

The original documents are located in Box 31, folder “Presidential Meetings with Members of The House of Representatives, 4/12/76” of the Loen and Leppert Files at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.

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**Note - all material in this folder is part of a single case file
for a meeting between the President and George Mahon.**

WHM, 5/1/84

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

April 12, 1976

MEMORANDUM FOR: MARGE WICKLEIN
FROM: TOM LOEFFLER *T.L.*
SUBJECT: Rep. George Mahon
Meeting with President
(Photograph)

Enclosed is a replica of the photograph which was shown to the President on Thursday, April 8. The original photograph will be placed on display in the Odessa, Texas Presidential Museum.

Enclosure

ITEM TRANSFER REFERENCE FORM

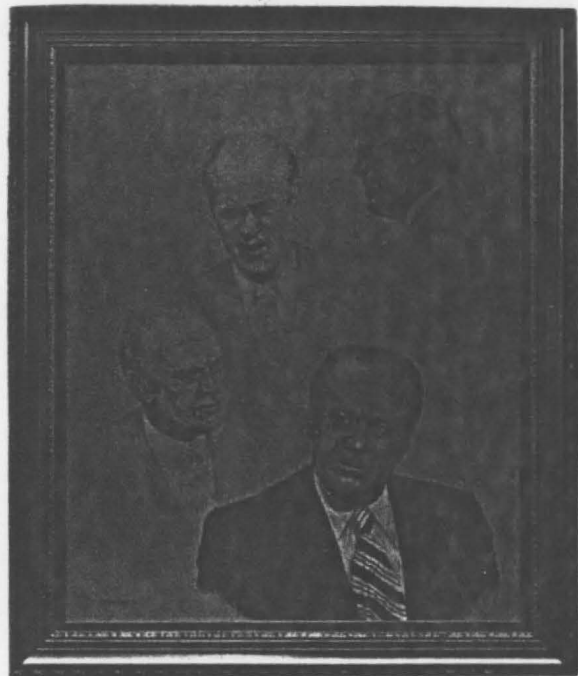
The item described below has been removed.

New File Location: *AV Collection*

Document Description: *2" x 3" color photograph of portrait of G R F which hangs in the Odessa Presidential Museum, Odessa, Texas.*

Old File Location: *Charles Leppert Files Acc. 77-59
77-107
Presidential Meetings with
Members of Congress
Attached to Memo Tom
Loeffler to Marge Wicklein,*

By *W. H. M* Date *5/2/84*



April 9, 1976

Dear Mr. Chairman:

Enclosed are the photographs which were taken during your meeting with the President yesterday.

I am pleased to extend the best wishes of the President to you and your constituents.

With kindest regards, I am

Sincerely yours,

Thomas G. Leffler
Special Assistant
for Legislative Affairs

Honorable George Mahon
Chairman
Appropriations Committee
House of Representatives
Washington, D. C. 20515

Enclosures

TGL:nd

8AP76A9157-06 (2)	-22 (6)
-09 (2)	-23 (7)
-10 (6)	-27 (8)
-12 (4)	-28 (2)
-14 (4)	-30 (7)
-15 (4)	8AP76A9160-09 (16)
-20 (4)	-08 (4)



THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

April 6, 1976

MEETING WITH REP. GEORGE H. MAHON (D-TEXAS)

Thursday, April 8, 1976

11:00 a.m. (5 minutes)

The Oval Office

Via: Max Friedersdorf

Thru: Charles Leppert, Jr. *CLJ.*

From: Tom Loeffler *T.L.*

I. PURPOSE

Opportunity for Rep. Mahon to have the President view a portrait of him which is to hang in the Odessa Presidential Museum

II. BACKGROUND, PARTICIPANTS AND PRESS PLAN

A. Background

1. Mr. Rudy Juedeman, a friend and constituent of Mr. Mahon's, is a top Republican in Odessa, Texas. He is on the Board of Directors of the Presidential Museum and Chairman of the Portrait Committee that commissioned the portrait of the President (to be hung in the Odessa Presidential Museum) by a local artist, Mr. Clyde Heron.
2. Odessa and Midland, both in Mr. Mahon's district, are highly competitive. Since the President visited Midland, Texas, on September 13, the City of Odessa would like to have the President view this portrait prior to its display in the Odessa Presidential Museum.

- B. Participants: The President
Rep. George Mahon (D-Texas)
Mrs. Helen Mahon (wife)
Mr. Rudy F. Juedeman
Mrs. Itha M. Juedeman (wife)
Mr. Clyde Heron (artist)
Mrs. Feleceia Heron (wife)
Mr. Gayle Dishong (Vice Chairman of the
Presidential Museum)
Mrs. Goldie Dishong (wife)
Tom Loeffler (staff)
- C. Press Plan: Announce to press
White House photographers only

III. TALKING POINTS

1. Rudy, as Chairman of the portrait committee, you are certainly to be commended for the selection of such a fine artist and the commissioning of this portrait.
2. I am sorry that time did not permit me to visit the Presidential Museum in Odessa during my trip to Midland in September. Perhaps there will be a future opportunity.
3. I served for many years on the Appropriations Committee with George Mahon. He is an able Chairman, a dear friend and a great American. I am delighted that Helen Mahon could join us this morning.

WITHDRAWAL SHEET (PRESIDENTIAL LIBRARIES)

FORM OF DOCUMENT	CORRESPONDENTS OR TITLE	DATE	RESTRICTION
List	Odessa Presidential Museum Visit (1 page)	10/20/1975	C

File Location:

Loen and Leppert Files, Box 31, Presidential Meetings with House Members, 4/12/76 / TMH / 08/18/2015

RESTRICTION CODES

- (A) Closed by applicable Executive order governing access to national security information.
- (B) Closed by statute or by the agency which originated the document.
- (C) Closed in accordance with restrictions contained in the donor's deed of gift.

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

October 20, 1975

MEETING WITH REP. GEORGE H. MAHON (D-TEXAS)

Wednesday, October 22, 1975
11:00 a.m. (5 minutes)
The Oval Office

Via: Max Friedersdorf
From: Vern Loen

Cancelled - ~~called~~ P. see.
V. L.
called - 10/20 12:35
Spoke with -
Sue Sprauge

I. PURPOSE

Opportunity for Rep. Mahon to have the President view a portrait of him which is to hang in the Odessa Presidential Museum

II. BACKGROUND, PARTICIPANTS AND PRESS PLAN

A. Background:

1. Mr. Rudy Jeudeman, a friend and constituent of Mr. Mahon's, is a top Republican in Odessa, Texas. He is on the Board of Directors of the Presidential Museum and Chairman of the Portrait Committee that commissioned the portrait of the President (to be hung in the Odessa Presidential Museum) by a local artist, Mr. Clyde Heron.
2. Odessa and Midland, both in Mr. Mahon's district, are highly competitive. Since the President visited Midland, Texas, on September 13, the city of Odessa would like the President to view this portrait prior to its display in the Odessa Presidential Museum.

B. Participants:

The President
Rep. George Mahon (D-Texas)
Mrs. Helen Mahon (wife)
Mr. Rudy F. Jeudeman
Mrs. Ithal ^{M.} Jeudeman (wife)
Mr. Clyde Heron (artist)
Mrs. Feleceia Heron (wife)
~~Miss Fritzi Gail Heron (21 year old daughter)~~
~~Vern Loen (staff)~~

Gayle Dishong (V. Chairman)
Goldie Dishong (wife)
TL (Staff)



- C. Press Plan: Announce to press
 White House photographers only

III. TALKING POINTS

1. Rudy, as Chairman of the portrait committee, you are certainly to be commended for the selection of such a fine artist and the commissioning of this portrait.

2. I am sorry that time did not permit me to visit the Presidential Museum in Odessa during my trip to Midland in September. Perhaps there will be a future opportunity.

3. I served for many years on the Appropriations Committee with George Mahon. He is an able Chairman, a dear friend and a great American. I am delighted that Helen Mahon could join us this morning.

(note: Vern, Chairman Mahon requested that some extra posed pictures, please check with him before going in)

MEMORANDUM
OF CALL

TO:

Vera

YOU WERE CALLED BY— YOU WERE VISITED BY—

David Langton
OF (Organization)

Cong. Mahon

PLEASE CALL → PHONE NO. CODE/EXT. _____
 WILL CALL AGAIN IS WAITING TO SEE YOU
 RETURNED YOUR CALL WISHES AN APPOINTMENT

MESSAGE

Because of his duties on the floor next Thursday (he has a bill coming up) he will be unable to keep appt. for 11 with President. He would like to reschedule the portrait presentation for January if possible.

RECEIVED BY

DATE

TIME

nd

11/14

3:40

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

February 2, 1976

MEMORANDUM FOR: MAX FRIEDERSDORF
FROM: VERN LOEN VL
SUBJECT: M.C. George Mahon (D-Texas)

Chairman George Mahon called to renew his request that the attached proposal be scheduled as soon as possible.

I assured him we would do our best, probably at the next Congressional Hour.

You will recall that this proposal was twice scheduled and had to be cancelled first because of the President's illness and later because of the Defense Appropriations bill.



THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

SCHEDULE PROPOSAL

DATE: October 8, 1975
THRU: Max Friedersdorf
FROM: Vern Loen *VL*
VIA: Warren Rustand

MEETING: Rep. George Mahon (D-Texas)

DATE: Future Congressional Hour

PURPOSE: Opportunity for Rep. Mahon to have the President view a portrait of him which is to hang in the Odessa Presidential Museum.

FORMAT: The Oval Office - 5 minutes

PARTICIPANTS: The President
Rep. George Mahon (D-Texas)
Mr. Rudy F. Juedeman
Mrs. Ithai Juedeman (wife)
Mr. Clyde Heron (artist)
Mrs. Feleceia Heron (wife)
Miss Fritzi Gail Heron (21 year-old daughter)
Vern Loen (staff)

SPEECH MATERIAL: Talking points to be provided

PRESS COVERAGE : Announce to press - White House photographer only

STAFF: Vern Loen

RECOMMEND: Max Friedersdorf

BACKGROUND: 1. Mr. Rudy Juedeman, a friend and constituent of Mr. Mahon's, is a top Republican in Odessa, Texas. He commissioned the portrait of the President (to be hung in the Odessa Presidential Museum) by a local artist, Mr. Clyde Heron.

2. Odessa and Midland, both in Mr. Mahon's district, are highly competitive. Since the President visited Midland September 13, the city of Odessa would like the President to view this portrait so that it can hang in their Presidential Museum.

APPROVE _____ DISAPPROVE _____

U.S. House of Representatives

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20515

PUBLIC DOCUMENT

OFFICIAL BUSINESS

September 12, 1975

George Mahon

M.C.

Vern, I think this is something we need to work out. The man who is pushing the project is Rudy Juedeman, the top Republican in Odessa and a great friend.

GM

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives

Washington, D.C. 20515

SEP 19 1975

September 12, 1975

Mr. Vernon C. Loen
Deputy Assistant to the President
for Legislative Affairs
The White House
Washington, D. C.

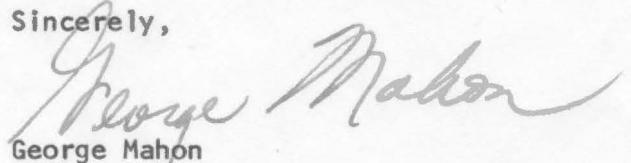
Dear Mr. Loen:

Several of my constituents from Odessa, Texas, have contacted me about their interest in having the opportunity to show the President a portrait of himself painted by a local artist, Mr. Clyde Heron. The portrait is to hang in the Odessa Presidential Museum, which has a considerable collection of various types of Presidential materials. They were interested in setting up a meeting here in Washington and would, of course, be glad to come at the President's convenience.

I realize the many demands made upon the President's time and schedule, but I would appreciate your advising me about the possibilities for such a meeting.

Thanks and best wishes.

Sincerely,


George Mahon

M:ss



THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

October 14, 1975

MEMORANDUM FOR: WARREN RUSTAND
THROUGH: MAX FRIEDERSDORF
FROM: VERN LOEN VL
SUBJECT: Rep. George Mahon (D-Texas)

Because Mrs. Mahon is a friend of the Juedeman's, the Chairman personally requested that Mrs. Mahon be included in the 11:00 a.m. visit with the President on October 22, during the Congressional Hour.

I would appreciate approval of this request.

**MEMORANDUM
OF CALL**

TO: _____

YOU WERE CALLED BY—

YOU WERE VISITED BY—

OF (Organization) _____

PLEASE CALL →

PHONE NO.
CODE/EXT. _____

WILL CALL AGAIN

IS WAITING TO SEE YOU

RETURNED YOUR CALL

WISHES AN APPOINTMENT

MESSAGE

*Large
Photo of Portrait
in left-hand cabinet
in Tern's office -*

RECEIVED BY _____

DATE _____

TIME _____

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

October 6, 1975

OCT 7 1975

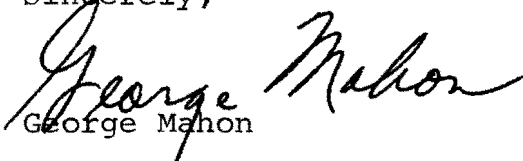
Mr. Vernon C. Loen
Deputy Assistant to the
President for Legislative Affairs
The White House
Washington, D. C.

Dear Vern:

Attached is material sent to me by my friends in Odessa, Texas, who are interested in having the President view a portrait of him which is to hang in the Odessa Presidential Museum. I hope you will find this information helpful, and I shall be forwarding you a photograph of the portrait as soon as it is available.

Thanks for you consideration of this matter.

Sincerely,


George Mahon

M:dl

Attachments

R. F. JUEDEMAN
SUITE 300
FIRST NATIONAL BANK BUILDING
ODESSA, TEXAS
79760

October 2, 1975

The Honorable George H. Mahon
United States Congressman
House Office Building
Washington, D. C. 20515

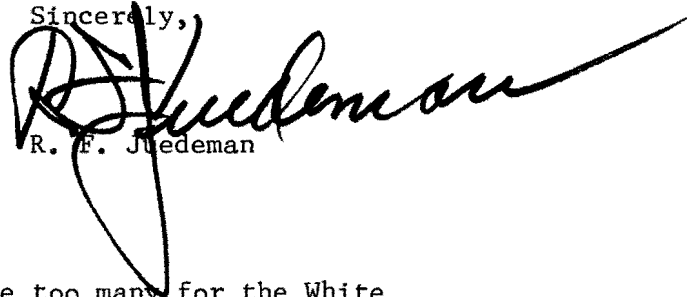
Dear Mr. Chairman:

I apologize for the delay in getting this information to you. Clyde Heron decided that the color photos were not as good as they should be, and I waited on their development. In talking to your office this morning, however, I have decided to send all the resumes of those of us who will be in attendance as well as other information dealing with the Presidential Museum.

I know what this request matters in the way of inconvenience for your very busy schedule as well as the President's. And whether you are successful or not in bringing it to pass, I do wish to thank you for all the effort that you have put into it.

I shall forward the color prints as quickly as they are available, which should be possibly Monday.

Sincerely,



R. F. Juedeman

RFJ:djh
Encls.

P. S. If the five people involved are too many for the White House, the order of priority to be with the President would be Mrs. Juedeman and Mr. Heron.

R. F. JUEDEMAN

BORN: MAY 11, 1908 BRISTOW, OKLAHOMA
WIFE: ITHAI MILDRED ISBELL
CHILDREN: DAUGHTER: LYNNE J. BALDWIN, PHD. PROFESSOR OF COMPUTER
SCIENCES - UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS
OCCUPATION: AGRICULTURE AND OIL
CLUBS & CIVIC: MASON, SCOTTISH RITE, SHRINE, FARM BUREAU, CHAMBER OF
COMMERCE DIRECTOR, PRESIDENTIAL MUSEUM, GLOBE OF THE
GREAT SOUTHWEST DIRECTOR, ODESSA COLLEGE BOARD OF
TRUSTEES, CHAIRMAN OF THE HOSPITAL BUILDING COMMITTEE

MEMBER OF MONTANA LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY 1953, 1955 AND 1957,
MINORITY LEADER OF THE HOUSE IN 1957 AND STATE CHAIRMAN OF HIS POLITICAL
PARTY. DIRECTOR OF MONTANA STATE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE.

MOVED TO ODESSA, TEXAS IN 1959 FROM MONTANA AND IMMEDIATELY BECAME
ACTIVE IN COMMUNITY AND STATE AFFAIRS. SERVED AS DELEGATE TO STATE AND
NATIONAL POLITICAL CONVENTIONS SEVERAL TIMES.

ELECTED PERMANENT CHAIRMAN TO TEXAS STATE CONVENTION THREE TIMES.
PAST CHAIRMAN OF DISTRICT S B A CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMITTEE -
APPOINTED TO THIS POSITION BY ADMINISTRATOR KLEPPE. NOW A MEMBER OF
THE NATIONAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE.

PAST PRESIDENT OF ODESSA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE (1973).

APPOINTED CHAIRMAN OF A CITIZEN'S ADVISORY COMMITTEE BY THE COUNTY
COMMISSIONERS COURT FOR THE PURPOSE OF UPGRADING MEDICAL CARE FOR THE
PEOPLE OF OUR AREA. PRESENTLY, CHAIRMAN OF MEDICAL CENTER HOSPITAL
BUILDING COMMITTEE.

PRESENTLY RESIDING AT 1506 IDLEWOOD LANE, ODESSA, TEXAS

Ithai Juedeman became active in the Republican Party of Montana in 1952. She was a member of the Legislative Wives Organization of that state until she moved to Texas in 1948. She immediately became active in the Republican Party of Texas, helping to organize and support the candidacy of Senator John Tower, who was later elected to the Senate in a special election.

In those early days of Ector County, few people would attend a Republican rally and it must have been somewhat discouraging to everyone, except the very few staunch party workers of those days, including the candidates.

Ithai served as Vice-Chairman of the Republican Party of Ector County for four years (1960-1964). She also served as Headquarters Chairman, which meant that the work of telephoning, organizing, and arraigning fell upon her shoulders.

Has attended all precinct, county, and state Republican conventions since 1960.

Has attended all local, district and state TFRW conventions since 1960.

Has attended three national conventions in San Francisco and two national conventions in Miami. In 1972, was delegate to GOP national convention in Miami.

1965 -- served as Membership Chairman, Ector County Republican Women's Club

1967 -- served as Publicity Chairman and Corresponding Secretary, Ector County Republican Women's Club

1968 -- was Hostess for Progressive Style Revue

1968 -- Elected District Director of 25th Senatorial District

1969 -- District Director of 25th Senatorial District

1969 -- Named as one of ten outstanding women of the Texas State Republican Women's Club

1970 -- Awarded honorary membership in Ector County Republican Women's Club

1970 -- Served as District Director of the Texas State Republican Women.

- 1970 -- Served on nomination committee for the Texas State
Republican Women's Club
- 1970 -- Served on Resolutions Committee, TFRW
- 1970 -- Publicity Chairman for Ector County Republican Women's
Club

- 1971 -- Was a director and presided for installation ceremony,
Ector County Republican Women's Club

- 1972 -- Director of ECRW Club

- 1974 -- Vice President, Ector County Republican Women's Club

- 1975 -- President, Ector County Republican Women's Club
- 1975 -- Delegate, State NFRW convention in Dallas

References for Mr. and Mrs. R. F. Juedeman:

Honorable George Mahon, M.C.

Mrs. Tobin Armstrong (Anne)
Armstrong, Texas

Honorable Jim Collins, M.C.

Honorable George Bush - Ambassador to China

1309 East 43rd Street
Odessa, Texas 79762
September 30, 1975

The Honorable George Mahon
House of Representatives
2314 Rayburn Office Building
Washington, D. C. 20515

Dear Mr. Chairman:

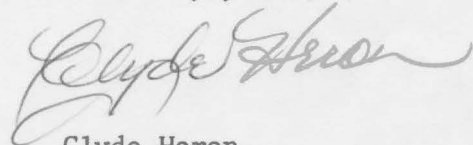
Your efforts in behalf of the Presidential Museum and myself in regards to the portrait of the President is most appreciated.

Mr. R. F. Juedeman contacted me concerning your phone conversation regarding a resume and references. Please find enclosed a brief resume and a list of character references. Mr. W. D. Noel will be out of the state for some time; therefore he furnished me with a letter of recommendation addressed to you.

Following the constructive criticism you offered when you viewed the canvas, I have altered the painting accordingly.

With best wishes to you and Mrs. Mahon, I am

Sincerely yours,



Clyde Heron

Encl.



HERON, CLYDE I. and family

CHARACTER REFERENCES:

For Mr. Clyde I. Heron and Mrs. Feleceia G. Heron and their daughter Fritzi G. Heron, who reside at 1309 East 43rd Street, Odessa, Texas.

Mr. W. D. Noel
President,
El Paso Products Company
P. O. Box 3986
Odessa, Texas 79760
915-337-2811

Hon. Dan Hemphill
Mayor,
City of Odessa
1701 North Golder
Odessa, Texas
915-337-2157

Hon. John Hoestenbach
State Representative
403 North Texas
Odessa, Texas 79760
915-333-2848

Hon. Elwood Hill
Sheriff,
Ector County
Ector County Court House
Odessa, Texas
915-337-8321

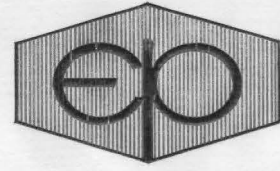
Hon. Joseph Connally
Ector County Judge,
Ector County Court House
Odessa, Texas 79760
915-333-2714

Mr. John Ben Shepperd
Assistant to the President,
El Paso Products Company
P. O. Box 3986
Odessa, Texas 79760
915-337-2811

Hon. Richard C. White
Congressman,
United States House of Representatives
Washington, D. C.

EL PASO PRODUCTS COMPANY

PROCESSING THE PAST INTO YOUR FUTURE



POST OFFICE BOX 3986
ODESSA, TEXAS 79760

W. D. NOËL
President

September 29, 1975

The Honorable George Mahon
House of Representatives
2314 Rayburn Office Building
Washington, D. C. 20515

Dear George:

It is my understanding that you need a character reference on one of my employees, Clyde Heron. As you have seen by his excellent work, he is an outstanding artist in our community.

We have known he and his family for a number of years. He is a very fine young man with a great future ahead of him. He is employed by El Paso Products Company in the Engineering and Drafting Department, has been with the company for over 25 years and has performed very well not only for the company, but for the community also.

Should you need further information, please let me know.

Very sincerely yours,

W. D. Noel



Clyde I. Heron

1309 East 43rd Street
Odessa, Texas 79762

Telephone: 915-362-3576

Married, 1 child 6 feet 2 175 lbs. Born: April 16, 1929, Ardmore, Oklahoma

Married Feleceia G. Mayberry, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. John H. Mayberry, at Ardmore, Oklahoma, on August 3, 1947. Blessed with a daughter, Fritzi Gail on August 27, 1954.

Occupation Senior Draftsman,
Project Engineering Section
EL PASO PRODUCTS COMPANY
P. O. Box 3986
Odessa, Texas 79760

Employment date: November 21, 1949

Complementary Occupation Artist.
Free lance commercial artist: Magazine cover illustration;
Book illustration; Newspaper editorial cartoons: Illustration for television commercials, set design and construction.
Fine Art: Advised by Mr. Peter Hurd, San Patricio, New Mexico, in 1969 to pursue fine art. Have found acceptance in three media: Watercolor, oil and graphics.

Until 1973 represented by:

Gallery III, Ruidoso, New Mexico

Tan-Tar-A Gallery, Lake of the Ozarks, Missouri

Nelda Lee Gallery, Odessa, Texas

At present work through agents for commissioned assignments for portraiture, landscapes, matters relating to the history of the oil and gas industry and southwest history. Renderings in various media are to be found in private and permanent collections.

Private Collections:

Honorable Lloyd Bentsen, Washington, D.C.

Honorable John Ben Shepperd, Odessa, Texas

Mr. and Mrs. Joel Locke, Odessa, Texas

Dr. and Mrs. Charles Mitis, Odessa, Texas

Dr. and Mrs. Roger Terk, Weatherford, Texas

Mr. and Mrs. W. C. Payne, Dallas, Texas

Mr. S. M. McDougal, Ruidoso, New Mexico

Mr. Jerry Bridges, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma

Permanent Collections:

Presidential Museum, Odessa, Texas

University of Texas of the Permian Basin,

Odessa, Texas

Education Ardmore High School, 1947 Ardmore, Oklahoma
Odessa College, 1964 to 1966 Odessa, Texas

Extension Courses:
Gasoline Plant Technology, Texas A & M
Supervisor Development Course, Texas A & M

Correspondence Courses:
Principles of Diesel, United States Armed Forces Institute.
Principles: Steam Turbines, Pumps and Compressors, USAFI
Famous Artist School, Westport, Connecticut.

Private Instruction:
Drawing: Faye Burnett Baker, Ardmore, Oklahoma
Watercolor: Bud Biggs, Dallas, Texas
Design: Samuel Cappelle, Monterey, California
Calligraphy: Joseph Chully, Monterey, California
Sculpture: Tom Knapp, Ruidoso Downs, New Mexico

Activities Church: Served as Youth Director, First Methodist Church,
Pacific Grove, California (while in service). Taught
Sunday School. Member of the Board of Stewards, First
Methodist Church, Goldsmith, Texas.

Organizations:
Masonic Lodge; Past Master.
Scottish Rite, El Paso, Texas.
Odessa Scottish Rite Association: Past President.
Texas Lodge of Research (historical research organization),
Waco, Texas; Charter Member; served as state officer.
Permian Historical Society, Odessa, Texas: charter member.
Ector County Historical Survey Committee, Odessa, Texas.
Texas Fine Art Association, Austin, Texas.
Odessa Art Association, Odessa, Texas; Vice-president.
Presidential Museum, Odessa, Texas; Board of Directors.
Order of DeMolay, Odessa, Texas; Advisory Board.
Friends of the Library, Odessa, Texas; Board of Directors.
Fraternal Order of Eagles, Odessa, Texas.
Globe Theater, Odessa, Texas: Served on Board 5 years.
American Legion, Odessa, Texas.

Civic Duties Member of the Grand Jury, 1963
Member of School District Text Book Committee, 1962

Military Service U. S. Army: 1952-1954 Non-commissioned officer in charge
of five illustrators and writers.
Primary objective: Production of visual training aids, text
books and transparencies.

Fritzi G. Heron

1309 East 43rd Street
Odessa, Texas 79762

Telephone: 915-362-3576

Single, 5 feet 3 105 lbs Born: August 27, 1954, Kermit, Texas
Parents; Mr. and Mrs. Clyde I. Heron (above address).

Occupation Student: University of Texas of the Permian Basin
Odessa, Texas

Education Elementary Schools, Ector County, Texas Goldsmith, Texas
Crockett Jr. High, Odessa, Texas
Hood Jr. High, Odessa, Texas
Permian High School, Grad. 1972 Odessa, Texas
Odessa Jr. College, 1972-1974 Odessa, Texas
University of Texas of the Permian Basin
1974 to present Odessa, Texas

Senior History/Art Major with secondary
certificate studies.

Activities Church: Member of the Methodist Church.

Organizations:

Jr. High Level;

Jr. National Honor Society

Art Club

Acappella Choir

High School Level;

National Honor Society, inducted Jr. year.

Art Club; Awarded Outstanding Art Student, 1972.

Library Assistants; Historian.

Industrial Arts Club; Reporter.

Girls Acappella Choir, First place quartet, UIL competition.

Civil Air Patrol

College Level;

Phi Theta Kappa, Eta Tau Chapter; Secretary.

International Club (foreign language students).

University Level;

Phi Alpha Theta, Phi Kappa Chapter.

College of Art and Education; Secretary.

University Council; President.

Student Services Advisory Council.

Debutante, 1973 Crystal Ball, Odessa, Texas

Scholarship to National Leadership Methods Institute, Dallas,
Texas; sponsored by Southwestern Life of Dallas.

Recipient of Bill and Ellen Noel Scholarship and Jesse Jones
Scholarship.

Feleceia G. Heron

1309 East 43rd Street
Odessa, Texas 79762

Telephone: 915-362-3576

Married, 1 child 5 feet 2 115 lbs. Born: June 23, 1929, Ardmore, Oklahoma

The daughter of Mr. and Mrs. John H. Mayberry; married Clyde I. Heron, son of Mr. and Mrs. Joseph M. Heron, at Ardmore, Oklahoma, on August 3, 1947. One daughter, Fritzi Gail, was born August 27, 1954, in Kermit, Texas.

Occupation Housewife
Piano teacher

Education Ardmore High School Ardmore, Oklahoma

Private Instruction:
Piano; eleven years, Mary Ringer, Ardmore, Oklahoma.
Violin; three years, Lauren Herbold, Ardmore, Oklahoma.

Activities Church: Member of the Methodist Church. Pianist for chior.
Taught Sunday School.

Organizations:
Order of Eastern Star; served as pianist.
Girl Scouts of America; Brownie Scout Leader.
Nu Gamma Study Club.
Presidential Museum.

the presidential museum

1776 Thomas Jefferson Square / Odessa, Texas 79760 / 915-332-7123

our first 461 days

by

KENNETH D. YEILDING PH.D.



A BIRTHDAY 10 PRESENTATION
FOUNDER'S RECOGNITION DAY
APRIL 4, 1975



birthday 10

THE PRESIDENTIAL MUSEUM TODAY

Dedicated to making Odessa and the Permian Basin a better place to live and visit, the Museum began its public service on February 26, 1965. It has hosted over 300,000 visitors.

The firm foundation laid and the high standards set by its Founders and the continued financial and volunteer support of its Members and Friends have made possible noted and signular exhibits and a reputation for objectivity.

Comprehensive and one-of-a-kind collections have enabled the Museum, in 10 short years to become a nationally recognized educational, cultural and tourist attraction.

The Museum presents American History in relation to the lives of the Nation's Chief Executives. In addition to the locally created exhibits featured periodically, the Museum has a number of permanent, informative, artistic and valuable collections that present a multifaceted story of the United States Presidency.

The Museum houses over 25,000 items of Presidential memorabilia, plus outstanding collections of original art. It is the only institution in existence devoted to bringing about a better understanding and respect for the Office of the Presidency.

The Museum is now in its second year of "Bicentennial Project 200," a dynamic three year commemoration of our Nation's freedom. Some 158 Bicentennial related exhibits and 42 heritage activities will be presented; 67 will be original exhibit ideas locally conceived, researched, designed and erected.

"Project 200" has been officially recognized as the most comprehensive of any institution in the Nation.

The Museum faces its second decade with enthusiasm and a strong determination to work even harder to confirm the prophesy of its Founders.

. .our first 461 days . .

november 1963 -- february 1965

A museum created in Odessa, Texas to bring about a better understanding of and respect for the office of the Presidency of the United States? Why?

This is an incredible story of how a grass-roots movement by a group of dedicated folks, living in the sandhills and mesquite desert of West Texas, who decided that something needed to be done to restore confidence in the nation's highest office, and how they set about accomplishing it. Historically it is left to the universities and colleges to assemble papers, memorabilia and exhibits on specific persons and subjects. Or Congress establishes a library or maintains an historic home of a specific President. Most Presidential collectors concentrate on a single President.

The death of President John F. Kennedy on Friday, November 22, 1963 started this unprecedented movement.

While watching the television coverage of that sad weekend, William M. Holm of the Ector County Independent School District and Dr. Luis M. Morton, Jr., of Odessa Junior College visited Sunday the 24th, first by telephone and later in person. These young educators were concerned about the too prevalent negative attitude toward government. They were aggrieved at the ignominious sacrifice of a President to an assassin's bullet. Gradually they conceived the idea of a living memorial to President Kennedy.

The following day they went to the home of Mrs. Leland (Dorothy) Croft to convey to her their thoughts. An aura of somberness was in that lengthy conversation, for the late President had been interred earlier that very day; and yet, there was also an aura of idealism and concern that captivated, still does, Mrs. Croft. The upshot was that Mrs. Croft agreed to chair the proposed memorial drive.

The two men had turned to Mrs. Croft because they knew her to be a courageous, determined and sensitive community leader who would not be intimidated. They knew that her tenacity in building a concept was as solid as her creative abilities and well-respected reputation. Simply put, they told Mrs. Croft that if she did not take up the gauntlet, the idea would die.

Mrs. Croft was the logical choice to head the movement due to her previously distinctive service. A finalist in the National Lane Bryant Awards competition in 1959, recipient of the Hogg Foundation Award as "Texas Outstanding Citizen" in 1967 for her work in mental health, Odessa's "First Lady" in 1954, charter member and president of Odessa Music Teachers Association, co-founder of the Odessa Symphony and concert-mistress for 14 years,

charter member of the Civic Concert Association, founder of the Texas State Mental Hospital Development Association and author of "Violin Theory," Books I and II had entrenched Mrs. Croft's stature in creating an Odessa memorial.

The three instigators then recruited four other civic leaders to join in the endeavor. Dr. Wilbur J. Mindel, then minister of the First Christian Church, the late Basil Wilkerson, prominent industrialist and community leader, Camden Chancellor, an outstanding businessman and Republican leader and John Ben Shepperd.

This "Committee of Seven" discussed various types of memorials to the late President in meetings on Tuesday and Wednesday, November 26 and 27. Among those considered were the building of a chapel, the creation of a scholarship fund, the erection of a statue and the founding of a special presidential book collection in the Ector County Public Library. Or, perhaps a series of carillons which might be distributed throughout the City.

On November 28, at a special Thanksgiving Day service in the First Methodist Church, Mrs. Croft announced that a group had met "several times to examine our conscience and discuss what we might do by way of an adequate memorial for our city."

The following Monday, December 2, the ad hoc group met again and named themselves the Citizens Memorial To The Presidency Committee. That meeting in the Croft home at 911 North Sam Houston further deliberated the form of the memorial and agreed to meet again the following Wednesday morning. When contacted by the *Odessa American*, Dr. Morton said on December 3, that the Citizens Memorial Committee "is composed of members from both major political parties." He said the group "felt that such a memorial would serve to unite all Americans in these troubled times."

Other purposes of the memorial, as presented by the committee, included "teaching our children a new respect and appreciation for our traditional American ideals; applying Christian concepts of tolerance and kindness to others, repudiating, for all time, the doctrines of violence and hate."

Mrs. Croft noted that "although funds have not as yet been solicited, contributions are being made."

Subsequent deliberations by the Steering Committee, and the observations of the worldwide reaction to President Kennedy's death, brought about a dramatic change of thinking and broadening of scope and objectives. Noting

that elsewhere parks, streets, schools, airports, etc. were being named in honor of the late President, the Steering Committee decided that something was needed that would become more than a memorial to one single man. It was the Presidency itself that demanded a memorial, for this is the fabric of American political life.

This new concept of a memorial would be an educational institution to present American History in relation to the lives and times of the country's Chief Executives. Thus displaying a remarkable grasp of the verve and flow of history, the group decided on December 12 that a Presidential Room should be established in Odessa. It would be dedicated to a positive, constructive and non-partisan presentation of the duties and responsibilities of the nation's highest office. As such it would include books by and about the Presidents and the Presidency, including biographies, published addresses, letters and documents. This would, thus, be a living museum reflecting local ideas and effort.

The following day Dr. Luis Morton wrote a number of college and university libraries and the Smithsonian Institution in Washington, D. C. He wrote that

A group of citizens of Odessa, Texas plan to begin a collection of materials relating to past Presidents of the United States. What sources of information do you suggest so that we may learn how to begin, maintain and build a valuable collection?

Chairman Croft announced that the Presidential Room would need pictures, documents, painting, sculpture, furniture and china that contained a historic tie with any President or with the office of the Presidency itself. In appealing to all Odessans to aid in this great venture, she prophetically declared that the results "will become a valuable collection of American heritage."

Even more important to the Steering Committee than the physical attributes of the Presidential Room was that of the spiritual, the inspirational and the patriotic uplift that all visitors would experience in such a hall of Americana. Underlying the entire objective was a keen sense that such a revelation would imbue in the youth a renewed respect for the Presidency, regardless of party affiliation or individual personality.

Securing a location for the proposed Presidential Room was the next order of business. Several vacant buildings were inspected. The Steering Committee discussed the construction of a specially designed structure. However, the Committee felt that because of the educational

and intellectual objectives that it should be housed in a public building. There was an unfinished basement with a dirt floor in the Ector County Library at 622 North Lee that was being used for storage. That area contained some 900 square feet. It was determined that this would be an ideal location.

Velma Barrett, Librarian, was contacted as were members of the Ector County Commissioners Court. Shortly thereafter County Judge Gerald Fugit and Commissioners Ernest Broughton, W. J. Alexander, Kellus Turner and E. B. Caudle made the space available.

A Design Committee was immediately appointed and charged with the responsibility of preparing a definitive plan to remodel the basement room. Architect Delmar Groos, interior decorator Mrs. J. K. (Sydney) Wood, Mrs. Gordon (Joan) Headlee and Mrs. W. D. (Ellen) Noel were enlisted. The Committee, with dispatch, deliberated on the physical construction, interior decoration, and lighting of the Presidential Room. By December 27, Mr. Groos gave an estimated cost of renovation to Chairman Croft.

Other key committees were also named. The Brochures and Display Committee was chaired by Mrs. Leonard (Dorothy) Crockett, while the Education Committee was chaired by William M. Holm. Other committees created without chairmen included ministerial, governmental and public relations.

A public appeal for funds was made in late December with Ernest M. Schur and the late Basil Wilkerson being named co-chairmen of the Finance Committee. The Presidents of the four Odessa banks were named as Trustees for the anticipated funds. They were J. C. Dereberry of the First State, Derrell Henry of the American Bank of Commerce, Jack Logan of the National Bank of Odessa and E. M. Schur of the First National.

The organizational meeting of the Presidential Room of Odessa, Texas, was officially organized on January 1, 1964, forty days after the death of President Kennedy, with the following objectives:

To acquire, maintain and publicize for the good of the community all available books, pictures, property and other items of information owned by or concerning all former Presidents of the United States of America.

To heighten appreciation of and respect for the responsibilities of the Office of the President of the United States.

To recognize birthdays of all the Presidents, deaths, marriages, births, signing of bills, special and significant events -- such as declarations of war, signing of peace treaties -- by/special educational exhibits designed for school children and adults alike.

To record, in depth, the impact of various important presidential decisions and actions on the history of Texas.

To dramatize in a non-partisan manner the background, accomplishments, trials and tribulations and the human side of all the Presidents.

By late January Chairman Croft, an indefatigable worker and crusader, had made over 40 speeches to various clubs and organizations in support of a presidential memorial.*

*Author's Note. In preparing this script, I interviewed Mrs. Croft, whom I have always respected as being a very dedicated and sensitive Lady. When I asked her to list some of her accomplishments that would have led Mr. Holm and Dr. Morton to seek her out, she was somewhat reticent "to toot her own horn." Having stopped by her house on a Sunday night, I asked her to put the notes in her mail box for an early Monday morning pick-up. She did.

Attached to the requested materials was one of the most touching notes that I have ever read. Without her prior knowledge, I reproduce that inspiring notation as a testament of the selflessness that has characterized those who have made the Presidential Room a thriving, beautiful reality.

"Ken, do you mind leaving out '40 speeches' in 3 months? It puts too much emphasis on me -- for while I was making all those appeals, Sydney Wood and Delmar Groos were spending untold hours of labor and talent on the interior, Basil Wilkerson, with the zeal of an Internal Revenue Agent, was walking the streets gathering the money, John Ben Shepperd was using his incomparable talents for tapping every resource for contents, popular Mary Claude Rainosek was hounding all the clubs and organizations for speaking plans for me, Bill Holm and Luis Morton with their burning beliefs were crusading in the public schools & Odessa College and Cam Chancellor was using his wit and energy to convince the Republicans it was a Republican as well as a Democratic effort. I only led these -- and the rest of the hardworking, dedicated Odessans who made the museum possible. Won't 'many' speeches do? But I'll respect your judgement in my case."

A landmark was achieved on February 24, 1964, when the Commissioners Court agreed to expend \$5,000 to refurbish the proposed museum in the Library. Since county funds were to be used, the Court would have to let the contracts, and plans were called for.

The specifications for the Presidential Room were prepared by Delmar Groos of Groos, Clift and Ball, Architects, by May 13, 1964. Forwarding the 31-page document to Judge Fugit and John Ben Shepperd on that date, Mr. Groos later noted in a letter to Chairman Croft that he had so done because "it is necessary that we take bids in accord with the County's direction." Bids were called for on July 13. On that date a new stumbling block faced the Committee, for the low bid was \$6,229.00 and only \$5,000.00 was available.

Again the resourcefulness of Odessans was manifested. Within a short time the Committee had raised the \$1,229.00 deficit by appealing to individuals and various groups for contributions. The Ector County public schools as well as the Junior Service League endorsed the fund drive as did the Odessa Music Teachers Association, Democratic Womens Club, Odessa Study Club, Honorary Mothers Club, Odessa Contemporary Garden Clubs, the Womens United Nations Club, the Odessa Book Club and the Daughters of the American Revolution. Going even a step further, the Junior Service League, through their president, Mrs. Robert (Caroline) Lewis, agreed to provide \$600 to furnish the George Washington section, which was slated to be the focal point of the Presidential Room.

By July 17 Mrs. Croft urged the Commissioners Court to accept the Clyde Scott bid of \$6,229.00, and she announced that the balance had been raised. On August 7 the contract was let!

At that time the leadership of the Presidential Room included Mrs. Leland (Dorothy) Croft, Chairman; Dr. Luis Morton, Jr., Secretary-Treasurer; and Messrs. J. C. Dereberry, Derrell Henry, Jack Logan and Ernest Schur, Trustees.

Committee Chairmen included Mr. Camden Chancellor, Building; Mrs. Leonard (Dorothy) Crockett, Displays; Judge Gerald Fugit, Governmental; Mr. Balie J. Griffith, Jr., Business; Mr. Delmar Groos, Design; Dr. Wilbur Mindel, Ministry; the late Mrs. E. P. (Mary Claude) Rainosek, Public Relations; Mr. John Ben Shepperd, Contents; Mrs. F. F. (Jane) Tracy, Education; Mr. Schur and the late Basil Wilkerson, Finance; Jeneanne Johnston Dunn, Publicity; Mrs. Mac O. (Angel) Boring, Social; and Mrs. J. K. (Sydney) Wood, Decoration.

Three other significant events occurred in 1964 that were destined to add challengingly new dimensions to the Presidential Room by changing the concept from solely a historical to an art museum as well.

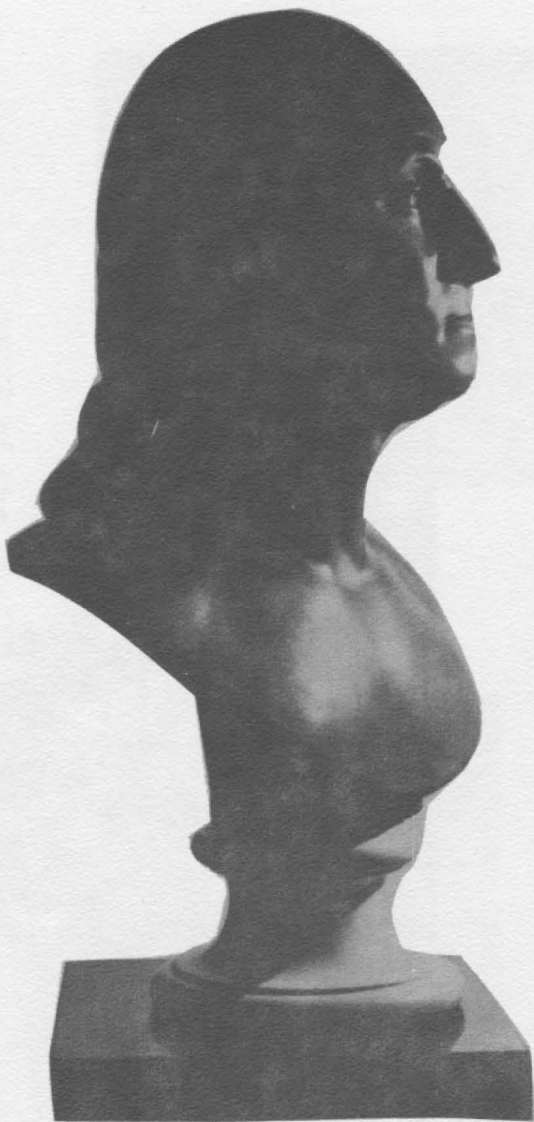
M. Loys Raymer of Kerrville, noted Texas artist, was commissioned to do 35 original oil portraits of each of the Presidents, his First Lady and Vice-President on a single canvas. The portraits are done with a palette knife while the two smaller portraits are done in brush. This unique idea was conceived by Contents Chairman John Ben Shepperd, and this one-of-a-kind series has resulted in widespread publicity for the museum. The gallery was made possible by a \$5,000 grant from the State Mental Health Development Association Board of Directors and was presented in honor of the Beta Sigma Phi chapters of Texas. The original grant was secured by Chairman Croft, who was also the founder of the State Mental Health Development Association.

Another "first" came with a companion series of the four Presidents of the Republic of Texas, their First Ladies and Vice-Presidents, painted by a reknowned young Pecos artist, Marion Russell. This began another singular concept of portraying all the Presidents who had administered the affairs of Texas -- those of Mexico, the Republic of Texas, the Confederacy and the United States.

A famous wood mosaic collection of the first thirty-four U. S. Presidents was then added to the Presidential Room's 'objets d'art.' These masterpieces, done by famous mosaic artist James B. Mason, contain more than 16,000,000 individually hand-cut and placed pieces of natural wood from over thirty countries. It, too, has added to the Museum's reputation as a cultural center.

The story of the acquisition of this internationally recognized collection is indicative of the vision and persistence of the founders and the commitment of public-spirited Odessans. Acquired through a bank foreclosure, a Waco art dealer contacted Presidential Room officials. Chairman Croft and Shepperd flew down to Waco to view the mosaics. They were enthralled by the collection and immediately agreed in an inspired aside that it was a "must." The price was \$10,000, more money than either had any idea in the world of where it could be raised. They "borrowed" three pieces on approval, loaded them on the plane, returned to Odessa and started a whirlwind campaign to get the money.

Their infectuous enthusiasm soon spread over the community. Within 10 days the \$10,000 was subscribed!

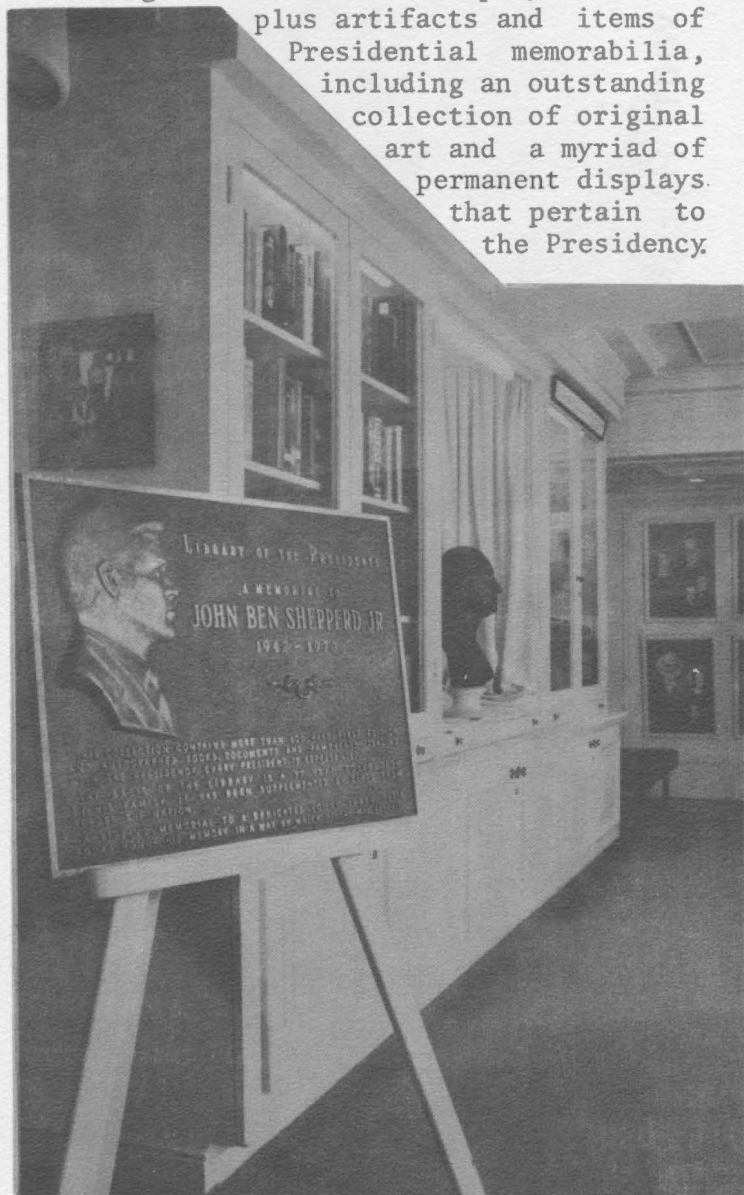


THE PRESIDENTIAL MUSEUM

LOWER LEVEL, ECTOR COUNTY LIBRARY
SEVENTH AND LEE, ODESSA, TEXAS 79760

*Conceived in an hour of national tragedy...
created in an hour of total unity... completed
in an hour of faith that the Presidency of these
United States is a great and noble responsibility.*

The Presidential Museum is an active and alive museum with functions for members and the community...re-enactments of past campaigns, old-fashioned picnics, press conferences, VIP receptions and an interesting and informative display of 35,000 plus artifacts and items of Presidential memorabilia, including an outstanding collection of original art and a myriad of permanent displays that pertain to the Presidency



- JOHN BEN SHEPPERD, JR. LIBRARY OF THE PRESIDENTS a collection of more than 3,000 rare, first editions and autographed books, pamphlets and other documents dealing with the Presidency.
- GALLERY OF THE VICE PRESIDENTS original sepia ink drawings on acetate by Murray Harris of Los Angeles, California.
- FIRST LADY DOLLS exact reproductions of inaugural gowns authentically executed by Mrs. Gayle Dishong of Odessa.
- PRESIDENTIAL CAMPAIGNS an outstanding collection of original campaign buttons, placards, banners, flags, gimmicks, songs and other items used in Presidential elections since 1824.
- GALLERY OF "ALSO-RANS" original charcoal portraits of the four runners-up in each of the Presidential elections by Paul Milosevich of Lubbock, Texas.
- PETS OF THE WHITE HOUSE an original collection of delightful pastels by Lucio Orozco (Rosco) of Odessa.
- WOMEN CANDIDATES original pen and ink sketches, by Jean Alread of Odessa, of the women who ran for President or Vice President.
- WOOD MOSAIC COLLECTION these lovely panels contain more than 16,000,000 individually hand-cut and arranged pieces of natural wood. They are by James B. Mason of Longview.
- PRESIDENTIAL CARTOONS COLLECTION an ever-expanding collection of original editorial and popular cartoons which pertain to the Presidents.

OTHER PERMANENT EXHIBITS

STERLING COMMEMORATIVE PLATES
COIN COLLECTION
BUSTS AND STATUES
PRESIDENTIAL MEDALLIONS
SILVER COMMEMORATIVE INGOTS
WHITE HOUSE CRYSTAL

the presidential museum

GALLERY of the VICE PRESIDENTS



FIRST LADY DOLLS



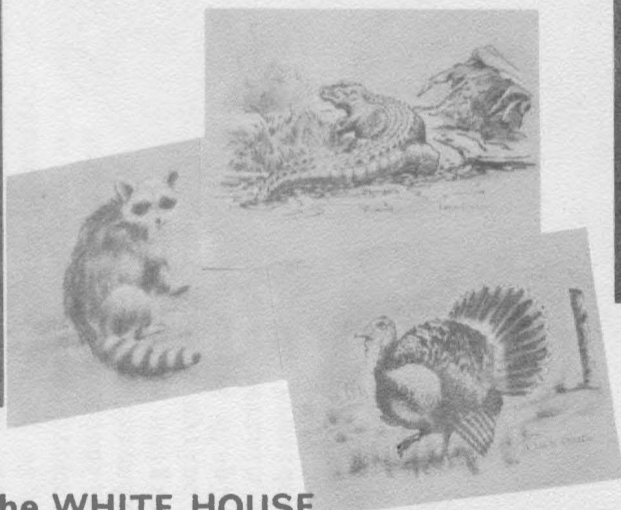
BUSTS and STATUES



PRESIDENTIAL CAMPAIGNS



GALLERY of ALSO-RANS



PETS of the WHITE HOUSE



WOMEN CANDIDATES



WOOD MOSAIC COLLECTION



ORIGINAL CARTOONS

PRESIDENTIAL PORTRAIT GALLERY



Original oil Portraits of the Presidents by the artists Marion Russell of Pecos, Wayne Ingram of Dallas and Clyde Heron of Odessa.



...Included in the Portrait Gallery is a unique collection of oil paintings of the Presidents, their First Ladies and Vice Presidents by M. Loys Raymer of Kerrville.

CARICATURES of the PRESIDENTS

Hand carved wooden portrayals by philosopher and "Whittler" George M. Cowden of Dallas.



OPEN 10:00 TIL 12:00 & 1:00 TIL 5:00
Closed Sundays and Holidays

ADMISSION FREE

THE PRESIDENTIAL MUSEUM

The Presidential Museum was founded in 1965 and is dedicated to presenting the Presidency as a great and noble responsibility by helping to bring about a better understanding of, and respect for, the highest office in the nation.

The Museum is non-profit and non-partisan and has hosted visitors from all of the 50 states and over 30 Foreign Countries. It is a favorite stop for visiting dignitaries. The Museum is open from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Saturday and conducted tours for organized groups are easily arranged. There is no admission charge.

The Museum is now in the midst of a comprehensive and dynamic three year commemoration of our nation's freedom...Project 200...through the presentation of 158 Bicentennial related exhibits and 42 heritage activities. At least 75% of these exhibits will be original exhibit ideas, locally conceived, researched, designed and erected.

A visitor to the Museum has the opportunity to view more than 35,000 artifacts and items of Presidential memorabilia...an outstanding collection of original art...a unique "Library of the Presidents" revealing many rare and valuable books...plus numerous permanent exhibits and timely displays pertaining to the Presidency.

Some of the Museum's permanent exhibits include a number of one-of-a-kind items, such as miniature facsimiles of the Presidents' birthplaces, a decoupage panel showing the Presidents' favorite flowers, hand-carved wooden caricatures of the Presidents, photographs of the mothers and fathers of the Presidents, illustrated narratives about the Presidents' churches and homes, and an ever-increasing collection of original editorial and popular cartoons which pertain to the Presidents.

The Museum also houses many original works of art including life-like portraits of all the Presidents, with their respective First Ladies and Vice Presidents on the same canvas; wood mosaics of the Presidents; the only complete collection of Vice Presidential portraits outside the nation's capitol; pastel drawings of the pets in the White House; a unique display of "Also Rans" featuring the four runners-up in the Presidential elections; First Lady dolls in authentic replicas of their inaugural gowns; and a collection of original signatures of the Presidents.

Possibly the most noted item of art in the Museum is the portrait of the incumbent President. This portrait is always hung in a most prominent position reserved for the current President. The Museum in its attempt to maintain the highest quality in its art exhibits, selects delegates from its Board of Directors to work carefully in commissioning the artwork for the Presidential Portrait. Upon the re-election of a new President, the large Presidential painting is retired to a prominent position in a different area of the Museum.

The Presidential Museum strives in every way to maintain the utmost quality in all of its exhibits and artwork. This is why the Museum has continued to hold a reputation for superior presentations and has achieved the position of an historic, educational and cultural center of our area.



Telling the story of America through the lives of the Presidents, that's Odessa's

PRESIDENTIAL MUSEUM

TO BE of a stature that attracts nation-wide attention, a museum must have something quite special to offer its visitors. Especially when that museum is small compared to the large institutions in some big cities.

And yet, that is exactly what is happening in the pleasant, thriving community of Odessa, Texas, which has been famous for years as the hub of oil and gas production in the Permian Basin. Its museum, slowly gaining a reputation throughout the country for its unusual dedication to the highest elected office in the land, is called The Presidential Museum.

When John F. Kennedy was assassinated in November 1963, the citizens of Odessa conceived the idea of a memorial to the President. They discussed a chapel and several types of monuments, then originated the idea of a museum dedicated not only to President Kennedy but to the history and memory of all the chief executives.

"We are trying to tell the story of America through the lives of the presidents, and to show that the presidency of these United States is a great and noble responsibility," says John Ben Shepperd, chairman of the Museum's Board of Directors. "As far as we know, this is the only museum in the country devoted exclusively to honoring all of the presidents. There are several libraries and museums dedicated to one president, of course, and a few have sections that honor them collectively, but no other museum is dedicated solely to them."

Located on the lower level of the Ector County Library in downtown Odessa, the Presidential Museum attracts more than 35,000 visitors annually. A favorite stop for visiting dignitaries, the museum's recent VIP's included former President and Mrs. Lyndon B. Johnson, former Treasury Secretary John Connally, Senator John Tower, Congressman Richard White, George Mahon, former Texas Governor Preston Smith, and El Paso Natural Gas Company's founder, Paul Kayser.

From the time a visitor descends the gold-carpeted stairs and is greeted by the pretty curator, Mrs. Glenda Morgan, until he has toured through the two elaborate galleries, he has the opportunity to view more than 25,000 artifacts and

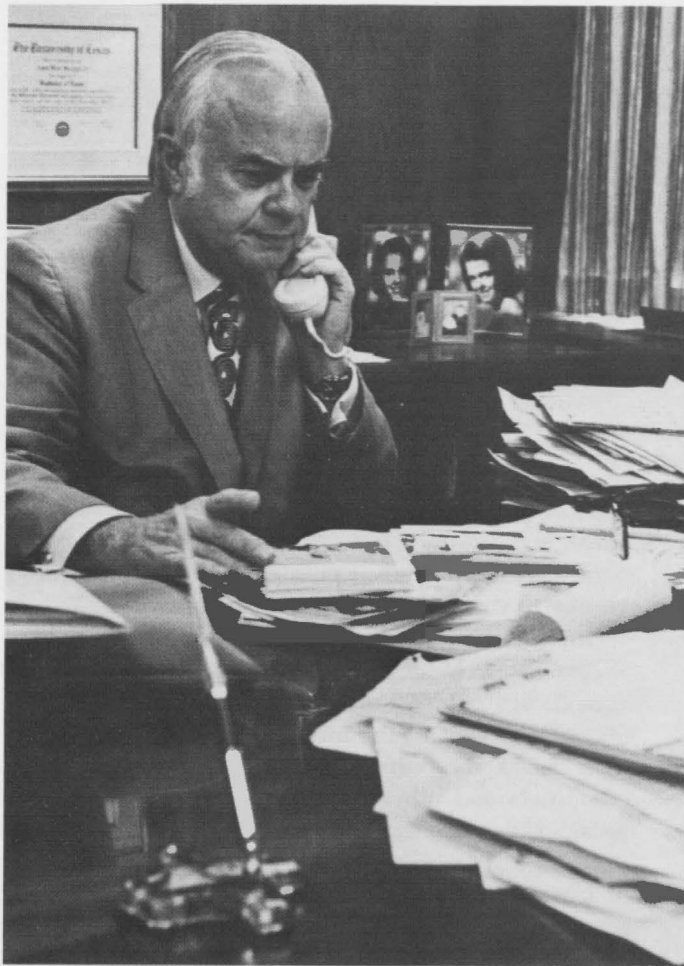
items of presidential memorabilia, an outstanding collection of original art and a unique library of valuable books, plus numerous permanent exhibits and timely displays pertaining to the presidency.

One wall of the main gallery contains the John Ben Shepperd Jr. Memorial Library of the Presidents, which was dedicated by President and Mrs. Johnson on their first official visit to the museum in 1971. It contains more than 2,500 rare, first editions and autographed books, pamphlets and other documents written by or about the presidents and their first ladies. "The museum prides itself on this unique library," says Mrs. Morgan. "We have at least one book on each president. Many of the books are quite valuable, and we have items signed by 22 presidents and 13 first ladies."

Another wall is lined with tall, glassed-in cabinets containing actual personal belongings of the presidents, such as LBJ's Stetson hat and Franklin Roosevelt's red silk parasol. Also displayed are replicas of the crystal and china used in the White House, and commemorative items such as a Lincoln compote and a famous "Teddy Bear" plate. One of the biggest attractions is a collection of wooden caricatures of the presidents carved by philosopher and "whittler" George M. Cowden of Dallas. Favorites are Theodore Roosevelt in his Rough Rider uniform, poker-faced Woodrow Wilson and, of course, Richard Nixon.

The main gallery's other permanent exhibits embrace a number of one-of-a-kind items, including miniature cardboard facsimiles of the presidents' birthplaces, a decoupage panel showing the presidents' favorite flowers, signatures of the presidents, photographs of the presidents' parents, first lady dolls in authentic replicas of their inaugural gowns, and illustrated narratives about the presidents' churches and homes.

Among the many pieces of original art in the museum's collection are life-like portraits of each president, with his first lady and vice president painted on the same canvas; wood mosaics of the presidents, created from more than 16 million hand-cut and placed pieces of natural wood; the only complete collection of vice presidential



COMMUNITY involvement is key to the museum's success says John Ben Shepperd (above), chairman of the Board of Directors, and executive assistant for El Paso Products Company. First Lady dolls (below) were created by Odessan Mrs. Gayle Dishong.



portraits outside the national capital; and a set of pastel drawings of pets in the White House. "The pet pictures are real popular with our young visitors," Mrs. Morgan explained, "especially Abraham Lincoln's pet turkey, Jack. He was given to the President for Thanksgiving dinner, but the Lincoln children made a pet out of him so he never made it to the table."

Perhaps the most striking spot in the main gallery is the place of honor reserved for the current President. There is a large, magnificent oil portrait of Richard Nixon by Wayne Ingram of Fort Worth. "His specialty is multiple-image," says Mrs. Morgan. "He said he always saw Mr. Nixon in terms of black-and-white until he met him in person and sketched him, then he realized that he reflected more of the renaissance colors. And that is the way he painted him for us."

In a special niche at one end of the main gallery is an educational exhibit, "Honoring the Presidency." A slide show accompanied by a tape-recorded narrative acquaints visitors with the historical events, administrative highlights and interesting personal facts associated with a single president. This exhibit is researched and produced by volunteers, and changed every four months. "Currently we are honoring James Monroe," Mrs. Morgan explained. "The exhibit was researched and prepared by local citizens along with students from Odessa College and was chaired by the museum's treasurer and Odessa College executive, Malcolm Hensley. The niche relates Monroe's accomplishments during his term of office, his personal life and features personal belongings of Monroe. Through intermuseum loan, the Monroe Foundation of Fredericksburg, Virginia, has made available to the museum Monroe's silver and gold shoe buckles, a leather wallet and a pair of pocket pistols.

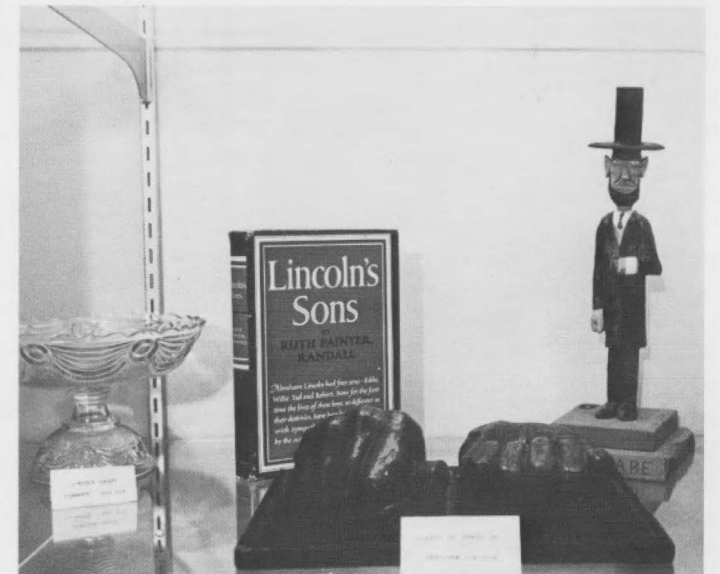
The hallway between the museum's two galleries represents three major periods in the history of Texas beginning in 1824 when the territory was governed by Mexico. A large canvas shows pencil sketches of the presidents of Mexico-Texas from 1824 through 1836, with facsimiles of their signatures. Also included are portraits of the four presidents of the Republic of Texas, each with his wife and vice president painted on the same canvas. And revealing another period in the state's and nation's history is a bust of Jefferson Davis, President of the Confederacy, plus an oil painting showing him and his wife and Vice President Alexander Stephens.

If any of the Presidential Museum's exhibits could be singled out as more spectacular than any of the others, it would be perhaps the "Presidential Campaigns" display in the second gallery. An outstanding collection of original campaign buttons, placards, banners, flags, gimmicks, songs and other colorful items used in every presidential election since 1789 and all conventions since 1832 are permanently displayed in glass cases along one wall. "George Wash-

on our board, including Clyde Heron, Grace King and Mr. and Mrs. Juan Hernandez.

"Our Executive Committee usually selects the exhibits we want to present, then submits the display ideas and plans to the Board of Directors for approval. Then we contact the people that we feel will do a good job of it. This is one reason I think the museum is such a success, because it is a community effort. Over 1,000 people each year participate in museum activities. Once you have involved yourself in doing something like this, you are naturally proud of it, and I think this 'get involved' attitude goes out into the community."

The Presidential Museum . . . a historic, educational, artistic, enjoyable experience . . . is open from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Saturday. Admission is free, and conducted tours for organized groups can be arranged. It is worth a trip to Odessa to visit this unusual museum just to remind yourself of the proud and important heritage surrounding the office of the American President. §



AUTOGRAPHED BOOKS, personal items, commemorative pieces and wooden caricatures of the Presidents delight many visitors.



ACTIVE in the museum's programs are many Products Company people, including Grace King (above) and Mr. and Mrs. Juan Hernandez (right).





MUSEUM CURATOR, Glenda Morgan, points out special works of art and unique Library of the Presidents (above), which was dedicated in 1971 by former President and Mrs. Lyndon B. Johnson.



ONE-OF-A-KIND collections include wood mosaics of Presidents (above), and campaign gimmicks used since 1789 (below).



TREASURY of art includes portraits of the Presidents, their First Ladies and Vice Presidents painted by noted artist M. Loys Raymer of Kerrville, Texas. The portraits are all on display.



ington, John Adams and Thomas Jefferson didn't have conventions, of course," Jim K. Hartman, chairman of this display, pointed out. "They didn't start until Andrew Jackson, but James Monroe and John Quincy Adams definitely had what you would call campaign items. More were really personal collector's pieces rather than actual campaign items."

It is interesting to walk past the display cases with items arranged by election years to see the different types of campaign materials used. You just don't see things like campaign songbooks anymore. Or did you ever see an Al Smith license plate, circa 1928? As you move along toward the later election years there is every kind of button imaginable with a steady increase in number until 1945. "We don't have very many Truman items because not many were distributed that year," Hartman explained. "The Democrats didn't think he was going to win, so they didn't raise much money for the campaign. Dewey, yes!" The variety and number of banners, posters and bumper stickers used in the 1972 campaigns are really amazing. Most of the items support Democratic hopefuls, of course, but they do have a Pat Paulson button and a perhaps-someday-valuable McGovern-Eagleton button.

The various exhibits in the second gallery honor both the winners and the losers in the great contest held every four years. A unique display of "Also-Rans" features the portraits of the four runners-up in each presidential election, and a series of original pen and ink sketches commemorates the 17 women candidates who sought the presidency or vice presidency. The earliest one was Victoria Woodhull, who in 1872 ran on the interesting platform "Be Saved By Free Love!" Hartman notes that she was about a 100 years ahead of her time.

In addition to the magnificent permanent displays and collections, the Presidential Museum also hosts each year a series of outstanding special exhibits designed to present a timely, comprehensive and multifaceted look at the American Presidency. Currently the museum is featuring "Presidential Inaugurations," the most comprehensive collection of material on inaugurations ever assembled. Featured are rare collections of photographs, documents, invitations, tickets, badges and medals from former inaugurations. A highlight of the exhibit is a unique collection of sketches by local artists showing the various inaugural ceremonies. Souvenirs from the 1973 Inauguration will also be on display as soon as they are available.

"The special exhibits require a tremendous amount of research and involve a great deal of time and money," Mrs. Morgan explained. "They are changed about every six months, but the work has to begin long before. Material has to be brought together from the Library of Congress, the National Archives, the Smithsonian Institute and other libraries and museums, plus things have to be borrowed from private collectors throughout the nation."

Coming in March is an exhibit of such enormous scope that it is hard to even imagine. Entitled "Honoring the Memory of the President," it will depict everything in the United States named in honor of an American President. A large map will locate every county, town, park, natural feature, building and institute . . . everything that bears the name of a President. This unprecedented exhibit will also feature special displays of photographs, post cards, pamphlets and replicas to illustrate these "memorials" to the chief executives.

The key to the success and growing fame of Odessa's Presidential Museum is what activities vice chairman Joe Connolly calls "involvement":

"We have about 75 members on our Board of Directors, which we like to call our 'working board' because everyone of these people is involved in some project, whether it is receptions, tours, ways and means, printing or helping to produce an exhibit. John Ben Shepperd is the chairman, and was one of the founders of the museum. He has unlimited talents in many fields. He was Attorney General of Texas from 1953 to 1957, and Secretary of State for four years before that. Now he is the executive assistant to W. D. Noel, president of El Paso Products Company. Many of the Products Company people are very good about helping us. The Noels have been great benefactors of the museum, and several Products Company people are



W. D. NOEL, president of El Paso Products Company, and his wife have made many valuable contributions to the museum.

Those who made this major breakthrough possible by subscriptions of \$500 or more, are "Founders" worthy of special recordation:

American Bank
Chamber of Commerce
Downtown Odessa Association
Ector County
Ector County Historical Commission
El Paso Products Company
First National Bank
State National Bank
Home Savings Association
Mr. and Mrs. Ewell McKnight
National Bank of Odessa
Mr. and Mrs. W. D. Noel
Pioneer Natural Gas Company
Mr. and Mrs. E. G. Rodman
Mr. and Mrs. John Ben Shepperd
Mrs. Pauline Slator
Texas Electric Service Company

The expansion of the museum to include works of art had the unanimous support of the Executive Board. Standards were set for a high caliber of art, superb quality of exhibits, authenticity of memorabilia and historical accuracy.

Chairman Croft, at her own expense, went to New York early in 1964 for consultation with recognized collectors and dealers. She established a profitable relationship with the Hammer Gallery and B. Altman, Rare Books, that proved invaluable to the Presidential Room. Not only did these firms locate and make available many fine items but their gratuitous advice on the value and authenticity of other materials was of great assistance in the early days.

The late Mrs. Conrey (Pat) Bryson of El Paso, who was then residing in Washington, D. C., while her husband was serving as Executive Assistant to Congressman Richard C. White, was another "Founder-Friend" who made a great contribution to the Room's beginning. She secured copies of pictures and documents from numerous federal agencies and located many other interesting and informative items.

Congressman Richard C. White of El Paso, who represented Ector County in the U. S. House of Representatives, was responsible for the addition of many significant and valuable things. His keen interest and support has continued.

The late President and Mrs. Lyndon B. Johnson sent many items in 1964 and for the opening in early 1965. (The Johnsons visited the Museum in June 1971 and Mrs. Johnson has been back since his death.)

The late Presidents Dwight D. Eisenhower and Harry Truman also contributed personal memorabilia for the first exhibits.

Word of mouth and national publicity during late 1964 and early 1965 brought many other fascinating objects, some on loan, others as gifts, from interested friends over the country.

In late 1964, the future of the Presidential Room as a research center was assured by the permanent loan of an outstanding collection of Presidential books by the John Ben Shepperd family of Odessa. The collection of over 500 autographed, rare, first and limited editions, and old books, manuscripts, documents, pamphlets and records dealing with the Presidency was collected by the family over a period of forty years. (The collection, valued at over \$10,000, was given to the Museum in May 1965 on behalf of Mr. and Mrs. Shepperd and their four children: Alfred Lewis, John Ben, Jr., Marianne and Suzanne.)

Calendar year 1964 was important to the Presidential Room as Odessans responded with important gifts and acquisitions. Mr. and Mrs. Leland Parker, in memory of their daughter, Ellen, contributed an 1867 *Frank Leslie Illustrated Newspaper*. This rare old copy contains a wonderful picture of Abraham Lincoln. Another copy contains pictures of members of the Lincoln Cabinet. Both were silk-screened for the Presidential Room by Mrs. Viola Walpole of the State Archives in Austin.

The Camden Chancellor family placed the Lincoln bust and hands in the Museum in April of 1964. The Jack Rozman family presented the six-volume Lincoln study by Carl Sandburg. Dr. and Mrs. Woodrow Leach presented *The Works of Theodore Roosevelt* and *The Messages and Papers of the Presidents* by James Richardson (printed in 1897). The Democratic Womens Club commissioned the Hardy R. Grant bust of President Kennedy in November.

By Autumn 1964, the Executive Board, composed of the officers and committee chairmen, reached a new plateau of making their new idea a reality: the long-range planning to make the Presidential Room a permanent entity that would bring dignity to the Office of the Presidency.

Concepts deliberated were, for example, how could the Presidential Room be able to qualify as a museum? A tourist attraction? A research center? Discussions also centered around such plans as compiling complete bibliographies on each President, exhibits concerning the Civil War Centennial and the Presidents, genealogical studies on each First Family, presidential visits to Texas, contact with leading political cartoonists and the establishment of contact with Former Presidents Herbert Hoover, Harry Truman and Dwight David Eisenhower, as well as the

Texas Delegation to the United States Congress and leaders of the State of Texas.

The physical plant to house the Presidential Room was nearing completion in January 1965. Architect Delmar Groos, who donated his services, had done an outstanding job in planning the renovation. He employed the most modern museum and archival techniques to exhibit and to preserve materials. There was a beautiful decorative door, glassed-in displays and book cases, with special lighting throughout.

The contractor, Clyde Scott, did a splendid job in the construction of the Room. He employed the finest craftsmanship with the result being some of the finest workmanship found anywhere.

Camden Chancellor, prominent businessman and Republican leader and the Room's Building Chairman, skillfully supervised construction. He also was responsible for securing donations and materials for the Museum room. Over \$50,000 was spent in preparing the Room. The original contract price included construction only, not furnishings and decorations. Chairman Chancellor spearheaded this historic effort.

Interior Decorator Mrs. J. K. (Sydney) Wood, who also donated her services, was Chairman of the Decorations Committee. Other members were Mrs. Gordon (Joan) Headlee and Mrs. W. D. (Ellen) Noel. They were making the Presidential Room a thing of spectacular beauty and dignity. Thick gold carpeting was placed throughout.

The focal point of the Presidential Room, the George Washington Niche, was made possible by a \$600 grant from the Junior Service League. Dominating the Room, in the center of the east wall, the entrance is graced by the dramatic Niche, containing a striking bronze bust of Washington before a handsome background of red draperies. The American Flag and the 13-star Betsy Ross Flag flank the white columned arch. The symbolic American eagle hangs above the arrangement.

With construction and interior decorations nearing completion, the Presidential Room was fast becoming ready for exhibits and visitors in early January 1965.

The Executive Board thus began to plan a formal opening. A "lucky break" presented itself. El Paso Products Company of Odessa and Beaunit Corporation of New York were having a groundbreaking ceremony for four new plants in the Nylon Division of Odessa's Petro-chemical complex -- the world's largest inland installation -- on February 26. Public officials, business and financial

leaders and newsmen were invited from all over the country.

Mr. W. D. Noel, President of El Paso Products Company and one of the Room's most generous Founders and benefactors, was contacted regarding the possibility of sharing his distinguished visitors. He was delighted and promised full cooperation. So, February 26, 1965, was set for the grand opening.

Contents Chairman John Ben Shepperd, the "idea man" for the Presidential Room, who has since conceived over 200 original exhibit ideas which have resulted in national publicity and recognition, redoubled his already considerable efforts to get enough Presidential memorabilia -- by gift, loan or purchase -- to make an impressive showing for the opening and the Room's first visitors. A good "first impression" was important to the Room's future because of the presence of VIP's from all over the Nation.

As a former Texas Secretary of State, Attorney General, Chairman of both the State Historical Commission and the Arts and Humanities Commission as well as being a recognized authority on tourism, Shepperd with his background and contacts, enthusiasm and energy, has been a moving force in the founding and continued operation of the Presidential Room.

Already known as an inveterate letter writer, Shepperd kept the post office busy during January and February 1965. He wrote hundreds of letters to public officials, organizations and friends in Texas and across the Nation asking for loans or donations of materials for the February 26 festivities.

A cover note to Chairman Croft reads, "Madam Chairman, Here is my report for Saturday," which consisted of carbon copies of twenty-one letters!

Shepperd "borrowed" from Dr. Lee Lawrence of Tyler a 1780 Revolutionary War holograph letter written by George Washington. An original Lincoln letter was secured from another friend. Former Republican National Committeeman Jack Porter sent his artists's copy of a portrait of President Dwight D. Eisenhower; the original still hangs in the clubhouse of the Augusta, Georgia Golf Course.

Dr. Lucinda de Leftwich Templin of El Paso loaned her noted collection of Presidential campaign items.

The late Joe W. Camps provided their 37-china plate collection depicting the Presidents and their homes.

The late John Peace of San Antonio sent his comprehensive scrapbooks of President Kennedy's last visit to Texas.

The Auxiliary of the President James K. Polk Ancestral Home in Columbia, Tennessee, donated a framed section of an original drapery from the home. This was a most welcomed gift because of Polk's leadership in the Annexation of Texas. The Birthplace of John Tyler, which still stands on the Greenway estate about one mile south of Charles City, Virginia, also sent memorabilia.

By gift and purchase the Presidential Room acquired not only a table used by General Eisenhower in his Paris headquarters but also a favorite umbrella and shooting stick seat which belonged to Franklin D. Roosevelt. Documents and letters containing the original signatures of Presidents Jefferson, Jackson and Pierce had been purchased. Busts of Presidents Lincoln, Eisenhower and Franklin D. Roosevelt were ready for display.

The Democratic Women of Ector County had presented the striking original Kennedy Bust done by noted artist H. R. Grant, together with an attractive pedestal.

A special feature planned for the opening and early years of the Museum was a series of revolving bulletin boards containing biographical information on each President. To be portrayed were pictures of the homes, offices, at least one important event leading to the Presidency, campaigns, families, First Lady inaugural gowns, hobbies, burial places, monuments, etc. Over 1,000 items have been amassed for this unique display.

Mrs. Leonard (Dorothy) Crockett, Display Chairman, formed her committee and began planning exhibits in early January. Countless hours were spent by Mrs. Crockett and her committee in carefully designing exhibits and artistically planning the utilization of display space.

While time had been budgeted to February 26, a "lucky bombshell" was dropped on January 31. On February 5, Odessa was to host 35 of the Nation's top travel writers. Sponsored by the Texas Tourist Development Agency, this was an opportunity for the Presidential Room to get national publicity -- something that otherwise would have taken years to achieve. Executive Director Frank Hildebrand and Odessa Chamber of Commerce President Emil Beck were contacted and the Presidential Room was added to the local tour.

Chairman Crockett ably, aesthetically and tastefully assisted by Camden Chancellor, Linda Crockett, Mrs. Henry (Lorraine) Baldwin, Mrs. J. M. (Cynthia) McClesky, Jr., Mrs. John Ben (Mamie) Shepperd and Marianne Shepperd (now Mrs. Tom Blanton, III) worked day and night to put up the available exhibit materials. The Room was ready

for the "preview" of the prestigious travel writers on the afternoon of February 5!

Mrs. M. O. (Angel) Boring, Jr., Social Chairman, had delicious refreshments for the writers. The late Mrs. E. P. (Mary Claude) Rainosek, Public Relations Chairman, had a fine crowd of Odessans on hand to greet them. (The good work of these three fine chairmen was repeated on opening day.)

Chairman Croft gave the tour. She proudly pointed out the treasures on display and noted where those "on the way would be."

Widespread publicity resulted from the fortuitous visit. An example is the report of Harry Wood, State Editor of the *San Angelo Standard-Times*, who wrote

Before the end of the month, Odessans will get to see what's behind a big white door in the dimly lighted basement of the Ector County Library.

And, brother, they will be surprised.

What's inside looks like the white room of the White House, if there is such a thing.

It's decorated with so much of officialdom that one expects Luci Baines [Johnson Nugent] to peekaboo from behind one of its glistening white columns. And it has enough power to make one bow at the waist or curtsy.

This unscheduled preview increased community enthusiasm and an air of anticipation was prevalent. Plans began in dead earnest for February 26.

Jeneanne Dunn of Odessa College, Publicity Chairman, contacted and sent releases to local, area, statewide media and wire services.

Mrs. Frederick F. (Jane) Tracy, Education Chairman, contacted schools for representation at the opening and for class tours. Through the efforts of Bill Holm, all secondary principals and social studies teachers were hosted at a special showing of the Presidential Room at 4:30 p.m. on February 18.

Judge Gerald Fugit, Governmental Chairman, invited local, area and state public officials to be here on the 26th.

Balie Griffith, Jr., Business Chairman, conducted

an educational campaign among the business firms. He pointed out the economic impact that the Presidential Room would have in generating tourist dollars and the necessity of strong community support at the opening.

Dr. Wilbur Mindel, Ministry Chairman, informed his counterparts as to the importance of the spiritual and positive approach of the Museum.

The Presidential Room was destined to open "in the black" thanks to the hard work and leadership of the late Basil Wilkerson, Finance Chairman.

The Room's Trustees, J. C. Dereberry, Derrell Henry, Jack Logan and E. M. Schur rendered invaluable assistance in raising and supervising the expenditure of funds. The aid of these prominent bankers gave the Museum a stability from the beginning not normally enjoyed by similar institutions.

Special committees were named to plan and conduct the opening ceremonies. William M. Holm was placed in charge of special arrangements. The general committee included Ronald Bennett, Paul Cunningham, Mrs. R. B. (Natalie) Curry, Robert Durrett, Jr., Winifred Apt, Frank Decker, Mrs. A. M. (Esther) Gruber, Mrs. Joe (Margie) Ligon, Mrs. John L. (Janie) O'Hern, Mrs. F. E. (Mildred) Siever and Mrs. Harold (Mary Louise) Young.

The Dobbs Printing Company agreed to provide the souvenir program without cost. Kinkade Studio was named Official Photographer. Leona Publishing Company agreed to provide special services.

By opening day, the grandeur of the Presidential Room had become a sight to long remember. The Junior Service League's spectacular George Washington Niche greatly dignified the Room. All the Wood Mosaics were attractively displayed. Ten of the soon-to-become famous Loys Raymer Presidential portraits were up as was one of the colorful Marion Russell's Presidents of the Republic of Texas. The Shepperd library and books donated by other Founders filled the beautiful book cases. Special materials sent by Mrs. Lyndon Johnson were on display. Over 500 other items relating to the Presidents were arranged in an artistic and informative manner.

There were so many displays that the Room's exhibits spilled over into an adjoining community room that was used by local clubs and organizations. This has since become a permanent part of the Museum complex.

The value of contents at opening has been conservatively estimated at over \$50,000.

February 26, 1965, was a historic and red-letter-day for Odessa, and the Presidential Room was the center of much activity and a steady stream of local and out-of-town visitors.

W. D. Noel of Odessa, President of El Paso Products Company, Paul Kayser of Houston, President of El Paso Natural Gas Company, and Irwin Melcher of New York, President of Beaunit Corporation, brought an impressive group of dignitaries to town. A special tour and ceremony in the Room was held at 11:00 a.m.

Texas Governor John Connally, Lieutenant Governor Preston Smith, Speaker of the House of Representatives Ben Barnes, Railroad Commissioners Jim Langdon and Byron Tunnel, and State Librarian and Archivist Dr. Dorman Winfrey led the officials from Austin. State Senator W. E. "Pete" Snelson and Representative Ace Pickens, representing Ector County, headed a delegation of over 80 Texas Legislators.

The Products Company and Beaunit operation was to include plants in Tennessee and Idaho. Joe Carr, Secretary of State of Tennessee, represented his State, and Allan Shepard, Attorney General of Idaho, was its official spokesman.

In addition, over 300 leaders of finance and industry from across the Nation were represented for the festivities as were representatives of newspapers, finance journals, television and radio.

Another Museum "first" had been initiated earlier in the day. In cooperation with the Odessa Chamber of Commerce, over 100 volunteer presidents of clubs and organizations were formed in an "Odessa Presidents Receiving Line" at the airport to greet the distinguished guests. This novel idea has been continued through the years when VIP's visit and it has resulted in wide-spread favorable publicity.

The morning ceremonies in the crowded Presidential Room were very impressive. Governor Connally presented an autographed copy of his speeches nominating Lyndon B. Johnson for President in 1956, 1960 and 1964 National Democratic Conventions. These were compiled for the first time and were bound especially for the Museum by the Governor.

Lieutenant Governor Smith and Speaker Barnes presented copies of archival documents showing historic actions by U. S. Presidents that had influenced Texas history. Dr. Winfrey loaned a copy of the Kennedy Assassination Report in Braille. Several other Texas

officials brought political buttons, letters, etc.

Secretary of State Joe Carr presented copies of documents from the Tennessee Archives depicting the actions of Sam Houston in Texas.

The formal opening and dedication of the Presidential Room took place at 4:00 p.m., February 25. Robert Durrett, Jr., was master of ceremonies. Dr. Wilber Mindel, Minister of the First Christian Church, gave the invocation. The official ribbon cutting ceremony was conducted by Room Chairman Croft, County Judge Gerald Fugit, Mayor Preston Parker and Chamber of Commerce President Emil Beck.

Congratulatory telegrams from President Lyndon B. Johnson and Former Presidents Dwight D. Eisenhower and Harry Truman and Former Vice President Richard M. Nixon were read.

Appropriate music was provided by the award winning Odessa Permian High School Band under the direction of J. R. McEntyre.

Dedicatory speakers were Congressman Richard C. White and Idaho Attorney General Allan Shepard.

General Shepard complimented those who conceived the idea of this unique Museum and predicted that it would become one of the finest attractions in the country. A Republican, he commended its non-partisan approach and the fact that it was founded to "build" not "tear down."

Congressman White began by stating that he, Mrs. White and his staff "have made a special project of the Presidential Room, and wherever we've gone in the history-rich Washington area, we've tried to gather a few items to further enrich the marvelous collection you have here."

He recounted the enthusiastic response he received when telling the great-great-grandson of President James Monroe about his impending trip here, whereupon Mr. James Hoes, anxious to have a part, contributed a rare volume from the Former President's personal library.

The Very Reverend Francis B. Sayre, Dean of the National Cathedral -- "The Church of the Presidents" -- himself a grandson of President Woodrow Wilson, allowed the Congressman and Mrs. White to bring for the opening, 10 of the church's famous decorative "kneelers." These kneeling pads, used by worshipers on special occasions, had been created in a nationwide needle point contest. Each portrays a President who had worshipped in the Cathedral.

Several had actually been used by Presidents. Mrs. White held the precious items on her lap during the plane trip to and from Odessa/Washington.

Congressman White's formal dedication characterized the challenge and impact of the significant new institution. He noted

In many respects we live by symbols. Each word of our language is a symbol. Some inspire us to greater deeds and higher ideals. The Presidential Room also is a true symbol of itself, as well as a work of beauty and decor. It is a symbol of the best of America, of the highest dedication, of the turmoil of a great nation, of the men who have directed our fates over our history, till today we stand on a plateau of greatness. We today are the end-products of a great successful experiment, of men, in freedom, governing man.

Of these men commemorated here today there are the great, the near great, the average, the leaders, the heroes, the parade of humans like ourselves who have responded to the challenges to themselves and to our nation.

Let this room remind us that leadership and greatness are not a thing of the past. This very moment greatness breathes in our Nation and state capitals and new leaders are being born who will break through the limitations of our present knowledge to horizons beyond our imagination. Each new President will with time take his place in this revered place, and display to future generations the nobility of those who survive the vicissitudes of public office and emerge to lead their nation. We have seen average men who being touched by the nobility of the Office of President, and molded in the crucible of challenge, rise to unexpected heights.

The Presidential Room was open. A dream had been realized! Over 1,500 came to see the Museum in the first 10 days.

TRIBUTE TO FOUNDERS

All of this was made possible through the generous support of the Founders of the Presidential Room. Contributions of over \$100,000 in cash, materials and Presidential memorabilia together with literally thousands of hours of dedicated work by hundreds and hundreds of volunteers required exceptional faith, patriotism, foresight and dedication.

There were no assurances that this first-of-its kind museum concept of honoring the Office of the President would be a success or even remain open. It was the first in Texas devoted exclusively to American History and, after all, Odessa was just about the most unlikely place in the country to embark on such a selfless endeavor; Especially since there have been no U. S. Presidents with the remotest connection to the area; in fact, few had ever visited Odessa or the Permian Basin while in office, before or after.

The founding of the Presidential Room was a crossroads, grassroots activities monument by a small group of dedicated folks who sincerely wanted to do something for their country simply because they loved it and felt that something needed to be done to restore confidence in the Nation's highest office and to provide something meaningful, positive and constructive where future generations could pause and understand more about their glorious heritage.

The Presidential Room (now "The Presidential Museum") is a lasting reminder and loving memorial to its Founders' confidence in the past and future institutions that made and keep the United States of America the greatest country in the history of mankind.

The "Donor List" that follows is a reproduction of the names of the public-spirited Founders who were recognized in the Souvenir Program of the Official Opening of the Presidential Room on February 26, 1965. Some have gone on to a higher reward with their Maker, others have moved and many remain active in supporting the Museum's programs. But to all the Presidential Museum permanently reaffirms an expression of gratitude to its Founders and states such with all the sincerity at its command:

"Thank you for having a vision, and for being willing and having the courage to do something about it."

DONOR LIST

These Founders were not listed on the original program but their contributions were recognized at the ceremonies on February 26, 1965.

Ashley, Olin
Churchill, Mrs. George, Jr.
Cooper, Mrs. John, III
Corley, Mrs. Meade "Helen"
Crane, Mr. Jack P.
Croft, Miss Dona-Lee
KQIP Radio
Fieldin, Mrs. Richard
Fletcher, Jacqueline
Guffey, Mr. John
Hart, Mrs. Audie
McIntire, Dr. and Mrs. T. S.
McKim, Judge Ray
Odessa Chamber of Commerce
Pierce, Mrs. Marguerite
Steen, Mrs. Stephen

DONOR LIST

The First Lady

Mrs. Lyndon B. Johnson

Abell, Mr. George
 Adair, Messrs. Ronny & Donny
 Adams, Mrs. E. C.
 American Bank of Commerce
 American Business Women's Assoc.
 Apt, Miss Winifred
 Ashley, Mr. Olin
 Baldwin, Mr. and Mrs. Henry
 Barnes, Mr. and Mrs. Milton
 Beaunit Corporation
 Beta Sigma Phi City Council
 Blank, Mr. and Mrs. Oliver F.
 Boring, Mrs. Mac O., Jr.
 Boyles, Mrs. Lois
 Brown, Mr. Claude W.
 Bryson, Mrs. Conrey
 Byer-Rolnick Corp.
 Camp, Mr. and Mrs. Jo
 Carr, Mr. Waggoner
 Carrell, Mrs. Floyd
 Casey, Mr. and Mrs. Glenn W.
 Chancellor, Mr. and Mrs. Camden
 Cherry, Mr. and Mrs. Blair, Jr.
 Cherry, Mr. and Mrs. Blair, Sr.
 Civitan Club
 Contemporary Study Club
 Crawford Door Sales
 Crockett, Mr. and Mrs. Leonard
 Crockett, Miss Linda
 Croft, Mr. and Mrs. Chancy
 Croft, Mr. and Mrs. Leland
 Cunningham, Mr. J. Paul
 Daughters of the American Revolution
 Davis, Mrs. Jane
 Decker, Mr. Frank
 Democratic Women's Club
 Dereberry, Mr. J. C.
 Dobbs, Mr. Paul
 Doelling, Mr. and Mrs. G. H., Jr.
 Donahue, Mr. and Mrs. A. C.
 Dunn, Mrs. Jeneanne
 Durrett, Mr. Robert E., Jr.
 Dwight D. Eisenhower Library
 Ector County
 Commissioners Court
 Ernest Broughton
 W. J. Alexander
 Kellus Turner
 E. B. Caudle
 Ector County Abstract
 Ector County Historical Survey Com.
 Ector County Library Staff
 El Paso Natural Gas Products Co.
 Electric Service and Supply
 Eliot, Mr. and Mrs. J. R.
 Evans, Mr. and Mrs. Aubrey
 First National Bank
 First Savings and Loan
 First State Bank
 Foreman, Mr. Ed
 Fowler, Mrs. Bobby
 Friday, White & Donk
 Fugit, Mr. Gerald K.
 Gabrel, Mr. A. M. (Slim)
 Gant, Joann

Gerson, Mr. and Mrs. Abe
 Glass, Mrs. H. L.
 Gorman's Camera
 Graves, Don
 Gregory, Mr. J. N.
 Griffith, Mr. Balie, Jr.
 Groos, Mr. Delmar
 Gruber, Mrs. A. M.
 Hale, Mr. and Mrs. Jesse
 Hart, P. B.
 Hardeman, Senator Dorsey
 Hays, Mrs. Allen L.
 Headlee, Mr. and Mrs. Gordon
 Henry, Mr. Derrell
 Hestand, Mrs. H. E.
 Hill, George
 Hillier, Mr. and Mrs. W. A.
 Holm, Mr. William M.
 Home Savings Association
 Honorary Mothers Club
 Inabnet, Mrs. Thomas
 Ingram's House of Color
 International Boundary &
 Water Committee
 Jackson, Mrs. Rosie
 Jenkins, Mrs. Allen
 Jones, Mr. James O.
 Juedeman, Mr. R. F.
 Junior Service League
 K MID Television
 KOSA Television
 Kalenak, Mrs. Dan
 Kelton, Mr. and Mrs. George
 Kesler, Mr. George
 King, Mrs. Grace
 Kinkade, Mr. Leland
 Kruger Jewelry
 Leach, Dr. and Mrs. D. Woodrow
 Libson, Mr. Nojem
 Ligon, Mrs. Joe
 Logan, Mr. Jack
 Maples, Mr. Harold
 Marks, Mrs. Gladys
 Matney, Mr. Wayne
 Miller, Mrs. Gene
 Milan, Mr. F. James
 Mindel, Dr. Wilbur
 The Model Shop
 Moman and Melton Agency
 Morton, Dr. Luis
 Moss, Judge and Mrs. Paul
 Mount Vernon Ladies Association
 McClanahan, Mr. Bill
 McClesky, Mrs. J. M., Jr.
 McCreless, Mr. and Mrs. Truman
 McCollum, Dr. and Mrs. C. W.
 McConnell, Mr. and Mrs. J. C.
 McKnight, Mr. and Mrs. Ewell
 McKnight, Mr. and Mrs. Tom
 Namken, Mr. Milton J.
 National Bank of Odessa
 Neas, Mr. and Mrs. Guy
 Noel, Mr. and Mrs. W. D.
 The Odessa American
 Odessa Book Club
 Odessa College Employees
 Odessa Contemporary Gardeners
 Odessa Motor Company
 Odessa Music Teachers Association

Odessa Natural Gasoline Company
 Odessa Study Club
 O'Hern, Mrs. John
 Orbeck, Mr. James
 Parker, Mr. and Mrs. Leland
 Parker, Mr. and Mrs. Preston
 Parker, Mr. and Mrs. Ray
 Patton's Style Shop
 J. C. Penny Co.
 Pepper, Rev. and Mrs. Charles
 Pettit, Mr. William F.
 Pioneer Natural Gas Co.
 Pitts, Judge Thomas J.
 Porter, Mr. and Mrs. Vic
 Preslar's Fashion Lane
 Presley, Mrs. Ann
 Public School Administration Staff
 Rainosek, Mr. and Mrs. E. P.
 Ratliff, Mrs. Sallie
 Raymer, Mrs. Loys
 Reid, Mr. Ace
 Rexall Chemical Company
 Rhoades, Mr. J. L.
 Roberts, Mrs. Laurence
 Robinson, Mrs. Jean
 Rodman, Mr. and Mrs. E. G.
 Rodman, Mr. and Mrs. Thomas E.
 Rozman, Mr. and Mrs. Jack
 Rutherford, Mr. and Mrs. J. T.
 Ryan Mortgage Co.
 San Angelo Standard Times
 Schur, Mr. and Mrs. E. M.
 Sears, Mr. B. B.
 Shepperd, Mr. and Mrs. Alfred
 Shepperd, Mr. and Mrs. John Ben
 Shepperd, Miss Marianne
 Shuffler, Mrs. Henderson
 Siever, Mrs. F. E.
 Slator, Mr. and Mrs. Paul
 Smith, Mr. John A. (Jack)
 Spencer, Mr. Ken
 Steele, Mr. Claude W.
 Stephens, Mrs. F. B.
 Stobaugh, Mr. Wiley
 Summers, Mr. John
 Swanson, Mrs. Ernest C.
 Templin, Dr. Lucinda de Leftwich
 Texas Electric Service Co.
 Tidwell, Mr. and Mrs. Jack
 Tracy, Mr. and Mrs. Frederick F.
 Tripp Petroleum Co.
 Tucker, Mr. and Mrs. B. B.
 Tuggle, Mrs. Helen Wells
 Ward, Mrs. Bessye Cowden
 Webb, Mr. Lee
 Wells, Mr. T. W.
 West Texas Gathering Company
 West Texas Office Supply
 Whetstone, Mrs. Bill
 Wiesner, Dr. and Mrs. William A.
 Wilkerson, Glenn
 Williams, Mrs. O. Z.
 Womack-Snelson Advertising Agency
 Womens' United Nations Club
 Wood, Mrs. J. K.
 Wortham, Mrs. Byron
 Yates, Mrs. Marvin & Staff
 Young, Mr. and Mrs. Harold Young
 Yudin, Mr. Irving

SOUVENIR PROGRAM

THE PRESIDENTIAL ROOM

PROGRAM

4:00 P.M., FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 26th, 1965

MASTER OF CEREMONIES Robert Durrett, Jr.

INVOCATION Dr. Wilbur J. Mindel

RIBBON CUTTING Mrs. Leland R. Croft, Chairman
Presidential Room Board

Mr. Gerald Fugit Ector County Judge

Mr. Preston Parker Mayor of Odessa

Mr. Emil Beck President, Odessa Chamber of Commerce

SPEAKERS

Honorable Richard C. White U. S. Congressman, 16th District

Honorable Allan Shepard Attorney General, State of Idaho

MUSIC Permian High School Band

Mr. J. R. McEntyre, Director

EXECUTIVE BOARD

CHAIRMAN

Mrs. Leland R. Croft

SECRETARY-TREASURER

Dr. Luis Morton

TRUSTEES

J. C. Dereberry

Derrell Henry

Jack Logan

E. M. Schur

COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN

Mrs. Mac O. Boring, Jr.
Social

Camden Chancellor
Building

Mrs. Leonard Crockett
Displays

Jeneanne Dunn
Publicity

Gerald Fugit
Government

Balie Griffith, Jr.
Business

Delmar Groos
Design

Dr. Wilbur Mindel
Ministry

Mrs. J. K. Wood
Decoration

Mrs. E. P. Rainosek
Public Relations

John Ben Shepperd
Contents

Mrs. Frederick F. Tracy
Education

Basil Wilkerson
Finance

SPECIAL COMMITTEES

Ronald Bennett
Paul Cunningham
Mrs. R. B. Curry
Robert Durrett, Jr.

Miss Winifred Apt
Frank Decker
Mrs. A. M. Gruber
Mrs. Joe Ligon

Leona Publishing Co.
Mrs. John L. O'Hern
Mrs. F. E. Siever
Mrs. Harold Young

SPECIAL ARRANGEMENTS, W. M. Holm

Official Photographer
KINKADE STUDIO