March 21st Gala Will Feature Lone Star Treasures

Priceless historical Texas documents dating from the Spanish colonial era through the Revolution of 1836 will be featured at a special gala event, “Lone Star Treasures,” hosted by the Friends of John Garner Museum and First State Bank of Uvalde. The gala fundraiser and dinner benefiting the John Nance Garner Museum will be held on Tuesday, March 21 at 6:30 p.m. at First State Bank, Uvalde. Dr. Don Carleton will be the featured speaker. Dr. Carleton is the director of the Center for American History, which is the archival home of these historical documents.

Reservations are required for the event. Tickets are $75.00 per person, and may be reserved by calling the Garner Museum at 830 / 278 5018 by Monday, March 20.

Guests at the gala will enjoy the opportunity to view documents such as the official letter from the Spanish governor to Moses Austin allowing for settlement.

See Lone Star Treasures, P.2 »

Calendar of Events

March 21
“LONE STAR TREASURES” GALA FUNDRAISER DINNER (reservation required)
Hosted by the Friends of John Garner Museum  →  First State Bank, Uvalde.

Mid October
ART SHOW AND SALE, benefiting the Friends of John Garner Museum

The John Nance Garner Museum is a component of the Congressional History division of the Center for American History. The staff who oversee the operations at the John Nance Garner Museum are:

Dr. Don Carleton, Director, Center for American History
Dr. Patrick Cox, Associate Director, Center for American History
Beverly Hadley, Senior Administrative Associate, John Nance Garner Museum
Maria Lara, Office Assistant, John Nance Garner Museum

The Center for American History is a special collections library, archive, and museum at The University of Texas at Austin that facilitates research and sponsors programs on the history of the United States. The Center supports research and education by acquiring, preserving, and making available research collections and by sponsoring exhibitions, conferences, symposia, oral history projects, publications, and grant-funded initiatives.

John Nance Garner Museum
333 North Park Street, Uvalde, Texas 78801-4658
Telephone 830 / 278 5018  →  Fax 830 / 279 0512
Museum hours  ⇒  Tuesday – Saturday, 9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.  ⇒  closed Sunday & Monday
Center for American History website: www.cah.utexas.edu
of Americans in Texas; Mary Rabb’s 1823 diary of life in Texas; Sam Houston’s call for volunteers for the revolution; a map prepared by Santa Anna’s engineers of the Alamo fortifications; the diary of José Enrique de la Peña, an officer in Santa Anna’s army; an original copy of the Texas Declaration of Independence; and many other historic items from the Center’s archives. The gala event had been originally scheduled to take place this past November and had to be rescheduled.

The March 21 gala will feature this autograph document, “Plano de la ciudad San Antonio de Béxar y fortificación del Alamo . . . Marzo de 1836,” from the Center for American History’s Texas Map Collection. Drawn by Ygnacio de Labastida, commander of engineers for Santa Anna’s army, this is the official battle map of the Alamo fortifications. It shows a wide area around the Alamo, including the town and military presidio of Bejar.

LONE STAR TREASURES, « P. 1

The Friends of John Garner Museum is a newly formed non-profit organization dedicated to assisting the Museum toward its mission of telling the important historical story of John and Ettie Garner.

“We are very pleased to have this outstanding group of individuals that represent the Friends of John Nance Garner,” stated Dr. Patrick Cox, Associate Director of the Center for American History. “The Friends organization will provide valuable assistance to the programs and improvements at the John Nance Garner Museum.”

The newly formed organization will hold its second annual membership meeting on Thursday, April 27, 2006. The First State Bank in Uvalde graciously allows the Friends organization to hold its meeting in the stately McNelly Room. The purpose of the upcoming annual meeting is to elect officers and new board members. The current officers of the Friends of John Garner Museum are: John Blades, President; Craig Garnett, Vice President; William I. Dillard, Secretary; and Virginia Davis, Treasurer. The other members of the board of directors are: Stephen Kerbow, Sharra Cantu, John E. Lampe, William A. Kessler Jr., and Olga Charles.

“We have a very active board of directors and I know they want to see improvements made to the Museum,” stated President Blades. “We are looking forward to the upcoming fundraiser and anticipate good support from the community.” The Friends group welcomes new members and membership is open to all individuals, organizations, and businesses interested in promoting the mission of the John Nance Garner Museum. Specifically, the Friends group is organized to assist the John Nance Garner Museum in carrying out its fundamental purposes and responsibilities, by raising funds and organizing volunteer workers for the Museum’s programs.

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The John Nance Garner Papers at the Center for American History contain a variety of documents, photographs, artifacts, and political and personal memorabilia related to John Nance Garner and his wife, Ettie. Many of these items are on public display in the John Nance Garner Museum in Uvalde; most of the documents and photographs in this collection are preserved and made available to the public for research at the Center’s Research and Collections division on the campus of the University of Texas in Austin.

The photograph at the right reveals a slice of American political and social history. Will Rogers was an American humorist who was one of the most popular celebrities of the early twentieth century. Son of Oklahoma parents of partly Cherokee descent and prodigy with a lasso, he made a name for himself performing rope tricks around the country and the world with travelling Vaudeville shows such as “Texas Jack’s Wild West Show.” Eventually, though, Rogers became known and loved for his wit and intelligent observations on the American people, their country, and their government, expressed in language people of all walks of life could understand. During the dark days of the Great Depression, Will Rogers from Oklahoma and John Garner of Texas were important public figures with whom many Americans could identify, and whom they often felt they could trust.

John Nance Garner at rest . . .

John Nance Garner was an avid outdoorsman throughout his long life. He enjoyed hunting, fishing, and camping with his friends and political colleagues in the country around his hometown of Uvalde.

Garner State Park, located along the Frio River north of Uvalde, is named for John Nance Garner. Though it became a state park in 1941, its history reaches back even farther. Its traditions can be traced back to the days of the Civilian Conservation Corps in the 1930s, and today it hosts the oldest outdoor dance in Texas. Garner State Park remains one of the busiest in Texas.
UVALDE VISUAL ART LEAGUE ART SALE BENEFITS GARNER FRIENDS

The Uvalde Visual Art League (UVAL) hosted an art show and sale of works by approximately twenty-five of its members on October 15, 2005, on the lawn of the John Nance Garner Museum. The event, which was co-sponsored by First State Bank, Uvalde, benefited the Friends of John Garner Museum, a group organized to provide private-sector support for the mission and programs of the John Nance Garner Museum.

Each artist donated a portion of the revenue from each sale to the Friends of John Garner Museum. The event raised nearly $500 to benefit the Friends.

During the well attended event, musical entertainment was provided by area musicians and refreshments were provided. “We are so pleased to have such a lovely setting to display our artwork and to have a portion of the proceeds go to help the museum,” stated Stephanie Granger, president of UVAL. “Not only did the weather cooperate, but we had a great turnout with lots of interest, and we are looking forward to repeating the event in the fall of 2006.”

MUSEUM PROFESSIONALS ATTEND WINEDALE MUSEUM SEMINAR

Beverly Hadley, senior administrative associate at the John Nance Garner Museum, attended the Winedale Museum Seminar from January 29 to February 4 at the Center for American History’s Winedale division, near Round Top, Texas. The week-long immersion program is conducted by the Center for American History in consultation with the Texas Association of Museums and with generous support from the Texas Commission on the Arts.

The Winedale Museum Seminar is designed to provide continuing education to museum professionals who are seeking to enhance basic skills of museum administration or to study, in-depth, particular museum issues in a collegial, hands-on setting. It also gives participants the opportunity to network and share ideas with other museum professionals during informal evening gatherings.

This year’s seminar focused on developing leadership skills relating to all aspects of resource development. Participants covered topics ranging from capital campaigns to grant writing to planned giving.
PRIVATE SUPPORT CRUCIAL TO CENTER’S PUBLIC WORK

The John Nance Garner Museum is a component of the Center for American History’s Congressional History division. This division within the Center comprises one of the nation’s most important collections of congressional history. In addition to the John Nance Garner Museum, the Congressional History division includes the Sam Rayburn Library and Museum in Bonham, Texas, as well as the papers of more than sixty former and current members of Congress, including Sam Houston, Morris Sheppard, James Buchanan, Maury Maverick, Ralph Yarborough, Joe Kilgore, Lloyd Bentsen, and Henry B. Gonzalez.

In 1952, former Vice President John Nance Garner donated his home to the City of Uvalde as a memorial to Ettie Garner, his wife and partner in political life. In 1973, the City of Uvalde opened a museum in the house to preserve the history of Garner’s life and political career, as well as the history of his homeland of South Texas. In 1999, the City of Uvalde transferred ownership to The University of Texas at Austin.

Public funds provide for only a portion of the annual operating costs of the John Nance Garner Museum. There are several ways you can help ensure the success of this important Texas resource:

GIVE AN UNRESTRICTED OR RESTRICTED CASH GIFT —
You can give a cash gift by mailing a check or money order to the John Nance Garner Museum. You can also give a cash gift online:

WWW.UTEXAS.EDU/SUPPORTUT/GIVEONLINE

(On the “Make a Gift Online” page of the Support UT website, in the “Select an Area” drop-down window be sure to designate “American History, Center for” and specify in the accompanying text box that you would like your gift to be used for the John Nance Garner Museum.)

A cash gift can be paid in one lump sum, or pledged to be paid in installments.

APPLY FUNDS TO AN EXISTING ENDOWMENT, OR CREATE A NEW ONE —
There is currently one endowment that supports the John Nance Garner Museum — the John Nance Garner Fund, established in 2000. An endowment can be established or increased in one lump sum, or the amount can be pledged to be paid in installments.

DONATE A COLLECTION OR ITEMS OF ARCHIVAL MATERIAL —
If you have a collection or items of archival material that you think might enhance the collections at the John Nance Garner Museum, or any of the other congressional history collections at the Center, we will be happy to discuss your potential gift to determine if the materials are an appropriate fit for the Center’s collections.

MAKE A PLANNED GIFT —
You may designate a future gift to the Center to be given through your estate.

Some gifts to the John Nance Garner Museum bring the donor benefits from the University, as well as benefits from the Center for American History and its John Nance Garner Museum. If you are interested in giving a potentially tax-deductible gift, please call David Dettmer, Assistant to the Director, at the Center’s administrative offices at 512 / 495 4684, or email him at ddettmer@mail.utexas.edu, to discuss your options. No gift is too large or too small in helping to preserve American history. ✺
Sample from the Garner Cartoon Collection ➔ “Crossing the Red Sea”

John Nance Garner became Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives in 1931, two years after the onset of the Great Depression. Already a twenty-eight-year veteran of the House, Garner’s mastery of the legislative process enabled him to achieve bipartisan support for bills designed to avert national economic disaster. For example, Dr. Patrick Cox notes in his essay on Garner in Profiles in Power (University of Texas Press, 2004) that “[o]ver President Herbert Hoover’s objections, Garner pushed a $1 billion public works program through Congress. He also worked for passage of the Reconstruction Finance Corporation (RFC), the new agency to provide loans for public improvement. The RFC represented the federal government’s largest peacetime effort to influence the economy” (p. 50).

Even after he rose to the vice-presidency, Garner continued to achieve Congressional bipartisan results. Cox writes: “‘[Vice President Garner] is conducting the office he occupies in a way which, compared with that favored by his immediate predecessors, amounts almost to a revolution,’ The New York Times noted on Garner’s popularity with the Congress. ‘He has a way with “the boys” that takes him safely past many of those prides and jealousies that flourish in all legislative atmospheres. He likes them, and they like him, and that means a great deal’” (p. 53). ♦

This political cartoon portrays Speaker John Nance Garner leading the Democrats and Republicans together with a new tax bill through the parted waters of the deficit to the “promised land” of a balanced budget.