Fundraiser Will Feature Rare Ranching Artifacts

A gala fundraising dinner hosted by the Friends of John Garner Museum and First State Bank of Uvalde will be held on Tuesday, April 3, at 6:00 p.m. A special display from the Center for American History, titled “Lone Star Treasures—Ranching in Texas,” will feature rare documents and artifacts depicting cattle ranching from early Spanish Colonial Texas to the 20th century.

Guests will have an opportunity to view these historical manuscripts, which will include sketches of early cattle brands. In addition, several historic saddles, tack, and other ranching artifacts from the James Frank Dobie Collection will be on display.

“Ranching played an important role in shaping the diverse history of our state, from its beginning in the early Spanish Colonial Texas, to the 1877 formation of the Cattle Raisers Association of Texas, to the long history of cattle ranching in Texas,” Dr. Sarah Lotan, Director of Curatorial Affairs, Center for American History, said. This display gives visitors a chance to see the evolution of this important aspect of Texas history.

The gala fundraising dinner will also feature a special exhibit titled “Lone Star Treasures—Ranching in Texas,” which will feature rare documents and artifacts depicting cattle ranching from early Spanish Colonial Texas to the 20th century. The exhibit will be on display from April 3 through April 6, and will be open to the public during regular hours at the McNelly Room, First State Bank of Uvalde.

This exhibit includes several historic saddles, tack, and other ranching artifacts from the James Frank Dobie Collection, which will be on display during the gala fundraising dinner on April 3. In addition, the exhibit features rare documents and manuscripts depicting cattle ranching from early Spanish Colonial Texas to the 20th century.

“I am very excited about this exhibit,” said Dr. Sarah Lotan, Director of Curatorial Affairs, Center for American History. “It provides a unique opportunity for visitors to see the evolution of cattle ranching in Texas, from its early days to the present day.”

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“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.”

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 Hodley, Senior Administrative Associate, John Nance Garner Museum
Maria Lara, Office Assistant, John Nance Garner Museum

The Newsletter of the John Nance Garner Museum
Cactus Jack

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City Council Names Plaza in Honor of Dolph Briscoe

The Uvalde City Council unanimously approved naming the city plaza in honor of former Texas governor Dolph Briscoe Jr., who is a native of Uvalde. The council invited Dr. Patrick Cox, associate director at the Center for American History, to help with the design and site selection for the project. According to Uvalde city manager John Harrell, the Plaza Project Committee consists of Bill Dillard, Barbara Woodman, Janey Briscoe Marmion, and Patrick Cox.

“We are very pleased to assist with the planning and design of this project,” stated Dr. Cox. “We will be consulting with Drew Patterson Studios, which assisted with the design of the John Nance Garner Museum exhibit, and we hope to have a design plan presented to Governor Briscoe and the Committee some time after the first of the year.”

Dolph Briscoe was governor of Texas from 1973 to 1979, and is currently a member of the Center for American History Advisory Council.

Area Students Benefit from Lone Star Treasures Exhibit

Nearly 500 students from Uvalde and the surrounding communities viewed Lone Star Treasures, an exhibit of several iconic documents from the early history of Texas. These documents were drawn from the Center for American History’s Barker Texas History Collection. The Friends of John Garner Museum, First State Bank of Uvalde, and former Texas governor Dolph Briscoe Jr. hosted the exhibit during Texas History Week, March 20–24, 2006.

The exhibit treated students to such Texas treasures as William Travis’ diary, a first printing of the Texas Declaration of Independence, Lt. Col. Nicolás de la Portilla’s notes on the Goliad massacre, and the hatchet carried by Moses Austin in 1820 on his trip to Texas.

Prior to the student viewing, a gala fundraiser was held with a private viewing for 200 invited guests. Dr. Don Carleton, director of the Center, lectured on the history of the documents and how they are used in research. The event raised over $26,000, which the Friends have designated to help support Phase II of the ongoing renovations to the John Nance Garner Museum.

Fundraising Gala, « P. 1

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Following the Tuesday evening fundraiser at First State Bank, the exhibit will move to the bank’s McNelly Room, where it will be open to the public from April 4 through April 6. The exhibit will then move to the John Nance Garner Museum, where it will be on display Tuesday, April 10 through Saturday, April 28. For more information regarding the exhibit and the fundraiser, call 830 / 278 5018.

Garner Cartoon spotlight

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UVALDE VISUAL ARTS LEAGUE ART SHOW AND SALE RAISES FUNDS

Despite inclement weather and a resulting change in venue, the 2006 Uvalde Visual Arts League Art Show and Sale raised more than $460 for the Friends of John Garner Museum. Overcast skies and showers prompted the event’s relocation from the John Nance Garner Museum to the front portico of First State Bank.

“While we were disappointed not to be on the museum grounds, the show is important to us for several reasons,” stated Stephanie Gager, president of the League. “It allows local artists to showcase their talent, it helps make the city and community aware of the Visual Arts League, and, most important, part of the proceeds go to a great cause — the Friends of John Garner Museum.”

Among the day’s most popular events was the “Future Artists Table,” offering children the opportunity to experiment with water colors, modeling clay, and pastels. In addition to visual arts, this year’s show featured entertainment by fiddler Dick Waller and backup rhythm guitarist Chaney Rutledge. Later in the day, the Uvalde High School Choir treated attendees to an outstanding performance.

For more information regarding the Friends of John Garner Museum and upcoming activities, please visit www.friendsofjohngarnermuseum.org.

MUSEUM FEATURES PUT A ROOF OVER OUR HEAD QUILT EXHIBIT

Three divisions of the Center for American History, the John Nance Garner Museum, the Sam Rayburn Library and Museum, and Winedale, will host the Alliance for American Quilts’ Put a Roof Over Our Head exhibit during the months of February and March, 2007. Approximately 25 house-shaped quilts will be on display at each of the three locations.

Artists from across the United States and three foreign countries created 74 quilts for the Put a Roof Over Our Head exhibit, which celebrates the Alliance for American Quilts’ move to Asheville, North Carolina. The Alliance, a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization, connects people who love, study, collect, and create quilts. This organization documents, preserves, and shares our nation’s great quilt heritage. Information about the Alliance is available at www.centerforthequilt.org.

For more information on the quilts to be displayed at the John Nance Garner Museum, please contact the Garner Museum at 830 / 278 5018.
Friends of John Garner Museum Holds Its Annual Meeting

The annual meeting of the Friends of John Garner Museum was held on Thursday, April 27, 2006, in the McNelly Room of First State Bank. On the agenda was the election of new board members and officers of the association.

Three open positions on the board were filled with returning board members Mr. Jack Lampe and Mr. Stephen Kerbow and with new board member Mrs. Sheri Rutledge. The other members of the board of directors are: Mrs. Virginia Davis, Ms. Olga Charles, Mrs. Shara Cantu, Mr. William Dillard, Mr. William Kessler, Jr., and Mr. John Blades.

The board also elected officers for the upcoming year. John Blades will serve as president, Sheri Rutledge as vice president, William Dillard as secretary, and Virginia Davis as treasurer.

The Friends of John Garner Museum is a 501 (c) 3 nonprofit organization dedicated to supporting the John Nance Garner Museum. The Friends’ mission is to provide private sector support and assistance to the John Nance Garner Museum for programs, activities, and improvement to further the preservation, recognition, and appreciation of John and Ettie Garner.

New Center Web Site Includes Garner Museum Feature Page

“Our new Web site is another example of the Center’s outreach to the people of Texas and beyond,” stated Dr. Don Carleton, director of the Center for American History. “Our virtual door is now open to researchers around the world.”

For example, the digital media repository features more than 8,000 digital items searchable by keyword or by subject. The finding aids have been expanded and are easier to use. In addition, curriculum guides for teachers are now available. A teacher may enter the words “curriculum” or “lesson plan” in the search window, then access a selection of lesson plans with links to related documents and photographs. Users may also search the Center’s different divisions, view the conservation program and exhibits, and listen to the sound collection. As a vibrant, resourceful tool for researchers, the new site will continue to grow and expand as archived items are digitized and published online. To explore the site, visit the Center’s Web site at http://www.cah.utexas.edu.
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 Yarbrough, 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/HOOKEDONTEXAS

(In the “Center for American History” window, 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. To learn more about charitable estate planning at the University, visit the University’s Gift Planning Web site at WWW.UTEXAS.EDU/SUPPORTUT/GIFTPLANNING/INDEX.HTML.

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 Ramona Kelly, Associate Director, at 512 / 495 4696 or 512 / 495 4684, or e-mail her at ramonakelly@mail.utexas.edu, to discuss your options. No gift is too large or too small in helping to preserve American history. *
Residents and community members of Uvalde County celebrated this colorful region’s Sesquicentennial in October, 2006, with a parade sponsored by the city of Uvalde, the Friends of John Garner Museum, and the Uvalde Visual Arts League.

In May 1956, Uvalde County observed its Centennial anniversary with a huge celebration. The activities in 1956 included dances, homecomings, gatherings of dignitaries, a grand parade, barbecue dinners, and much more. John Nance Garner served as the parade marshal and cowgirl actress and singer Dale Evans served as queen of the Uvalde County Centennial.

Uvalde, like many west Texas communities, has a colorful and riveting history. The land was carved out of Bexar County in 1850. However, due to a scarcity of new residents, an official election was not possible until 1856. The first local officials in Uvalde County were all Indian fighters, a necessary requirement at that time. Much has changed in Uvalde and the surrounding communities during the past 150 years. However, residents of Uvalde still pay proud homage to its past and to those who helped shape the county. Uvalde’s Sesquicentennial provided many opportunities throughout the past year for residents to celebrate their heritage.

At the age of 88, former Vice President John Nance Garner served as Honorary Grand Marshall in the Uvalde County Centennial Parade in May 1956. His ride in the horse-drawn buggy evoked the youthful days of both Garner and Uvalde County, when Garner rode among the frontier towns of South Texas, first as a circuit-riding attorney for the law firm of Judge John H. Clark and then as a campaigning politician.