Restoration Work Continues on Rayburn Facilities

Significant progress is being made in the restoration project for the Sam Rayburn Library and Museum. Staff completed a full assessment of the museum and its facilities in 2005 and identified the primary issues that need to be addressed. Following a competitive bid process, ArchiTexas, a Texas-based architectural consultant with extensive experience related to historic structures, was employed to oversee all improvements and renovation. ArchiTexas will work with the museum staff and the Architectural and Engineering Services program at The University of Texas at Austin.

ArchiTexas completed a preliminary investigation and assessment to determine the specific work items involved in the proposed renovations, prioritizing the work items and projected costs of each. The museum roof was deemed the first priority, as it poses the

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Calendar of Events

Feb. 5 – March 19  “PUT A ROOF over our HEAD,” quilt exhibit
       Sam Rayburn Library and Museum → during regular hours

March 19 – June 1  “THE GAVER OF a STATESMAN,” rayburn political cartoons exhibit
       Sam Rayburn Library and Museum → during regular hours

May 1  Deadline for Scholarship Applications → 5:00 p.m.
       Marjorie P. McNight Scholarship and H. G. Dulaney Scholarship

May 11  Preview of “LONE STAR Treasures” speciality exhibit
       Sam Rayburn Library and Museum → 5:00 p.m. (Invitation only)

May 12  Friends of Sam Rayburn Annual Awards Banquet, and Celebration of the 50th Anniversary of the Opening of the Rayburn Library
       Legacy Ridge Country Club → 6:00 p.m. (Tickets available)

May 16  Reception for Sam Rayburn Foundation Scholarship Winners
       Sam Rayburn Library and Museum → 4:00 p.m.

May 16 – June 1 “LONE STAR Treasures” exhibit
       Sam Rayburn Library and Museum → during regular hours

June 4 – “Mennonites in Texas: Quiet in the Land” photography exhibit
       Sam Rayburn Library and Museum → during regular hours
The Friends of Sam Rayburn hosted the second annual Friends of Sam Rayburn Awards Banquet, Saturday, April 22, 2006. The banquet was held in honor of Elizabeth May, the 2006 recipient of the H. G. Dulaney Public Service Award. A large crowd gathered in the Legacy Ridge Country Club banquet room for dinner and a program highlighting May’s many years of community service to Bonham and Fannin County.

Bonham Mayor Roy Floyd, master of ceremonies for the program, began the evening with a reminder of the occasion, stating that there “could not be a more deserving woman than Elizabeth May” to receive an award for public service.

The evening’s featured speaker was Cindy Baker, customer relations associate with American Airlines and a native of Bonham. Baker described the honoree as “a good buddy of mine” who has “impressed me for so long.” Baker regaled the crowd with stories of Elizabeth May’s ability to “always think on her feet.”

Allecia Booher, senior vice president, American Bank of Texas, spoke about May’s long dedication to the bank for which she has worked for 64 years. Booher described Elizabeth as “dedicated, compassionate, and committed.” She said that May “loves the people in this community. She loves this county.”

May currently serves on numerous boards, including the Chamber of Commerce, the United Way, and the Fannin County Crisis Center. She is also a member of the Business and Professional Women’s Club and the Friends of Sam Rayburn. In addition, she volunteers for various community and organization fundraisers, including the American Heart Association, the March of Dimes, and Autumn in Bonham.

The award was presented to May by last year’s recipient and the award’s namesake, H. G. Dulaney, who stated, “She’s been my friend for half a century. She’s devoted her life to public service, and I’m grateful for her friendship.”

In thanking the Friends of Sam Rayburn for the award, May stated, “Everything I do for this community and Fannin County is from my heart and I want no praise. . . . I want Bonham and Fannin County to be on top, and I try to put it there.”

May elaborated, “Don’t forget Mr. Sam. He was the one who has done so much for Fannin County.”

In closing, May thanked her family, whom she says has always been behind her in everything she has chosen to do.

Dr. Patrick Cox, associate director of the Center for American History, concluded the evening with a brief explanation of the purpose and activities of the Friends of Sam Rayburn. The Friends’ mission is to support the activities and programs at the Sam Rayburn Library and Museum and the Sam Rayburn House Museum.

Over the past year, the Friends of Sam Rayburn has provided funds to the Sam Rayburn House Museum for conservation software, a new exhibit highlighting Rayburn’s involvement in World War II, and the 30th anniversary of the opening of the Rayburn House under the administration of the Texas Historical Commission. In addition, the Friends donated funds to the renovation and improvement of the Sam Rayburn Library and Museum. They also assisted in the celebration of the 50th anniversary of the Rayburn Library groundbreaking. ❅
Spotlight on the Sam Rayburn Papers ➔ Sam Rayburn 4¢ Stamp

Only ten months after Sam Rayburn’s death on November 16, 1961, the U.S. Postal Department issued a postage stamp honoring the late Speaker of the United States House of Representatives. At the time of his passing, Rayburn had served as Speaker more than twice as long as any other to hold that office.

The Sam Rayburn stamp was placed on first-day sale at the Bonham Post Office on September 16, 1962, the anniversary date of Rayburn’s first election to the speakership, in 1940. A special ceremony was held on the grounds of the Sam Rayburn Library on the first day of sale to commemorate the occasion. Vice President and fellow Texan Lyndon B. Johnson was among the dignitaries who spoke at the event.

A month prior to the Bonham celebration, there had been a special ceremony held in Washington, D.C., to unveil the artwork for the stamp. The ceremony was attended by Vice President Johnson, U.S. Postmaster General J. Edward Day, and John W. McCormack, the Massachusetts Democrat who succeeded Rayburn as Speaker.

The stamp’s denomination is four cents, which in 1962 was the first-class letter rate. The initial run printed 120 million Sam Rayburn 4¢ stamps.

Heather Trent Speaks at East Texas Historical Association

Heather Trent, research associate at the Sam Rayburn Library and Museum, recently gave a presentation titled “The Speaker’s Office in Texas” at the fall meeting of the East Texas Historical Association (ETHA) in Nacogdoches, Texas. The presentation was part of a session examining Sam Rayburn’s relationship with East Texas.

Trent’s presentation highlighted the role Speaker Rayburn played in planning the construction and utility of the Sam Rayburn Library. In addition, she discussed the significance of Rayburn’s use of the library’s “replica” Speaker’s Office in the library as his district office in Bonham.

Other presentations included “Interpreting Mr. Sam at Home” and “Together They Won: Sam Rayburn and the Fourth Congressional District in World War II” by Carlyn Hammons and William A. McWhorter, respectively, of the Texas Historical Commission.

ETHA began in 1927 to promote the study of East Texas history. Thirty years later, the members approved a new constitution, which established the tenets of the current organization. ETHA meets bi-annually and produces a semi-annual publication, The East Texas Historical Journal. Throughout the years, ETHA has continued to develop programs, awards, and grants to encourage the study of East Texas history.

For more information, visit the ETHA Web site at www.easttexashistorical.org or contact ETHA at 936 / 468 2407.

U.S. Postmaster General J. Edward Day (left), Vice President Lyndon B. Johnson (middle), and Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives John W. McCormack (right) unveil artwork of the design for the new 4¢ Sam Rayburn postage stamp in August 1962.
Library Celebrates 50th Year with a Full Slate of Activities

The Sam Rayburn Library and Museum anticipates a year full of celebrations in 2007 to recognize 50 years of service to the public. In January, scaffolds and construction workers will be onsite as exterior renovations begin. The annual celebration of Speaker Rayburn’s birthday on January 8 was the year’s first special event.

This year the Rayburn Library will feature three new exhibits in the Main Reading Room, where photography and treasures from the Center for American History are now on display.

The first exhibit will be *Put a Roof Over Our Head*, a traveling exhibit from the Alliance for American Quilts featuring a collection of house-shaped quilts that celebrate this distinctive form of American folk art. Following the quilt exhibit will be *Lone Star Treasures*, a special exhibit of historical treasures from the Center for American History featuring outstanding documents and artifacts from Texas colonial, pre-revolutionary, and revolutionary history.

An exclusive, invitation-only preview of *Lone Star Treasures* will be held Friday, May 11, as part of the Friends of Sam Rayburn Annual Awards Banquet. The exhibit will be open to the public May 16 through June 1, 2007.

The third exhibit will be *Mennonites in Texas: The Quiet in the Land*, featuring photographs by two University of Texas at Austin master’s degree recipients, Laura Camden and Susan Gaetz Duarte. Camden and Gaetz Duarte documented the culture and traditions of Mennonite communities in Central and West Texas.

The Friends of Sam Rayburn Annual Awards will hold its annual banquet on Saturday, May 12, 2007. As part of the event, the Friends will recognize the 50th anniversary of the 1957 opening of the Sam Rayburn Library. Dee Kelly, chairman of the Sam Rayburn Foundation, will be the recipient of this year’s H. G. Dulaney Public Service Award.

The Sam Rayburn Foundation scholarship program winners will be honored in May. The McKnight scholarship is open to graduating Bonham High School students, and the H.G. Dulaney scholarship is open to graduating students from high schools throughout Fannin County. Students will be judged on their academic performance, their community service, and an essay utilizing resources available from the Sam Rayburn Library and Museum.

New Web Site Includes Rayburn Feature Page

In early October, the Center for American History launched its newly re-designed Web site to simplify online navigation. In addition to press releases and policies, the Web site boasts interactive digital galleries and electronic versions of Center publications. Each month, a new division or collection will be spotlighted on the home page, highlighting the variety of resources offered by the Center’s collections.

Included in the improvements is an updated Web page on the Sam Rayburn Library and Museum, where viewers can access biographical information on Speaker Rayburn as well as general information concerning the museum. New additions to the Web page include a list of Rayburn-related reference links to other online resources such as the Rayburn Papers finding aid. Also available are copies of the museum’s newsletter, *Speak, Mister Speaker*, and a biographical video of Speaker Rayburn’s political accomplishments.
Rayburn Library Contributes to Region 10 TaRGET Web Site

The Sam Rayburn Library and Museum has contributed to a new Web site launched for Region 10 Education Service Center’s TaRGET American History program. TaRGET is the acronym for Teaching and Relating Great Episodes and Topics in American History, a program dedicated to training Texas social studies educators. The new site is designed to help TaRGET scholars access important information necessary for active participation in all TaRGET grant activities.

As part of the TaRGET American History program, professors from the University of North Texas, The University of Texas at Dallas, and North Carolina State University lead a five-day training seminar focused on Migration, Democracy, Conflict and Change, Reform, and Innovation. Through the in-depth study of individuals, documents, and topics, teachers learn to connect major episodes and turning points across time. Creating Virtual American History Trunks is a primary goal of TaRGET American History. The virtual trunks will be packed with primary source materials gathered from partner Web sites, museum exhibits, and library materials to assist educators in connecting episodes and topics in American history for students.

One of the virtual trunks will contain information on Sam Rayburn and the New Deal reforms. The staff of the museum worked with Michele Scoggins of Leonard ISD to put together a wide variety of primary sources relating to Speaker Rayburn. The information provided includes original photos and documents, including letters, legislation, and news clippings from the Sam Rayburn Papers Collection, part of the Congressional History Collection of the Center for American History. In addition, Scoggins interviewed H. G. Dulaney on Rayburn’s upbringing and its influence on his decisions regarding New Deal reform legislation and rural electrification.

To learn more about the TaRGET American History project, visit the Region 10 Web site at www.region10.org/socialstudies/target.

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greatest risk to the collection. Exterior improvements will also be made to protect the building’s exterior, the windows, and the entry plaza. Additionally, construction of ADA-approved restroom facilities and other accessibility issues will be addressed. These improvements will preserve this historic structure and protect the valuable contents of the archives and collections housed within the Sam Rayburn Museum.

Following a competitive, sealed bid process, the University of Texas at Austin will award a contract to complete the renovations to the roof and the building exterior. In addition, other improvements will provide better access to the museum. The project will be completed by June 2007.

The scope of work for this phase of the project will also include a more energy-efficient heating and air conditioning system. Bill Gazaway of Bonham, Texas, has been awarded the contract. Working with Michael Wynkoop of UT Facility Services, Gazaway has designed the new systems and will begin work soon. Due to the improvements, an asbestos abatement of the existing systems was completed on October 12. Gazaway has also been awarded the contract for renovating the lighting in the galleries and hallways of the museum. New fiberoptic lighting was added to wall exhibit cases. In addition, new track spotlights were hung in both galleries. The new lighting was completed on October 16, 2006.

The Sam Rayburn statue located at the museum entrance was refurbished by Dallas firm Rio Concho and unveiled during the 2005 anniversary celebration. Repairs to the marble flagpole bases are due to be completed by Rio Concho in March 2007. ❯
Sam Rayburn Foundation Honors 2006 Scholarship Winners

Winners of the 2006 Sam Rayburn Foundation scholarships gathered together at a reception held in their honor on May 17 at the Sam Rayburn Library and Museum. The reception provided an opportunity for friends and family to gather and share in the accomplishments of this year’s recipients. Center Associate Director Dr. Patrick Cox and H. G. Dulaney, director emeritus of the Sam Rayburn Library and Museum, presented the scholarship awards to the winners. Also present were Friends of Sam Rayburn President Curtis Smith and James Stewart, a member of the Friends of Sam Rayburn Board of Directors.

One of two different scholarships awarded through the Rayburn Foundation is the Marjorie P. McKnight scholarship. Provided by a bequest from the will of Ms. McKnight, former resident of Bonham and close friend of Speaker Rayburn, the scholarship is awarded annually to a Bonham High School senior. This year’s recipient of the McKnight scholarship is Jessica Walker.

The other scholarship available through the Rayburn Foundation is the H. G. Dulaney scholarship, available to seniors graduating from rural Fannin County schools. Mr. Dulaney, an employee of Sam Rayburn, was handpicked to serve as director of the Sam Rayburn Library, a position he held for 45 years. The scholarship was established by Dee J. Kelly, a prominent Ft. Worth attorney and a former employee of Speaker Rayburn, to honor Mr. Dulaney’s longtime service to preserving and promoting the legacy of Sam Rayburn. Winners of the 2006 Dulaney scholarships are Jennifer Burpo, Scott Grant, Kayla Hopkins, Jeffrey Morris, Bethany Stephens, and Colton Whisenhunt.

The Sam Rayburn Library and Museum Says Thank You!!

The UT Austin Center for American History and its Sam Rayburn Library and Museum extend a sincere thank you to the following individuals and organizations who have provided valuable support:

BEDCO ↔ Bonham Kiwanis Club ↔ Bonham Lion’s Club ↔ Chi Lambda of Bonham ↔
George Cole ↔ William Collins, Jr. ↔ Friends of Sam Rayburn ↔
Glaser Family Charitable Foundation ↔ Hoblitzelle Foundation ↔
Carol Spencer Howard ↔ Red River Regional Hospital (Northeast Medical Center) ↔
Rotary International of Bonham ↔ Save America’s Treasures ↔ Clara Blackford Smith and
W. Aubrey Smith Foundation ↔ Erwin E. Smith Foundation ↔
The University of Texas System ↔ The University of Texas at Austin
PRIVATE SUPPORT CRUCIAL TO CENTER’S PUBLIC WORK

The Sam Rayburn Library and 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 Sam Rayburn Library and Museum, the Congressional History division includes the John Nance Garner Museum in Uvalde, Texas, as well as the papers of more than 50 former and current members of Congress, including Sam Houston, Morris Sheppard, James Buchanan, Maury Maverick, Ralph Yarborough, Joe Kilgore, J. J. “Jake” Pickle, and Lloyd Bentsen, housed at the Center’s Research and Collections division on the UT Austin main campus.

The Sam Rayburn Library and Museum was opened in 1957. In 1991, the Sam Rayburn Foundation transferred ownership to The University of Texas at Austin. When the Center for American History was created at UT Austin in 1991, it absorbed from the UT General Libraries the Barker Texas History Center and the Sam Rayburn Library and Museum.

Public funds provide for only a portion of the annual operating costs of the Sam Rayburn Library and 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 Sam Rayburn Library and 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 Sam Rayburn Library and 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 Sam Rayburn Library and Museum — the Sam Rayburn Library Endowment, established in December 1990. 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 Sam Rayburn Library and 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 Sam Rayburn Library and Museum bring the donor benefits from the University, as well as benefits from the Center for American History and its Sam Rayburn Library and 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 contact her by e-mail at ramonakelly@mail.utexas.edu, to discuss your options. No gift is too large or too small in helping to preserve American history. ✱
Rayburn Library Currently Features Exhibit of Kennerly Images

One of the most widely known photojournalists of his generation, David Hume Kennerly witnessed and photographed most of the historic moments of the last third of the 20th century. Kennerly began his professional career in 1966 with the Oregon Journal. After joining United Press International, he was assigned to Vietnam, where he won a Pulitzer Prize in 1972 for his feature photography of the Vietnam War. In addition to serving as President Gerald R. Ford’s personal photographer, Kennerly has been a contributing editor for Newsweek and a photographer for Time, Life, and George magazines. He has published several books, including Photo Op (1995).

A new exhibit, based on Photo Op, opened in the main reading room of the Sam Rayburn Library and Museum on September 25. The 20 photographs feature a compelling range of images: Vietnam and student protests, the inside workings of the Ford administration, and groundbreaking events in international diplomacy. Kennerly was always there with his camera—on the battlefield, at ringside, or behind closed doors in the Oval Office.

The David Hume Kennerly Photographic Archive at the Center for American History contains more than 250,000 images produced by Kennerly during every phase of his career. The Kennerly Archive forms part of the Center’s News Media History Archive, documenting the careers of prominent journalists, photographers, filmmakers, and television professionals.

Images such as “Easter near Khe Sanh, Vietnam” propelled David Kennerly to the 1972 Pulitzer Prize for feature photography.

Rayburn Library currently features an exhibit of David Hume Kennerly’s images from his book Photo Op.