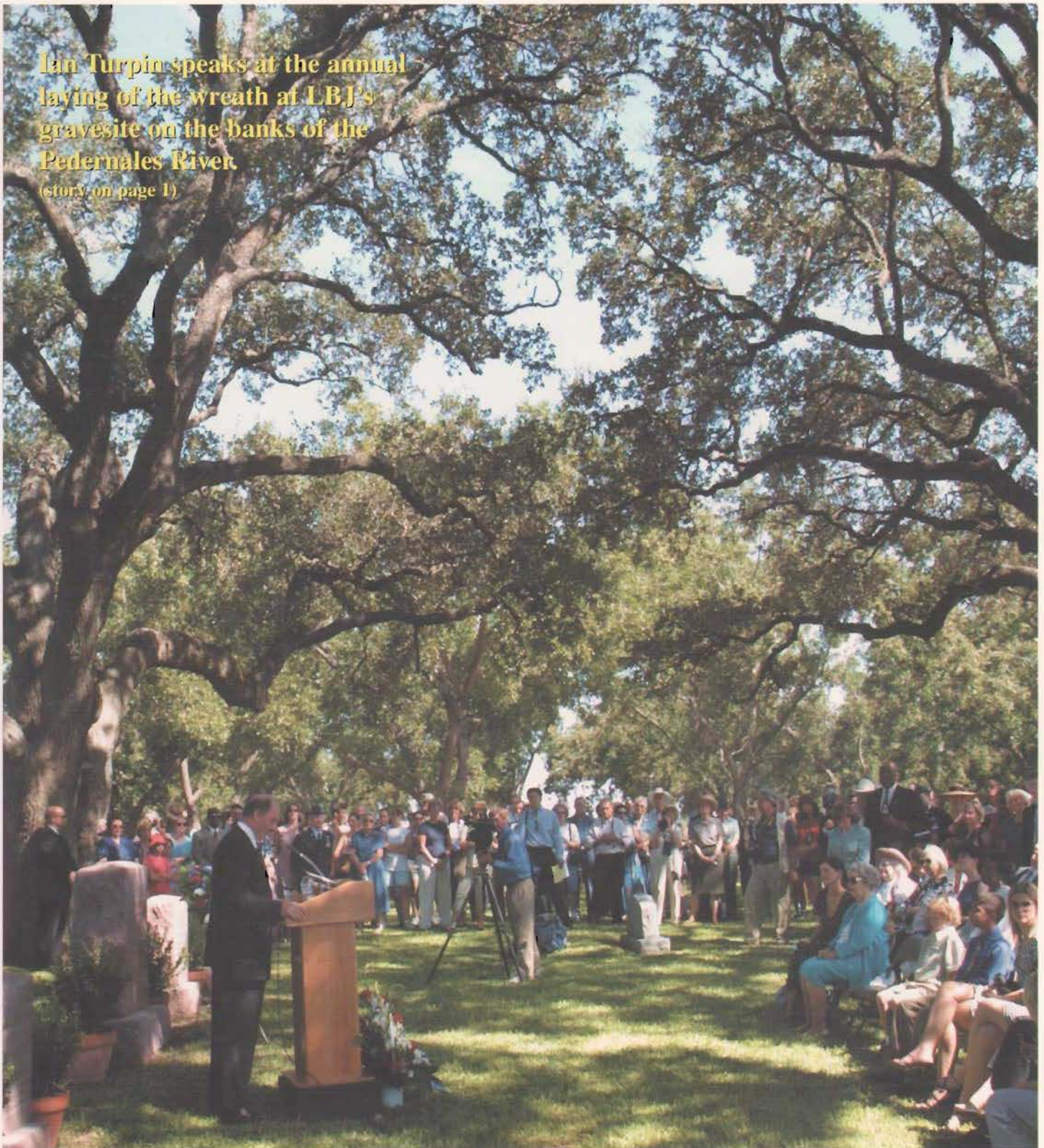


Among FRIENDS *of LBJ*

Issue Number LXIX, September 2002

**Ian Turpin speaks at the annual
laying of the wreath at LBJ's
gravesite on the banks of the
Pedernales River
(story on page 1)**



LBJ's Birthd

In late August, Lyndon B. Johnson's birthday was officially observed at the LBJ Library and Museum; at the Johnson family cemetery at the LBJ Ranch; and at the LBJ Memorial Grove in Washington, D.C.

On Tuesday, August 27, LBJ would have been ninety-four. Just under four hundred people visited the Library that day—very good attendance, for a weekday at that time of year—and contributed to the celebration. The crowd disposed of five very large and excellent LBJ birthday cakes from Ann's Kitchen, along with a lot of coffee and even more ice water.

Wreath Laying at the Family Cemetery

At the LBJ Ranch, Ian Turpin, Luci Baines Johnson's spouse, delivered the remarks (see front cover) and laid the wreath, assisted by Colonel

Mark Graper, Commander, 12th Flying Training Wing, Randolph Air Force Base.

As he was coming to maturity in Great Britain in the 1960s, Mr. Turpin said, the media there made the United States out to be, somehow, "incomplete—the social fabric as disintegrating, not quite civilized . . . full of unhealthy frenzy and excess. Little did I realize in the 1960s that America had in LBJ such a 'can do' leader. . . . I know now that LBJ made America more beautiful for future generations. Today Lyndon Johnson is credited with being one of the most effective congressional leaders ever, and one of the top ten presidents."

Ceremony at the LBJ Grove

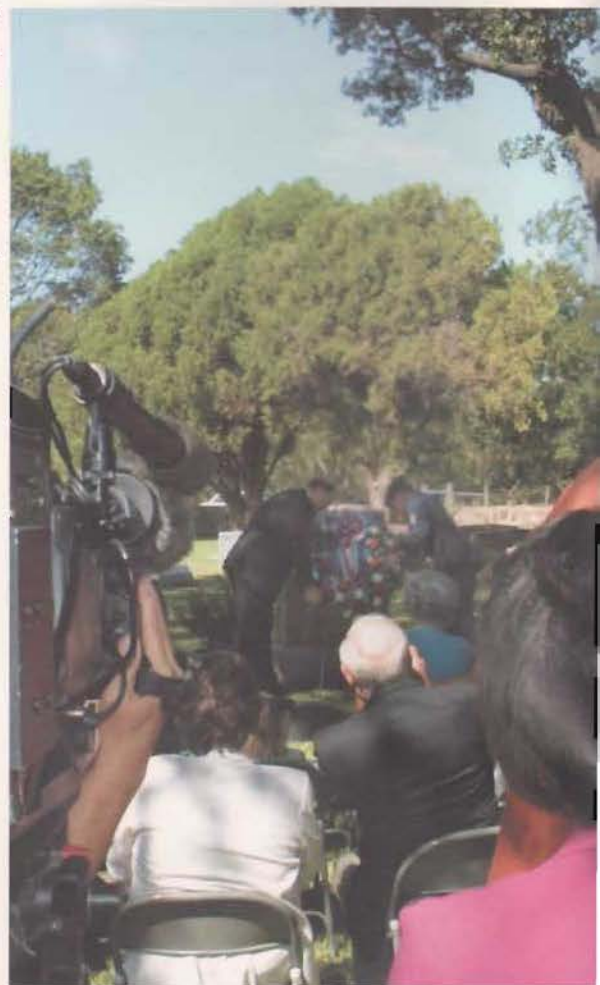
(We are indebted to Ms. Alisa Malechek Sell, and especially to Ms.

Carla Buckner, legislative assistant to Senator Barbara Mikulski, for the following account of the ceremony at the LBJ Grove. Ed.)

On August 31, dozens of people gathered along the Potomac on the lawn of the LBJ Memorial Grove for this year's birthday tribute to President Johnson. LBJ's daughter Lynda Bird Robb, her husband, former Senator Chuck Robb, and their daughters Catherine and Jennifer were the traditional guests of honor



Colonel Mark Graper, USAF



Ian Turpin and Colonel Graper lay the wreath

ay Observed

(daughter Lucinda could not attend). Several others who worked for LBJ in his Cabinet and at the White House were also in attendance.

Texas State Society member Carla Buckner opened the program by relating her family's experiences with LBJ. That was followed by a Color Guard presentation and the Pledge of Allegiance. Ms. Jenifer Sarver, TSS member and speechwriter for Senator Kay Bailey Hutchison, then led a very moving convocation for attendees.

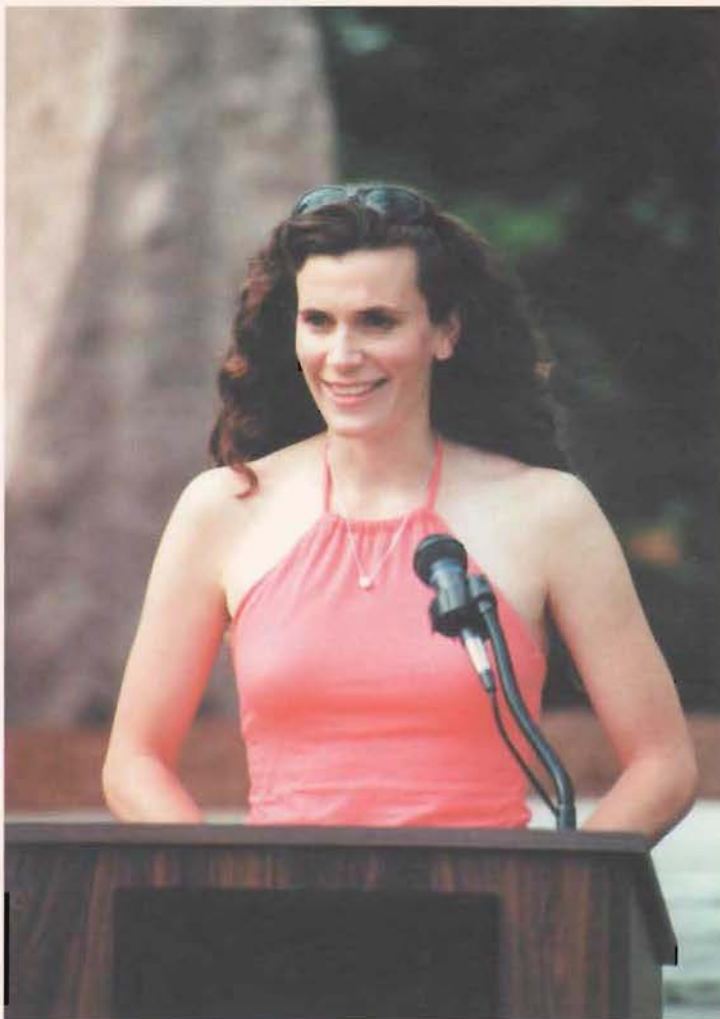
Ms. Catherine Robb delivered the keynote speech, in which she detailed

how she had come to know her grandfather through a series of personal discussions with family members and books. Ms. Robb highlighted LBJ's passion for helping people, and concluded with the hope that her new program, Future Forum (see article on page 13), would continue to serve LBJ's memory and dedication to public service. She said,

When I see all of you coming out today to remember him and to celebrate his birthday . . . when I see

the staff at the LBJ Library who work so hard to make it a wonderful place for tourists and researchers . . . and the docents at the Library (who are such a wonderfully committed bunch), when I see everyone at the State and National Park facilities in the Texas Hill Country that my grandfather loved so, I am touched by how his legacy continues and how you have helped to nurture that.

The tribute concluded with an emotional rendition of "Taps."



Catherine Robb spoke at the LBJ Grove.



LBJ Library public relations officer Robert Hicks served birthday cake and lemonade to UT students on the campus West Mall.

From the Photo Archives

The continuing Middle East crisis calls to mind previous anxious days.



April 18, 1968: Aboard Air Force One, a somber Former President Eisenhower listens to President Johnson's summary of the situation in Vietnam.]



On October 14, 1968, in the Cabinet Room, Senator Richard Russell of Georgia reacts to LBJ's decision for a total bombing halt in North Vietnam. Tom Johnson recorded Russell's remarks: " [The] Senate wants to get out of the war-some by exterminating North Vietnam-others by bringing all troops home on the next convoy. My [Senate Armed Services] Committee will give it a chance. There will be some skepticism. . . . You've given North Vietnam every chance to show good faith. They haven't. There is little else that can be done. It's worth a try." Secretary of State Dean Rusk sits at Senator Russell's left hand.

Forty-two Years Covering The White House: Helen Thomas Reports

Former president Clinton reportedly said that Helen Thomas has been in Washington so long, she remembers when the Electoral College was a high school. On September 12, the First Lady of the White House press corps spoke to an overflow audience in the LBJ Auditorium.

She began by castigating the present Washington administration for attacking civil liberties in its war on terrorists, and for pushing the privatization of social security.

But her focus soon changed: "And now, for all my ranting, we shall have sunshine and flowers."

With that, Ms. Thomas launched a series of thumbnail sketches, anecdotes, and evaluations of the presidents she has known.

"John F. Kennedy . . . had his eyes on the stars. . . . He created the Peace Corps. He signed the first nuclear test ban treaty. Once we asked Kennedy, on Air Force One, what would happen if the aircraft crashed? He said, 'I know one thing. Your name will be just a footnote.'"

"Lyndon B. Johnson . . . ushered in the Great Society. . . . He got through Congress medicare, the civil rights acts, voting rights for blacks . . . in the South. . . . [There was] federal aid to education, from Head Start through college, public housing, child and maternal health, national parks, the environmental laws. But of course Vietnam was his denouement."

Ms. Thomas credited Liz Carpenter with a story of LBJ scanning the first draft of an address he had assigned to a speechwriter. As he read, he came to a quotation from Voltaire. "Voltaire?" he exclaimed. "The people I'm going to speak to don't know who Voltaire was!" Grabbing a pen and scratching out the offending name, LBJ scribbled in its place, "As my dear old daddy used to say. . . ."

Ms. Thomas recalled what Lady Bird Johnson has done for the environment, and told the story of a teacher who took her class of small children to visit Mrs. Johnson's Wildflower Center. The teacher showed the students a portrait of Mrs. Johnson in a field of bluebonnets, and asked if they



Helen Thomas signed copies of her best-selling memoir. Carol Johnson of the Museum Store lent a hand.

knew who she was. One of the little boys exclaimed, "I know! That's Mother Nature!"

Richard Nixon: a brilliant politician, recalled Ms. Thomas, who will be remembered for his breakthrough trip to China in 1972. An extraordinarily acute statesman, nevertheless "his dark side always prevailed."

Ms. Thomas recounted her standing with Gerald Ford, who once ruefully observed, "If God had created the world in six days, He could not have then rested. He would have had to explain it to Helen Thomas."

Jimmy Carter made human rights a global issue, and produced the Camp David Accords, bringing peace between Israel and Egypt. And Ms. Thomas admires him further for "doing the most useful work of any living ex-president."

Ronald Reagan: "There was a Reagan revolution," Ms. Thomas affirmed, "and it continues today." She applauded Reagan for contributing

significantly to the downfall of the Soviet Union.

Ms. Thomas gives George H. W. Bush high marks for forging the coalition that produced victory in the Gulf War. "He used to invite my younger colleagues to go jogging with him," Ms. Thomas mused. "I got invited to the dedication of the horseshoe pit."

Clinton's heart was in the right place, "but he made terrible mistakes with his personal life."

George W. Bush? "A work in progress" —but Ms. Thomas was gloomy about his prospects, especially with regard to Iraq.

Speaking of current tensions with Iraq, Mr. Thomas accused her colleagues of not being judgmental enough of the Bush Administration. "It is not just ours to die; it is ours to reason why. . . . [A]nd I think the media has laid down on the job. I don't think we hurt government, or hurt democracy, when we ask the important questions."

Walt W. Rostow Reviews His Career, Looks at Future



Walt and Elspeth at a recent gathering of The Austin Project, a community-based movement which seeks innovative and collaborative approaches in the delivery of social services

In the spring of 2003, Walt W. Rostow, once President Johnson's national security advisor, will see his thirty-fourth book published. His first came out in 1948, when he was thirty-two. He is now eighty-six: That is an average of one book every 1.6 years.

Mr. Rostow's latest volume is a memoir of his distinguished career, in which he first achieved distinction as a young scholar in pre-World War II America and England. What follows is excerpted from the web site constructed for him by his assistant, Patricia Schaub.

During the Second World War (1942-45) Mr. Rostow served as a Major in the OSS. After the war he returned to teaching, as Harmsworth Professor of American History, Oxford University, England, 1946-47.

After a number of years spent teaching at MIT, in January 1961 Mr. Rostow accepted President Kennedy's appointment as Deputy Special Assistant to the President for National Security Affairs. In December 1961 Mr. Rostow became Chairman of the Policy Planning Council, Department of State. In early 1966 President Johnson called him back to the White House as his special Assistant for National Security Affairs. In February 1969 Mr. Rostow returned to teaching, at The University of Texas at Austin, as Professor of Economics and History. Mr. Rostow is the Rex G. Baker, Jr. Professor Emeritus of Political Economy.

Perhaps the most controversial phase of his career concerned Vietnam. In the book, his last word on the subject is quoted from an exchange he had with

his spouse at the height of the conflict: "Elspeth . . . once asked me, 'Have you ever thought that you might be wrong on Vietnam?' I can remember looking at her in some amazement. 'Of course! Often. But I've gazed like hell at the alternatives and this is the painful best choice.'"

Not content to summarize things past, Mr. Rostow's book takes a look at what he thinks is the major problem in the world's future: population-not over-population, but the opposite case, in which populations age and grow smaller at the same time, meaning more elderly people depending upon a shrinking work force for support. The process is already taking hold in Japan, Europe, and the European parts of the former Soviet Union-and may be beginning in China.

Young History Researcher Wins National Recognition



Texan John Laue displays his National History Day Award

John Laue, a thirteen-year-old student at Beck Junior High in Katy, Texas, has won first place in the Texas History Day, and was selected as a finalist in the National History Day in Washington, D.C. His entry was a video titled "Sputnik's Red Glare: A New Cold War Front Opens." The theme it propounded, to quote from Mr. Laue's research application, is "How Sputnik as a symbol of the USSR's technological success revolutionized the Cold War; the reactions and reforms that resulted (in the U.S.), and how domestic and international politics fueled [them]." He came to the LBJ Library to do research, and Archivist Claudia supplied him with the documents that he needed.

Mr. Laue later wrote to Archivist Anderson, "I want to thank you again for your help with my History Day research. . . . Sputnik's Red Glare . . . was chosen as one of two videos to be shown at the White House History Day Showcase in the Visitors Center.

"Next year's theme is Rights and Responsibilities in History. I am already considering topics and hope to be able to research at the LBJ Library again. It was a great experience. I learned about much more than Sputnik Era politics!

"If you have any topic ideas please let me know so that I can put them on my list for preliminary research."

Mr. Laue's research is impressive; the annotated bibliography of his sources is thirty-nine pages long. It includes written correspondence and interviews with General John S. D. Eisenhower, son of President Eisenhower; Andrew Goodpaster, Assistant for National Security Affairs; Ross Perot; and Sergei Khrushchev, son of Nikita Khrushchev.

Mr. Laue's mother Susan wrote, "My observation about John's experience at the LBJ is that he was able to examine primary sources and original documents that had been referenced in many of the books he had read. Holding LBJ's handwritten notes about how to ask questions in the preparedness hearings to obtain advantageous answers from Edward Teller spoke volumes to John."

Austin Mayor, City Council Members, Ponder *Bless Me, Ultima*

(Ed.: Special thanks to Dr. Evan Carton for contributing to this article.)

"You mean God doesn't give understanding?" asks Antonio. His father replies, "Understanding comes with life, as a man grows he sees life and death, he is happy and sad, he works, he plays, meets people—sometimes it takes a lifetime to acquire understanding, because in the end understanding simply means having a sympathy for people. Ultima has sympathy for people, and it is so complete that with it she can touch their souls and cure them—" The passage is from the best-selling novel *Bless Me, Ultima*, by Rudolfo Anaya. Ultima is an aging curandera, a practitioner of folk medicine and mystical healing, who comes to live with Antonio's family.

On September 4, Austin Mayor Max Garcia and LBJ Library Director Betty Sue Flowers invited City Council members to meet in the LBJ Library Atrium to discuss the book and its relevance to Austin. The lively discussion that ensued, which was filmed and rebroadcast on local cable access television, helped to kick off the first annual "What If All of Austin

Reads the Same Book?" campaign, a citywide reading and community-building project jointly sponsored by the Austin Public Library, the Office of the Mayor, and The University of Texas Humanities Institute.

A mayor of Seattle seems to have been the first to suggest that his community read a particular novel and explore how its ideas related to the problems of their city. Mayor Richard Daley reportedly picked up the idea, and he sponsored sessions to examine how the themes of race and social justice in *To Kill a Mockingbird* apply to modern-day Chicago. Mayor Garcia's idea was that the powerful forces of place, culture, and change in *Bless Me, Ultima*, which is set in New Mexico in the 1940s, have resonance for contemporary Austin, a city redefining itself. In fact, it wasn't long into the September 4 discussion before Council Member Betty Dunkerley and City Manager Toby Futrell were reflecting on the ways in which Anaya's sensitivity to both the deep emotional appeal of a place's history and natural landscape and the creativity and opportunity that comes with growth might offer a valuable example to Austin's civic leaders.

Other topics discussed included the intriguing mixtures and occasional conflicts between different belief systems and forms of spirituality in *Bless Me, Ultima* and the question of the ultimate fate of the young boy, Antonio Luna Mares, whose coming-of-age story the novel tells. The book raises the question whether Antonio will or will not become a priest, as his mother desires. Mayor Garcia concluded the discussion by remarking that he'd always assumed Antonio grew up to be a politician and probably became the mayor of a naturally rich and culturally diverse southwestern city.

Free public discussions of *Bless Me, Ultima*, led by Humanities Institute faculty, continue at a number of branch libraries in Austin through October 22, and Rudolfo Anaya will visit Austin for a town meeting in Fiesta Gardens on October 23. For more information about this and other public forums sponsored by the UT Humanities Institute, or to receive its free "Citizen-Scholar" newsletter, contact the Humanities Institute at humanitiesinstitute@la.utexas.edu.

City Council Member Raul Alvarez; Mayor Gus Garcia; Dr. Evan Carton, director of the Texas Humanities Institute and moderator of the discussion; Council Member Betty Dunkerley; City Manager Toby Futrell; and Anne Elizabeth Wynn, wife of Council Member Will Wynn.



Neck Deep in History



(From the August issue of Austin Monthly. Reprinted with permission.)

Kyla Wilson, an assistant staff audio-visual archivist with the LBJ Presidential Library, has one of the coolest jobs in Austin. At her fingertips are all the images and sounds of the Johnson presidency. The Johnson Library is a virtual time capsule of one of the most interesting and influential decades in recent history—the 1960's—with the assassination of President Kennedy, the Civil Rights movement, and the Vietnam War.

This audio-visual archive treasure trove houses nearly all of the original negatives from the White House—approximately half a million frames—taken during Johnson's presidency, as well as hundreds of original films and outtake rolls shot by the Naval Photographic Center, which document-

ed LBJ's activities as president.

As if that were not enough, the library contains thousands of recordings, most of Johnson's press conferences and speeches as well as his telephone conversations, which the library began making available in 1993. It doesn't end or even begin with LBJ's presidency. The wealth of material provides a firsthand, behind-the-scenes look at LBJ and Lady Bird's lives and presidency, and really humanizes the era for future generations.

"When I started this job I wasn't aware of just how many books, news stories and documentaries would be done about LBJ, Lady Bird, and the 1960s. They're being made all the time! The emergence of the Internet has only increased the demand for information from our holdings." Part of making this material available to the public is digitizing the images and putting them on

the library's Web site. The library is currently undertaking this massive project, though the staff is small and much of the archiving energy goes into getting materials to people who need them, and preserving them. During Wilson's time at the library, she's worked to preserve thousands of original pre-presidential images and original White House film. Seeing photos or footage she works with realized on the screen or in a book is extremely rewarding. Ensuring that these historic time capsules will be available to future generations provides Wilson with a real sense of accomplishment. Some of her recent major projects include: gathering material for the White House; the latest Robert Caro book on LBJ, *Master of the Senate*; the MacNeill/Lehrer PBS documentary on Lady Bird; and the HBO's ratings-triumph movie, *Path to War*.

The *Pueblo* Incident Reconsidered

(This article is excerpted from "Climbing Out of Hell: Lyndon Johnson and the *Pueblo* Incident," by Dr. Mitchell Lerner, Assistant Professor of History at Ohio State University. It originally appeared in the Spring issue of the *Miller Center Report*.)

"If I had to pick a date that symbolized the turmoil we experienced throughout 1968, I think January 23 would be the day—the morning the *USS Pueblo* was seized." Lyndon B. Johnson, *The Vantage Point*, 532.

The *Pueblo* was a small ex-cargo vessel that the navy had converted into a top secret electronic intelligence collector. It was in that guise that she embarked on her maiden voyage. Just off the coast of North Korea, she was fired upon and seized by the North Korean navy.

There was immediate and widespread public demand for retaliation. The *Buffalo Daily News* summed up the national feeling: "There should be no word mincing in our demand for the swift and safe return of both ship and crew, nor should North Korea be deprived for long of the measured dose of retribution her sudden belligerency has so emphatically called for." America's South Korean allies responded even more strongly. When no military response was forthcoming from Washington, protesters took to the streets in several South Korean cities, forcing American soldiers to fire warning shots to turn them back near Panmunjom.

It was a dangerous situation. The United States was already deeply embroiled in Vietnam, and neither President Johnson nor his advisers were eager to reopen hostilities in the Korean theater. Any hostile move by South Korea's outraged president, Park Chung Hee, against his northern neighbor could precipitate a grave crisis. Using a combination of increased material aid and personal flattery, President Johnson managed to keep Park pacified. At the same time he began

seeking a diplomatic solution to the predicament.

His early efforts proved futile. Kim Il Sung, the North Korean leader, was adamant: if the U.S. wanted the men of the *Pueblo* back, it must admit that it had committed provocations and aggressive acts;

Soviet Union or North Korea to intercede; none could convince Kim to listen.

In late November, Eleanor Leonard, wife of the State Department's country director for North Korea, suggested that the U.S. agree to sign a letter of apology only

The *USS Pueblo* as she appeared recently, moored in the Taedong River at Pyongyang. She serves the North Korean Government as a propaganda piece. Senator Ben Nighthorse Campbell of Colorado is working to have the ship returned to the U.S. Courtesy of Stu Russell, President, *USS Pueblo* Veterans Association, and Scott Greer, of the University of San Diego.



apologize for them; and assure that it would not happen again.

For months LBJ tried to find a less humiliating resolution. Attempts were made to involve the UN and the Red Cross, but Kim refused to allow any third party intercession. The State Department asked every country with ties to the

if the chief negotiator be allowed to first make a statement publicly repudiating it. Even the Soviets, who were worried that the crisis might spin completely out of control, privately encouraged Kim to accept the offer. To help pressure the North Korean leader, the Johnson Administration then tried a

new ploy. Professor Lerner writes: "In 1967 Kim Il Sung had ordered two large factory fishing ships from Rotterdam's Verlome United Shipyards, which were to be launched in early 1969. When word of the deal reached Washington, the Johnson team believed that the

September Dean Rusk ordered the American ambassador to The Hague to inquire of Dutch officials when the ships would sail and when the title would officially pass into [North Korean] hands. 'Ultimate object, of course, would be that such an inquiry on our part get back

London, to express interest in the transfer of their titles to North Korea, and reminded the staff to request that Lloyd's mention these inquiries to the DPRK government. After a year of failures, the administration had finally stumbled across an effective strategy. On December 17, 1968, the two delegations sat down . . . to discuss the *Pueblo* crisis for the twenty-sixth time. With grim determination, [the Americans] offered to endorse a letter of guilt written by the North Koreans but demanded the right to repudiate it publicly prior to signing. [The North Koreans] called for a 50-minute recess and returned with the long-sought announcement: "An agreement has now been reached," [they] declared, "upon the question of principle." The Johnson Administration was thrilled, albeit a little shocked that the plan had worked. "It is as though a kidnapper kidnaps your child and asks for fifty thousand dollars ransom," explained Dean Rusk, "you give him a check for fifty thousand dollars and you tell him at the time that you've stopped payment on the check, and then he delivers your child to you.

"The resolution came just in time for Lyndon Johnson, whose White House tenure was rapidly drawing to a close. In the chaos that surrounded LBJ's final year in office, the *Pueblo* Incident quickly faded from public memory. Yet the story offers a surprising glimpse into the policies of an administration that is often criticized for its failings in foreign affairs but rarely praised for its accomplishments. In the face of public demands for militancy, Johnson wisely stuck to a diplomatic course that avoided another costly Asian war. In the face of growing unhappiness and pressure from South Korea, Johnson kept his allies in line with a skillful combination of carrot and the stick. In the face of lengthy and discouraging negotiations, he continued to try new approaches until finally stumbling across the right one."



threat of capture might finally put some badly needed pressure on Kim.

"Although the administration had no real intention of hijacking the ships, which would not only antagonize the Netherlands but would be a violation of international law, there seemed nothing to lose by making such threats. In

to [the] North Korean government,' wrote the Secretary of State. Throughout the winter, American officials made a conscious effort to be seen snooping around the ships and making inquiries of relevant authorities. Rusk also ordered the American embassy in London to contact the ships insurer, Lloyd's of

Letters From Vietnam

June 10, 1969: "I'm sorry I haven't written in the last few days, but I've been pretty busy. The guy in front of me tripped a booby-trap on May 30 and it blew both of us clean away. . . . I've been in three different hospitals getting a lot [of] work done. As for vitals hits, I took one really super bad one. It was in the spot you pray never gets hit." (He recovered.)

Thus begins a letter from Phil Nelson, writing from Vietnam to his sweetheart, Barbara Young in Carpinteria, California. They had known each other only a short time when he was drafted into the army. Phil was twenty; Barbara only sixteen. They broke up shortly after Phil's return from the war. A recent article in the Santa Barbara News-Press quoted Ms. Young: "It was too intense. He'd gone through this life-altering experience. I was this dumb 17-year-old."

But Ms. Young saved the letters, fifty-four of them, and several



photographs as well. A long-time admirer of President Johnson's, she decided to give the collection to the LBJ Library.

LBJ Library Supervisory Archivist Tina Houston said, "I

have read some similar letters from World War II soldiers. It's just a different time, a different war. But as far as the emotions and the feelings expressed, they're pretty universal."



Holding her packet of letters from Vietnam, Barbara Young stands before the appropriate LBJ Museum exhibit.

Volunteers in Training



Harry Middleton, former Library Director, addresses a class of volunteers in the Library's Brown Room. Judy Davidson-Englert sits at his right.

Just over one hundred volunteers regularly give their time to the LBJ Library and Museum. Some work in the Archives, in Technical Services, and in the Museum collection. Some volunteers act as docents. They greet visitors at the front desk, answer their questions, give them directions to other points of interest, and in general make them feel welcome.

Many of the docents give guided tours to school groups, helping them to understand the life and times of the thirty-sixth president of the United States. Special visitors often receive the same attention. A group of Chinese archivists got a special tour earlier this year, for example.

The volunteers bring to the Library years of life experience and expertise, with careers ranging from foreign service to medicine and biochemistry. A large percentage of them are retired educators. All of them are ambassadors to the community, spreading the word about the museum, current exhibits, and special Library and Museum events.

In the fall of each year, the volunteers attend half a day of refresher training. Judy Davidson-Englert, supervisor of the volunteer program, makes sure that they get thorough briefings on new developments in the Museum's exhibits. Next year, for example, the Museum

will open a special exhibit on the Lewis and Clark expedition, "Discovering America," and the docents who work the front desk and give tours will get a full day's orientation about it.

New volunteers first spend a full day in training, in late August. There were twelve in this year's class. They got a behind-the-scenes tour of the building, met staffers, and learned Library inside information—such as the fact that the red dress Mrs. Calvin Coolidge wears in her portrait on the second floor was really white, but the artist decided that more color was needed.

LBJ Granddaughter Catherine Robb Found's New Organization



Catherine Robb and the Future Forum steering committee presented their ideas to a group of guests at the LBJ Ranch

It is called Future Forum, and it aims to involve young professionals in actively discussing the issues of the day. Ms. Robb, who is 32, hopes that an infusion of young people into the LBJ Library's activities will help keep it vibrant for years to come.

The organization's brochure states:

The purpose of the LBJ Library Future Forum is to expand the involvement of young Texans with the LBJ Library and its programs by initiating dialogue about current issues and by providing educational and cultural information to its members. It is the ultimate goal of the Future Forum to foster greater civic involvement within our community.

The brochure goes on with this quote from President Johnson:

We are not caretakers of the past. We are charged with the construction of tomorrow. . . . The essentials of a new America—a better America—are all on hand and within our reach. It is our destiny—and I believe, our duty—to take up our appointed positions and commence the labors that will change what needs change among us.

Brochures and enrollment forms are available at the visitors desk at the Library. For more information, call Larry Reed, 478-7829, Ext. 296.

Memories of LBJ on Film

A new project to capture the color and flavor of LBJ is under way. Using the latest videotaping equipment, former LBJ speechwriter Robert Hardesty, with Harry Middleton, who directed the Johnson Library for thirty years, and James Watson, chief of technical services at the Library, are doing videotaped interviews with those who knew the late President best.

The idea originated with former congressman J. J. "Jake" Pickle. Mr. Pickle was a close friend and political ally of President Johnson's for many years, and he has a large fund

of anecdotes about their association that he willingly shares. He is not alone in that regard. At any gathering of President Johnson's intimates and associates, stories of LBJ fill the air. But, Mr. Pickle remarked, that lore will be lost as the number of people who possess it grows smaller. Some of their recollections can be found in the audio tapes of the Library's oral history collection, but systematically getting them on video is a quantum leap forward.

Bob Hardesty reports that the reaction of the interviewees has been unanimously enthusiastic. "They

clearly enjoy doing the taping sessions. These videos are going to be a great resource, down the road. Film makers and television producers will find in them a rich vein of marvelous material."

That appears to be doubly so, because the equipment being used is the latest high-definition, wide-screen HDTV, which produces stunningly realistic images. It has digital sound as well. James Watson says, "It is likely that this is the first HDTV archive of its type in the world."

Robert Hardesty interviews former President Gerald Ford, who was vacationing in Beaver Creek, Colorado. Operating the high-resolution video camera is LBJ Library audiovisual production specialist James Watson.



I WANT TO BECOME A MEMBER OF THE FRIENDS OF THE LBJ LIBRARY

- ☐ **General Membership** \$65 per person annually
(\$130 per couple)
- ☐ **Senior Citizen Membership** \$50 per person annually
(\$100 per couple)
- ☐ **Sustaining Membership** \$200 annually
(Accumulative toward Lifetime Membership)
- ☐ **Lifetime Membership** \$2,000
- ☐ **Corporate Membership** \$5,000 annually
(Please call 478-7829 for Corporate Membership information)
- ☐ **Enclosed is my check.**

Name (please print)

Address

City

Zip

Telephone

Please make checks payable to The Friends of The LBJ Library

Coming Events:

October 3: Future Forum Panel on civil liberties, LBJ Library Atrium, 7:00 p.m. Memberships in Future Forum will be available at the door.

October 19: LBJ Museum civil rights exhibit "We shall Overcome" opens.

November 1-3: Symposium at the LBJ Library Atrium, "The First Indochina War: Nationalism, Colonialism, and Cold War." Open to the public; registration necessary. Contact Ted Gittinger, 512-916-5137, ext. 265, ted.gittinger@nara.gov

November 25: Evening with Chuck Robb, LBJ Auditorium, 6:30 p.m. Reception to follow. A Friends of the LBJ Library event.

December 11: An Evening With Harry Middleton, in "A Tribute to Lady Bird Johnson" on the occasion of her 90th birthday, 6:30 p.m. A Friends of LBJ event; reception following.

January 13-19: A display depicting the gun deck of "Old Ironsides," on the grounds of the LBJ Library.

February 15: New Museum exhibit opens, "Discovering America: The World of Lewis and Clark."

February 20: Annual Harry Middleton Lecture: Gore Vidal. Open to the public; first come, first seated.

Among Friends of LBJ is a publication of the Friends of the LBJ Library

Editor: Ted Gittinger

Research Assistance: Shirley James; Patricia Schaub; Claudia Anderson;
Robert Hicks; Kyla Wilson; Mitch Lerner; Edward "Stu" Russell;
Scott Greer

Photography: Charles Bogel; Robert Hicks; Michael Gillette, Micah Anderson
Christopher Caselli

www.lbjlib.utexas.edu

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

