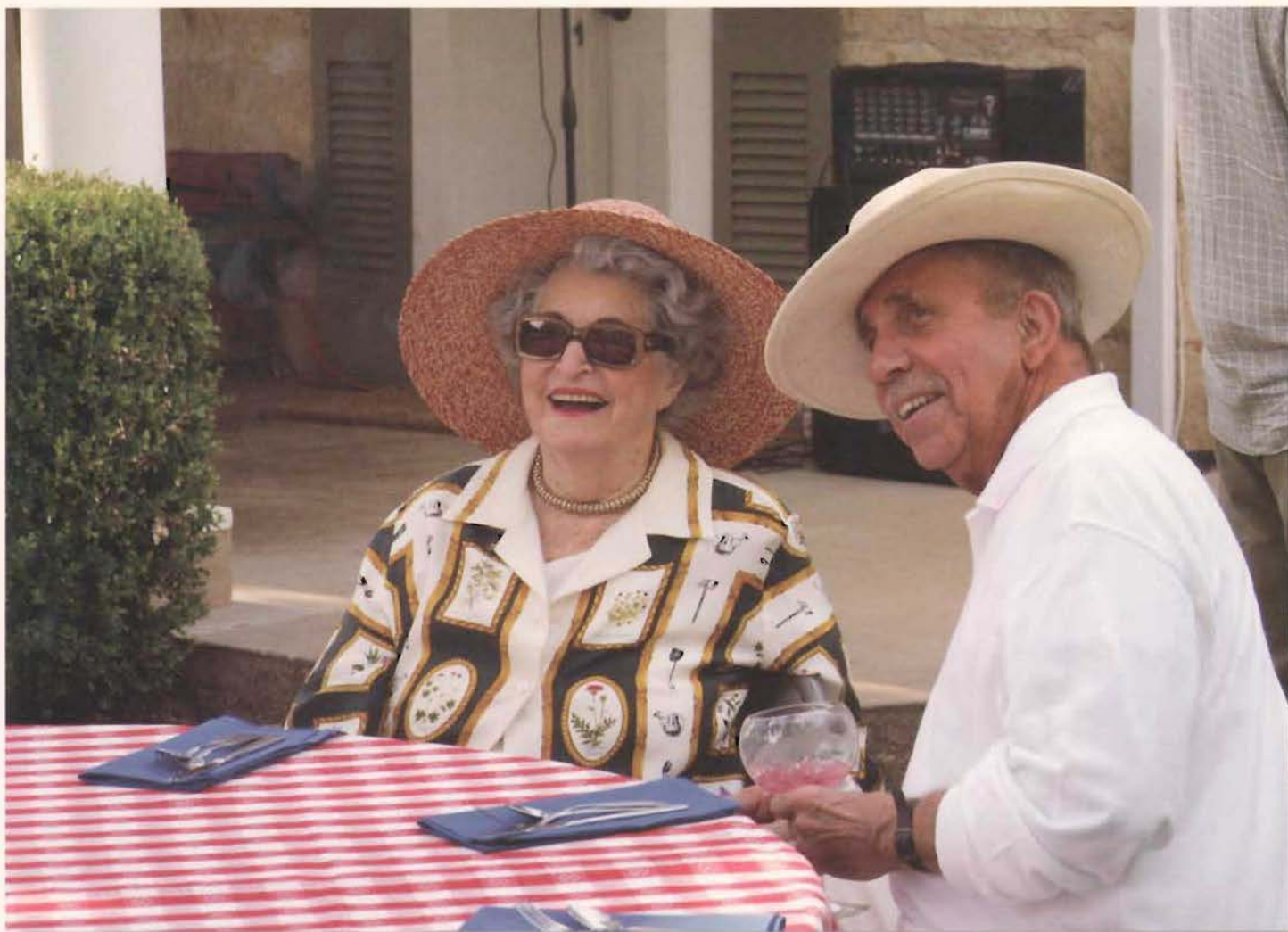


# *Among* FRIENDS *of LBJ*

October 2003



*Photo by Charles Bogel*

**Lady Bird Johnson and Harry Middleton, Executive Director of the LBJ Foundation, enjoy a moment at the Future Forum picnic. Story on page 12**



# Laying of Wreath Marks LBJ's 95th Birthday

Annually, on August 27, friends and family of President Johnson gather at the Johnson family cemetery on the banks of the Pedernales River to observe his birthday. Members of the public who happen to be touring the LBJ Ranch on that day are also welcome to attend.

This year Larry Temple, president of the LBJ Foundation and former Special Counsel to President Johnson, spoke to the crowd. Mr. Temple noted that President Johnson would have been pleased at the number in attendance, for he always thought birthdays were very important—especially his.

“LBJ did not just build on the legacies of Presidents Lincoln, Roosevelt, and Truman,” Temple recalled. “In a very real way, Lyndon Johnson led a revolution in the 1960s. His was a revolution waged with more than two hundred landmark pieces of legislation, as his cabinet counted them, all enacted within five years, all designed to make better the experience of living in this land of ours; better for the poor, better for the oppressed, the young, the aged; better, in short, for all of us. We who enlisted in his cause will forever be grateful for the opportunity to join this revolution.

“LBJ showed that there can be civility in our political system. I wish all of today’s political leaders would take a page from Lyndon



**Liz Carpenter arrived on the arm of Ben Barnes.**



**The occasion began with a powerful a capella rendition of “America the Beautiful” by Johnny Ray Watson, of Bastrop, Texas.**

*Photos by Charles Bogel*



Johnson's book of how to work with the opposition. The rank and destructive partisanship we see on the political scene today had no place in his world.

"I spent many happy evenings watching him play dominoes. It was a much different version of the game than I had learned from my father. The President and his favorite partners had code names for key dominoes. They used the code to tell one another what dominoes each had and what the partner ought to play. There are those who might call that as cheating, but after all it was LBJ's table, dominoes, and rules, and he delighted in the game.

"LBJ also loved going to church. While staying at the ranch with him one weekend, I had the privilege of attending three separate church services at three separate churches, back to back to back. I was just glad that the area didn't have a fourth church.



**Mrs. Johnson and Nellie Connally shared happy memories.**

*Photo by Sherry Justus, National Park Service*

"I recall his involvement, after he retired, in building a non-profit nursing home in Austin. He wanted the private sector to get involved in building and running nursing homes that would treat patients like humans, not numbers. Several in this audience—I see Roy Butler here—worked on that project. It was and is a success, and now bears his mother's name.

"Lyndon Johnson's legacy can be found in part in the laws he passed and the changes he made. The accomplishments of his legacy are not yet done, and hopefully will never be. They have been continued elegantly for thirty years, by Mrs. Johnson. That legacy continues today, through the work of Lynda Robb, and Luci Johnson, and all of the Johnson grandchildren. Moreover, it continues through the work of the men and women he sponsored, trained, taught, and encouraged.

"As Joe Califano put it so forcefully, 'The ship sails on.'

"As we celebrate the 95th birthday of Lyndon Baines Johnson, those of us who knew him can reminiscence about him with smiles on our faces. Those of you who did not know him missed the rarest human being of a lifetime. But I hope that you and the legions of others who benefited from his activities will take pleasure that you, too, share his legacy."



**Mrs. Johnson, Luci Baines Johnson, and longtime LBJ staffer and family friend, Mildred Stegall.**

*Photo by Charles Bogel*





**Larry Temple, assisted by Colonel Mark W. Graper (USAF), Commanding Officer, 12th Flying Training Wing at Randolph Air Force Base, lay the wreath at President Johnson's grave.**

*Photo by Charles Bogel*



**Meanwhile, LBJ birthday cake and ice water (much appreciated on that hot August day) were being served on the West Mall of the UT campus.**

*Photo by Robert Hicks,  
LBJ Library Public Relations Officer*

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**THOSE WHO HAVE LAID THE  
WREATH AT PRESIDENT  
JOHNSON'S GRAVESITE ON  
AUGUST 27, HIS BIRTHDAY**

1973 Mrs. Johnson, Lynda, Luci, Lyn  
1974 Marvin Watson  
1975 James Cross  
1976 Jesse Kellam  
1977 Pat Nugent  
1978 Donald Thomas  
1979 O. P. Bobbitt  
1980 Bill Deason  
1981 Lyn Nugent  
1982 Bill Deason  
1983 Lyn Nugent (for Marvin Watson)  
1984 Walt Rostow  
1985 Bob Hardesty  
1986 Warren Woodward  
1987 Harry Middleton  
1988 Philip Bobbitt  
1989 Elspeth Rostow  
1990 Nicole Nugent  
1991 Tom Johnson  
1992 George Christian  
1993 Liz Carpenter  
1994 James Davis  
1995 Jake Pickle  
1996 Roy Butler  
1997 Chuck Robb  
1998 Cactus Pryor  
1999 Jack Valenti  
2000 Lyndon Nugent  
2001 John Barr  
2002 Ian Turpin  
2003 Larry Temple



# An Evening With Sidney Blumenthal

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In the second Clinton administration, Sidney Blumenthal was first an assistant and then a senior adviser to the President. On June 20, he came to the LBJ Library to discuss *The Clinton*

tion, by legends and myths and even malice...is that Bill Clinton had a program for bringing the country forward. And that program aroused intense hostile opposition. Those issues are alive

in his own party, left over from the Vietnam War and the societal strife of the sixties. He had no mandate, having garnered only 43 per cent of the popular vote. Meanwhile, the rest of the



## Author Blumenthal defends the Clinton record

*Wars*, his provocative memoir of that time.

"The Clinton presidency," Blumenthal began, "is in the line of great progressive presidents.... And the reason that the Clinton presidency was surrounded by controversy and conten-

tion... and that is why even today the very name of President Clinton arouses polarization.... There are those who love him, and those who hate him."

Clinton's problems were unprecedented, Blumenthal continued. The President had to deal with divisions

world was busy redefining itself, with the collapse of the Soviet Union and the end of the Cold War. "His attempt to change the order of things led many Republicans...to regard him as illegitimate, as a usurper, as an interloper... and that the Republicans [deserved] the White House, and that Bill Clinton...



did not belong there, at all. And from the beginning, the Clinton Wars were waged.... The focus came to be on Bill Clinton as a person, but the reason... was his program."

The Clinton wars began, Blumenthal explained, between 1992 and 1994, when a well-funded conservative resurgence began to flex its muscles, while the Democrats were not only divided among themselves but complacent, thinking that their congressional majorities were safe.

President Clinton tried to assign foreign policy to his national security team, so that he could focus on domestic affairs, Blumenthal noted. Instead Mr. Clinton was forced to deal with successive crises in Bosnia, Somalia, and Haiti. It took two years, said Blumenthal, for Clinton to learn that foreign policy was going to require his "strong, continued, and persistent attention. He learned that diplomacy backed by force was the way to go.... But it took two years...."

In the meantime, Blumenthal asserted, the health care initiative, "his signature program, on which he had campaigned... met division among the Democrats, never gained the support that it ought to have had, was postponed time and again as the President pursued other initiatives that also divided the Democrats... free trade; [a] crime bill; gun control. All these divided the Democrats up and down the line, and health care never came to a vote on the floor of the Senate...."

And then there was Clinton's devoted opposition, said Blumenthal, "a cast of characters from underneath a rock," who were busy fostering a series of pseudo-scandals. The first was

Whitewater, which "became the germ that led to the plague of the impeachment trial." There were the firings of the White House travel office staff, and the missing FBI files, which mysteriously turned up in the White House. According to Blumenthal, a senior aide to independent counsel Kenneth Starr confessed to him that there was nothing of substance to any of these matters. But Blumenthal believes that Clinton's guilt was an article of faith with Starr, who fell back on the theory that a lack of evidence is a sure sign that the conspiracy is succeeding.

Added to all this was the conservative revolution in Congress, and the rise of Newt Gingrich to the Speakership of the House. Gingrich, Blumenthal stated, practiced "the politics of annihilation" because he saw his opponents as not merely wrong but evil; in his words President Clinton was "the enemy of normal Americans." "In the end," recalled Blumenthal, "more than thirty committees and subcommittees were investigating the Clinton Administration.... And in the end they turned up no wrongdoing."

Blumenthal is sure that there was indeed "a vast right-wing conspiracy," to use Hillary Clinton's famous phrase. It involved "a dirty tricks campaign, financed by the Daddy Warbucks of the far right, Richard Mellon Scaife.... There was collusion between the right-wing operatives who were pulling the strings in the Paula Jones case—a case thrown out by the judge, ultimately, as lacking all merit—and they colluded with members of Ken Starr's office, so he could expand his probe from his dead Whitewater investigation into the Lewinsky matter, and charge the President with serious crimes...."

"Republicans in the Congress were so intent on damaging the President and trying to stop his program that they were willing to sacrifice two Speakers of the House in their effort.... The person behind that, and driving the impeachment, was Tom DeLay, the House Republican whip.... He coerced [moderate] members of the Republican Party to vote for it, whether they wanted to or not."

Blumenthal concluded where he began, with the observation that Presidents Johnson and Clinton reanimated the "progressive tradition in the presidency, and they made us a better people. And the American people ultimately were the ones who chose that path, because they put them in the White House."



## An Evening With LBJ Biographer Robert Caro

On May 13, Greg Curtis, former editor of *Texas Monthly* magazine, introduced LBJ biographer Robert Caro to a crowd in the LBJ Library Auditorium as “a man of tremendous

had thought the book would take nine months to do. It wound up taking seven years—because, as he told his wife Ina (who is his entire research staff), to tell the story of Moses, it was

and the artist.”

Caro's first volume of his biography of Lyndon Johnson, *The Path to Power*, was published in 1982 and



### Author Caro sees LBJ as complex personality

enthusiasms, and a man who never does anything halfway.” Caro's first book, *The Power Broker*, appeared in 1974. It was the story of Robert Moses, the man who virtually created New York City as it appears today. Caro

necessary to tell the story of New York City. The resultant book won both the Pulitzer Prize and the Francis Parkman Prize, which is given by the Society of American Historians for “work that exemplifies the union of the historian

won the National Book Critics Circle Award for the best non-fiction work of that year. The second volume, *Means of Ascent*, won the same award in 1990. The third volume, *Master of the Senate*, came out in 2002 and won the Na-



tional Book Award for nonfiction and the Pulitzer Prize for biography. All three books were best sellers and are still in print.

Now Caro is at work on the final volume of his LBJ biography.

The author began his remarks with praise for LBJ Library archivists Claudia Anderson and Linda Seelke, who have helped with his research over the long years.

As a young newspaper reporter, Caro recalled, the best advice he ever got on doing research was from his tough editor: "Turn every page." Then he noted poignantly that the LBJ Library has forty-four million pages. That's a lot of turning.

The first breakthrough Caro achieved in turning the pages came when he was looking at LBJ's papers for 1940. In that year, Caro asserts, LBJ made himself the sole conduit of Texas oil and contractor money to liberal Democratic representatives who needed it to fund their campaigns.

But the papers do not reveal everything, especially to a New Yorker like Robert Caro. For him to understand LBJ, Caro recalled, the indispensable requirement was to understand the Texas Hill Country of LBJ's youth, an "empty, lonely place, in which you could drive long stretches without passing another car." There was poverty in those days. "There was no cash in the Hill Country. You could get a dime for a dozen eggs, but you couldn't sell them there; you had to take them to Marble Falls, which was 22 miles away, across the hills...." But Caro also found that the Hill Country "was... a land where the people were honorable and honest

to quite a remarkable degree. If you could just find the right question to ask them, they'd always tell you the truth.... Another difference [from] New York," he admitted wryly.

Out of his depth in trying to understand the place from a distance, Caro and his wife rented a house there for three years, and came to understand something of what life had been like in that hardscrabble country. He learned how hard life had been before Congressman Johnson brought electricity there. No matter what they may have thought of LBJ's politics, Caro mused, the old-timers loved him, "because he brought the lights."

But if LBJ did much good, he could also be ruthless, Caro told the audience, as when he destroyed the career of Leland Olds, "an idealistic New Dealer. He had worked for Franklin Roosevelt all his life.... His field of expertise was public power; power from dams, hydroelectric power, power from natural gas." Olds believed in private development of public power, but he also believed in firm government regulation of the industry. In 1949 Olds was up for renomination as head of the Federal Power Commission. Private power interests, a strong force in Texas politics, opposed him. Accordingly, Caro wrote, LBJ torpedoed Olds' confirmation, using for ammunition some 25-year-old articles that Olds had written that had appeared in a number of newspapers, including one communist newspaper, the *Daily Worker*.

Caro is convinced that "The story with Lyndon Johnson is always very complicated.... With him, the strands of dark and light are always intermingled. Because what did Lyndon Johnson do with the power that he got from

things like destroying Leland Olds? He uses it to become majority leader of the United States Senate.... He uses his power to... start... disability benefits under social security, [to get] Medicare and Medicaid. Most importantly... in 1957 he sets out to pass the first civil rights bill since Reconstruction...." Against the resistance of conservative southern senators, "it seemed absolutely impossible... that Lyndon Johnson or anyone else could ever get a civil rights bill.... To see Lyndon Johnson get that bill through, almost vote by vote, is to see not only legislative power but legislative genius."

The Johnson presidency was a great watershed, Caro pointed out. America before LBJ's administration was a very different place than it was afterward. The historic civil rights bills, the Great Society, the tragedy of Vietnam—all these changed the country profoundly. And, Caro declared, none of it might have happened—indeed, much of it could not have happened, if Lyndon Johnson had not been president.



## Maine Senator Honored



Senator Olympia Snowe (R-Maine) has been chosen to receive the Lady Bird Johnson Conservation Award for 2003. Selection committee spokesman Henry Diamond, a prominent Washington, D.C. attorney and former New York State Commissioner of Environmental Conservation, explained:

"The selection committee is very much impressed with Senator Snowe's consistent championship of environmental issues. She has been an effective advocate in protecting the people of Maine from acid rain and Atlantic fishery depletion. On the broader national scene, she has worked to promote energy efficiency, to address the problems of climate

change, and enhance the quality of our lakes and streams by stronger water pollution controls. She has done all this on a bipartisan basis which sets an important example for her peers in addressing environmental issues."

On her website, Senator Snowe states:

"Perhaps because our state is so blessed with beauty—clean lakes and rivers, a pristine coast, beautiful mountains and forestlands—Maine has long been at the forefront in taking action to preserve our environmental heritage. We have a rich history of private ownership and public access that I believe must be preserved. This heritage has shown that the environment can co-exist with business and industry, forestry, tourism, and recreational uses. And Maine people will recognize the intrinsic value of preserv-

ing the environment through sound stewardship and forward-looking planning."

In the Senate, Olympia Snowe has carved out a reputation as a leading moderate, focusing her attention on efforts to build bipartisan consensus on key issues. In 1999, she was cited by *Congressional Quarterly* for her centrist leadership, and is co-chair with Senator John Breaux (D-Louisiana) of the Senate Centrist Coalition, a vehicle for communication and cooperation between Senate Democrats and Republicans.

The award is a large sterling medalion. The obverse side displays a stylized engraving of Austin's famous Treaty Oak, as it appeared in its prime. The reverse is etched with a likeness of Mrs. Johnson



**The Democratic National Convention hall in Atlantic City, August 24-28, 1964.**

*Photo by Cecil Staughton, LBJ Library Photo Archives*



## Distinguished Visitors



**Lee Hoi-chang and his spouse get a tour from Docent Julian Martin. Mr. Lee is a former Prime Minister of South Korea.**

**Her Royal Highness Princess Michael of Kent (Baroness Marie Christine von Reibnitz) on a Museum tour with Public Affairs Director Robert Hicks.**



## Declaration of Independence Pays A Visit

The LBJ Library and Museum will serve as host for the Declaration of Independence Road Trip (the only stop this year in Texas) from Oct. 25-Nov. 9, 2003. It is a multi-media exhibit focused around the Dunlap Broadside print of the Declaration of Independence...one of only 25 in existence of the 200 printed on the night of July 4, 1776.

Television producer Norman Lear purchased this copy in 2000 with the goal

of bringing the "People's Document" directly to Americans to inspire them to participate in civic activism, to exercise their rights, and above all, to vote.

The exhibit features an entertaining and educational video, hosted by Reese Witherspoon, that explains the history of the Declaration and its relevance to contemporary America. And there is an extraordinary 14-minute film produced by Lear and Rob Reiner at Indepen-

dence Hall in Philadelphia, in which a distinguished group of actors including Mel Gibson, Benicio Del Toro, Michael Douglas, Morgan Freeman, and Rene Zellweger, among others, perform a powerful theatrical presentation of the document.

A voter registration drive and a "Liberty Pole" where visitors can write their feelings inspired by the document are also part of the exhibit.



# Future Forum

*By Dianne Bangle*

The first LBJ Library Future Forum Round Up Picnic was held on Saturday, August 9th, on the LBJ Ranch Front Lawn. Over a hundred attended. Guests enjoyed BBQ, cobbler, beer, and the famous LBJ Ranch Sangria.

The purpose of the event was to thank the Founding Members and Sponsors for an incredible first year of the FF membership. The Future Forum has grown to nearly 300 members in its first year. It was also a time to ask Founding Members to renew their membership for the 2003-2004 Season.

Our Future Forum Outreach Committee introduced individual focus groups and programming for our members. For example, some groups will get involved with volunteer activities while others will pursue cultural awareness in Central Texas. The purpose is to enrich the experience of our members and to promote the continued mission of the Future Forum, which is to foster greater civic involvement in our community.

Singer/Songwriter Tucker Livingston performed an acoustical concert outside.

Future Forum President Catherine Robb spoke to the crowd about some exciting plans for upcoming Future Forum activities:

## **"The State of Austin Music"**

An evening with Austin's music industry pioneers and performers  
Tuesday, October 14th.

7:00 p.m.

KLRU Austin City Limits Studio

## **"Behind the Scenes at the LBJ Library"**

A tour featuring interesting and historical items that regular visitors seldom see.

Early November

7:00 p.m.

LBJ Library and Museum

*Futureforum@lbjlib.utexas.edu*





# Institute Sponsors Historic Art Exhibit At The Library

*Reprinted by permission from the Foundation for Religious Studies in Texas*

The UT Institute for the Study of Antiquity and Christian Origins (ISAC) is sponsoring an art exhibit this summer and fall, entitled "Light from the Age of Augustine." The exhibit is open to the public and will reside at the Lyndon B. Johnson Library and Museum from June 1 to Dec. 1, 2003.

The exhibit is a rare collection of decorative ceramic artifacts found in Tunisia and Libya and were made during the years (late part of 300 AD and early years of 400 AD) when St. Augustine, an outspoken Catholic bishop, was making an impact in the region. "St. Augustine is known as one of the key theologians who helped people make the transition from biblical times to the Middle Ages. The exhibit's artifacts were handmade in northern Africa and feature a wide range of symbolism, from pagan icons to religious figures, which speak to the transition taking place during that period in history," comments Dr. L. Michael White, ISAC Director.



**Jar with friezes of gods and hunting scenes. The female figure at the top center represents Venus.**



**Oil lamp bearing a likeness of St. Peter.**

*Photos by Charles Bogel*



## Moyers Congratulates National Issues Moderators

Approximately forty National Issues moderators gathered in the LBJ Library Atrium on June 3 to hear these videotaped comments from Bill Moyers:

"Never before have we been so keenly aware of how our actions as Americans affect the rest of the world. Nor have we been so acutely reminded that our present and future are intertwined with the decisions and actions of others halfway around the world. Against this backdrop, it is imperative that we have a way for

the past three months. You've not only provided the means for citizens to engage in a deliberative conversation about a pressing issue, you are also fostering the kind of conversation that is needed to reinvigorate our democracy. You are accepting the responsibility that comes with being a citizen, and you are creating the opportunity for fellow citizens to exercise their right to speak freely, and to grapple publicly with these complicated decisions, with their far-reaching implications.

LBJ Presidential Library and KLRU for a very successful partnership, and best wishes for your continued success in the coming year, as you tackle issues such as immigration and health care, as well as local issues.

"But most of all, congratulations and commendations to the moderators and conveners, and to the citizens who participated in the Central Texas Forums on America's role in the world. Margaret Meade's words about the potential for a small group of thoughtful, committed



U.S. citizens to talk with each other, to determine the course of action that supports and projects our deeply held values. We also have to be prepared to accept the consequences of our chosen course of action. This is the difference between knee-jerk opinion and public judgment.

"I want to commend the trained moderators who conducted 26 public forums on America's role in the world over

"Political rhetoric often does little to move us forward in crafting alternatives that reflect our best judgment and our public will. So through your work, you are satisfying the public's deeper need for talk that is more than sound bytes and grandstanding. The American people are capable of making decisions based on thoughtful, deliberative talk, and I think we yearn for this deeper conversation. What a noble and grand charge you have accepted. Congratulations to the

citizens to change the world may well have been spoken about you."



## Former Oral History Director Honored



**Gillette, on right, receives gavel from Jeff Trandahl, Clerk of the House of Representatives.**

*Photo courtesy of Heather Moore, U.S. Senate Historical Office*

Michael L. Gillette, who once headed the LBJ Library's oral history project, was honored recently in Washington, D.C. when he retired after twelve years as Director of the Center for Legislative Archives. U.S. Senate Resolution 150 thanked Mr. Gillette for his outstanding service in preserving the records of the Congress and serving the cause of history. The House of Representatives presented him with the gavel which was used at the opening of the 107th Congress.

Gillette received a copy of the Senate resolution and the gavel during a cer-

emony held, appropriately enough, in the Lyndon B. Johnson Room in the Capitol.

Gillette's work in administering the records of Congress earned praise from Senator Bill Frist, U.S. Senate Majority Leader. "Mike Gillette has been an outstanding preservationist, ensuring that the rich history of the United States Senate will be enjoyed by future generations."

The Texas Council for the Humanities has chosen Gillette as its new director. The Austin-based non-profit is a

partner of the National Endowment for the Humanities.

"We're fortunate to have a leader like Mike as the Texas public humanities program gets ready to celebrate its thirtieth birthday," says Maceo C. Dailey, Chairman of the TCH Board of Directors. "His leadership will help us develop stronger outreach, while taking a fresh look at promoting the history, literature, culture, and diversity of this great state."



# The Job Corps Is Still at Work

*The following essay was written by Anthony Garcia. It is reproduced here courtesy of Ana Gomez, Executive Assistant, Joint Action in Community Service, Inc. (JACS), who has permission to publicize it.*

## How Job Corps Has Changed My Life

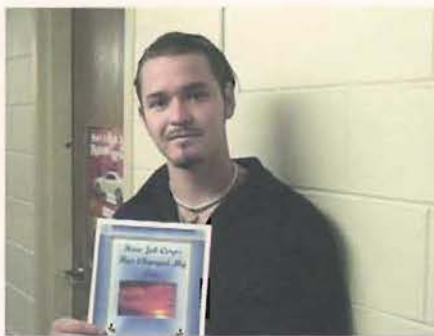
Have you ever gone to a place that helped you in every way possible, and no one judges you for the things you did in the past? I used to look into a mirror and did not like what I saw. I would close my eyes so that I could not see the reality that I was living. My heart and my soul were closed, and I could not feel anything. My mind was a deep, dark, endless hole of nothing: drugs and alcohol were consuming me.

I was born in Orange County, California, on July 13, 1980. Since then, I have lived in many different states including Colorado, Arizona, Oregon, and New Mexico. My oldest memory is about living in California, where my older brother and I lived in a very abusive foster home. We were there only for a year and a half, at which time, we were split up. I ended up in several different foster homes for a long time, and I was very unhappy. However, when I was nine, my mother filed to get me back. She felt she had gotten her life together and was ready to care for us. She could not stand to see the mental and physical abuse we received there. In 1989, I reunited with my older brother, and I was very happy to see him.

Reunited, my family and I moved to Seaside, Oregon, to find help for my brother's mental disability. Being in a group home had messed him up real bad. At that time, I was 17 years old and enrolled at the local high school. There my education began to slip because I became highly involved in drugs and alcohol. I also tried to commit suicide due to my depression. At that point, my brother moved to Redding, California, and we moved to Santa Fe, New Mexico.

At the age of 18, I moved out of my mother's house. I started what I thought was a new life; instead, I became involved in drugs and alcohol again. I lived in many different apartments, houses, and finally, I was out on the streets. When I turned 19, I moved to Albuquerque, New Mexico, and on December 19, 1999, I received a call from my mother informing me that my brother had committed suicide. For two years, I stumbled around in the dark-

ness not knowing where I was or where I was going. One day I looked in a mirror, and I did not recognize the person looking back at me. At that point, I realized I was going nowhere. I remembered a former friend who had gone to Job Corps and was a success story. I thought maybe Job Corps could help me achieve a positive future as well.



I believe that was the smartest move I ever made. I have been in Job Corps for a year and nine months. I came here not knowing how to read, write, do math, or use a computer very well. Today, I am a few points away from getting my GED. Getting there has not been easy. I spent numerous hours studying and being tutored, and now I am not giving up for anything. I have also completed advanced training in Business Office Technology. I have held various leadership positions in the dorm and in the student government. I have received 13 different awards from Roswell Job Corps including the most prestigious one, the Character Counts award. Dis-may, shock, and joy overwhelmed me. Even now, looking back at the hopelessness and despair that I had felt in the past, I marvel at the changes in my life.

Job Corps has given me the strength to hold my head up high and the confidence in myself to do the things I have never done before. I have learned that a smart man learns from his own mistakes, but a wise man learns from other people's mistakes. Through the course of staying at Job Corps, I have changed drastically. My eyes have opened up to a positive reality of what life can be. My soul has been uplifted in a way it has never been before. By helping other students change through their course at Job Corps, I have changed myself. By stumbling through the darkness of my own horrors, I have been able to help those who need me. Job Corps has helped me to be able to help others in a smarter approach. My friendships have made me a strong and wiser person to deal with life, and now I can look in the mirror with strength and courage, and hope for a better tomorrow.



# A Memoir of the USS *Texas*

Among the more than 50,000 objects in the museum collections of the LBJ Library and Museum are fragments of three champagne bottles. Each bottle was shattered on the bow of a ship during a christening, or naming ceremony. According to time-honored maritime tradition, any ship that is christened by a female and bathed in wine will have good fortune as it sails the seven seas. Lady Bird Johnson used one bottle to bestow good luck on the SS *Solom Turman* when it was launched in 1961. Lynda Johnson (Robb) used another in 1964, when she christened the USS *Austin* (LPD-4) for the U.S. Navy. Claudia Lyon, the ten-year-old daughter of Colonel Cecil A. Lyon, a leading figure in Texas Republican politics and associate of Theodore Roosevelt, used the third bottle on May 18, 1912 to bring good fortune to the battleship *Texas*, one of the mightiest warships to ply the world's oceans in the early years of the twentieth century.

Years later when recounting the event, Ms. Lyon wrote, "I was very proud to have shattered the bottle at my first whack!" After the ceremony, what was left of the wicker-covered bottle and ribbon were collected and sent to Ms. Lyon. In 1973, she donated her *Texas* memories to the Johnson Library, as her "modest tribute to a great man."

## The remains of the wicker-covered bottle and ribbon.

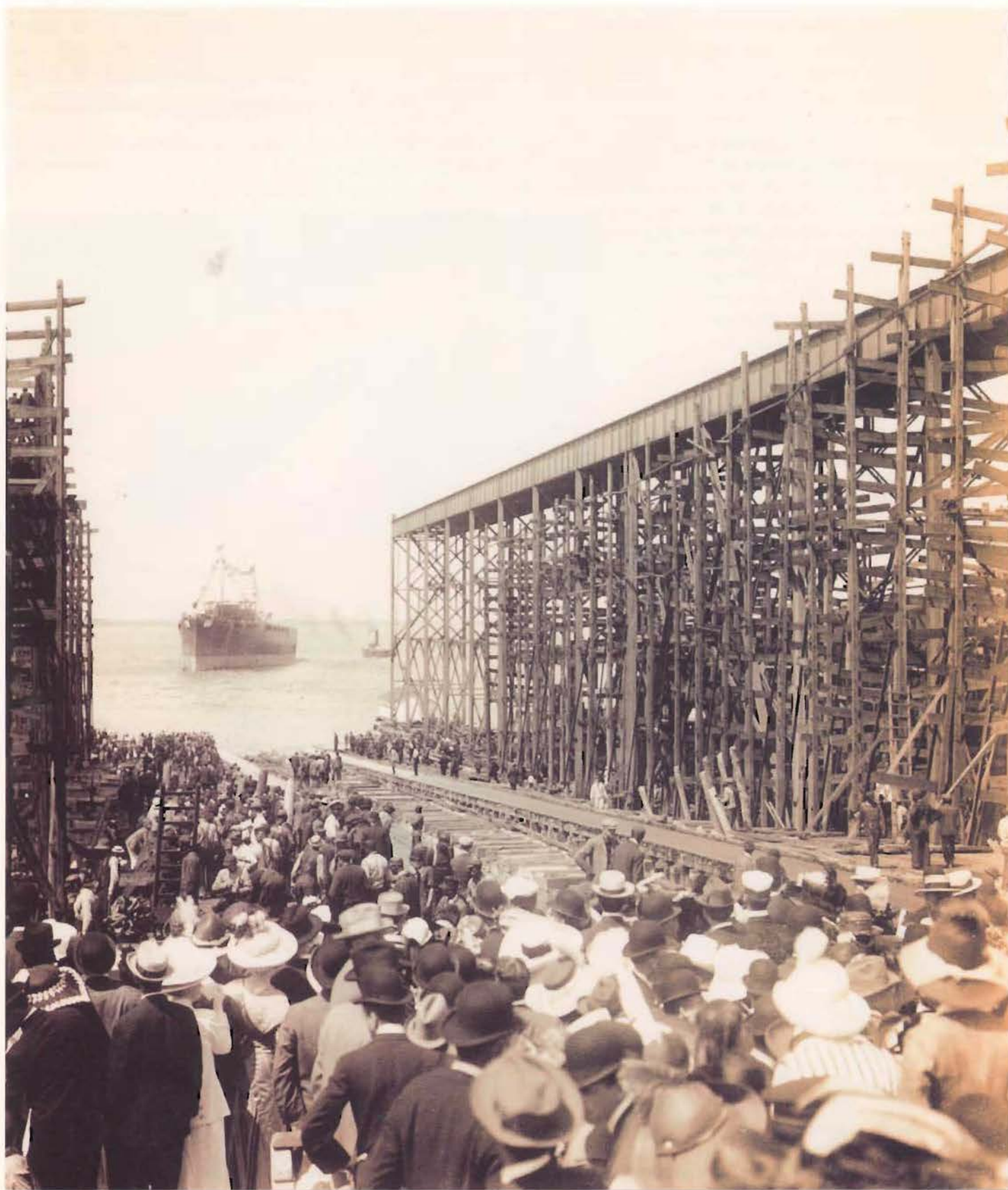
Photo by Gary Phelps, LBJ Library and Museum staff



Claudia Lyon (age 10) as she christens the *Texas*, May 12, 1912.

Photo courtesy of battleship *Texas* Archives,  
Texas Parks and Wildlife Department





After launching, the hull of *Texas* is “caught in tow by tugs.” It was common practice to launch the hull of these large warships before the turrets were installed.

*LBJ Library and Museum, gift of Claudia Lyon*





**August 27, 1960, LBJ's 52d birthday: In the Capitol Building, Senate Majority Leader Johnson and Senate Minority Leader Everett Dirksen cut the cake.**



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Telephone

*Please make checks payable to The Friends of LBJ Library*

### Coming Events:

- October 7 An Evening With Charlie Wilson. 6:00 p.m.. A Friends event; reception to follow.
- October 18-
- February 16, 2004 Special exhibit, Season's Greetings from the White House.
- October 22 Eighth Harry Middleton Lecture: Laurence Luckinbill's one-man show as Ernest Hemingway. 6:00 p.m. Open to the public.
- October 25-
- November 9 Declaration of Independence Road Exhibit comes to the Library.
- October 28 An Evening With Norman Lear. 6:00 p.m. A Friends event; reception to follow.
- November 6 An Evening With Nellie Connally. 6:00 p.m. A Friends event; reception to follow.
- December 18 An Evening With Lynda Johnson Robb and Luci Baines Johnson. 6:00 p.m. A Friends event; reception to follow.

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

Editor: Ted Gittinger

Writers: Anthony Garcia; Dianne Bangle

Research Assistance: Robert Hicks; Mike MacDonald; Regina Greenwell; Marsha Sharp; Judy Davidson Englert; CharLeu Diercks; Sarah Elliott (Curator, U.S. House of Representatives)

Photography: Charles Bogel; Gary Phelps; Heather Moore (Photo Historian, U.S. Senate Historical Office); Robert Hicks; Sherry Justus (National Park Service); LBJ Library Photo Archives

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