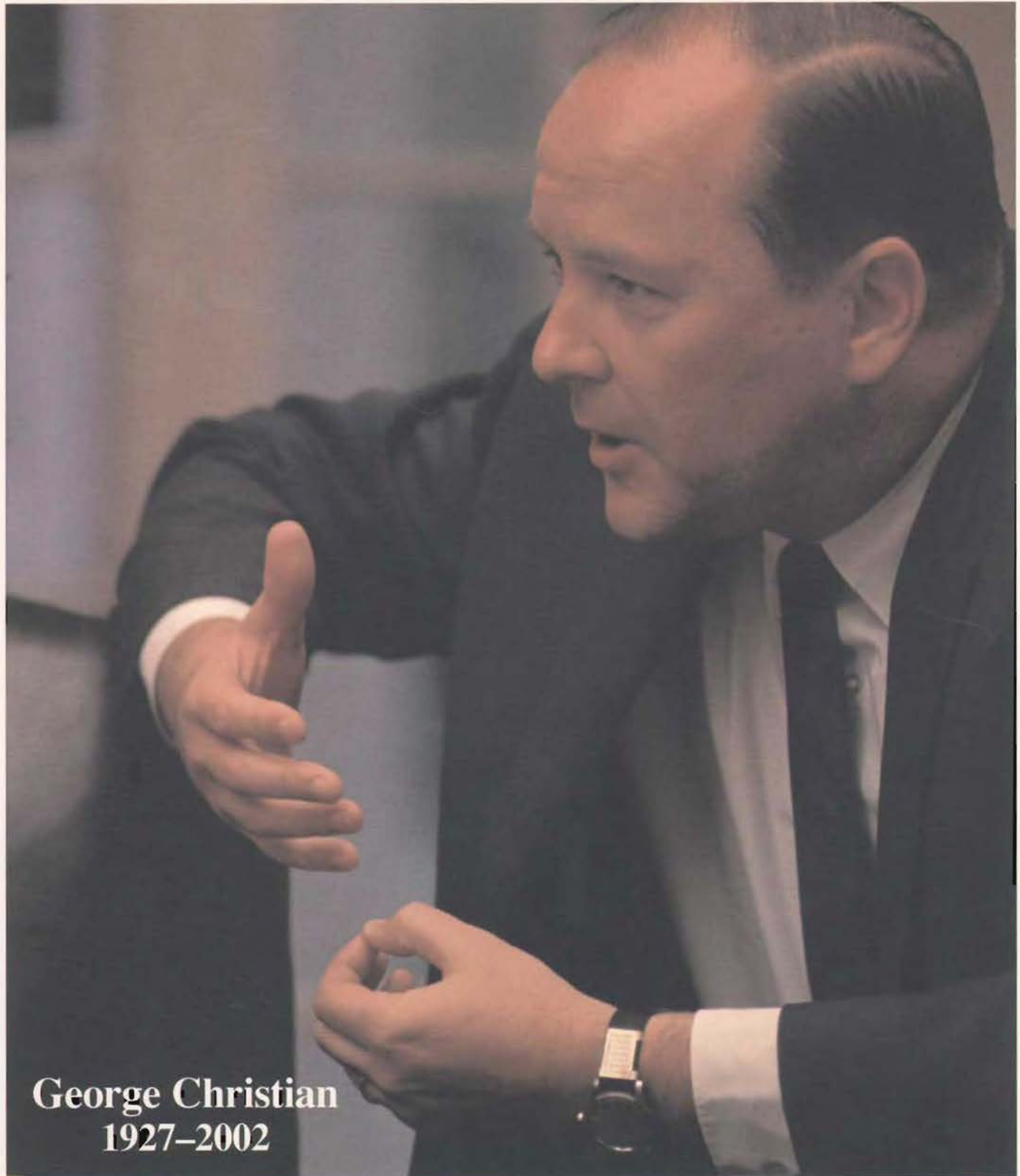


Among **FRIENDS**
of LBJ

Issue Number LXX, January 2003



George Christian
1927-2002

George Christian, Former Press Secretary and LBJ Foundation

George Eastland Christian died of lung cancer on November 27. His illness had been diagnosed as terminal a year earlier. After a brief try at chemotherapy—which made him sick—he refused to continue it, reasoning that there was no point in spending his last months being made miserable by a treatment that could not in any case make him well.

During World War II, at the age of seventeen, Mr. Christian enlisted in the U.S. Marine Corps. When the war ended, he was among the first troops to enter Japan and view the devastation that the A-bomb had wreaked there.

After his military service, Mr. Christian attended The University of Texas on the GI Bill. He majored in journalism and became sports editor

of the student newspaper, the *Daily Texan*. After a stint as capitol correspondent for International News Service, he became press secretary to Texas Governors Price Daniel and John Connally. In 1966 he joined the staff of National Security Adviser Walt Rostow. Later that year he became President Johnson's press secretary. It was not an easy job: the civil rights struggle, riots in the cities, the Arab-Israeli Six-Day War, and the Vietnam conflict saw to that.

Yet George Christian did what few White House press secretaries have been able to do: he conscientiously served a President who was wary of the press; at the same time he conscientiously served a press that was wary of the President. And because Mr. Christian never compro-

mised his own integrity, he kept the respect of all.

When President Johnson left office, Mr. Christian began a career in Austin as a political and public affairs consultant. Although a registered Democrat, he did not hesitate to advise other parties, often gratis, when he thought it would be in the public interest.

In 1989 The University of Texas named Mr. Christian a Distinguished Alumnus, and he served a term as president of the Ex-Students Association. He was a major fundraiser for his alma mater, where his friends have endowed a \$500,000 professorship in his name. He was vice chairman of the Bob Bullock State Museum Foundation, and served on the boards of the



Vice Chairman, Passes Away



Photos by Yoichi Okamoto

McDonald Observatory, the Lyndon B. Johnson School of Public Affairs, and numerous other philanthropic organizations. In the early 1980s he was elected to the Board of Directors of the Lyndon B. Johnson Foundation, and became a member of its executive committee. For eighteen years he was on the Texas Historical Commission. In 1998 the Texas Legislative Conference named him Texan of the Year.

Although he never held elected office, politics was Mr. Christian's first vocation. In January, 2002 Paul Burka wrote in *Texas Monthly* magazine: "Everybody in politics knows George Christian and everybody loves him. I do not use the word loosely. . . . I've never heard him be

mean-spirited about a politician. . . . 'I try not to be judgmental,' he told me. 'I've known some sorry people in my time, but there's usually a reason why people do [bad] things. . . .'"

Larry Temple, Chairman of the Lyndon B. Johnson Foundation, wrote:

"Few people have left—or will leave—the indelible imprint on the LBJ Library that George Christian did. As a member of the Board of Directors of the LBJ Foundation for more than 22 years (and its Vice-Chairman at the time of his death), Mr. Christian was a catalyst for many of the programs, exhibits, and advances of the Library. He was an active participant in the development and funding of Library programs, and he was a speaker and moderator

in many of the public forums at the Library for the last 30 years.

"The LBJ Library never had a better friend, a stronger supporter, or a more articulate advocate than George Christian. While the Library will miss his wise and calm counsel, it is a better and stronger institution because of him."

Mr. Christian is survived by his wife Jo Anne, six children and eleven grandchildren.

Lady Bird Johnson at 90: "Time Is a Golden Coin"



Nicole Covert; Catherine Robb; Harry Middleton; Lyndon Nugent

On December 11, 2002, over a thousand well-wishers packed the LBJ Auditorium to observe Lady Bird Johnson's ninetieth birthday.

Former Library Director Harry Middleton choreographed the event. He explained his plan to the crowd: "In this birthday celebration, instead of giving her a present, we are going to accept one from her. . . . Tonight we will open the gift of a memory—her memory of a life well lived and a time well spent—in excerpts from her diaries, her speeches, interviews and reflections over the years."

Three of Mrs. Johnson's grandchildren—Nicole Covert, Catherine Robb, and Lyndon Nugent—took the stage to read Mr. Middleton's selections, which began with Mrs. Johnson's earliest memories.

"My [paternal] grandmother's life was a matter of great interest to Lyndon, who would ask me over and

over, 'How many husbands did you say she had? How many children?' He knew darn well she had four husbands and thirteen children, for I had told him often enough."

Mrs. Johnson recalled her father's country store, and its sign over the door: "T. J. Taylor, Dealer in Everything."

"I grew up listening to the wind in the pine trees of the East Texas woods. On Caddo Lake I loved to paddle in those dark bayous, where time itself seemed ringed about by silence and ancient cypress trees, rich in festoons of Spanish moss. Now and then an alligator would surface like a gnarled log. It was a place for dreams. . . . I think of dusty summer roads and me walking along barefooted, and roses climbing along the fence, and the tangled hedgerows of East Texas."

At The University of Texas Mrs. Johnson earned degrees in history

and journalism. "I wanted to teach in what I considered glamorous places like Hawaii and Alaska. But all that never happened because I met Lyndon. . . . I knew I had met something remarkable, but I didn't quite know what."

Her father approved. "Young lady, you've brought home a lot of boys, but I think this time you've brought home a man."

Fast forward to November 22, 1963, and Mrs. Johnson's memories of President Kennedy's assassination: the startling crack of gunfire; the wild ride to the hospital, the return to *Air Force One*, where she went into the stateroom to see Jacqueline Kennedy. "Somehow," Mrs. Johnson wrote, "that was one of the most poignant sights—that immaculate woman exquisitely dressed, and caked in blood."

Once in the White House, Mrs.

Johnson made certain causes her own, such as Head Start: "Our hope was to rescue the next generation," she recorded, and "it was natural—and inevitable—for me to turn to the movement we call beautification, because my heart had so long been in the environment. . . . The Constitution of the United States does not mention the first Lady. She is elected by one man only. . . and yet, when she gets the job, a podium is there if she cares to use it. I did."

There were many victories to relish in the march of LBJ's Great Society, but Mr. Middleton reminded the audience that there had also been "a spectre . . . that stalked the White House and the nation." Mrs. Johnson's diary describes the agony of Vietnam this way: "Now is indeed 'the Valley of the Black Pig.' The

temperament of our people seems to be: You must . . . get it over with, or we must pull out.' It's unbearably hard to fight a limited war."

In retirement, Mr. Middleton noted, the time that Lyndon and Lady Bird Johnson had together was all too short. But Mrs. Johnson did not dwell on that sorrow. "I feel terribly lucky," she wrote later. "He was marvelous, contradictory, with a great natural intelligence . . . sometimes hurtful, but he was also sweet and caring and giving. . . . He valued my judgment and I think sometimes I might have been helpful. I know we were better together than we were apart. . . . There's been so much in my life, and I almost feel like pinching myself and saying, 'Did all of this happen to me? Is this really me, living this?'"

Sid Fly, Mrs. Johnson's favorite

guitarist, capped the evening with a rendition of his own composition in honor of Mrs. Johnson: "The Dream of a Lady."

"While you're on the road, between the colors and the sky, Take a look at the dreams of a lady, as you pass by."

Mrs. Johnson, flanked by daughter Luci and Tom Johnson, enjoys the antics of great grandchildren Tatum Nugent; Taylor Nugent (barely visible); Johnson Covert, and Claudia Covert, as they wheel out her birthday cake. *Photos by Charles Bogel*



From the Mailbag

Reprinted by permission

May 12, 2002

Dear Mrs. Johnson:

I was sorry to learn of your recent illness and hospitalization. Please know that this letter comes to you with my very best wishes for a full and speedy recovery.

I was concerned to learn that you had “lost your voice,” as reported in the newspapers. The more I thought about this, the more I realized that Lady Bird Johnson could never “lose her voice.” Her “voice” is all over America! As long as the blue bonnets of Texas are in bloom, this is Lady Bird’s “voice!” The wildflowers across America are more of Lady Bird’s “voice.”

Keep America Beautiful, the flowers of Washington, D.C., and Don’t Be a Litterbug are all Lady Bird Johnson’s voice, and can never be silenced!

It was April 1980 when I wrote to you as a college student in Cedar Rapids, Iowa. I had written to you about the Vietnam conflict and said I was sorry so many people blamed your husband. You in return sent me an autographed copy of the President’s book, *The Vantage Point*. It is my most cherished possession—and again, your “voice” that a young college student could write to you and in turn sent me the book—what a huge and lasting impression you made upon me!

Two years later, when I was graduated from Coe College, you were kind enough to send me a bronze inaugural medal of LBJ—again, something I deeply cherish. Your “voice” speaks through that also. . . .

I look forward to this December when everyone will celebrate your 90th birthday (I can see the fireworks over Texas now!)

Sincerely,
Mark J. Klohn



Correspondent Mark Klohn

Former Bush Aide Hughes Reflects on Her Days in Washington

On October 15 the Student Endowed Centennial Lectureship, a University of Texas at Austin student service organization, joined the LBJ Library to sponsor an appearance by Karen Hughes, a close assistant to President George W. Bush since 1994, when he was running for governor of Texas. After a year and a half in the White House, she and her husband decided to return to Austin, where they wanted their teen-aged son to put down some Texas roots. Ms. Hughes still advises the President on domestic issues, and travels regularly to Washington.

Ms. Hughes recalled how impressed she was with the organization and the processes that are in place at the White House to deal with urgent problems. She and her husband had gone out to dinner on September 10, 2001 to celebrate their wedding anniversary. Thus she was not in Florida the next morning when chaos struck. She described driving to the secure bunker at the White House, through streets deserted except for soldiers carrying automatic weapons. It reminded her of a foreign capital, just after a coup. But once in the bunker, she recognized that the emergency government plans for dealing with disasters were smoothly going into effect. At the same time she worried that the public was not seeing that. Instead the country was glued to television screens that carried only scenes of bedlam and destruction.

In the days following 9/11, Ms. Hughes worried about the pressures on Mr. Bush, and one day bluntly asked, "Mr. President, how are you? Are you okay?" He replied, "I have never been more clear-eyed about what I have to do."

"In some senses," Ms. Hughes said, "September 11 really changed everything. It reinforced our fundamental values, but it changed our perspective. We went literally from a time of relative peace to a time of war, a time of relative serenity to a time of great unease, and that meant some policy differences in the White House. It totally changed our outlook on how we deal with emerging

threats in the world, and how we deal with ongoing threats, such as that posed by Saddam Hussein. As my friend Condi Rice described it, 'September 11 was an earthquake across the international security environment.' If we can no longer count on our geographic distance, our oceans, to protect us, then it changes the way we have to look at the world and at the threats in the world."

There is still nervousness in the economy, in the wake of the terrorist attacks, Ms. Hughes said, but don't believe the story that somehow the President can't worry about Iraq and the economy at the same time. "You worry about thirty or forty different things at the White House at the same

time. The economy is very much on the President's mind."

Ms. Hughes pointed out that the President's call for volunteers to donate the equivalent of two years' service to their country has prompted very large increases in applicants to the Peace Corps, to AmeriCorps, and to the Senior Corps—so in some ways, 9/11 has brought out the best in us. "We have seen evil since September 11 . . . and the only way to overcome it is with good, what the President calls 'the gathering momentum of millions of acts of kindness and decency and service, that can literally change the world, one life at a time.'"

Karen Hughes: "You worry about thirty or forty different things at the White House at the same time." Photo by Charles Bogel



An Evening With Dr. Sergei Khrushchev

October, 2002. Almost exactly forty years ago this month, the United States Government discovered that Soviet Premier Nikita Khrushchev was placing nuclear missiles in Cuba. That realization precipitated perhaps the most dangerous crisis in human history, when the superpowers at one point may have been thirty minutes away from war. On October 1, 2002, Khrushchev's son, Dr. Sergei Khrushchev, now a senior research fellow at the Watson Institute for International Studies at Brown University, came to the LBJ Auditorium to relate his memories and insights about that episode.

He began by observing that with the advent of nuclear weapons, politicians in Europe and America realized that they could no longer go to war and expect to win. There would be no victors in a nuclear exchange. Yet they did not quite understand how to take that into account, when formulating foreign policy. The conundrum of the Cold War was the result—a war without war, a new dynamic to perplex world leaders. After World War II the United States and the Soviet Union found themselves in a contest that neither had anticipated, and that neither quite knew how to deal with.

Neither side dared to show weakness, Dr. Khrushchev recalled, for each believed that its opponent would take advantage. And because their cultures and political systems had so little in common, neither really understood the other. Misunderstandings and confrontations thus were frequent: Suez, Lebanon, Berlin, Laos—and Cuba.

A mythology has developed about the 1962 missile crisis, Dr. Khrushchev mused. In American lore, it was all the fault of “a very aggressive and not very clever Khrushchev,” thinking that he could manipulate a weak President Kennedy. Khrushchev decided to change the balance of power by sending nuclear weapons to Cuba. But Kennedy “showed him the iron fist, and he blinked first, took his missiles out, and afterward was ousted from power.” Dr. Khrushchev drew a

laugh from the capacity audience when he expressed doubt that this view had much to do with reality.

On the Soviet side, on the other hand, no mythology grew up about the crisis—not even a history of it. After his father fell from power in 1964, explained Dr. Khrushchev, the name of Nikita Khrushchev became anathema, and he was never mentioned in official circles. Since it was impossible to develop the story of October, 1962 without speaking of the role of the Soviet leader, the matter was simply ignored.

Why did Nikita Khrushchev send the missiles to Cuba in the first place? Dr. Khrushchev explained that it was a matter of sending a strong message to Washington: if you attack Cuba, it will mean nuclear war. But why did Khrushchev take such a drastic position? Cuba was after all only a strategically insignificant, minor piece of real estate, eight thousand miles from the Soviet Union. But Dr. Khrushchev then pointed to an exact parallel between his father's position on Cuba and President Kennedy's position on West Berlin—also an insignificant piece of real estate, thousands of miles away from its American sponsor. “Ich bin ein Berliner,” I am a Berliner, Kennedy had said, an unmistakable warning to Moscow: Hands off.

During the Cold War, neither great power felt it could desert an ally, however unimportant.

After sketching the course of the thirteen-day crisis, Dr. Khrushchev paraphrased his father's explanation of how he and Kennedy averted a nuclear disaster: “We are different, of course. President Kennedy is defending his system, I am defending my system. We have one thing in common; we want to prevent war. We can work together.”

Dr. Khrushchev believes that the relaxation of tension between his father and President Kennedy, which came with the resolution of the crisis, could have resulted in the Cold War ending just a few years later. But, he said, if the possibility ever existed, the assassination in Dallas on

November 22, 1963, and the ousting of Khrushchev in October, 1964 aborted it.

Finally Dr. Khrushchev invited questions from the audience. “You may ask good questions or bad,” he quipped, “only have in mind that if it will be a bad question, there will be a bad answer.”

After answering several queries about Stalin's view of the United States after World War II (the dictator thought war was inevitable), the present situation in Russia (which the speaker described as an economy based on thievery), and his father's career, Dr. Khrushchev was asked about the future of Cuban/U.S. relations. His response was gloomy: Castro will likely be succeeded by someone even more aggressively hostile to the United States. The only way to prevent that happening is to lift the American embargo and allow Cuba at least a modicum of prosperity. But that is an impossibility, he observed, as long as the Cuban émigré community in Florida—which “just elected the new president,” he quipped—opposes it.



Sergei Khrushchev spoke of his father, President Kennedy, and the missiles of October. *Photo by Charles Bogel*

A Year Later: Recalling the Tragedy of September 11, 2001



The names of the victims were posted on the east wall of the LBJ Library building . . .



. . . and the flags flew at half-mast. *Photos by Charles Bogel*

Local High School Student “Casts a Shadow”

By Marsha Sharp,
Education Specialist

On November 18-22, Joshua Causey, a Junior at Cedar Park High School in the Leander ISD, spent a “Cool Week” at the LBJ Library and Museum.

Cool Week is a special program at Cedar Park that allows students to select an occupation or work site of choice, and “shadow” employees to learn about jobs and businesses. Since Joshua loves history and is interested in museums, he requested the LBJ Library and Museum for his week.

While here, Joshua worked in literally all areas of the Library. He helped Photo Archivist Kyla Wilson research and catalog photographs in the audio/visual archives, received orientation from Archivist Linda Seelke in the Reading Room where he conducted a small research project, and helped “fetch” document boxes for researchers. He went on a student tour of the museum exhibits with a volunteer docent, and on a behind-the-scenes grand tour of the museum archives provided by Museum Technician Michael MacDonald. When a news crew arrived to shoot footage for TV coverage of the anniversary of President Kennedy’s assassination, he accompanied Public Relations Officer Robert Hicks and observed the media at work.

Joshua also worked with Lynn Bell, Curator of the Center for American History. While there he cataloged artifacts from several collections. The collection that impressed him the most was Walter Cronkite’s.

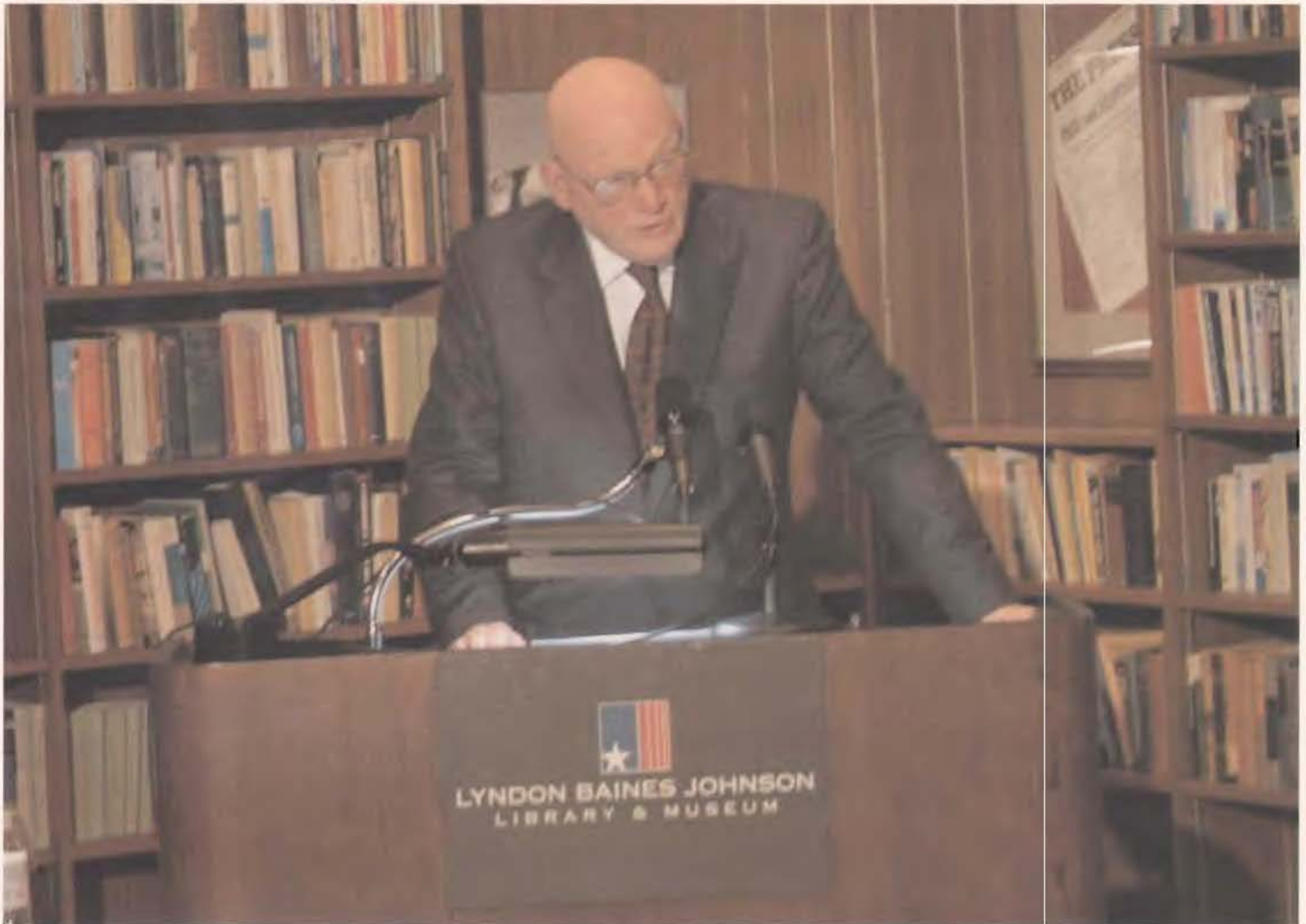
As a culminating activity, Joshua met with Dr. Flowers and provided her a brief report about his week and his impressions about the experience.

Joshua’s overall impression of the Library was apparently very favorable. He wants to apply for part-time work next school year.



Joshua Causey works in the Library’s photo archives. *Photo by Charles Bogel*

Roots of a Quagmire: Assessing the First Indochina War



Speaking in the Library Atrium, Professor Lloyd Gardner of Rutgers University delivered the keynote address. *Photo by Charles Bogel*

Following World War II, France sought to reestablish her colonial authority in Southeast Asia. In Vietnam, however, the French collided with the Viet Minh, a strong nationalist movement that challenged their rule. Thus began the First Indochina War. On November 1-3, 2002, seventeen historians gathered at the LBJ Library to examine the latest scholarship about the struggle, which carried within it the seeds of what became the Second Indochina War—the Vietnam War—the longest armed conflict in American history.

The idea for the conference came from history professors Fredrik Logevall (University of California, Santa Barbara) and Mark Lawrence (The University of Texas at Austin). They promised to enlist an interna-

tional group of seasoned historians and promising younger researchers to present papers at a weekend-long convocation at the LBJ Library, and they did. Here is the list:

Lloyd Gardner (Rutgers); Lien-Hang Nguyen (Harvard); William Duiker (Penn State); Stein Tønneson (International Peace Research Institute, Oslo); David Marr (Australian National University); Martin Thomas (University of the West of England); Laurent Cesari (University of Arras); Marilyn Young (New York University); Kathryn Statler (University of San Diego); Chen Jian (University of Virginia); Edward Miller (Harvard); John Prados (National Security Archive).

The panel chairs were Professor Logevall; James Hershberg (George

Washington University); H.W. Brands (Texas A&M University); and Frank Gavin (LBJ School of Public Affairs).

Professor Gardner, who has previously organized three conferences at the LBJ Library on the U.S. experience in Vietnam, gave the keynote address.

Dr. Gardner reviewed the situation in Southeast Asia in the years following WWII, as the Cold War between the East and West was taking shape. Franklin Roosevelt had had a low opinion of French colonialism, often saying that the French should not resume their former role in Vietnam. But he died before he could set that determination into a policy, and no one can say how he would have handled affairs had he lived.

Several overarching and sometimes contradictory imperatives shaped the policies of Roosevelt's successors, Presidents Truman and Eisenhower, Gardner said. We wanted France to give independence to Vietnam, but at the same time we had to avoid offending Paris—we needed France on our side in Europe. We wanted to stay out of "honest" civil wars, but felt we could not do so when one side or the other was allied with international communism. Eisenhower's Secretary of State, John Foster Dulles, put it this way, in early 1953:

We must hold the present out-post position. There is no place around the orbit of the Soviet

world which we can now afford to lose because further losses cannot now be insulated and will inevitably set up a chain reaction.

This became the "domino theory," and Presidents Eisenhower, Kennedy, and Johnson each subscribed to it in the years that followed. Later in the conference, Professor Lawrence noted that the domino theory was one of three fundamentals that formed U.S. policy in the crucial first years after World War II.

It was then that U.S. officials embraced the three assumptions that would guide policymaking over the next quarter century: They learned to think of

Vietnamese revolutionaries first and foremost as communists; they imbibed the notion that Vietnam's fall to communism would imperil the rest of Southeast Asia; and they came to think of themselves as the possessor of the knowledge and inspiration that could turn the situation around.

Professors Lawrence and Logevall are editing the conference papers to prepare them for publication. When that work is done, the LBJ Library and Foundation will have published symposia proceedings on the wars in Indochina from 1945 through the years of the Johnson Administration.

It wasn't all serious. On Saturday night, most of the participants adjourned to the County Line restaurant, noted for its barbecue. Ellen Pinzur (left) and Jim Cuddeback make a brave show of sampling one of the County Line's famous beef ribs. Some steer that must have been. *Photo courtesy of County Line Restaurant*



Austin Museum Day at the LBJ Library



On September 22, children's musician Joe McDermott provided the songs, and LBJ's daughter, Lynda Johnson Robb, gave voice to *The Lorax*, Dr. Seuss' classic tale on saving the environment. It was Austin Museum Day, and the LBJ Library and Museum joined fellow members of the Austin Museum Partnership to celebrate in observance of National Arts and Humanities Month.

McDermott's clever lyrics and unmatched enthusiasm, as usual, had his audience clapping their hands and singing along. Mrs. Robb's reading Dr. Seuss recalled her efforts to improve children's literacy through the national "Reading Is Fundamental" program.

The backdrop was the exhibit titled *LBJ on Display: Highlights from the Museum's Collection*, which ran through September 29, 2002. In addition to the original Dr. Seuss artwork from *The Lorax*, there were caricatures of LBJ and Mrs. Johnson, political campaign memorabilia, original White House musical performances, and a beautiful music stand designed by renowned architect Frank Lloyd Wright, whose widow gave it to Mrs. Johnson.

Joe McDermott has a way with music and children. *Photos by Charles Bogel*



Lynda Johnson Robb: "On the far side of town, where the grickle-grass grows..."

Book on the Johnson Ranch Wins Award

By Fran Vick, PST

The Philosophical Society of Texas, meeting at its 165th anniversary conference in Fort Worth, recently announced that *LBJ's Texas White House* by Hal K. Rothman, published by Texas A&M University Press, had received its Award of Merit for the Best Book Published on Texas in 2001. The award carries a prize of \$2,500.

Rothman, a University of Texas at Austin graduate and professor of history at the University of Nevada at Las Vegas, writes that the thirty-sixth president of the United States was a product of the Hill Country which symbolized what Johnson thought best, most meaningful, and most trying about the American experience: the ability to meet a rugged natural world on its own terms and emerge, over time and through repeated effort, equal to the task if not entirely victorious. LBJ was a throwback, a man of modest rural roots in an age of urban and military leaders in the White House, who embodied an empathy for ordinary people that belied his tough exterior. The source of that empathy, as well as of nearly everything else about the character of Lyndon Johnson, was the Texas Hill Country from which he came and to which he perennially sought to return.

Johnson's ranch on the Pedernales River, the place his wife called "our heart's home," became the primary representation of him. Born less than a mile from the ranch, Johnson grew up with emotional and psychic ties to that particular piece of

land. After he and Lady Bird Johnson purchased it in 1951, the ranch became a symbol of Johnson—his presidency, his roots, and his belief in the ability of people to achieve their dreams. The Texas White House reminded Americans of the rural roots of their nation and reflected American

retreat, just as John F. Kennedy had Hyannisport and later, Richard M. Nixon had San Clemente and George H. W. Bush had Kennebunkport. During his presidency, there was no more important place than the Texas White House for the Johnsons. It served as a hideaway and a place for renewal as well as a showplace for visiting dignitaries. And it was to this ranch and to his roots that Lyndon Johnson returned after he left political life in early 1969. On the Pedernales, the retired president could do what he best liked to do: run things.

During Johnson's years as president, visitors from all over the world were entranced by the ranch on the banks of the Pedernales. The magic of the place captured many as they watched the Texas-orange sun disappear behind the horizon, its beams shimmering on the river. Johnson's famed Texas barbecues were the talk of the international political set, his favorite musicians playing country, western, swing, and popular music for an array of international leaders. The Texas White House captured the spirit of the man and his time, with all its double-edged promise. For that reason, the

day-to-day workings of the ranch offer great insight into the character of Lyndon Baines Johnson.

The Philosophical Society of Texas was founded in 1837 and incorporated as a non-profit educational institution in 1936. The Society, whose membership is by invitation and limited to 200, meets once a year to hear symposiums on topics of current interest.

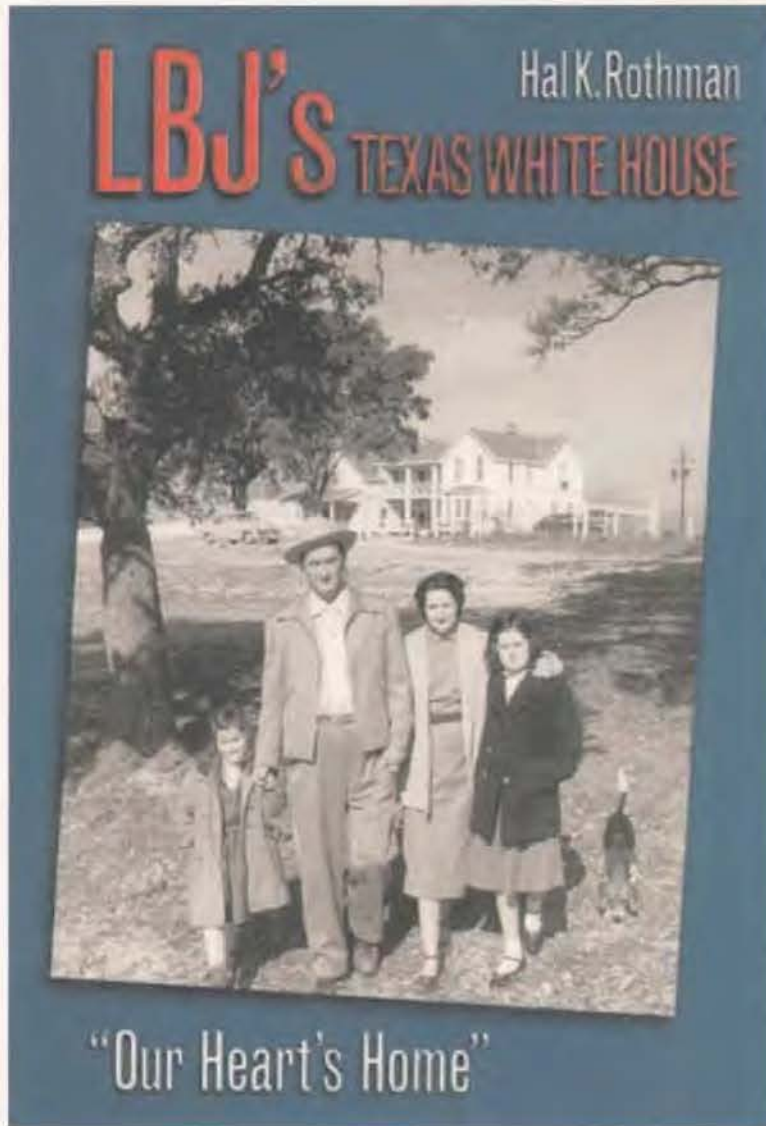
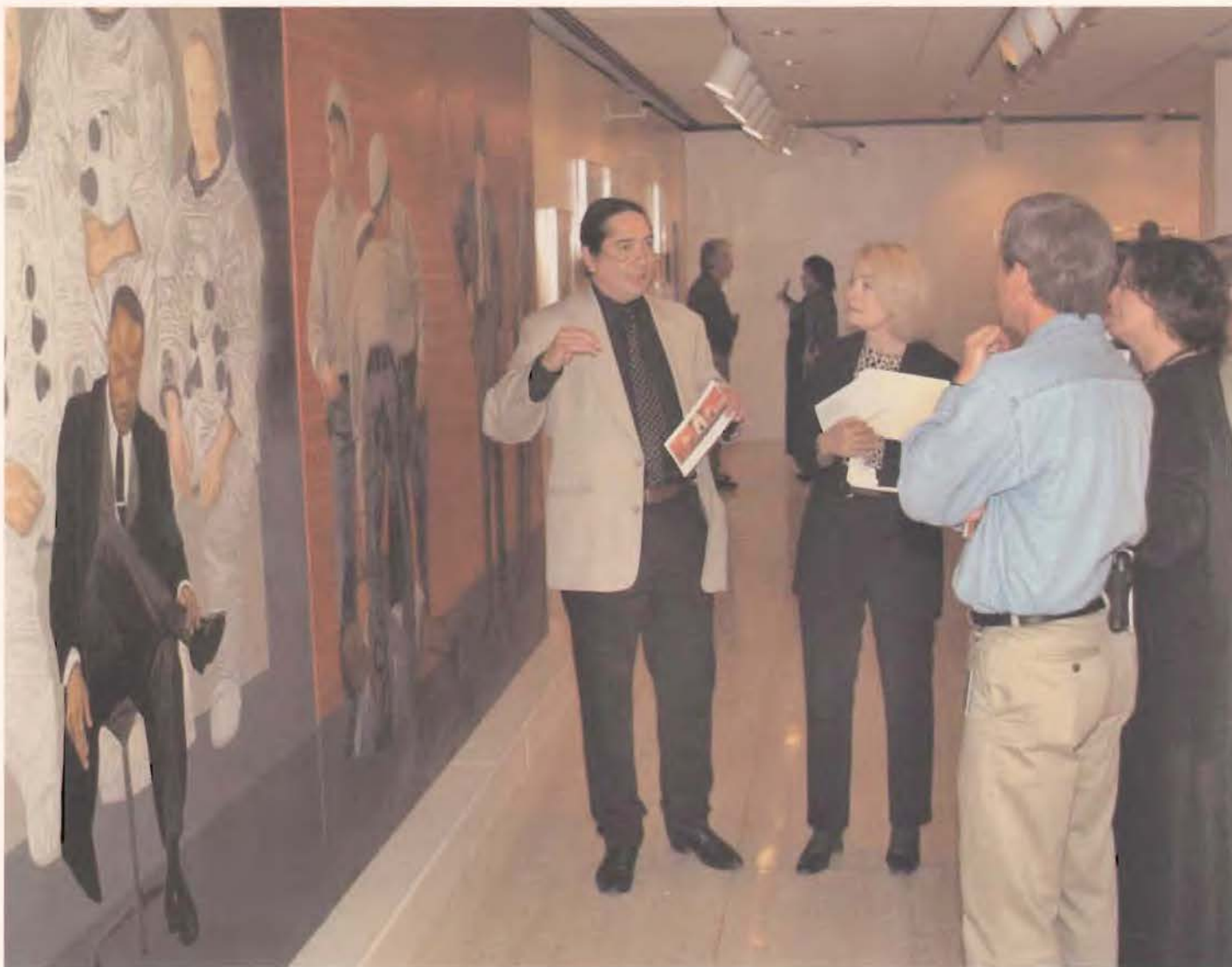


Photo courtesy Texas A&M Press

ideals at a moment when political strife and discord seemed an urban phenomenon. To foreign dignitaries, it provided a window into a dimension of American culture they could not find in the cities of the Eastern Seaboard. Wearing the ten-gallon Texas hats of lore, they encountered an outlook that was uniquely American, albeit mythically so.

The ranch became Johnson's

Special Exhibit Featured Civil Rights Photographers



Artist Wayne Wildcat

Lyndon Baines Johnson led the fight in the halls of Congress, but during America's Civil Rights Era, the struggle for equal rights took many forms, including boycotts, sit-ins, and marches. Photographers contributed to the movement by relaying the struggle to every corner of the nation. A special exhibition, titled *We Shall Overcome: Photographs from the American Civil Rights Era* and on view at the Lyndon Baines Johnson Library and Museum from October 19 through December 15, 2002 brought these images together. The 80 black-and-white photographs in the exhibition focused on key events

and personalities of the civil rights era (1954-1968). The collection was developed by the Smithsonian Institution Traveling Exhibition Service, and was curated by Robert Phelan, an art historian and museum curator. It includes the work of some of America's most thoughtful and gifted photographers: former *LIFE* magazine photographers Gordon Parks and Charles Moore; *Magnum* photographers Bob Adelman and Leonard Freed; then-staff photographer for the *Nation of Islam*, Robert Sengstacke; and *Black Star* photographers Matt Heron and Bob Fitch. The LBJ Library and Museum augmented

this exhibition with a symbolic realist mural by artist Wayne Wildcat, depicting the civil rights movement. Speakers at the opening of the exhibit included Roy Mersky, who marched from Selma to Montgomery and was beaten by police (he is now director of the UT Law Library); Bernadette Phifer, who also marched to Montgomery (she is director of the George Washington Carver Museum); and Robert Phelan, the exhibit curator. Accomplished soloist Donna Hightower performed some of the gospel songs that were thematic of the movement.



Roy Mersky



Bernadette Phifer



Donna Hightower



Robert Phelan *Photos by Charles Bogel*

Ambitious New Exhibit to Open in February

By Mike MacDonald and
CharLeu Diercks

With the opening of *Discovering America: The World of Lewis and Clark* (a.k.a. the Lewis and Clark exhibit) rapidly approaching, the museum staff and the exhibit team (Sandy Cohen—Curator; Marty Matin—Exhibit Designer, Gary Phelps—Exhibit Technician, and Dan Morrison—Graphic Designer) in particular, have been spending countless hours planning, designing, fabricating, and doing a thousand other tasks to ensure that the exhibition opens without a hitch on February 15, 2003. Since June, production of the exhibit has progressed at a steady pace. However, at the end of October when exhibit items began arriving at the library, the pace of production quickened.

On October 28, the museum took delivery from SculptureBasis, located in Santa Fe, New Mexico, of four sculptures of Captain Meriwether Lewis, Captain William Clark, the Nez Perce chief Twisted Hair, and Seaman, Lewis' Newfoundland dog. The sculpture group was designed to portray a meeting the Captains had with Twisted Hair where the chief drew a map of the rivers leading to the Pacific Ocean. All four figures have been hanging around the service level in the exhibit prep area.

On November 7 and 8, the museum staff had the opportunity to meet Mr. Peyton C. "Bud" Clark, Michigander and great-grandson (x3) of Captain William Clark. Bud, a collector of late 18th and early 19th century Americana, is loaning the library over one hundred items that will form the core of the Lewis and Clark exhibition. From early American firearms to an excellent example of an early 19th century Nez Perce saddle, Bud's collection contains a wide variety of items that the Corps of Discovery would have either used or seen during their two-year journey. Because the things actually used on the expedition are so rare, these items or "period pieces" will offer visitors a quick peek into the world of Lewis and Clark and early 19th



Sculpture group (l to r) Nez Perce Chief Twisted Hair, Captain Meriwether Lewis, "Seaman," Lewis' Newfoundland dog, and Captain William Clark

century America.

During the two days Bud was at the Library, the museum staff benefited greatly from his wealth of knowledge. An expert on the Lewis and Clark expedition and a gifted storyteller, Bud offered the museum staff an entertaining education.

Those who would like to meet

Bud Clark should note that he will be here in February to participate in the opening of *Discovering America...* and again in August to pack his collection after the exhibit closes.

Now that "Bud's stuff" is here, development of a virtual exhibit for *Discovering America* is underway. Marie Fury is producing it, and it will

Bud Clark demonstrating the family drawing set.



Museum preparators: Dan Morrison, Gary Phelps, Marty Matin, Michael MacDonald *Photos by Charles Bogel*



be linked from the LBJ public web site. As in the museum version of *Discovering America*, "Bud's stuff" will be the core of the virtual exhibit. Gary Phelps and Dan Morrison have also been busy arranging and photographing various items for the virtual exhibit. Plans are to launch the site on or before February 15.

Vietnam Film Series at the Library



John Sacret Young and Bill Broyles Photo by Robert Hicks

By Robert Hicks, Public Relations

Hollywood came to Austin in November as the LBJ Library and Museum kicked off *Vietnam Through the Lens: A Series*. John Sacret Young and Bill Broyles, who teamed to create the ground-breaking television series *China Beach*, spoke to a crowd of more than 120 people in Bass Lecture Hall.

Young had already received critical acclaim for his screenplay of the mini-series *A Rumor of War*, based on Phil Caputo's book on the Vietnam War, when he began discussions with Bill Broyles about *China Beach*. Broyles, a Vietnam veteran, had been the founding editor of *Texas*

Monthly, the editor-in-chief of *Newsweek* and had written the novel *Brothers in Arms*.

On November 19, 2002, the pair discussed how the series was created, and commented on clips from it. Young and Broyles then screened an entire episode, called *Vets*, that incorporated poignant interviews with Vietnam veterans into the show.

Vietnam Through the Lens: A Series will continue in the new year with three other Vietnam-related productions:

January, 2003; *84 Charlie Mopic* (1989): The Vietnam War as seen by an Army motion picture cameraman (Mopic), and the six soldiers in an elite unit on patrol in Vietnam's Central

Highlands. It has been described as a "documentary within a film."

February, 2003; *Shooter* (1988): Television pilot that was not picked up as a series by NBC. The story of a group of news combat photographers who experience war firsthand in the field, and from downtown Saigon.

March, 2003; *Path to War* (2002): HBO original film goes behind the scenes in the White House and the Pentagon to look at decisions that led to the escalation of the war.

As this goes to press, the speakers and exact dates are still being set. Stay tuned to our website www.lbjlib.utexas.edu for details.

An Evening With Chuck Robb

It fell to President Johnson's granddaughter, Catherine Robb, to introduce her father when he came to speak at the LBJ Library on November 25. A graduate of the University of Wisconsin in 1961, she informed the audience, Charles Robb was in that same year the honor graduate of his Marine Corps officer basic school. He served in the Marines until 1970, completing a hitch in Vietnam as a rifle company commander. He entered law school in 1970 at the University of Virginia, and after finishing his studies, went into politics. Robb was elected lieutenant governor and then governor of Virginia. After a brief time in the private sector, he ran for the Senate in

1988, was elected and served there until 2001. Today he is Distinguished Professor of Law and Public Policy at George Mason University.

After sketching his nine-year stint in the Marine Corps, calling it "the Rosetta Stone of my professional life," Professor Robb devoted the balance of his remarks to current events. "Where do we find ourselves today," he asked, "and what can we do about it?"

First, Robb said, is the problem of Iraq. Saddam Hussein is a pariah who cannot be trusted, Robb declared, and the world would be better off without him—but President Bush is well advised not to act alone. Robb does not doubt our eventual success in

this confrontation, but then what? "I have yet to see the kind of commitment to the consequences of victory that I do to simply seeking victory. With support only for the latter, we could easily end up making the world less safe for Americans and for the principles that we seek to advance."

The situation in Korea, Robb stated, also presents possibilities for serious missteps in forming our policy. "If a shooting war ever breaks out, the South, backed by the U.S. forces [there], will win. But Seoul will be devastated, and the civilian casualties will be enormous. . . ."

The most dangerous area in the world, Robb asserted, is South Asia, where India and Pakistan, both possessing nuclear weapons, stubbornly maintain their historic confrontation over Kashmir. "[T]he feelings on both sides . . . have become part of each country's national identity . . . no leader of either country could remain in power if he made significant concessions on this dispute."

About the Middle East, Robb is equally worried. "I must confess to you that I have never been less optimistic or more discouraged than I am right now. . . ." Only a physical separation of Israelis and Palestinians, he continued, together with consolidation and reduction of the West Bank settlements, can reduce the violence on any sustained basis—but that would be an admission that the peace process has failed, not to be restarted for many years to come.

Robb concluded with a strong plea for U.S. multilateralism. "Unilateralist rhetoric may sound good here at home, and on occasion we may *have* to go it alone. But we cannot succeed on most . . . issues—certainly not in the long run—without the help and cooperation of the international community."



Robb sees dangers in unilateralism Photo by Charles Bogel

Museum Specialist Recognized for Military Service

By Mike MacDonald

For one weekend a month and for two weeks a year, Exhibit Specialist Marty Matin—"Uncle Marty," to the LBJ Museum staff—dons a uniform and serves the country as a member of the United States Naval Reserve. In October 2001, Marty's reserve unit went on active duty and left Texas to fight the "war on terror." The National Archives and Records Administration recently recognized his contributions to the war effort when Marty was named a

recipient of The Archivist's Award for "service to the United States of America as a member of the Armed Forces by participation in Homeland security contingency operations." On December 9, 2002, in a simple ceremony held in the exhibit workshop, Library Director Betty Sue Flowers presented the award.

Marty, who is a Petty Officer First Class (E-6) in the Naval Reserve, is attached to a reserve unit located in San Antonio. Beginning in October 2001, for nine months Petty Officer Matin was stationed at

McDill Air Force Base (Tampa Bay, Florida) where he was attached to the United States Central Command. Working twelve-hour shifts seven days a week, Marty and his shipmates provided support to all US Armed Forces in South Asia. Because of continuing combat operations taking place in Afghanistan, the possibility of war with Iraq, and the need to maintain operational security, Marty, as with many members of the military, is not allowed to discuss the nature of his duties with the general public.



In the Museum workshop, with a piece of the Lewis and Clark exhibit in the background, Director Flowers presents the award to Marty Matin. Photo by Charles Bogel

Lyndon B. Johnson: Friend to the Austin Jewish Community

By Claudia Anderson,
Senior Archivist

(A revision of the article by Ms. Anderson which first appeared in the *Texas Jewish Historical Society*, November 2002)

On December 30, 1963, President Lyndon B. Johnson and his wife, Lady Bird, attended the dedication in Austin, Texas, of the new synagogue built by Congregation Agudas Achim. Afterward, Mrs. Johnson wrote in her diary, "...as we started out of the synagogue, person after person plucked at my sleeve and said, 'I wouldn't be here today if it weren't for him. He helped me get out.' That both frightens you and makes you happy." These words give credence to stories that have circulated in Austin for years that Lyndon Johnson helped Jewish refugees enter the United States and settle in Texas during the Holocaust. Recently the stories resurfaced in a web article, and in April 2002 they were cited in a critical review of Robert Caro's new book, *The Years of Lyndon Johnson: Master of the Senate*. As did other congressmen with Jewish communities in their districts, Johnson assisted relatives of Jewish constituents in negotiating the bureaucratic maze of immigration, but the stories suggest that Johnson's help was more extraordinary. Still there is little hard proof of Johnson's role, and the extent of Johnson's involvement in efforts to bring refugees to Texas remains a mystery.

There is abundant evidence of Johnson's affection for the Jewish community. It was demonstrated clearly in the summer of 1963, when Jim Novy, the chairman of the building committee at Congregation Agudas Achim, asked Lyndon Johnson, then vice president of the United States, to speak at the dedication of the congregation's new synagogue. LBJ, a long-time friend of Novy's, sent word that he could attend on November 24, when he would be in Texas accompanying President Kennedy on a whirlwind fund-raising trip to San Antonio, Houston, Fort Worth, Dallas, and

Austin. Then, on November 22, 1963, during the motorcade through Dallas, the unthinkable happened. President Kennedy was assassinated. Hours later, Lyndon Johnson was sworn in as the thirty-sixth president of the United States. Congregation Agudas Achim cancelled the dedication ceremonies and joined the stunned nation in mourning the death of President Kennedy. President Johnson agreed to attend the rescheduled dedication on Monday, December 30, becoming the second president to participate in the dedication of a synagogue. President Eisenhower had spoken at the dedication of the Washington Hebrew

Congregation Temple in 1955.

Johnson's speech at the dedication focused on the need for tolerance and brotherhood, but the truly remarkable words of the day were Novy's, not Johnson's. Novy introduced the President by telling about Johnson's role in arranging to bring people out of Poland and Germany in 1938. Then Novy went on in his heavy accent to say that, in 1940, Johnson helped Jewish refugees come into Texas, and after their arrival, Johnson arranged for the refugees to be lodged by the National Youth Administration (NYA). The NYA was one of the many agencies set up during



Senior Archivist Claudia Anderson Photo by Margaret Harmon



Lady Bird Johnson: “. . . as we started out of the synagogue, person after person plucked at my sleeve and said, ‘I wouldn’t be here today if it weren’t for him.’” *Photo by Yoichi Okamoto*

Franklin Roosevelt’s administration to help bring the country out of the Great Depression. It provided assistance and training for young men and women. LBJ had become the state NYA director in Texas in 1935. He resigned in 1937 to run for Congress. Jesse Kellam, Johnson’s deputy at the NYA, took over as director, and held the position until 1943. Johnson continued, however, closely to monitor NYA programs.

Novy’s words of introduction went unnoticed until 1989, when a Ph.D. candidate at the University of Texas, Louis Gomolak, listened to a recording of the speech while doing research for his dissertation on LBJ’s pre-presidential experiences in foreign policy. In his work, Gomolak cited Novy’s assertion, and also referred to stories that “Johnson

endeared himself to the tiny Austin Jewish community and other Jews statewide by slipping hundreds of their persecuted co-religionists into Texas, first by way of Cuba, and when problems arose there, via Mexico and South America.” Gomolak coined the term “OPERATION TEXAS” to describe the effort. However, he was unable to find paper documentation in Johnson’s files to support Novy’s statements, nor could Gomolak find any refugees who had been assisted through the NYA. Jesse Kellam’s NYA office files, which might contain clues to the operation, apparently no longer exist. There is a cryptic reference to the NYA in an article in *The Texas Jewish Press* of October 25, 1940, describing an organizational meeting of the Jewish Refugee Service in San

Antonio. According to the newspaper, Novy “presented an NYA report” at the meeting. This news item does link Novy and the Texas National Refugee Service to the NYA.

The Johnson Library has only a few pieces of the puzzle. The train of evidence begins in 1934 when LBJ was working in Washington, D.C., as an aide to Congressman Richard Kleberg of South Texas. On a trip home to Austin, Johnson met Lady Bird Taylor, whom he courted for eleven weeks before they married. During their courtship, Johnson gave Lady Bird a book of essays titled *Nazism: An Assault on Civilization*, edited by Pierre Van Paassen and James Waterman Wise. Apparently Johnson recognized how dangerous Nazism was, and his choice of a gift suggests that he discussed the

LBJ: Friend to the Austin Jewish Community *(continued)*

subject with Lady Bird very early in their relationship.

According to Jim Novy, four years after giving Mrs. Johnson the book, Johnson was helping get people out of Europe. In his speech at the dedication of the Agudas Achim synagogue, Novy described how he traveled with his son David to Poland. Johnson had given him a letter to deliver to the embassy in Poland; the letter asked for assistance in getting authorization for Novy to bring friends and relatives to Texas from Poland and Germany. Novy's speech notes indicate he succeeded in bringing out 42 people.

The same year, Johnson helped the Austrian symphony conductor and Jewish refugee Erich Leinsdorf immigrate to the United States. This is one successful case that is well documented at the Johnson Library. The Library has an oral history interview with Leinsdorf, who eventually became the music director of the Boston Symphony Orchestra. This story began when Charles Marsh, a very close Johnson friend, political supporter, and newspaper owner, who published the *Austin Statesman* and the *Austin American*, asked Johnson to assist Leinsdorf. Leinsdorf had come to the U.S. on a visitor's visa that was about to expire. While he was in the United States, Germany had taken control of Austria, and Leinsdorf feared returning to his homeland. Although he had a contract to work for the Metropolitan Opera, the Labor Department refused his application for a two-year extension on his visa. Unless something was done, Leinsdorf would have to return to Austria. Johnson arranged for Leinsdorf to go to Cuba, where he received a permanent visa from the American Consul, and was then able to re-enter the United States under the German/Austrian quota. State Department records show that the American Consul in Havana, Coert Du Bois, was both sympathetic to the plight of the Jewish refugees who reached Cuba and responsive to requests from congressmen.

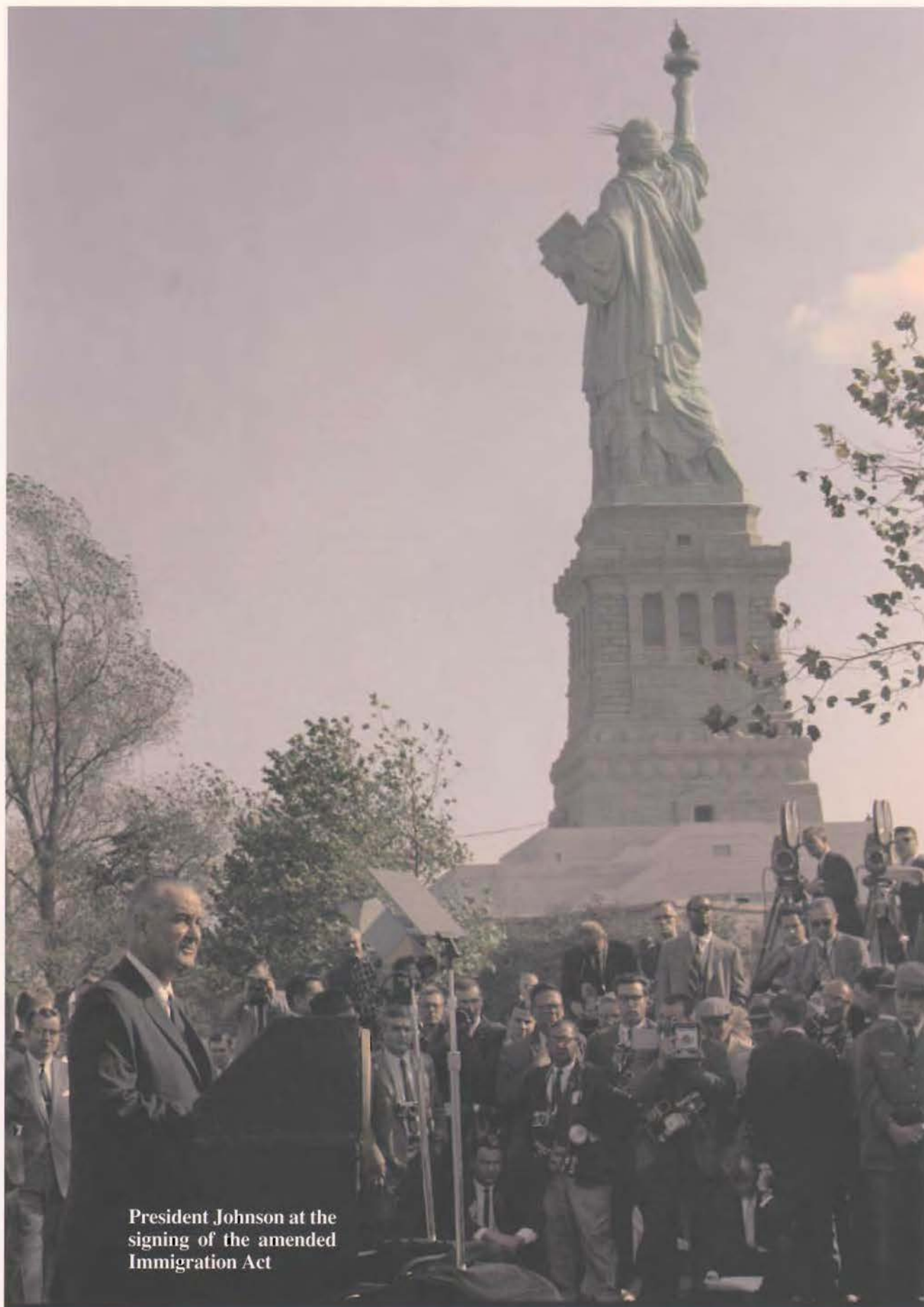
The Johnson Library also has an oral history interview with Rabbi Abram Vossen Goodman, who was with Austin's Temple Beth Israel in 1939. In the interview, the Rabbi recounts his efforts to bring his cousin, Herman Winter, to the United States from Germany. Goodman contacted Congressman Lyndon Johnson, who arranged passage for Winter on a ship to Mexico in September 1939. Johnson told Goodman that eventually his cousin would be able to come into the U.S. from Mexico. Tragically, World War II broke out before the vessel left Germany. The voyage was aborted. German authorities arrested Herman Winter and sent him to work in a stone quarry, where he died.

Archivists at the Johnson Library have also talked to members of the Schmidt family. Jacob Schmidt, the founder of the Yaring's stores in Austin, enlisted Johnson's help in bringing his wife's sister, Lea Deutsch, her husband, Andor, and their son, Michael, to the United States from Hungary in 1939. In another case, members of the Novy family told archivists about family members who, with Johnson's assistance, entered the U.S. through Mexico and Cuba.

As a senator, Johnson supported legislation that perpetuated the restrictive immigration quota system, which discriminated against immigrants from Eastern Europe. As president, however, Johnson made it a priority to change U.S. immigration law and rid it of the restrictive quota system that had kept many Jewish refugees from entering the United States during the Holocaust. On October 3, 1965, at the foot of the Statue of Liberty in New York Harbor, President Johnson signed Public Law 89-236, an act amending the Immigration and Nationality Act of 1952. This landmark law ended the quota system that began with the 1921 Quota Act and established new criteria for admittance to the United States. Beginning in 1965, immigrants would be admitted based on their skills and their close relationship

to those already here. At the signing ceremony, President Johnson said of the Act, "...it does repair a very deep and painful flaw in the fabric of American justice. It corrects a cruel and enduring wrong in the conduct of the American Nation." Erich Leinsdorf, the conductor Johnson had helped in 1938, was among the guests assembled by the White House to witness the signing of the historic Act.

Because of the lack of evidence, particularly for "OPERATION TEXAS," some historians have suggested that stories of Johnson helping hundreds of people escape Hitler are an exaggeration. The Johnson Library is collecting material, including oral histories, in an attempt to document Johnson's exact role. The staff at the LBJ Library would appreciate any information about Johnson's efforts to promote Jewish immigration, including the role that the NYA and Jesse Kellam may have played. Those with information can contact Claudia Anderson at 512-916-5137, extension 259. Any information that the Library receives will be made available to scholars.



President Johnson at the
signing of the amended
Immigration Act

Photos by Yoichi Okamoto

In Memoriam



Richard M. Helms
Director of Central Intelligence
1966-1973

Harold "Doc" Howe II
Commissioner of Education
1965-1968



Eugene V. Debs Rostow
Under Secretary of State
1966-1969

C. Douglas Dillon
Secretary of the Treasury
1961-1965



Photos by Yoichi Okamoto and Cecil Stoughton

Coming Events: (See "Events" on our website, <http://www.lbjlib.utexas.edu>)

- February 8 Black History Program, 2:00 p.m. in the Service Level. At 3:30 p.m., an HBO documentary featuring slave narratives, LBJ Auditorium. Free, open to the public
- 15 "Discovering America" exhibit opens; the story of Lewis and Clark, 2nd Floor
- LBJ Library and Museum hosts the Central Texas History Fair, 8:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. Service Level
- 16-17 Presidential Tapes Conference co-hosted with the JFK Library, in Boston
- 21-22 "The Louisiana Purchase and American Expansion" Symposium, jointly sponsored with the UT Law School and Dept. of Government. Free and open to the public, but registration is required. <http://www.utexas.edu/law/conferences/lapurchase/location.html>
- March 19 An Evening With Senator Bill Bradley. 6:00 p.m. A Friends event
- April 8 An Evening With Richard Holbrooke. A Friends event
- May Date to be announced: An Evening With Robert Caro. A Friends event

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

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

