



HISTORY OF THE TEXAS STATE SOCIETY OF WASHINGTON, D.C.

1904-1920

Texans' traditional way of seeking out one another's company in far places in which they find themselves led to the founding way of the Texas State Society of Washington, D.C.

On December 19, 1904, Dr. and Mrs. Oscar Wilkinson, she a native Texan he a native of Mississippi, who had lived for a time in El Paso, invited all the Texans they knew living in Washington to their home to form a social club of Texans living in the District.

At a second meeting, all in the Wilkinson home, on January 19, 1905, thirty-three persons were enrolled as charter members of the Society. Rep. Oscar W. Gillespie was elected president and W. E. Suddarth was named the first secretary.

The new organization, named the Texas State Society of Washington was "to foster and encourage a fraternal spirit among the Texans at the National Capital, to render assistance when necessary to all sons and daughters of the Lone Star State, and to increase their patriotic love for Texas and the American Nation."

The Society issued its first Yearbook in 1906. Among its ninety-seven members, only one Congressman-Representative Gillespie— was named as a member.

President of the Society in 1906 was W.H. McNeil of Denton, who worked at the Treasury Department. The 1907 President was P.M. Kennerly, from San Antonio, employed by the War Department.

Most early meetings were held at the Pythian Temple, on 9th Street near Massachusetts Avenue, the site of the 1907 San Jacinto Day celebration. By then, two young Texas Congressman, John Nance Garner and Morris Sheppard were attending meetings regularly.

For several years after 1907 the Society was inactive. But on January 25, 1913, some fifty displaced Texans met at the Pythian Club to get the Texas State Society going again. Dr. Wilkinson was chosen president by acclamation and a committee was named to draft a "simple constitution." Since the Society was to be for social purposes, only a simple constitution would be necessary for the little business that would occur.

The San Jacinto Day meeting of 1913 marked a high point in the affairs of the Society. Senator Morris Sheppard made the principal address, and many distinguished guests were present. Texans were prominent in the Woodrow Wilson Administration, and Society meetings honored Postmaster General Burlison, Secretary of Agriculture David F. Houston, who also served as Secretary of the Treasury and Thomas W. Gregory, who became Attorney General when Attorney General McReynolds was appointed to the Supreme Court. Cato Sells, then Indian Commissioner, was also active in the Society and was elected president of the organization during this period.

Social activities in Washington diminished after the war in Europe began in 1914. By the time the United States entered the war the organization again was dormant. During the 1907-20 period, however, Texans in Washington participated in the affairs of the Southern Club, which drew together a number of societies from the Southern states.

Even though the Texas State Society was more-or-less out of existence, its members participated in a memorable celebration of San Jacinto Day in 1920. Rep. Claude Hudspeth, a former cowboy and a colorful figure in Washington after his election in 1919, took charge of a barbecue for the society which was a huge success. All Texans in Washington, whether or not they belonged to the Society, were invited to the barbecue—held at Chevy Chase Lake. The attending crowd was estimated at 1500. Clarence Ousley, Assistant Secretary of Agriculture in

the Wilson Administration, was president of the organization at this time. Newspaper accounts referred to the "Texas Club."

1922-1939

The next meeting March 3, 1922, drew more than two hundred Texans. Representative Hudspeth was elected president, and enthusiastic plans were made for future meetings. But the organization went into another eclipse for there was little activity for several years.

Rep. Daniel Garrett of Houston, a brother-in-law of Jesse Jones, followed Hudspeth as president, and on February 13, 1924, Rep. Clay Stone Briggs, was elected to succeed Garrett. Other officers were Rep. Tom Connally, vice president. The notable event of that year was a ball at the New Willard Hotel to commemorate Texas Independence Day.

On March 21, 1926, Washington papers carried a history of the Society, along with pictures of the president, Representative Connally, and the secretary, Arthur C. Perry, and announced a dance at the Washington Hotel.

The organization apparently continued to be called the Texas Club and four meetings were automatically held between November and March, with officers being elected in March. Rep. Luther Johnson and Rep. Morgan Sanders were elected vice presidents.

Rep. Eugene Black became president of the club in the early thirties and served for two years. Parties and receptions featured a short program followed by dancing. San Jacinto Day was always commemorated, a usually with an address on the importance of the date. Receptions were given for new Members of Congress from Texas. Frequently Texas delegates to the spring D.A.R. convention were honored.

Rep. Ewing Thomason was elected president in April 1932. In the months that followed many Texans were among the thousands of persons coming to Washington to work as the government expanded. The new arrivals were invited to join the Texas Club and were made welcome at dances and receptions held at the Mayflower Hotel.

Wright Matthews was succeeded by Karl Crowley. In the Thirties, Lyndon B. Johnson was secretary of the Society. Clifford Beckham was elected president in 1937. High points of his administration were receptions honoring the Ambassadors from China and Mexico.

Rep. Richard Kleberg closed the decade of the thirties as president and opened the forties.

1940-1949

The name Texas Club was used for the last time in connection with a party on January 14, 1940, honoring Grover Hill, newly appointed Assistant Secretary of Agriculture. Thereafter the organization was called the Texas State Society. Rep. Wright Patman became president of the Society in the spring of 1941. The defense effort had brought many newcomers to Washington, including a large number of Texans. Mr. Patman's administration made a studied effort to reach all of them, including members of the armed forces. Dances were held during the winter season; men and women in uniform were admitted without charge. A genuine Longhorn steer was presented by the Society to the Washington Zoo. An outstanding event of the period was a breakfast at the Statler Hotel on May 16, 1943, honoring Speaker Sam Rayburn and Col. Oveta Culp Hobby, Commander of the Women's Army Auxiliary Corps, later the Women's Army Corps.

When Dale Miller of Dallas assumed the presidency in later May 1943, efforts were intensified to use the organization as a morale building factor in the war effort. Society dances were opened "for the duration" to the public, particularly servicemen and young women employed by the government.

In addition to these dances, several more serious events were held. One was a dinner on June 29, 1945, honoring Senator Tom Connally, who had distinguished himself by his work at the San Francisco Conference to establish the United Nations. Many leaders of the legislative and

executive branches of the government attended, along with several hundred Texans. President Truman sent a telegram, read at the dinner, expressing regret at his inability to be present and praising the Senator for his service to the Nation. A few months later, on January 24, 1946, a Society dinner honored two great native sons of Texas: General of the Army Dwight D. Eisenhower and Fleet Admiral Chester W. Nimitz.

Ralph Pittman, who served through most of 1946 and 1947, succeeded Mr. Miller as president. A gala dinner was given—in May, 1946—to honor the new Attorney General, Texan Tom Clark. Speakers included Justice Douglas, Secretary of the Treasury, Vinson, Senator Connally and Speaker Rayburn. On January 31, 1947, Speaker Rayburn again was honored at a Society dinner. And among those present, the President of the United States.

The two-year administration of Rep. Tom Pickett, who became president in 1948, was characterized by thoughtful efforts to get the Society “back to normal.” Miss Wanda Lyle was selected at the first Cherry Blossom Princess for 1948. The Society sponsored a float in the inaugural parade in January 1949, followed by a reception for Texans in Washington for the occasion. Shortly thereafter a reception was given for new members of the Texas Delegation in Congress. At this meeting Miss Marion Wilson was chosen Cherry Blossom Princess for 1949. A San Jacinto Day party was held for the first time in some years. Summer parties included a ride down the Potomac and a basket for members and their families.

1950-1954

Tom Clark, newly appointed Associate Justice of the Supreme Court, again was honored guest at a Society dinner on January 20, 1950. During Mr. Pickett’s second term a committee was named to draft a new constitution and by-laws. The final draft of the new documents was adopted by the membership at a meeting on February 25, 1950.

L. T. (Tex) Easley was elected president at this meeting. Miss Diane Sanderfer was named Cherry Blossom Princess for 1950. An April dance to celebrate San Jacinto Day, a Mexican food dinner in March, a picnic, a cocktail party, a dance at the National Airport Terrace, and a reception honoring the Texas Congressional Delegation were highlights of Mr. Easley’s term. A party on March 2, 1951, at the Shoreham Hotel honored soldiers from Walter Reed Hospital. Rep. Olin Teague was elected president at this meeting, and Miss Mary Catherine Kilday was chosen Cherry Blossom Princess for 1951.

Representative Teague’s administration continued a varied program of social activities. A chili supper at the National Press Club, a boat ride down the Potomac, a chuck wagon style barbecue, and a Christmas-time egg-nog party for Texans, who could not go home for the holidays were notable events. At a breakfast on March 2, 1952 Representative Teague was elected to a second term. Miss Mimi Clark, daughter of Justice and Mrs. Tom Clark was chosen 1952 Cherry Blossom Princess, and an open house at the Capitol was held in her honor by Senator Connally on April 2. In that month the Society conducted a campaign to send a plane load of blood to Korea in cooperation with the American Red Cross. More than 1,000 people attended the June barbecue. A basket picnic was held at the Aubrey Graves farm in Virginia in the summer and a Society Halloween Party followed in October.

On January 19, 1953, a pre-inauguration cocktail party was given by the Society for Texans who had come to Washington for the inauguration of President Dwight D. Eisenhower. The Society also sponsored a float for the inaugural parade on January 20, 1953.

Robert B. Anderson of Vernon was named Secretary of the Navy. The Society honored him with a dinner on February 27, 1953. At that meeting, Lyndon B. Johnson, Senate Democratic Leader, was elected president of the Society.

The first function under the new president was a brunch at the Mayflower Hotel honoring the Texas-born President of the United States and Mrs. Eisenhower. The President and the First Lady were presented gold membership cards in the Texas State Society. The card numbers were 100 and 1001, marking the largest membership in the Society’s history. Cabinet members

present included Mrs. Oveta Culp Hobby, Secretary of Health, Education and Welfare; Attorney General Herbert Brownell, Jr., and his Texas-born wife; and Secretary of the Navy Bob Anderson, a member of the "Little Cabinet," with Mrs. Anderson.

Representative Teague was presented by Senator Johnson with a plaque testifying to his distinguished service as president of the Society, Mis Betty Ann Kilday, daughter of Rep. and Mrs. Paul J. Kilday of San Antonio, was named Cherry Blossom Princess of 1953.

The June 1953 barbecue featured entertainment by native Texan Gene Autrey and his Class Country Kids. A coffee party on November 9, 1953 honored Wiley Buchanon, new U.S. Minister to Luxembourg, and Mrs. Buchanon. A pre-Christmas dinner was held at the Press Club on December 12, 1953, and the Texas Congressional Delegation was honored on January 29, 1954, in the Senate Caucus Room.

At the Society's annual business meeting on February 26, Senator Johnson was re-elected president. Miss Nina Maria Korth, daughter of former Assistant Secretary of the Army and Mrs. Fred Korth of Fort Worth, was announced as Texas Princess in the Cherry Blossom Festival. Rep. Wright Patman, a former president of the Society, was presented with a scroll marking his twenty-five years of continuous service in the House of Representatives. Representative Patman was requested to act for the Society in placing a wreath at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier on March 2.

The National Maid of Cotton, Miss Beverly Pack of El Paso, was honored by the Society on May 1, 1954, with a tea dance and style show at the National Press Club. A July 4th concert by the Texarkana High School Band was sponsored by the Society, and the fourth annual barbecue was held on September 25. A Christmas tea dance was given December 22. The customary reception for new members of the Texas Congressional Delegation came January 9, 1955.

1955-1959

The annual business meeting on February 19, 1955 was combined with a dinner of Mexican food brought up from Texas by Fred Catterall of Austin.

Mrs. Dale Miller, who had served as entertainment committee chairman during Senator Johnson's tenure of office was named president. She became the first woman to head the Texas State Society of Washington.

First meeting during Mrs. Miller's administration was on March 2, 1955, when a wreath was placed at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier in honor of Texans who had given their lives in the service. In early April the Texas Princess, Miss Anne Blalock of Marshall, participated in the Cherry Blossom festivities.

On May 1, 1955, the Society held a brunch at the Mayflower Hotel honoring the Speaker of the House, Sam Rayburn, and the Majority Leader of the Senate, Lyndon Johnson with hundreds of members and guests present. The annual barbecue took place on July 9, and a Christmas party was held at the American Newspaperwomen's Club on December 13.

A reception was held on January 8 in the Caucus Room of the Senate Office Building, honoring the Texas Delegation in Congress, at which time a plaque was presented to Senator Johnson by Mrs. Miller in appreciation of his service during his two years as President of the Society. On February 25, 1956, a Frito Mexican Dinner was combined with the annual business meeting at the National Press Club. Mrs. Miller was re-elected President.

The memorial ceremony on March 2, 1956, the Cherry Blossom Festival in early April, with Miss Anne Thomas of Houston as the Texas Princess—and the annual barbecue at Walnut Hill on June 30 were the traditional events of the early months of Mrs. Miller's second term. On October 16 a glittering reception and buffet dinner for Society members was held at the Venezuelan Embassy, hosted by the Ambassador and Señora de Gonzalez.

In January 1957, a reception was held in the Caucus Room of the Senate Office Building, welcoming back the Texas Congressional delegation; and a buffet in the National Press Club auditorium honored visitors from Texas to President Eisenhower's second inaugural. At the annual March 2 observance at Arlington Cemetery, a wreath was laid by former Senator Tom Connally, Senior Past President of the Society, escorted by other former Presidents. Mrs. Miller ended her tenure on March 16, 1957 at a Lone Star dinner, held in the Press Club auditorium for an overflow crowd. She was succeeded as President by Claude C. Wild, Jr., of Austin.

The first event in Mr. Wild's administration was the Society's annual Cherry Blossom festivities when Miss Catherine Cabell resigned as the Texas Princess. On May 7, 1957, the Society honored Texas' newly elected Senator and Mrs. Ralph Yarborough at a reception at the Women's National Democratic Club. Members and guests enjoyed a barbecue and dance at Walnut Hill in July and ushered in the Christmas season with a cocktail dance at Bolling Officer's Club in December.

On February 5, 1958, a dinner honored the Secretary of the Treasury and Mrs. Robert B. Anderson. Several hundred members and guests paid tribute to their fellow-Texan from Vernon in the elegant ballroom of the Mayflower Hotel and were entertained by Miss Alice Lon, the "Champagne Lady" television star from Kilgore. At this function Mrs. Dale Miller was presented a plaque in recognition of her service during two terms as president, by past president Lyndon B. Johnson.

Congressman Jim Wright of Fort Worth laid the Lone Star floral wreath on the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier at the March 2, 1958 memorial service in Arlington Cemetery. The annual business meeting was preceded by a chili supper at the National Press Club on March 18, 1958. Miss Ramona Wire was named Cherry Blossom Princess of 1958 and presented to the membership of the Texas State Society. Mrs. W. Harvey Young of Corsicana was elected President.

Several of the events held during the 1958-59 year under the energetic and able direction of Mrs. Young and Representative Olin Teague, Entertainment Chairman were brand new and extremely popular.

Drawing a record attendance was the State Society's Texas-Alaska Family Picnic and frolic held in Carter-Barron Amphitheater on July 27, 1958. Given to celebrate the newest and "largest," top Alaskans were the guests of honor. Picnic fare, flown up from Texas, was topped off with Eskimo pies.

Members of the Congressional Delegation were welcomed by the society membership at a reception held in the House Committee on Ways and Means Hearing Room in January 1959.

A memorable meeting at the Mayflower Hotel, February 15, 1959, entitled the Texas Heritage Brunch, crowded the main dining room of the hotel to capacity to honor the ambassadors of Spain, France and Mexico, whose flags once flew over land which is now the State of Texas. Two Texans who were establishing history through their joint leadership in Congress, Speaker Sam Rayburn and Senate Majority Leader Lyndon B. Johnson, spoke on the great Texas heritage.

The Ambassadors, in a sense, were being repaid for having an earlier open house of their Embassies to the members of the Texas State Society and royally entertaining the hundreds who made the visit.

Miss Susan Rogers, of Pampa, was introduced as Texas Princess in the Cherry Blossom Festival. In the business meeting that followed the brunch, Representative Jim Wright of Fort Worth was elected President.

Four entertainment functions were held during Congressman Wright's tenure: a convivial dance at the Presidential Arms on June 9, 1959, which was characterized by outstanding entertainment; the annual Congressional Reception, held on this occasion in the new Senate

Office Building which was attended by several hundred members of the Society; choosing on February 2, 1960, Miss Marta Miller of Dallas as Princess of Texas for the 1960 Cherry Blossom Festival; and gathered for a Chili supper at the National Press Club.

1960-1964

The Society's annual meeting, a Sunday brunch at Arlington Towers in March, 1960, was a colorful affair to honor the 50th state, Hawaii. Appropriate island decorations and entertainment made the affair a memorable one. In the business meeting which followed, Mrs. C.P. Cabell of Dallas was elected President.

The first activity of the Society in Mrs. Cabell's administration was a gala dance at the National Press Club on April 6, 1960, during the Cherry Blossom festivities, honoring the Texas Princess, Miss Marta Miller.

On June 5, more than a thousand Texans and their friends gathered at spacious Carter Barron Park for an authentic barbecue, under the supervision of Entertainment Chairman, Mrs. Gib Sandefer. On January 18, 1961, more than six thousand Texans and Inaugural guests from around the world thronged the Statler Hilton Hotel at a reception honoring Vice President-elect Lyndon B. Johnson, a former President of the Society, and Lady Bird. This event was officially listed as part of the Inaugural Program. In the receiving line were the Johnsons, Speaker Sam Rayburn, the Society's President, Mrs. Cabell, and for a time the President-elect of the United States, the Honorable John F. Kennedy, who also came to honor Texas' favorite son. The occasion was by far the largest in the history of any state society in Washington.

The success of this remarkable affair made it possible for the Society, at the Annual Meeting in the Mayflower Hotel ballroom on March 19, 1961, to present to the Speaker of the House a \$1,000 contribution to the Sam Rayburn Library in Bonham, and to Vice President Johnson a similar \$1,000 check as a contribution to some worthy institution of his own choice. The Vice President, in a quiet and moving gesture, endorsed the check over to the Rayburn Library and presented it to the Speaker.

The 1961 Cherry Blossom Princess, Miss Betty Oldham, was presented to the membership during the course of the brunch; and at the brief business session, which closed the meeting; Representative Bob Casey of Houston was elected President for the coming year.

President Casey's administration began with a dinner-dance on May 21, 1961, at Kenwood Country Club, organized by Entertainment Chairman Bob Waldron. Music was provided by the Trinidad Steel Band. The highlight of the evening was the presentation of a beautiful gold charm to all Cherry Blossom Princesses selected since the selections began in 1948, except the two who had already received charms, Miss Susan Rogers, 1959, and Miss Marta Miller, 1960. On each charm was the princess' name, year of selection and a raised map of Texas. In addition of Miss Betty Oldham, charms were presented by President Casey for Misses Wanda Lyle, 1948; Mario Wilson, 1949; Diane Sandefer, 1950; Mary Catherine Kilday, 1951; Mimi Clark, 1952; Betty Ann Kilday, 1953; Nina Maria Korth, 1954; Anne Blalock, 1955; Anne Thomas, 1956; Catherine Cabell, 1957; and Ramona Wire, 1958. Mrs. Gib Sandefer was in charge of all arrangements for the charms, including design.

The next social function of the year was the annual picnic, held at Old Fort Washington Park, Maryland, July 30, 1961. About 500 attending were honored by the visit of the Vice President and Mrs. Lyndon B. Johnson. Numerous door prizes were awarded and the National Park Service conducted special tours of the old Fort.

The annual Congressional Reception honoring the Texas Delegation, held Sunday, February 11, 1962, in the Ways and Means Committee Hearing Room, new House Office Building, drew about 700 members. Vice President and Mrs. Johnson, Secretary of the Navy and Mrs. Fred Korth and most of the Texas Delegation and their wives were present. Music was provided by the U.S. Navy Orchestra.

The Presidential Ballroom of the Hotel Statler provided the scene for the Society's Annual Business Meeting on March 11, 1962. The Vice President and Mrs. Johnson, most of the Texas Delegation and approximately 425 other members of the Society attended the brunch. Vice President Johnson and Secretary of the Navy Korth spoke briefly. The Cherry Blossom Princess for 1962—Miss Lynda Bird Johnson—was presented. President Casey announced the appointment of Mrs. Lyndon B. Johnson as Chairman of a committee to handle the planning and execution of a memorial to Speaker Sam Rayburn. Officers for 1962 were elected, and Mr. Thomas P. Bartle was installed as President. President Bartle's tenure featured some of the most unusual and exciting events in the Society's history. The first was a dance at the National Press Club on June 9th, honoring the Cherry Blossom Princess. Two months later, on August 5, 1962, a festive Barbecue-Round Up at Walnut Hill honored "Texas' No. 1 seafaring cowhand," Secretary of the Navy Fred Korth and his wife, Vera.

Then in the fall, on September 5, members and guests set forth on an "Adventure to the Stars." In cooperation with the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, the Society produced a program in the auditorium of the New Senate Office Building featuring a movie of space flight and a demonstration of space equipment. The fourth entertainment function was the annual reception honoring the Texas Delegation. Hundreds of Texans and guests gathered in the Ways and Means Committee Room of the New House Office Building on Sunday, January 13, 1963, to participate.

On March 17, 1963, six hundred Texans and guests filled the Mayflower Hotel ballroom at the Sunday brunch to honor all living past presidents of the Society. Following an entertainment program, featuring master of ceremonies Morris Frank of Houston and the Catholic University Modern Choir, citations were presented to eleven past presidents: Eugene Black, Dale Miller, Ralph D. Pittman, Tom Pickett, L. T. (Tex) Easley, Olin E. Teague, Mrs. Dale Miller, Claude C. Wild, Jr., Mrs. W. Harvey Young, Mrs. C. P. Cabell, and Bob Casey. Other citations were dispatched to those who could not attend.

The certificates read: "For devoted and untiring service as President, this citation is presented with the sincere appreciation of the members of the Texas State Society of Washington, D.C." Miss Lera Thomas, of Houston, was announced as Cherry Blossom Princess for 1963. And in the business meeting which closed the program, Tom Bartle was succeeded as President by Frank N. Ikard, whose first official act was to present one of the citations to his predecessor.

The first social event arranged by Mrs. J. Anthony Moran, Entertainment Chairman, was a "Swing into Summer Dance" held June 21, 1963 in the Persian Room of the Marriott Twin Bridges Motel. Dance contests, folk singing, and a square dance exhibition were features of the evening.

In September, Society members and their guests enthusiastically boarded the S.S. Texas (locally known as the S.S. Wilson Line) and went "Crusin' Down the River" to Marshall Hall Park for a barbecue served by the Odessa Chuckwagon Gang. A full-fledged hootenanny was held aboard ship and numerous door prizes were awarded. Over five hundred participated in the affair which honored Representative Homer Thornberry, recently appointed Federal District Court Judge for the Western District of Texas.

The Ways and Means Committee Room of the New House Office Building was the scene of the annual reception honoring members of the Texas Delegation. The reception, held on Sunday, January 19, 1964, was attended by 800 Texans.

"Am All-Texas Weekend" provided the finale to President Ikard's tenure in office. On Saturday, February 29, 1964, members of the Society were invited to attend the golden anniversary performance of the Houston Symphony Orchestra at Constitution Hall. The First Lady was Honorary Chairman of the event and along with, Miss Ima Hogg of Houston Miss Lynda Bird Johnson, and Miss Luci Baines Johnson occupied the Presidential Box for the concert. The following day, Sunday, March 1, 1964, over 800 Texans gathered in the beautifully decorated Presidential Ballroom of the Statler Hilton Hotel for the Annual Business Meeting. The Society, joined by members of the Washington Chapter of The University of Texas Ex. Students

Association, honored the "College Coach of the Year," Darrell Royal of The University of Texas Longhorns, who made an inspiring talk and showed a movie highlighting the 1963 undefeated season of the Number One Team in the Nation. Present for the occasion was the President of the United States-Lyndon Baines Johnson.

Miss Victoria Dailey of San Marcos was introduced as Texas Princess for the 1964 Cherry Blossom Festival. The Honorable Everett Hutchinson was elected President of the Society for the coming year, and the meeting adjourned following his presentation of a citation for service to the retiring President.

Under the administration of President Hutchinson, Commissioner of the Interstate Commerce Commission, with Mr. Warren Woodward as entertainment chairman and Mrs. W. C. McGlothlin as vice-chairman, membership reached a high of 1,843. To begin the year, the Society and its members participated in various activities of the 1964 National Cherry Blossom Festival, including a float bearing our 1964 Cherry Blossom Princess, Miss Victoria Ann Dailey, and the members of her court. On behalf of the Society, President Hutchinson presented the princess the traditional gold Texas charm.

In June, 1964, the Annual Spring Dinner Dance was held at the Kenwood Country Club for more than 400 members of the Society.

In August, 1964, uncooperative weather made it necessary to move the barbecue indoors from historic old Fort Washington. More than 500 Society members and their families and guests enjoyed barbecued chicken and the jokes of Texas-born television star, Jimmy Dean. The Society cooperated with the American Hispanic Society in observing Columbus Day which was highlighted by a "capacity crowd" Columbus Day Ball at the National Press Club on October 12, 1964.

1965-1969

On January 6, 1965, the Society presented to the Congress and the people of the United States a full-length bronze statue of Speaker Sam Rayburn. The statue created by world famous sculptor Felix de Weldon, was presented on behalf of the Society by President Everett Hutchinson, dedicated by First Lady Mrs. Lyndon B. Johnson, and accepted by Speaker John W. McCormack. It was unveiled by the Honorable Robert T. Bartley, Mr. Rayburn's nephew. The President, Lyndon B. Johnson, attended the ceremonies in the main hall of the Rayburn Office Building. The Honorable Wright Patman presided.

On January 19, 1965, The Presidential Inaugural Event included a Texas reception at the Statler Hilton Hotel honoring Governor John B. Connally and Mrs. Connally. Press and television of the event was extensive and included the NBC-TV "Today" show. Music was furnished by the Navy Band. The next day, in the Presidential Inaugural Parade, the Star of Texas rode the Texas float which featured a scaled model replica of the LBJ Ranch House.

In February, 1965, the Society sponsored the Dallas Symphony Orchestra's concert in Constitution Hall on the 27th, and the Society held its annual reception for members of the Texas Delegation on the 28th. The reception honored the new Texas members of Congress and was attended by more than 700 Society members and guests. Prior to the Saturday night concert, symphony patrons were guests of President and Mrs. Johnson at the White House at an afternoon reception where Society President Everett Hutchinson presented the President and Mrs. Johnson with gold membership cards signifying life membership in the Society.

A reception honoring the Dallas Symphony patrons was given at the Spanish Embassy by the Ambassador of Spain and the Marquesa de Merry Del Val. There were a number of after-concert parties, one by the Honorable Perle Mesta to compliment the orchestra patrons.

President Hutchinson's term ended at the Annual Business Meeting held at the new Washington Hilton Hotel on March 21, 1965. The highlight of the day for the 900 members who attended was entertainment by Cactus Pryor of Austin, a special guest for the event. The Texas Cherry Blossom Princess, Miss Suzanne Lynn Jones, was introduced in absentia. Members of her court,

Misses Kathryn Burris, Christy Carpenter, Cynthia Sue Carter, Ann Hutchinson, Robin Mann and Polly Westbrook were presented by President Hutchinson and accepted by the mother of the Princess.

President Hutchinson announced that the Executive Board, by unanimous vote had set aside a special fund of \$1,000 to be presented as a gift of the Society to the Lyndon B. Johnson Library at The University of Texas at such time as gifts are accepted.

The meeting adjourned with the introduction of the new President, Mrs. Howard L. Burris, and the presentation to her of a Texas-Under-Six-Flags gavel made from Texas pecan wood. As her first official act, the new President presented to retiring President Hutchinson a citation for outstanding service to the Society.

A sparkling array of events highlighted the term of Mrs. Burris as 1965-66 President of the Society. In April, activities of the National Cherry Blossom Festival were popular with Society members, and the 1965 Texas Princess, Miss Suzanne Jones, reigned over the Texas float, which won First Prize in the parade.

Entertainment Chairman, Mrs. Everett Hutchinson, and her committee opened Society functions for the year with a Buffet-Cabaret Dance at the Bolling Air Force Base Officers' Club on Father's Day, June 20, 1966. Almost 400 Society members and guests enjoyed a Smorgasbord style buffet. Prizes were awarded the oldest and the youngest fathers present. Cherry Blossom Princess Suzanne Jones, who attended the dance with many other young people, was presented by President Burris.

Restored old Fort Hunt, Virginia, was the scene of the Society's Annual Barbecue on August 8, 1965, which honored Edward Clark, Ambassador to Australia, and Mrs. Clark of Austin and San Augustine. More than 1,200 Texans, including many who came from the Lone Star State especially for the occasion, crowded the old Fort grounds and pavilion, feasted on Texas fare of Walter Jetton and danced to country and western swing music. The afternoon featured sack racing, Indian dancers, and a baseball game between teams captained by Congressman Eligio de la Garza and Congressman Richard C. White. Umpires for the game were the Texas beauties who served as hostesses on the 1964 Whistle-stop Train, the "Lady Bird Special."

The winter feature of the year was the annual reception for the Texas Congressional Delegation on January 23, 1966. Nine hundred Society members greeted their Congressmen in the palm-decked cafeteria of the new Rayburn Office. Unique table decorations were fresh fruits and vegetables from the Rio furnished through the courtesy of Congressman Eligio de la Garza.

The administration of President Burris ended on March 20, 1966, when society members honored, for the first time in its history, the wives of the members of the Texas Delegation in Congress. The Texas Fashion Creators Association of Dallas presented a "Discover Texas Fashions" show to a capacity crowd of 900 at the annual spring Business Meeting-Brunch at the Statler Hilton Hotel. With accompanying music by Devron, Mrs. Velma McKee, Executive Director of the Association, described the fashions designed and made in Texas. Favors for the event were furnished by Sakowitz Houston, TFCA, Pangurn's Fort Worth, Texas Highway Department, and Imperial and Holly Sugar Companies.

President Burris reported that during the year membership had reached its all-time high of 2,000. She introduced, in absentia, the 1966 Texas Cherry Blossom Princess, Miss Jill Teague, of College Station. Young ladies selected by the Princess to sit as members of her court on the Texas float in the Cherry Blossom Festival Parade were also introduced. They were Nhses Kathryn Burris, Cynthia Carter, Peggy Pickle, Melinda Pickett, Mary Catherine Rogers, and Ginger Wright.

The meeting was adjourned by the incoming President, Congressman Graham Purcell who presented to Mrs. Burris a certificate of appreciation for outstanding service to the Society. That evening a number of Society members went to Constitution Hall for a concert by the Houston Symphony Orchestra conducted by Sir John Barbirolli.

The National Press Club was the scene of a summer dance and the kickoff of a year of highly successful social activities under the leadership of Entertainment Chairman Mrs. Dale (Scooter) Miller. Mrs. Miller designated Mrs. Howard L. Burris Chairman of the dance.

Mrs. Richard (Kathy) White corralled over 800 Society members and their guests on September 25, 1966, at Carderock, Maryland for an Indian Summer Barbecue. With assistance from Congressman Olin "Tiger" Teague and Kika de la Garza, Mrs. Whit, though faced with wet weather, put on one of the most successful outdoor events ever held by the Society. With excellent vittles, lively music, and an abundance of prizes, the elements of bad weather were quickly forgotten by all who attended.

The Smithsonian Institution's Museum of History and Technology was the scene of a reception in January, 1967, chaired by Mrs. Everett Hutchinson honoring the Texas Congressional Delegation. Over 1,000 Society members attended to honor those who represented Texas in Congress.

President Graham Purcell closed his Administration with the Annual Brunch. Under the direction of Mrs. Horace Busby, the Regency Room of the Shoreham Hotel was filled with the words and music of young and talented Texans who appeared in response to the Society's "Salute to the Campus Generation of Texas." Entertainment included award winning performances by Miss Betty Lynn Buckley of TCU, Miss Lois Summers of Baylor, Mr. Larry Farrar of Southwest Texas State College, the North Texas State University Lab Band, and The University of Texas G.E. College Bowl Champion Team. Cactus Pryor, with tasteful humor and wit, served as master of ceremonies. Miss Kathy Burris was applauded on her selection as the 1967 Texas Cherry Blossom Princess. The meeting was adjourned with the election of the Honorable J. J. (Jake) Pickle as President of the Society for the coming year. Congressman Pickle presented outgoing President Congressman Graham Purcell a certificate of appreciation for outstanding service to the Society.

Under the leadership of Honorable J.J. Pickle and Mrs. Fritz-Alan Korth, Entertainment Chairman, the Society "pointed with pride" to the outstanding achievements of Texans in many diverse fields. On June 25, 1967, members and their families—of all ages—gathered at Smokey Glen Farm in Maryland to salute the Honorable Ramsey Clark and his wife, Georgia, for his notable achievement of following his father the Honorable Tom Clark, to the office of Attorney General of the United States. Hayrides, puppet shows and softball marked this memorable outing as Texans feasted on barbecue and sausage.

To start the fall season, Society members and their guests dined on a midnight breakfast of grits and ham—amid the historic tableaux of Washington's National Wax Museum. Between dances, members had the opportunity to see the animated re-creation of the Battle of the Alamo—or to pose for photographs with the wax likeness of President Lyndon B. Johnson.

In January, 1968, the Society sponsored a showing of paintings and sculpture by outstanding Texas artists in the Pan American Union. The opening day attracted First Lady, Mrs. Lyndon B. Johnson, her older daughter and husband, Captain and Mrs. Charles Robb, as well as Ambassadors to the Organization of American States from many Latin-American countries. Texas painters and sculptors whose works were shown included Otis Dozier of Dallas, Evaline Sellors of Fort Worth, and William Lester, Loren Moseley, Everett Spruce and Charles Umlauf, all of The University of Texas faculty at Austin.

On March 17, 1968, the Society combined St. Patrick's Day and the Hemisfair at San Antonio to present "Mariachis and Mulligan Stew." The guests of honor were the Ambassador of Ireland and Mrs. William Fay. Cherry Blossom Princess Robin Mann was presented to the Society. Musical entertainment was provided by "Las Conquistadores" who were featured Hemis fair entertainers. The occasion saluted Texas A & M University's Cotton Bowl champion football team, and Coach Gene Stallings was the featured speaker. The program concluded with the presentation of the certificate of appreciation to President Pickle by the incoming President, Forbes (Ted) Mann.

As Texans in Washington concluded the years of the Johnson Administration, the State Society chalked up another outstanding year with Forbes Mann as President and Mrs. John H. Crooker, Jr., as Entertainment Chairman. The summer dance on June 14, 1968, honored our Cherry Blossom Princess, Miss Robin Mann, and her court at the National Press Club. An added attraction was a performance by the Ryder High School Chorus from Wichita Falls.

The Annual barbecue on September 7, 1968 at Carderock was planned by Mrs. Wayne Gibbons and featured the delicious food of the Odessa Chuck Wagon Gang. The honoree was the new Texan in the Cabinet, Postmaster General W. Marvin Watson, and Mrs. Watson. Among the members who lent their talents were Scooter Miller, who told fortunes, and Congressman Jake Pickle, who hawked for customers. The grand door prize was two round trip tickets to Hemisfair via Braniff.

A special event was a reception at the Smithsonian on November 17, 1968, in honor of Mrs. Lyndon B. Johnson. The Society presented a 14-foot American holly tree to Mrs. Johnson as a tribute to her role in beautification throughout the country. The Johnson's later planted the tree on the White House grounds as a gift to the American people. Society members and their guests crowded the beautifully decorated hall to greet the President and Mrs. Johnson and to pay tribute to Mrs. Johnson before her return to Texas. Lynda Johnson Robb attended the reception with her parents. Mrs. Jack Hight and Mrs. W. Marvin Watson were Chairmen of this event.

At the reception honoring the Congressional delegation on January 23, 1969, in the Rayburn Building, large poster photos throughout the room provided positions for each member and his family to greet Society Members and mingle and visit with them on an informal basis. Mrs. Willard Dason and Mrs. John Tower were Co-chairs of the Reception.

The annual business meeting-brunch on March 23, 1969, at the Statler Hilton took members on a trip to the moon, with a film narrated by Col. Frank Borman, Commander of Apollo 8. The head table included National Aeronautics and Space Administration officials who had come from Houston for the occasion, Congressman from Texas on the space committee and officers of the Society. The U.S. Air Force Ceremonial Band and color guard and table decorations of large models of the Apollo 8 Saturn rocket designed by Abraham Kazen, Jr. made the occasion memorable and a credit to Co-chairman, Dr. Luther Holcomb and Mrs. Richard Spangler. Mrs. Everett Hutchinson, newly-elected President, presented President Mann with a certificate for outstanding service to the society.

Fort Hunt, Virginia was the scene of the opening 1969-70 function of the Texas State Society on Saturday, January 28th. Serving as Entertainment Chairman, Mrs. Richard White provided in large quantities of barbecue, western music, and a large red fire engine for the children's enjoyment. Billed as the "Gaucho of the Rio Grande" ebullient Congressman Kika de la Garza was Master of Ceremonies and aided in dispensing both good humor and prizes.

Texas Bluebonnet Queen, Miss Ann Lacy Crain, was on hand to draw the number of the lucky youngster winning a Santa Gertrudis calf donated by Dolph Briscoe, Jr. of Uvalde, Texas. Mrs. Everett Hutchinson, Society President, presented the winner, young Lonny Munden, with his calf.

The next event was held on September 20, 1969 at the new Senate Office Building. A buffet supper was featured in conjunction with the Washington premier showing of "Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid."

1970-1975

On January 25, 1970, the Annual Congressional Reception at the Rayburn House Office Building was a great success due to Chairman Celia Hare Martin. There were fresh grapefruit juice from the Rio Grande Valley and a beautiful arrangement of fruits and vegetables graced the table tops.

Texans rounded out their year by honoring outstanding Texas authors. Liz Carpenter shared microphone duties with President Elizabeth Hutchinson for a very entertaining Sunday afternoon. The Texas Agriculture Department, represented by Commissioner John C. White, flew tons of food to Washington for "a taste of Texas" luncheon at the Statler Hilton on March 22, 1970, and the cooking was supervised by Neiman Marcus' Helen Corbitt. The new Cherry Blossom Princess, Miss Gaffney Young, was honored and given a charm in appreciation for representing Texas.

President Hutchinson presented a \$1,210 check for the Lyndon B. Johnson Library in Austin to, Major Charles Robb, who accepted it on behalf of the Family. The gift was set aside in 1965 as an expression of the Society's admiration and affection for President Johnson, who served as President of the Society in 1953. It was announced that the Executive Board, by unanimous vote on March 16, set aside \$1,000 and directed the appointment of a Committee to plan a suitable memorial to President Eisenhower, a life member of the Society and first native Texan to serve as President of the United States. To conclude the program, newly-elected President Wayne Gibbens read the plaque of appreciation to outgoing President Elizabeth Hutchinson.

1970-71 was a fun-filled year under the Presidency of Wayne Gibbens who commuted between Austin and Washington to keep things moving. Mrs. Richard Agnich and Mrs. Abraham Kazen, Entertainment Co-Chairmen, started the year off with a highly successful annual barbecue held June 20th, 1970 at Carderock Springs. With Barbecue Chairmen Mr. & Mrs. Milton Jobe, they planned an afternoon with a Mexican flavor for the 560 guests. Each guest received a souvenir sombrero from the dance troupe, Folklorica Cuicuil from Victoria, Texas, under the sponsorship of Congressman John Young. Good food, western music, an abundance of interesting prizes and unusually pleasant weather all helped to make the afternoon fun for all.

The University Club provided the elegant setting for the Wine Tasting Party given by the Texas State Society on October 21, 1970. The 205 guests were introduced to a fine white aperitif followed by five wines, especially selected for the occasion by a trusted connoisseur. The guests were also offered four kinds of cheese to savor with the wine as well as delicious French sourdough bread flown in for the party from New York. President Wayne Gibbens came up from Austin to take part in the festive evening which appropriately climaxed with the breaking out of champagne.

A very special occasion in the Lincoln Gallery of the Smithsonian Museum marked the Annual Congressional Reception on January 24, 1971.

The National Collection of Fine Arts, which includes some of the Nation's finest paintings and sculpture, unveiled at this reception a heroic marble figure of Lady Macbeth, the last work sculpted by Elisabet Ney before her death in 1907. The Texas sculptor is best known for her statues of Sam Houston and Stephen F. Austin, which stand in Statuary Hall of the U. S. Capitol and in the entrance to the Texas Capitol. Representative Jake Pickle, who was instrumental in having the statue put on display, introduced Mrs. J. W. Rutland, Curator Emeritus of the Elisabeth Ney Gallery, who had flown from Austin especially for the occasion. Newly-elected Senator Lloyd Bentsen and Representative William Archer and their wives were also specially honored. Coffee, punch, cookies and tarts were served as the members of the Texas delegation and their wives greeted the guests.

The Spring Luncheon under the Chairmanship of Mrs. Michael Burns was held on March 21, 1971, at the Sheraton Park Hotel in special honor of Texas' two Cabinet ranking officers, the Honorable John Connally, Secretary of the Treasury, and the Honorable George Bush, Ambassador to the United Nations.

Miss Phyllis George, Denton, Texas' own Miss America 1971, charmed one and all with her lovely appearance, spontaneously friendly words and a piano rendition of Burt Bacharach's "Raindrops." Mr. Gene Fondren, father of the 1971 Texas Cherry Blossom Queen, Brenda, presented tokens of her appreciation to the girls who were to serve on the Texas float. Her sister, Beverly, accepted for her the gold seal charm presented by the Texas State Society. Representative Graham Purcell presented the Richardson High School Concert Choir and their

small group, the Lighter Side, which delighted the guests with their songs. President Wayne Gibbens gave members a brief and amusing glimpse of life in Austin and a special word of tribute to John H. Young, who handled many of the day to day details for him and the Texas State Society. Two By-laws changes were proposed and passed. An increase of \$.50 in membership dues was voted to cover increased costs of mailings. A change in the application procedure was voted, requiring that the applicant give the names of two active members as references rather than requiring their signatures on the application form. The meeting closed with the presentation of a plaque of appreciation to the outgoing President Gibbens by the newly-elected President, Kika de la Garza.

The first event of the administration of the New Society President, Congressman "Kika" de la Garza, was the Annual Picnic, held on June 12, 1971 at Smokey Glen Farm in Maryland. In spite of threatening weather, over seven hundred people turned out for the promised chicken supper. Everyone was given a fifty pound sack of Rio Grande Valley onions and a goodie bag composed of grapefruit and orange juice from the Valley, processed Mexican food from El Paso, as well as other items from across the State. There were games and entertainment to please young and old alike. One of the highlights was a baseball game between the office staffs of Senators Tower and Bentsen.

In the evening of November 13, 1971, the Texas State Society held a Mexican dinner in the cafeteria of the Rayburn House Office Building, complete with music of mariachis, tiny Paper Mache faces with sombreros on the tables, tequila sours, and a full choice of Mexican food. The delicious food was brought to Washington by the El Chico restaurants. The Chairman of the Board, Mr. Frank Cuellar, and Vice President, Willie Jack Cuellar, attended. Liquid refreshments were provided by the Texas Brewers Institute and the makers of world renowned tequila, Tequila Sauza, S.A., Mexico, headed by Mr. Don Francisco. Favors and decorations were also provided by Tequila Sauza, S.A. An overflow crowd reveled in South-of-the Border gaiety. Society President de la Garza was the ebullient host, lending his warm personality, most of his congressional staff, and his entire family to making the party a festive occasion.

The Society's Annual Reception for the Delegation was held at the Cannon House Office Building on January 23, 1971. The President of the State Society was also the Chairman of the Texas Delegation.

The Annual Texas State Society Brunch was held at the Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts on March 19, 1972. The Society presented the Eisenhower Bust by sculptor Felix de Weldon to the Kennedy Center for the Eisenhower Theater. This dedication was the culmination of an effort undertaken by the Society during the 1969-70 administration of President Elizabeth Hutchinson. The invocation was given by the Reverend Edward L. R. Elson, Chaplain of the United States Senate. Following remarks by Mr. de Weldon, the bust was unveiled, dedicated, and presented by Senators Lloyd Bentsen and John Tower, Secretary of the Treasury John Connally, and Society President de la Garza. Mrs. Julie Nixon Eisenhower accepted the statue on behalf of Mrs. Dwight D. Eisenhower and other family members. She shared with the audience a note from her father, President Richard M. Nixon, which read: "Yours is a fitting tribute and justifiable expression of pride in a great son of Texas, who, by his accomplishments, belongs to the world." Following the ceremony, a reception and brunch were held at the Kennedy Center's North Gallery. A fashion show was presented with costumes made from Rio Grande Valley fruits and vegetables, fashioned for use at the annual Texas Citrus Fiesta in Mission. It was followed by the presentation of the Cherry Blossom Princess, Elaine Casey. Those in attendance were also treated to a concert of the Cardinals Singers from Beaumont's Lamar University.

Luther Holcomb was elected President for 1972-73. The opening function of the Society for 1972-73 was the annual barbecue on June 18 at Smokey Glen Farm in nearby Maryland. In spite of a little rain, over 900 people turned out for the family affair. Thanks to the Dallas Chamber of Commerce, the Levee singers provided some very special Texas style entertainment, which the crowd thoroughly enjoyed. A special word of thanks went to Jim Langdon, Kelle Snyder, and the various congressional offices that worked so hard to make the barbecue a success.

The Annual State Society Congressional Reception was held January 21, 1973 in the Ways and Means Hearing Room in the Longworth Building. A brilliant, crisp winter day brought a turnout of over 700 persons, including visitors in town for the inaugural festivities. Nationally known TV news personality Bob Schieffer was master of ceremonies, introducing the members of the Texas Delegation. Mrs. Ardon B. Judd, Jr. served as chairman of the function.

On March 4, 1973 the Society had its Annual Meeting at the Washington Hilton Hotel. George Bush, Chairman of the Republican National Committee, and Robert Strauss, Chairman of the Democratic National Committee were honored. Never before had Texans headed up either of the nations' major political parties, let alone chair both parties at the same time. Dan Rather, CBS White House Correspondent and a native of Texas, served as master of ceremonies. Brig. Gen. Ernest R. Reid of Irving, Texas arranged for the U.S. Marine Honor Guard and Band of Quantico to open the program. Dan Rather called attention to the fact that President Johnson had served as President of the Society during 1954 and 1955. He then called for a silent tribute. Dr. George R. Davis, Pastor, National City Christian Church and long time spiritual advisor and friend of President Johnson, offered the invocation. Miss Penny Tower offered remarks as the 1973 Cherry Blossom Princess. The Chairman of this event was Mrs. James M. Collins.

During 1972-73, Mrs. Willard Deason served as chairman of the membership committee responsible for the Society's 1973 Directory.

Mrs. Abraham Kazen was elected President for 1973-74. Under Mrs. Kazen, and the guidance of her Entertainment Chairman, Mrs. Betty Caraway, the annual picnic was held at Carderock, Maryland. Featured, in addition to the country music, barbecue and fixin's, was the baseball game between the Texas Towers and Bentsen's Bullets. A special attraction was the door prize drawing by the 1973 Texas - Bluebonnet Queen, Miss Linda Crooker of Houston. Over 800 Texans attended.

On October 13, 1973, in the cafeteria of the Longworth House Office Building, more than 800 Texans turned out for a genuine Mexican dinner. Everything in sight was made in Texas by Texans, at El Chico's of Dallas, and flown in especially for the Society. Mexican decorations created a real "South-of-the-Border" atmosphere.

On October 28, 1973, the Governing Board of the National Conference of State Societies awarded the Texas State Society a certificate of "Honorable Mention-Outstanding State Society."

The Caucus Room of the Cannon Building was the scene of the annual Congressional Reception ('Merienda') for the Texas Delegation on January 27, 1974. The convivial Hispano-American flavor of South Texas once again prevailed to the delight of all who took home the edible decorations from the Rio Grande Valley—ruby red grapefruit and fresh vegetables. Another highlight was the style show featuring Qiana designer clothes.

The Annual Meeting of the Society, on March 24, 1974, drew a large crowd that filled the Blue Room of the Shoreham Hotel for brunch. The honoree was Mr. Jack Valenti, former Special Assistant to President Lyndon B. Johnson, and currently the President of the Motion Picture Association of America. Distinguished guests included the Honorable and Mrs. Leon Jaworski of Houston. A lively, topical program was insured by emcee Liz Carpenter, who conducted her own version of an Academy Award presentation, custom-tailored for the Society. The decorative flair of Connie Kazen was again evident with the tables decked out in hand-painted statuettes of all-time movie greats. On this festive occasion it was announced that Miss Linda Crooker of Houston would represent the Society as its Princess for the 1974 Cherry Blossom Festival.

The Honorable Bill Archer was elected President for 1974-75. He selected Juanita Roberts as Entertainment Chairperson. The year's events got underway on June 16, 1974 (Father's Day) with the annual picnic at Smokey Glen Farm in Maryland. Thanks to the fine work of Al Erwin, Director of the State of Texas Office of State/Federal Relations, the over 900 members attending

the picnic were treated to a fun-filled afternoon of barbecue, softball, bingo-and just all-around good Texas fun.

Not to be out-done by the barbecue's success, Mexican Dinner Chairman Bob Vinson put on an affair on November 16, 1974 that brought tears to the eyes of the staunchest of Texans. Some said it was the strength of El Palacio Restaurant's picante sauce-but the general consensus among the 500 or so members attending said it was the overall Texas companionship and flavor of the evening.

The Congressional Reception on January 26, 1975, drew over 450 Society members, and over half of the Texas Congressional Delegation. The Senate Caucus Room proved to be a popular location for the event.

The capacity crowd that filled the Presidential Ballroom of the Statler Hilton for the Annual Meeting had Priscilla Thompson to thank for a memorable luncheon. Highlight of the event was Cactus Pryor,-who in the guise of Sir Gilbert Peake, President of the Texas Society of London, England—victimized and entertained those attending. Distinguished guests for the luncheon included representatives from the Embassies of Great Britain, France, Spain and Mexico. Special entertainment was also provided by the Stratford Spartannaires drill team from Stratford High School in Houston. Madalynn (Lynn) Thompson was named the Society's 1975 Cherry Blossom Princess. Robert E. Waldron was elected President for 1975-76.

The opening event of the administration of the new Society President was the annual picnic at Smokey Glen Farm of June 15, 1975. The arrangements for the occasion were made by the Chairmen—Ken Durr and Hack Hanks—and a great time was had by all. Especially enjoyable was a performance by the "Up with People Troupe," which was arranged by the Society's President.

In August, the Society participated in the dedication of the Lyndon B. Johnson Grove. President Ford, Vice President Rockefeller, Secretary of the Interior Kleppe, and many other dignitaries joined Lady Bird Johnson and the Johnson family at the ceremony.

The fall event was a Mexican dinner held in the cafeteria of the Longworth House Office Building and arranged by Beth Oliver. Mexican food was provided by El Palacio of McLean.

The master of ceremonies, Congressman Kika de la Garza, enlivened the occasion during presentation of numerous door prizes. The group especially enjoyed the dancing of a couple from the Vic Daumit dance studio.

A dance, followed by a midnight breakfast, was held at the Wax Museum on February 21, 1976. Everyone enjoyed the exhibits and dance arrangements made by Susan Perry.

1976-1978

The Annual Meeting and brunch was held at the Statler Hilton on Sunday, April 11, 1976. The Society honored George Bush, former Ambassador to our mission in China and director of the CIA. Miss Kim Oliver was recognized as the Texas Cherry Blossom Princess and was presented the traditional gold charm. The meeting closed with the presentation by Col. George Oliver, on behalf of newly-elected Society President Congressman Richard C. White, of a certificate of appreciation to outgoing President Waldron.

1976-77 was a successful year under the leadership of Congressman White. At the beginning of the year a private finance drive, spearheaded by Ardon Judd, brought the Society treasury to solvency, where it remained.

The annual barbecue was held in June at Smokey Glen Farm and was chaired by Jack Hanks. The delicious food, bingo and square dancing were enjoyed by more than 800 Texans in attendance.

In October, Ted Stautberg chaired the Oktoberfest at the German Embassy. Music was provided by the Oom Pa Pa Band of New Braunfels and German cuisine was featured. The event was a sellout.

The January reception was well-attended by Texans who journeyed to the Nation's Capitol to celebrate the Inauguration and by Texans living in the Washington, D.C. area. Under the direction of Odessa, Texas native Nelda Lee Pool, art by various Texas painters was exhibited throughout the Ways and Means Room in the Longworth House Office Building. Specially honored at the reception were Governor Dolph Briscoe, Senator Lloyd Bentsen, and the many congressmen and others who made up the receiving line. Roy Fausset was the Chairman of this event, attended by a crowd of over 1500.

During the year Priscilla Thompson edited and had published an artful revised Bicentennial directory of the Texas State Society, in loose-leaf form. In addition, President Richard White inaugurated a newsletter to the membership, published Quarterly, and containing news of Texans in Washington as well as coming events.

The annual business meeting and brunch was held in March at the Capital Hilton Hotel. Chairman Don Womack rounded up the entertaining Friendship Fire Company to sing, and Honorable John White, Assistant Secretary of Agriculture, was the featured speaker. Mrs. Lady Bird Johnson was recognized as the first Outstanding Texan, selected by a panel of judges from a number of nominees. An Amendment to Article of the Constitution was proposed and approved to allow annual dues to be fixed by the Executive Board. This change was to permit the Executive Board to set the dues to cover the actual costs of running the Society. Miss Sharon Archer was recognized as the Texas Cherry Blossom Princess and received the traditional gold charm. Outgoing President White was presented a Certificate of Appreciation for his service by the newly-elected President, Col. George S. Oliver.

The year 1977-1978 started with a highly successful barbecue at Smokey Glen Farm on Father's Day, June 19, 1977. The weatherman provided a perfect day, the food was excellent, the beer plentiful, and the companionship was everything a Texan could want. A show was put on by the Bandeleras from Northbrook High School in Houston. Credit and the thanks of the 900 attendees went to John Cope and Joan Studer, who chaired the event.

On August 27 a brief ceremony, followed by a picnic, was held at the LBJ Grove to honor the late President and fellow Texan. Approximately 100 persons, including Mrs. Charles Robb (Lynda Johnson), participated in the occasion.

Members of the Society were invited to attend the commissioning of the guided missile cruiser U.S.S. Texas on September 10, 1977 at Norfolk, Virginia. A sizeable contingent attended this event and the reception which followed. Governor Briscoe and Congressman George Mahon addressed the members.

In October, Bob Waldron and Molly Shulman "honchoed" a Mexican Fiesta at the Pan American Building of the Organization of American States. Some 750 Texans and guests joined the Mexican Ambassadors to the United States and the OAS in an evening of fellowship and South-of-the-Border food.

In January 1978, the Annual Congressional Reception moved from Capitol Hill to the newly opened Neiman-Marcus store in suburban Washington. Marta Ross and Janet Howard were in charge, and approximately 500 turned out to honor the Texas delegation. Miss Sandra Hall, daughter of 1st District Congressman Sam B. Hall, Jr. and Mrs. Hall served as the Society's 1978 Cherry Blossom Princess.

Thanks to the hard work of Betty Mann and Barbara Burris, the Annual Meeting in April proved to be the capstone of a very successful year for the Texas State Society. Some 350 Texans and friends gathered at the Mayflower to honor our retiring Members of Congress. The Dean of the Delegation (and Dean of the House of Representatives) George Mahon of Lubbock, Bob Poage

of Waco, “Tiger” Teague of College Station, and Omar Burleson of Anson attended. Master of ceremonies, Walter Rogers, offered stories old and new.

1978-1979

Charles E. Walker served as president of the Texas State Society in 1978-79. Under his leadership, the officers, executive board and committee members charted “New Directions” for the Society. The changes were designed to foster fellowship for both the older and younger sets of Texans in Washington, at reasonable cost to members - not easy in inflationary times.

The Annual Picnic remained the leading family event, and the sterling committee work of John and Margaret Dalton made the gathering at Smokey Glen on June 18, 1978 a resounding success, with some 1200 on hand. Mike Naeve again arranged for a simple ceremony at the LBJ Grove to commemorate the late President’s birthday. And in November, the first “Country Stomp” rocked the rafters of the Mount Vernon College gym, as 500 Texans and friends partook of Tuscon Cantina’s excellent Tex-Mex, consumed cases of Pearl beer, and danced into the morning hours to the country rock of Delbert McClinton and his Second Wind. Howard Fenton, Ross Stoddard, John Studer, and Carolyn Ek deserved the lion’s share of the credit for planning and carrying out the event.

With the discontinuance of the increasingly expensive Annual Brunch, the Congressional Reception—held in the Cannon Caucus Room on February 14, 1979—became the final event of the Society’s year. It was well attended and well catered with Delegation Dean Jack Brooks introducing Texas Members of Congress.

Alison Hightower, daughter of Congressman and Mrs. Jack Hightower, represented the Society as its 1979 Cherry Blossom Festival Princess.

The Society ended the year with membership up—especially among younger people—and in sound financial condition. Members generally agreed that the “New Directions” were most appropriate and had been effectively achieved.

1980-1981

Under the leadership of Congressman Tom Loeffler, the Texas State Society grew in stature and in size in 1980-81. Loeffler and a dedicated Executive Board provided the impetus and innovation with the Congressional Reception in March, and culminating with the Sunday Brunch held the following March at the Capital Hilton Hotel. Ginger Allen, daughter of H. K. and Raye Virginia Allen was the 1980 Cherry Blossom Festival Princess.

No event captures the hearts and minds of Texas State Society members like the Annual Barbecue. Attended by some 900 persons, the barbecue at Smokey Glen Farm was a crowd pleaser despite cloud bursts that seem to be a tradition on Father’s Day. Plenty of good food and goodtime Texas activities highlighted an afternoon for the families and all Texans, young and old, which came to celebrate.

Congressman Jim Wright presided over the preparations for the Society’s annual ceremony to commemorate the birthday of Lyndon B. Johnson at the LBJ Grove in August, with the able assistance of Mary Jo Cook, and Scooter Miller, whose words at the ceremony were a touching remembrance of the late President.

With the elections in November, the Society’s activities were pushed back on the calendar until December, when the Society hosted a Mexican Dinner Country Western Dance at the Mount Vernon College Gymnasium on December 6. It drew a crowd of over 500 for an evening of Texas-style cuisine prepared by the Tuscon Cantina, and country tunes that would have given Bob Wills reason to celebrate. The dance floor was packed with two-steppers and high-steppers throughout the evening with the only breaks coming when door prizes were announced by Congressman Charlie Stenholm and former Congressman Bob Krueger.

Then in January 1981, the Texas State Society, in conjunction with Governor and Mrs. Clements and the Texas Congressional Delegation, gave a Texas-style welcome to Vice

President and Mrs. George Bush. The “Black Tie and Boots” Inaugural reception, held at the Sheraton Washington Hotel, and featuring the down-home country tunes of the Ray Wiley Hubbard Band, drew 5,000 Texans. A tradition during Presidential Inaugurals, the Texas State Society reception took on added significance because of the Vice President’s ties to the Lone Star State. The occasion was also responsible for a good deal of publicity benefitting Texans in general, and the Texas State Society in particular. President Loeffler topped off the evening’s festivities by presenting the Vice President a full-sized, blown-glass cowboy hat, on behalf of the Texas State Society and all Texans in attendance.

President-elect John Dalton in March added a final note to the year’s activities at the annual Brunch, providing the membership with an accounting of the solid financial condition of the Society, and an overview of a year that marked a significant chapter in the history of the Texas State Society. It was a year of activity and achievement.

Thanks to the hard work of Chairpersons John Cope and Joan Studer MacCartee and their committee, the annual luncheon proved to be very successful.

Approximately 500 Texans and their friends gathered in the Capital Hilton to hear the Honorable Kent Hance relate colorful anecdotes of the Texas Delegation and to recognize the 1981 Cherry Blossom Princess, Angela de la Garza. Mrs. Lady Bird Johnson and Chuck and Lynda Robb were in attendance.

The annual barbecue was again held on Father’s Day, June 21. Craig Hackler chaired this outstanding event which saw over 1,000 members and their families gathered for good food and good fun at Smokey Glen Farm.

In August of 1981, John Cope succeeded John Dalton as President of the Society when the Daltons returned to San Antonio, Texas. On August 27, the traditional commemoration honoring former President Lyndon B. Johnson was held for the first time on Mr. Johnson’s birthday at sunset in the LBJ Memorial Grove. Raye Virginia Allen and Scooter Miller, with the help of their committee members, ensured a lovely service.

In November, Jim Bayless chaired the annual fall event, held for the first time at the Pension Building. The theme was “A Taste of Texas” featuring food from all over the state, outstanding music and beautiful decorations. Thanks to the State Fair of Texas, the large Texas flag provided a suitable backdrop in the huge hall for this gathering of about 1,000 Texans and their families and friends.

As 1981 drew to a close, Waverly Vest and Jan Naylor were completing preparations for a new membership directory. Kenn Goldblatt and Vigui Litman, two of our members, have been instrumental in that effort, as well as the publication of the “Lone Star Link”, the Society’s newsletter.

1982-1983

On January 27, 1982, the Society held its annual reception in honor of the Texas Congressional Delegation at the Office of the State of Texas. Co-chairpersons for that event were Cindy Stenholm and Beth Oliver. An overflow crowd was treated to Texas food and libations.

Featured at the annual meeting on March 7 was the Honorable D. M. Butler, Chairman of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission. During the meeting John Cope was elected to a second term as President of the Society for 1982-83. The 1982 Cherry Blossom Princess was Elizabeth Winston of Houston. Elizabeth is the daughter of the Honorable and Mrs. James A. Baker, III, White House Chief of Staff. Larry Veselka, Chairman of the brunch, closed the meeting with the singing of “Texas Our Texas.”

Historically one of the big highlights of the Society each year is the Father’s Day Picnic. The 1982 picnic was no exception with an overwhelming rambunctious crowd of 900 Texans descending upon the Smokey Glen Farm. Joe Bracewell and John Craddock, Co-Chairmen of

the event, did a tremendous job of ensuring the success of a day of barbecue, entertainment, and Texas fun.

The next traditional event was the ceremony honoring former President Lyndon B. Johnson on his birthday, August 27, at the LBJ Memorial Grove. Many of the President's long-time friends were there to reminisce and add color to the event. Jann Holderman received the well deserved credit for making the afternoon very special for all in attendance.

In keeping with the adventuresome spirit of some of the members, a contingent of nearly 60 rowdy Texans traveled to Baltimore on August 29 on a chartered bus to cheer the Texas Rangers baseball team which was visiting the hometown Orioles. Steve Hudson and Brian Petty co-chaired this new Society event.

November 13 was certainly a memorable day for the membership after Jann Holderman and her committee miraculously converted the Rayburn House Office Building Cafeteria into a Texas cafe. The fall event, the Terlingua Two-Step, featured world champion chili, tamales, guacamole, beer, wine, and all the dancing the boot clad Texans could handle.

During this year, the "Lone Star Link" matured under the leadership of Mary Raether and became a vital communications link between the Society's members. 1982 also saw a highly successful membership drive, which increased the Society's membership by 50%, under the leadership of Dan Matheson and Peggy Stocker.

1983-1984

The Society's year closed with over 600 members of the Society gathering at the annual brunch on March 27 to hear the Honorable Mark White, Governor of Texas, and to witness the presentation of the first annual Texas State Society Service Award to Junita Roberts for her 40 years of service to the Society. This outstanding successful brunch was chaired by Patti Tyson and Linda Rowland. May Lynn Purcell, daughter of the Honorable and Mrs. Graham B. Purcell was introduced as the 1983 Cherry Blossom Festival Princess. The society elected as its new President for 1983-84, Mrs. Rue Judd. The new year began, according to tradition with the annual Fathers Day barbecue at Smokey Glen Farm on June 19. The event attracted a record crowd of some 1,000 Texans of varying ages and sizes for an afternoon of hayrides, horseshoes, chicken and music by the "Dixie Rebels" band. The affair was co-chaired by Fred McClure and Mike Pate.

On July 31, a group of Texans went to Baltimore to see the Rangers play the Orioles. Jann Holderman organized the bus trip, which was a great success except for one thing: the Orioles won.

On August 25, some 70 people braved Washington's high humidity summer for the annual celebration of Lyndon B. Johnson's birthday at the LBJ Memorial Grove along the Potomac. Valerie Frost chaired the event, and her husband, Rep. Martin Frost, D-Dallas, was the master of ceremonies. Former presidential assistant Jack Valenti reminisced about LBJ at the tribute, which drew such prominent notables as House Majority Leader Jim Wright, D-Fort Worth; former Rep. George Mahon, D-Lubbock; Rep. Lindy Boggs, D-La., a close friend of the Johnsons; and former Secretary of Defense Clark Clifford. Lady Bird Johnson sent a message of thanks.

The chief event of the fall season was the second annual Terlingua Two-Step, held on October 29 in the cafeteria of the Longworth House Office Building. Chaired by Sandra Hall, it featured Tex-Mex food from Tucson Cantina, country music by Whisky River and a special appearance by an old favorite of the society, singer Teddy Heard.

The year ended with the annual spring brunch, on April 1, 1984, at which former Ambassador and Democratic Party Chairman Bob Strauss was the speaker, introduced by Rep. Charles Stenholm, D. Stamford. Ann Moody and Tammi Morgan co-chaired the brunch, which attracted some 400 persons. Out-going President Rue Judd said her official farewells, and Scooter Miller introduced the new officers and directors, headed by incoming President Don Womack. The

colorful event also featured the Marine Corps Color Guard and the introduction of the 1984 Cherry Blossom Princess, Linda Rowland, the daughter of Robert and Linda Rowland.

1984-1985

The first event of Don Womack's administration was the Annual Father's Day Picnic. Rob Dickerson and Mike McAdams co-chaired this year's outing which was held at Smokey Glen. Over 1500 Texans gathered in the summer heat to enjoy softball games, bingo, horse rides, hay rides, balloons, a C&W band, food and beer.

In July Carl Rather and Kristi Walseth led baseball fans on a bus trip to Baltimore and watched the Texas Rangers play the Baltimore Orioles.

On August 27 over 50 Texans gathered at the LBJ memorial to honor the memory of former President Lyndon Baines Johnson on what would have been his 76th birthday. This event, chaired by Ann Thornburg, featured Mr. Douglass Cater, a former assistant to President Johnson, as speaker.

During the fall of 1985 Martha Lucero and Jann Holderman, representing the Texas State Society, won over 40 other entries in the National Kidney Foundation's annual Chili Cook-Off. Because of their efforts, \$410 was donated to the Foundation. Jane Oliver chaired an evening of harness racing at Rosecroft Raceway in Oxon Hill, Maryland on November 10. After a buffet dinner, Texans placed their money on their favorite horse in the "Texas Trot" race. A blanket was presented to the winning horse by the Texas State Society. Although everyone may not have left a winner, an enjoyable evening was had by all.

Over 4000 Texans turned out for the Texas State Society's Inaugural Black Tie and Boots Gala which was chaired by Congressman Tom Loeffler.

The Texas State Society received a great deal of media coverage in Washington and Texas. Thanks to the efforts of Larry Meyers, a Longhorn steer was trucked to Washington, D.C. and presented as a gift to Vice President and Mrs. George Bush. The Bush family donated the steer to the Leukemia Treatment Center at M.D. Anderson Hospital in Houston.

Texas Independence Day was celebrated with a Terlingua Two-Step dance chaired Steve Fenoglio and held in the Longworth Cafeteria on March 2. Society members enjoyed an evening of two-stepping and Tex-Mex food.

1985-1986

Hundreds of Society members turned out for the spring brunch and Annual Meeting on April 14, 1985, to hear Congressman Charlie Stenholm and former Congressman Kent Hance dubiously dubbed the "Smothers Brothers from Texas." The duo was in rare form as the crowd warmed to the endless jokes and tall tales. During the elegant Mexican brunch organized by Martha Buchanan Lucero, a mariachi band provided lively dining music. As was the usual custom, the Texas Cherry Blossom Princess was presented to the Society. The 1985 Princess was LuAnn Grace. Texas State Society members elected Patti Birge Tyson President for 1985-86.

Texas fathers and their families took a hike to Virginia for the Annual Texas State Society Father's Day Picnic. Leaving the security of Smokey Glen Farm, hundreds of Texans descended on JR's Festival Lakes on Sunday, June 16, 1986. Garbed in "watermelon eating" T-shirts donated by the Southland Corp., picnickers enjoyed the paddle boats, swimming hole, softball, volleyball, and bingo. The picnic was an enormous success even though the beer ran out early on. JR promised to do better in 1986!

In July, Texans migrated south for a new Society event, the Alexandria Port City Player's production of "Best Little Whorehouse in Texas." As a special treat, playwright Larry King and his wife joined Society members for the event. The award winning author expressed some surprise when the Aggies disrobed after the big game, noting that this was the first time he had ever seen that in any of the dozens of productions of his play. During the intermission, Society

members enjoyed homemade refreshments and punch. Afterwards, the cast mingled through the crowd enjoying much earned accolades for what was a very enjoyable evening.

A busload of baseball fans journeyed to Baltimore to cheer-on the Texas Rangers as the Texas club battled the Os. This was the third year Ranger fans made the trek and this spirit was never better. This no doubt was due to the organization and enthusiasm of coordinator Kristi Walseth who had the “misfortune” to miss the game due to a cycling trip in Paris. The 38 Texas fans enjoyed soft drinks and beer on the bus, which certainly made the 4-2 loss more bearable. The 77th Anniversary of the birth of Lyndon Baines Johnson was commemorated on Tuesday, August 27, 1985. The granite monument was placed in the LBJ Grove where friends and Texans gathered to honor the memory of President Johnson. Event Chairman Ann Thornburg enlisted the help of Rev. George R. Davis, retired Minister of the National City Christian Church and Pastor to LBJ, to give the invocation. Harry McPherson, Jr. gave brief remarks and then, with the help of Mr. Rusty Young, former White House Florist, placed a wreath at the monument.

Over fifty gambling go-getters turned out for the Second Annual “Texas Trot” held at Rosecroft Raceway on November 1, 1985. Co-chairs Becky Mathews and Harry Kelso organized the event which included dinner and betting on the harness-style races. Congressman Charlie Stenholm and Congressman Tom DeLay were on hand to congratulate driver Steve Warrington and Constance Lobell, the official Texas State Society sponsored horse.

The Texas Congressional Delegation was honored on a snowy January evening in the refurbished Cannon Caucus Room. Co-Chairs, Patti Pyle and Drucie Scaling, labored throughout the day to recreate a scene right out of the Lone Star State. An oil derrick, steer’s skull and plenty of red, white, and blue flowers were in the forefront of a large Texas flag and provided just the right setting for the tamale and taco eating crowd. A display of replicas of antique Texas flags reminded Society members of all the Sesquicentennial events planned for 1986.

AT&T hosted a night at the Kennedy Center for Texas State Society members when it brought the Houston Ballet to town and invited Society members to enjoy the January 28, 1986, performance. The evening’s program included a world premiere of “The Miraculous Mandarin.” A post-performance reception had been planned, but was canceled out of respect for the Space Shuttle Astronauts who lost their lives earlier in the day. Food from the canceled reception was donated to a local soup kitchen.

1986-1987

The annual meeting and reception held on April 10, 1986, ushered in the new Texas State Society Board members and officers. Outgoing President, Patti Tyson, bid farewell to the Texas-sized crowd and turned over the reins to Joe Winkelmann. The 1986 Texas Cherry Blossom Princess, Linne Sayers, was presented to the Society members shortly before Congressman Pickle took advantage of the Sesquicentennial year to amuse the crowd with tidbits of Texas history.

Texans in Washington stood taller than ever in 1986 and 1987 — the 50th Anniversary of Texas Independence and the election of Texas Congressman Jim Wright as Speaker of the House of Representatives. Harry Kelso and David Bates not only planned the party atmosphere for the evening, but the business meeting as well, at which a complete bylaws and State Society Constitution revision was adopted (raising concerns that the Society might copy the Lone Star State’s seemingly endless desire to amend the Texas Constitution.)

Vic Driscoll and Dolly McClary put together another bang-up Father’s Day picnic for more than 1200 Texans. Swimming, fishing, hayrides, softball, barbecued ribs and chicken, corn-on-the-cob, and lots of cold beer and sodas kept the crowd in great spirits throughout the day. Our Summer commemoration of the birthday of President Lyndon Johnson brought a loyal and dedicated gathering to the LBJ Grove on the Potomac. Ivan Sinclair chaired the event with the Spirit only an ol’ LBJ Staffer could muster.

Another commemoration of our proud Texan past took place far from both Potomac and Pedernales, in a fitting tribute to the man who made Texas Independence possible. Representatives from Texas, Tennessee and Virginia and from the Cherokee Nation gathered at Sam Houston's birthplace in Lexington, Virginia to dedicate a 38,000-pound Birthplace "marker" made of pure Texas Hill Country Granite. George Bristol, Chairman of the Texas Conservative Foundation, provided the huge pink granite marker, and teamed up with Charles Schnabel, Don Kennard, Jann Holderman, Martha Lucero, Jane Oliver and Barbara Bauman to organize the four-hour trek to the dedication.

Even folks who have lost their drawl learned to say "Sesquicentennial" with a back-home accent, as events through the year build up to the State Society's Texas-sized 150th Birthday Celebration at the Washington Hilton, where Charlie Pride, the Maines Brothers, and Jerry Jeff Walker entertained for thousands of Native and Wish-They-Were-Native Texans.

The 150th Birthday Blowout, celebrating the theme "Deep in the Heart of Texas", featured Texas beer, Mexican food, German food, Texas barbecue, chicken-fried steak (complete with cream gravy and black-eyed peas), and Texas-shaped pralines from Abilene to go with the C&W entertainment, all organized to a fare-thee-well by Rep. and Mrs. Charlie Stenholm, and Lois & Art Auer.

The entire Texas Delegation turned out—along with a packed Cannon Caucus Room crowd of more than 800—to honor newly sworn-in Speaker Jim Wright. Drucie Scaling and Patti Pyle chaired the gala Salute to the Speaker which featured Tex-Mex food, mariachi entertainment, and 400 yellow and red roses from Tyler. To climax the evening, Texas State Society President Joe Winkelmann introduced Wright, who was presented with two mementos of his election as Speaker. House Doorkeeper James T. Molloy presented the Speaker with the American Flag that had hung over the House Chamber when Speaker Wright was elected, and Bill Stinson of Lubbock presented Wright with the Texas State Flag which had flown over the Capitol Building in Austin on the day of the Speaker's election.

Raye Virginia Allen organized the Smithsonian Institution's tribute to Texas' first 150 years—a lecture series entitled "Conversations with Texans". Lynda Bird Johnson, Admiral B. R. "Bobby" Inman, UT President William Cunningham, Liz Carpenter, Texas Folklife Resources Director Patricia Jasper, and Dallas' own Stanley Marcus were featured in the series. The Texas State Society participated in the Smithsonian program, hosting a dinner honoring Mr. Marcus prior to his lecture, entitled "From Open Range to Fashion Runway: Texas Style, Texas Chic".

Membership boomed under the leadership of Ann Thornburg, who installed the State Society's first computer membership system (that actually works!). The Lone Star Link went to hundreds of new members and Editor Pat Fortune introduced a lively new column on Texas New Notes—about ever-notable Texans, of course!

The Rangers-Orioles baseball game trip organized by Janice Gregory and the Texas Night at Rosecroft Raceway planned by Becky Mathews maintained the Texas State Society's "Pay-as-you go" and Sesquicentennial Year ended on better financial footing than it started, a very good year indeed.

1987-1988

Following the induction of the new slate of officers headed by Jann Holderman at the annual Cherry Blossom reception in April, the Society began an exciting year of events. The first was the traditional Father's Day picnic. Chaired by Ivan Sinclair and assisted by Kerrill Kornegay, the picnic site was moved to Potomac Valley Lodge in Poolsville, Maryland, where we were able to have our first golf and tennis tournaments as well as an Olympic-size pool.

Over 1100 Texans attended and feasted on BBQ chicken, western music and, of course, bingo—Texas style, i.e. more prizes than players!

During the summer Bob Mansker led us to Baltimore by bus for the annual Texas Rangers vs. Baltimore Orioles game. This time we won!

Ivan Sinclair and Ann Thornburg co-chaired the annual LBJ birthday memorial tribute where our speaker, Lynda Johnson Robb, addressed over 60 Texans.

In the fall, Henry Candy and Wynne Harris put on one of the best Terlingua Two-Step events ever at the Sheraton Washington which featured Jerry Jeff Walker, the Maines Brothers and Roseanne Cash. About 1300 two-steppers attended and cotton-eyed Joed the night away.

Our annual visit to Rosecroft Raceway was coordinated by Kerrill Kornegay and about 100 gambling Texans followed the lead of Cindy Stenholm to fortune—pure luck!

In the winter we had our first-ever Texas Book Fair and conducted it in a brunch setting at the Hyatt Capitol Hill in honor of past presidents. About 10 past presidents and 300 long-time Texans living in Washington came to buy books courtesy of Trovers and hear Liz Carpenter speak. Sharon Seagraves chaired the entire event with true Texas style and grace.

The annual Congressional reception was chaired by Jill Collins and Congressman Ralph Hall in the Cannon Caucus Room with over 500 Texans in attendance. Special thanks to Heublein, makers of Jose Cuervo Tequila, for sponsoring this reception.

1988-1989

The 1988-1989 Texas State Society year began with the State Fair of Texas coming to Washington and concluded with the grandest Black Tie and Boots Gala in our history. Under the leadership of Congressman Charles Stenholm, '88-89 president, the membership of the Society increased to over 2600.

Our Annual Meeting was themed “State Fair of Texas Comes to Washington” and the event, held at the Department of Agriculture, featured a variety of State Fair foods. Introduced at the festive reception was our Cherry Blossom princess, Maria Eleanor Korth, daughter of Penne and Fritz-Alan Korth. Chairing the event were Drucie Scaling and Patti Pyle.

Another spring event was our reception honoring Lady Bird Johnson at the Botanic Garden. Held in conjunction with a week of Washington activities marking Lady Bird's 75th birthday, the beautiful party benefitted the National Wildflower Center in Austin, founded by Mrs. Johnson in 1982.

Congressman Mike Andrews and Kerrill Kornegay chaired the Father's Day picnic at Potomac Valley Lodge where over a thousand TSS members enjoyed great barbecue, golf, tennis, swimming and terrific door prizes. In July, Bob Mansker organized our annual trek to the Texas Rangers-Baltimore Orioles game. Horace Busby, advisor to President Johnson, was the featured speaker at the LBJ Birthday Tribute which was organized by Pat Fortune. And, the Texas Trott at Rosecroft Raceway in October saw TSS members enjoying the night at the races and a good buffet, too. Rob Anderson was the chair for that event.

In November we got together with the Minnesota State Society at the Crystal, Gateway Marriott Hotel to party and watch the Cowboys-Vikings football game. Matt Brockman organized the party and arranged for Cowboys souvenirs as door prizes. In conjunction with the National Museum of Women in the Arts exhibition of Texas Artists, a special reception for TSS members was hosted at the museum by the Southland Corporation. Former TSS president Elizabeth S. Hutchinson, museum board member, and Patti Pyle coordinated arrangements.

On January 21, the Society hosted the unbelievable Black Tie and Boots Gala at the Washington Hilton Honoring President and Mrs. George Bush. Special guests included longtime TSS member and co-chairman of the Bicentennial Presidential Inaugural Committee, Penne Korth, Secretary of State James Baker, Secretary of Commerce Robert Mosbacher, plus Hollywood celebrities and over 6,000 guests. Featured entertainers were country stars Steve Wariner, Jerry Jeff Walker, Johnny Rodriguez, and Jody Nix and the Texas Cowboys. Taking the enormous task of chairing the event were TSS president Charles Stenholm, Don Womack, Mike Hudson

and Jann Holderman. The party was publicized throughout the country and was featured on every network newscast. It was truly “the” event of the Inaugural week.

1989-1990

Molly Mitchell and Fred McClure chaired the Congressional Reception in the Cannon Caucus Room in February. Our sponsors were Heublein and the Big Texan Steak House of Amarillo and nearly 1200 members and guests jammed the room. New Officers for 1989-1990, including Molly Mitchell as President, were elected at the Annual Meeting which was held in the Hyatt Regency. Lori Rogers of Congressman Tom DeLay’s office served as Chairman, of the event. Following the business meeting, a buffet was served around a large replica of the Washington Monument. The Texas State Society’s Cherry Blossom Princess, Stacy DeLisle Winkelmann was presented.

In June, Texans gathered again for the annual Father’s Day Picnic at Potomac Valley Lodge. The event, chaired by Congressman Albert Bustamante and Joe Bracewell, drew over 1000 people to enjoy golf, tennis, softball, bingo and barbecue.

August brought Texans out again. Bob Mansker chartered buses filled with refreshments and took a group to the Baltimore Orioles/Texas Rangers baseball game. On August 27, Robert Hardesty, former Special Assistant to President Lyndon Johnson and the President’s grandson, Lyn Nugent, addressed those who gathered for the Lyndon B. Johnson birthday celebration. Lyndon Boozer and Alisa Malechek co-chaired this successful event.

In September, the Sheraton Washington Hotel’s ballroom was transformed into a Texas dance hall for the Society’s autumn event, the Terlingua Two-Step. Party chairs, Jill Collins and Congressman Charles Wilson put together an evening of brisket, fajitas and tacos all enjoyed to the sounds of Alvin Crow and The Pleasant Valley Boys.

1990 began with an evening at the Kennedy Center for a performance of “A Tuna Christmas.” The sequel to the long-running comedy hit Greater Tuna, kept Texas State Society members laughing and reminiscing about Texas. Following the show, Oryx Energy Company hosted a party for the cast and Society members attending the show.

In February, Congressman Lamar Smith and Michael Keeling organized the Congressional Reception that drew nearly 1500 Texans. Again, Heublein, Inc. sponsored the reception through their generous contribution of beverages for the evening.

1990-1991

Miss Sharon Elizabeth Clark was honored as the 1990 Texas State Society Cherry Blossom Princess at the Annual Meeting and Reception in April. Congressman Greg Laughlin and Lois Auer organized a wonderful “Texas Two-Steppin’ at Teatime” reception in the atrium of the U.S. Department of Agriculture Administration Building. Texas food and music added to the delightful evening after Mike Hudson was elected President.

Again, Congressman Albert Bustamante and Joe Bracewell co-chaired the Father’s Day Picnic at Potomac Valley Lodge. A record crowd enjoyed the many activities and a feast of good Texas-style barbecue.

On July 26, the Texas State Society joined with the Texas Breakfast Club to honor Texas’ own Sarah McClendon on her 80th birthday. After recalling her years at White House press conferences, Congressmen Jake Pickle, Jack Brooks, Ralph Hall, Charlie Stenhohn, Albert Bustamante, Dick Arme, Steve Bartlett and Greg Laughlin had their turns roasting her. She was presented with a Congressional plate, and a dedication honoring her for “her untiring commitment to champion the plight of the many without public voice.”

In honor of former President Lyndon Johnson’s birthday, more than 50 friends and members of the Society gathered at the LBJ Memorial Grove on Sunday, August 26, 1990 to celebrate. Dr. George Davis, pastor to the former president, opened the afternoon with an invocation. Harry J. Middleton, director of the LBJ Library at The University of Texas at Austin spoke fondly of his

years with President Johnson and shared many remembrances. Event chairman Lyndon Boozer, along with his volunteers, served lemonade, cookies and watermelon at a reception following the celebration.

The fall was highlighted by the Terlingua Two-Step Rodeo Dance on October 12. The daughter of legendary Hank Williams, Jett Williams, and the Drifting Cowboys Band set the tone for a night of dancing and a complete Tex-Mex buffet. Co-chairs Jill Collins and Ann Thornburg coordinated this terrific function.

1991-1992

1991 began with the annual Congressional Reception drawing over 1000 Texas State Society members gathering in the Cannon Caucus Room to honor the Texas Congressional Delegation. This event was made possible by the generous support of Heublein, Inc. and Miller Brewing Company. The co-chairs for the event were Congressman Bill Archer and Congressman Pete Geren.

In April, Lia Lucero was honored as the 1991 Cherry Blossom Princess at the Annual Meeting and Reception at the Ritz Carlton Hotel, Pentagon City. Patti Pyle and Barry Williamson planned this wonderful event. Following the election of Ann Thornburg as President and introductions of Lia, guests enjoyed fajitas and other Tex-Mex fare as they celebrated another Cherry Blossom season.

On June 11, the Society helped kick off the Texas Festival at the Kennedy Center, a two week festival celebrating the vast cultural offerings of the State, with an evening of the American Film Institute's showing of "Giant" in the Eisenhower Theater. After the movie, guests enjoyed Texas barbecue and Texas dancing on the Roof Terrace level.

Congressman Tom DeLay, Tiffany Gleason and Tina Blanton organized a most successful Father's Day Picnic at Potomac Valley Lodge in Poolesville, Maryland. It drew more than 1500 members for a day of softball, golf, tennis, bingo, barbecue and great door prizes.

Over 45 Texans braved the summer heat to attend a Texas Rangers/Baltimore Orioles baseball game on August 15. Dave Mason rounded up these faithful fans, loaded them in a bus filled with refreshments and headed to Baltimore to watch the Orioles beat the Rangers 9 to 2.

Then, on August 27, about 75 LBJ and Texas State Society loyalists had the great privilege of hearing honored guest Dale Miller share his fondest remembrances of our former President. The celebration of Lyndon B. Johnson's 83rd birthday included a presentation of the colors by the Army Color Guard, taps by a Navy bugler, and the invocation by Dr. George Davis, long-time pastor to LBJ. Chairman of this event, Lyndon Boozer, and co-chairwoman, Gwen Moore, had welcome refreshments of cookies, lemonade and watermelon waiting for guests after the ceremony.

Finally, on October 12, was the event everyone had been waiting for. Nearly 600 Texans turned out at the Sheraton Washington Hotel for an evening of two-steppin' to the Front Porch Swing band and chili supper with all the fixins'. The hotel ballroom was transformed into a Texas Chili Parlor complete with red and white tablecloths, plenty of chips, hot sauce and beer. No guest left empty handed, as white cowboy hats were given to each person, and so ended 1991.

1992-1993

A salute to the Texas pecan took place on the Capitol grounds the first week in February. The planting of an 18-foot Pawnes Pecan tree, grown in Texas by the U.S. Department of Agriculture, was organized by Brownwood businessman Groner Pitts and Congressman Charlie Stenholm. The tree was designated as an official tree representing Texas by the Capitol Architect.

Also in February was the lively annual Congressional reception for the Texas Congressional Delegation in the Cannon Caucus Room. The reception drew record crowds as folks consumed Mikeska's barbecue of El Campo and enjoyed the music of the Texas musical icon Willie

Nelson. Chairwomen Tina Blanton and Tiffany Gleason did a superb job organizing this Texas State Society traditional event.

On April 9th, the Annual Meeting and election of the Texas State Society Officers and Board for 1992-1993, including Joe Bracewell as President, and the reception honoring the Cherry Blossom Princess, was held at the Ritz-Carlton in Pentagon City. Miss Rachael Anne Reeder, daughter of longtime member Joe Reeder, was honored as the 1992 Princess. Thanks to Chairwoman Jill Collins, the meeting and reception were delightful.

Larry Meyers and Billy Moore kicked off the spring/summer on May 14 with a Spring Book Fair at the Botanic Gardens on Capitol Hill. The event saw several Texas publishers and authors promoting their wares over sips of Texas wines that were served.

Thanks to co-chairs Congressman Greg Laughlin, Congressman Sam Johnson, Tom Sellers, Brenda Fleming, Jim Greenwood, and Lesley Gilbert, the Annual Father's Day Picnic, held at Potomac Valley Lodge Picnic Area, was big fun. The weather was unseasonably cool, but nevertheless there were more than 1500 Texans, over 60 corporate sponsors and 14 Congressional participants. With barbecue chicken-n-trimmings, plenty of face painting, softball and dancing to the Dixie Rebels, there was not "down" time.

Over 80 people were on hand August 27 to honor the 36th President of the United States, Lyndon Baines Johnson, on his 84th birthday including his daughter Lynda Robb and her husband, former LBJ Chief of Staff and former Congressman James R. Jones. Thanks to the planning by Lyndon Boozer, everyone had a delightful afternoon.

On September 14, the Texas State Society voted John Howard to provide his able assistance as General Counsel. Laure McLaughlin provided great fall festivities with the first annual Tailgate party. What a way to start the Southwest and Lone Star Conferences. The October event, held at Jones Point Park in Alexandria, featured a scrumptious chili cook-off between numbers of Texas schools. Hats off to A&M Univ. Alums. Prairie View - they won!

In January, Joe Bracewell and his team of volunteers kicked off the New Year with an unforgettable Black Tie & Boots Inaugural Ball honoring the Secretary of Treasury Lloyd Bentsen at the Washington Sheraton. Four autographed and beautifully framed prints by Texas artist G. Harvey depicting scenes of Washington were given to Secretary Bentsen for display at the U.S. Treasury in honor of his distinguished service to Texas and the nation. Six thousand guests gathered to hear the sounds of Mark Chestnutt, Holly Dunn, Marcia Ball, Asleep at the Wheel, Michael Marin Murphy and the Front Porch Swing Band — and await the give-away of a red, fully-loaded Ford F-150 pickup converted to use natural gas. It was a night to remember, and remains the most sought after Inaugural Ball ticket.

In February, the annual Congressional Reception was, as always, an enjoyable opportunity to honor our Texas Delegation and celebrate the 200th anniversary of Sam Houston's Birthday. Co-chairs Lois Auer and Kerrill Scrivner had Mikeska's barbecue flown up from El Campo and indulged us with margaritas, Texas trimmings, and a special birthday cake.

Ashley Coffman was welcomed as our 1993 Cherry Blossom Princess at our Annual Meeting and Cherry Blossom Reception on April 1. Chairpersons Charlotte Cope and Nichole Jenkins organized this lovely reception at the Ritz Carlton Pentagon City and treated us to sounds from the Tyler Jazz Ensemble and entertainment troupe "Harmony and Understanding" from Tyler Junior College. Congressman Ralph Hall introduced the group and participated in the festivities. At the preceding annual meeting, Kerrill Scrivner was elected President and a new slate of officers and board members were approved.

In May, Prairie View's winning chili recipe competed against the Arkansas State Society at the National Kidney Foundation Chili Cookoff. Thanks to Texas State Society chefs Roy Brooks, Amanda Bullard, Tina Blanton and Laure McLaughlin, the Texas chili was declared the winner and left the razorbacks squealing.

Potomac Valley Lodge was again the setting for our annual Father's Day Picnic. Picnic Chairpersons Congressman Sam Johnson and Brenda Fleming and co-chairpersons Congressman Ralph Hall, Lesley Gilbert and Nick Nicolai did a terrific job of putting together a day of games, door prizes, country and western dance lessons and contest, and a barbecue feast.

Through the efforts of Lyndon Boozer and Grover Bynum, the Texas State Society served its first Texas Wine Dinner on June 26 at the City Club. The four course menu was prepared from recipes of the chefs from four outstanding Texas restaurants. Special guest speakers for the evening were Ms. Sarah Jane English, well-known author and speaker on food, wine and travel and Ms. Susan Auler, owner of Fall Creek Vineyards.

Marcia Ball, one of the finest rhythm and blues entertainers, came back by popular demand to entertain Texans at our first "Texas Blues Night in Washington." This fabulous event, coordinated by Zelda Shute and Chino Chapa gave Texans a chance to both sit back and enjoy the blues band and dance to some great sounds.

Bill Shute organized the terrific outing to Camden Yards to watch the Texas Rangers play the Baltimore Orioles. The bus trip provided cool relief from one of the hottest nights of '93 with ice cold refreshments and each TSS ticket holder receiving a Rangers baseball cap.

The Honorable Fred Korth spoke at our LBJ birthday celebration on August 27 relating stories of his days as the Secretary of the Navy under President Johnson. Ann Howard provided delicious home-baked cookies and refreshments for the 75 guests, including Lynda Robb, who came to pay tribute to our 36th President of the United States.

October was a busy month with three terrific events. Our second annual Tailgate party was once again a hit with more than 300 alumni of Texas schools competing to make the best pot of chili. Organizers Amanda Bullard, Tom Sellers and Laure McLaughlin made sure there was plenty of food and cold beer to cool the palate.

Noted Texas author Jane Roberts Wood joined us at the U.S. Navy Memorial to sign copies of her latest book *Dance a Little Longer*. Chairpersons Roxanna Burns and Ann Thornburg had her other two books *A Place Called Sweet Shrub* and *The Train to Estelline* on hand as well. A delicious buffet was served to complement this lovely evening.

We concluded our 1993 events with the spectacular Terlingua Two Step featuring one of the hottest names in country music, Lee Roy Parnell. He thrilled our 500+ guests with his music until 2 a.m. Chairpersons Jill Collins and Jay Neel made us feel like we were back in Texas by providing a feast of Texas chili and ice cream sundaes.

1993-1994

TSS kicked off 1994 with the Annual Congressional Reception which was held on February 23, 1994. Chairman of the event Jim Greenwood rounded up over twenty Texas Congressman as well as Senator Kay Bailey Hutchison to participate in the festivities. As usual the Cannon Caucus room was packed. Valero Energy, Heubelein and Jose Cuervo were proud sponsors of the event.

On Thursday, April 7, 1994, over 150 Texans gathered at the Pentagon City Ritz-Carlton for the Texas State Society's Annual meeting and Cherry Blossom Princess Mary Laughlin was in attendance along with her proud parents Greg and Ginger Laughlin and brother Brad. Roxanna Burns and Lea Ann Edwards both did outstanding jobs of coordinating events in conjunction with the Cherry Blossom festivities. Their months of hard work sure did pay off.

Before the reception, Board Member Joe Bracewell announced the new TSS Officers and Board Members for 1994-1995: President Jim Chapman; First Vice President-Tina Blanton; Second Vice President Larry Meyers; and Historian-Jennifer Young. The new Board Members included Amanda Bullard, Lesley Gilbert, Bill Griffin, Kay Bailey Hutchison and outgoing TSS President Kerrill Scrivner.

Go Rangers Go!!! On April 9, 1994, Event Co-Chairs Kate Roberts and Bill Shute organized a group of 55 Texans to travel down to Camden Yards to cheer on the Texas Rangers. Since 1994 was the year of the Baseball strike this was the only opportunity Texans had to see the Rangers in action.

On Sunday, June 19, 1994, TSS held their annual Father's Day Picnic at Potomac Valley Lodge. Thanks to Co-Chairmen Congressman Ralph Hall, Congressman Henry Bonilla, Greg Bosworth, Nick Nicolai, Steve Ruhlen and Ed Bullard the picnic was a big success. Over 1200 Texans braved the hot weather just to attend this annual Texas/Washington D.C. tradition.

August 27, 1994, the LBJ Birthday Tribute was held. Approximately 75 Texans attended the Saturday afternoon celebration including Lynda Johnson Robb her husband Senator Chuck Robb and their family. Chairwoman Tina Blanton made this event a big success as well as a wonderful tribute to LBJ.

On September 27, 1994, "A Salute to Congressman Jake Pickle" was held in the courtyard of the Rayburn Building. The theme was "This is Your Life" and focused on Congressman Pickle's year when he was the President of TSS. Texans took over and made the Rayburn Courtyard their home. A life size Texas flag hung from the rafters for all to see along with a 30 x 40 inch poster of Congressman and Mrs. Pickle. Many friends of Congressman Pickle came to this exciting event including Congressmen from Texas and other states, as well as Senator Kay Bailey Hutchison and Secretary of the Treasury Lloyd Bentsen. Thanks to Co-Chairs Kerrill Scrivner and Tina Blanton, the night was a great success and a fitting Tribute to Congressman Jake Pickle.

On September 30, TSS hosted Jerry Jeff Walker at the Barns of Wolf Trap. Chairwoman Lesley Gilbert made sure everyone kicked up their boots and danced the night away. The combination of Jerry Jeff Walker's performance, the atmosphere of the Barns and the wonderful food from Tortilla Coast made for an outstanding event. Hats off to Lesley Gilbert for all her hard work.

The Texas Tailgate Party was held on October 1, 1994 at Jones Point Park in Alexandria. The weather was absolutely gorgeous.

Several Southwest Conference teams competed fiercely for the title of "Best Chili by a Southwest Conference School." At the end of the day Trinity University was declared the overall winner.

1995

February 23, 1995, the Congressional reception was held and Jim Greenwood was the Chairman. The event was held once again in the Cannon House Office Building. Many members of the Texas Delegation were present to welcome the old and new members of the Texas State Society. In good ole' Texas fashion, a Country Western Band was on hand to entertain the crowd.

Shannon Davis was the Chair of the 1995 Annual Meeting and Election of Officers. It was held on May 10, 1995 at the Mexican Cultural Institute and it was the perfect setting for a fun-filled evening. Keeping with the theme of the evening Continental Airlines generously donated two round trip tickets to Mexico that were raffled off that evening.

Before the meeting, the new officers for the 1995-1996 year were introduced: President-Tina Blanton; First Vice President-Larry Meyers; 2nd Vice President-Jim Greenwood; Treasurer Kate Roberts; and Secretary-Katherine Graham. The new Board Members included Congressman Jim Chapman, Debra McKeown, Bianca Penalver, Amy Sellers, Kyle Simpson, Jack Walton, and Amanda Bullard.

The Annual Father's Day Picnic was held once again at Potomac Valley Lodge on June 18, 1995. Chairman Tina Blanton and Ed Bullard did a great job of introducing lots of new activities that were well accepted by all. The "Texas Train" took families across the field to participate in bingo, softball games and other fun activities.

Children were able to have their pictures taken with their dads and turn the photos into buttons that all the proud dads could wear. The rain tent helped to keep everyone cool and comfortable.

LBJ's Birthday Celebration was held on August 26, 1995 at the LBJ Memorial Grove. Debra McKeown was the Chairman. Larry Levinson, former Deputy Special Counsel to LBJ was the featured speaker. Approximately 75 people were in attendance, many of which were friends or fellow employees of LBJ. Schlotzsky's Deli generously contributed a Texas-size lunch.

The Chili Cook Off was held again at Jones Point Park in Alexandria on October 7, 1995 and chaired by James Johnson and Jan Veeder. Prizes were awarded in the following categories: University of Texas Pan American was the overall winner and won 2 round trip tickets on American Airlines; Southwest Texas' Chili won the award for "best showmanship"; Rice University—"hottest" chili; and University of Texas at San Antonio—"most unusual" chili. Overall the event was a big success with over 12 Texas universities participating.

The TSS ended 1995 with a holiday celebration. Members of the TSS attended the Opening Night Performance of "A Tuna Christmas" held at the National Theatre and a post-performance reception was held in the Helen Hayes Gallery. The 1995 Tony Award nominee, Joe Sears, attended the reception. As usual the show was a delightful experience thanks to Chairpersons Roxanna Routten and Ann Thornburg who established a new meaning of Christmas in D.C.!

1996

TSS started the Leap Year on the right foot, with the Annual Congressional Reception on February 29. The Cannon Caucus Room was packed with Texans there to mix, mingle, and munch on the Tex-Mex food scattered around. Event Chair Jim Greenwood reported almost 750 sign-ups for TSS membership.

More than 180 Texas State Society Members turned out for the Annual Meeting on May 17 to elect Larry Meyers President. Chair Amy Whittenton and her assistants, Jennifer Brown, Roxanna Routten and Lesley Gilbert created a wonderful atmosphere with great food and delightful classical music by Crystal Springs.

Bianca Penalver arranged for a day at the ballpark in April. The Texas Rangers played the Orioles in Baltimore on a bright but chilly Saturday afternoon. Luckily Ranger bandanas had been arranged as favors ... by the end of the game they were turned into parkas and long pants.

The weather was perfect for the Annual Father's Day Picnic at Potomac Valley Lodge. Chairman Rick Meyers, the picnic committee and the volunteers did a fantastic job for the 700 who attended. There was bingo, softball, golf, volleyball, and a rain tent to provide fun for all ages. The door prizes and dance contest provided entertainment for those who chose to stay in the shade of the Pavilion.

The TSS again hosted an LBJ Birthday remembrance ceremony in August at the LBJ Memorial Grove. Leonard Marks, Director of the U.S. Information Agency in the Johnson White House, shared a great deal of interesting history with the 75 members in attendance. Chairman Alisa Sell did a wonderful job of arranging this annual tribute to LBJ.

In October, Jim Greenwood and Shannon Davis worked on presenting a Texas-style "THANKS, PARTNER!" to TSS sponsors at a Sponsor Appreciation Luncheon at Tortilla Coast. The Board expressed their appreciation and gratitude to the corporate sponsors of the Society's events and gave a sneak preview of the excitement that the Black Tie and Boots Inaugural Ball would have in store. This duo also pulled off another new event — the "Congressional Roundup" — which was held for staffers from Texan congressional offices. This event was a great social happy hour, allowed board members and sponsors to get to know the younger members, and also was a great membership recruitment tool. Prizes were given for the office with the most staff attending.

1997

The big event of the year was the incredible Black Tie and Boots Inaugural Ball, held at the Washington Sheraton on January 18. Larry Meyers and Tina Blanton outdid themselves on creating and carrying off THE inaugural ball of the 1997 season with 6000 plus party-goers in attendance. The featured entertainer was Junior Brown, and the auxiliary rooms were kept alive with the sounds of Emilio, Lonestar, Ronna Reeves, Lou Ann Barton, Clay Baker and the Texas Honky Tonk Band, and Jackpierce. A cigar and martini bar made us trendy, and Texas two-stepping kept us traditional. The ranking Texans in the armed services were the honorees that evening in a ceremony emceed by Sen. Kay Bailey Hutchison.

In February, the Society held its annual Congressional Reception in the Cannon Building to greet the 105th Congress. More than 800 members attended. Amanda Bullard, Katherine Graham and Bianca Penalver did an outstanding job in organizing this event. Good Texas food and drinks were enjoyed by all.

On April 28th, outgoing President, Larry Meyers, turned over the reins of the presidency to Jim Greenwood. The annual meeting was held in the Rayburn Building (named after the late Sam Rayburn, an illustrious Member of Congress who represented his district for many years in the House of Representatives. One of the items on the menu was a big "Texas size" cake that was "finger-lickin" good.

Officers for the 1997-98 year were Jim Greenwood, Pres., Amanda Bullard, 1st Vice Pres. & Rick Meyers, 2nd Vice Pres. Board members included Tina Blanton, Bob Mansker, Diane Morales, Lesley Gilbert, Cong. Mack Thornberry, James Johnson, Shannon Davis, Jennifer Brown, Larry Meyers and Cong. Ruben Hinojosa. Katherine Graham served as Historian, Julie Turner as Treasurer, Alisa Sell as Secretary and Laure McLaughlin as Newsletter Editor. Becky Hebert continued her outstanding service to the TSS as Executive Secretary The annual Father's Day picnic on June 15 was again held at Potomac Valley Lodge. With all the usual goodies including Texasstyle barbecue and bingo, we enjoyed the singing talents of Chris Wall, a major Austin, Texas recording star. Congressmen Jim Turner and Pete Sessions chaired the event with lots of help from Glenn LeMunyon, Henry Gandy, Mark Schnabel and Scott Styles.

Keeping with tradition, we met at the LBJ Memorial Grove on August 30 in honor of President Lyndon Baines Johnson's 89th birthday. Just like at the LBJ ranch in Stonewall, Texas, lemonade and sugar cookies were served. We were delighted to have LBJ's granddaughter, Lucinda Robb, as our featured speaker. She shared with us excerpts of letters that LBJ sent to her as a child. U. S. Senator Charles Robb (D-VA) and Lynda Bird Robb also attended. Alisa Sell chaired this annual tribute and was assisted by Jim Greenwood, Clay Sell, Lyndon Boozer and others.

On September 16, TSS hosted the Texas Congressional Staff Roundup at Tortilla Coast. It provided a chance to enjoy some Texas food and drink, socialize and receive membership information. A good time was reported by all.

October 1st brought us all back to the Birchmere to hear Jerry Jeff Walker perform at our "sold out" annual Terlingua Two-Step evening. In addition to hearing Jerry Jeff and his Gonzo Compadres perform, there was lots of two-steppin', singin', laughin' and conversation throughout the evening. Lesley Gilbert chaired the event and was assisted by a group of fellow TSS members.

"Margarita Night" was the theme of our get-together on November 13 at the Dallas-based Canyon Cafe in Chevy Chase. Food stations provided ample tastings of quesadillas, tequila chicken and tacos and, no doubt, made many of us homesick for Texas. Liz Elkins coordinated the evening and some 150 TSS members enjoyed the festivities.

1998

The Texas State Society began its social calendar with the Annual Meeting and Election of Officers at the original Smithsonian Institute building, better known to many as the Smithsonian Castle on the Mall. The evening's guest speaker was Mr. Ron Stone, noted Texas Historian and

Houston News Anchor. The outgoing TSS Board and President Jim Greenwood, handed over the reins of leadership to the 1998 - 1999 officers. Elected to serve were: Amanda Bullard, President; Rick Meyers, 1st Vice President; U.S. Senator Kay Bailey Hutchison, 2nd Vice President; Jennifer Brown, Secretary; Julie Turner, Treasurer; and Katherine Graham, Historian. The board members for the year include: Trudi Lewis Boyd, Shannon Davis, Lesley Gilbert, Jim Greenwood, Congressman Ruben Hinojosa, Tim Isgitt, James Johnson, Mark Malone, Diane Morales, and Alisa Malechek Sell.

Janet Slaughter Eissenstat served as Newsletter Editor, Brian Thomas served as Membership Director and Becky Hebert served as the Board's Executive Secretary.

A perennial favorite event - the annual Father's Day Picnic was hosted at Fort McNair. Even though the day was very hot, everyone enjoyed this new location on the Potomac, enjoyed the live music, competitive softball games, bingo, line dancing, cold drinks and so much more.

On August 29th, TSS hosted its annual tribute to President Lyndon Baines Johnson, at the granite monument in the LBJ Memorial Grove. TSS President, Amanda Bullard provided an insightful welcoming address. The guest speaker was Mr. Harry Middleton, Director of the LBJ Library in Austin. Mr. Middleton spoke about the newly released collection of President Johnson's secretly recorded tapes of private conversations from his first day in office. U.S. Senator Chuck Robb & Ms. Lucinda Robb were in attendance, as we all relished from the vocals of TSS' own, Floyd Miles of the Washington Opera, as he sung in tribute "God Bless America". This anniversary marked President Johnson's 90th birthday. As winter set in, TSS honored the Texas Congressional Delegation on January 28th, at the Texas Congressional Reception in the Cannon Caucus Room. The longstanding success of this event is due to tremendous Delegation and TSS Members attendance and the generous support of our many corporate sponsors. This year Nick "Capital Q" Fontana's, restaurant catered traditional Texas Style Bar-B-Que. Other events sponsored by TSS included the Official "Thank You" Reception that honored our many Corporate Sponsors, the Congressional Staffers "End of the legislative Session" Round-Up Reception on October 28 at Tortilla Coast, and a night out at the ball park for the Texas Rangers vs. Baltimore Orioles in Camden Yards.

Also in October, after a two year hiatus, the Collegiate Tailgate Chili Cook off returned with a vengeance. Over 15 Texas alma maters were represented and the competition was as stiff as some of the chili. Thanks to Jan Veeder from SWSTU for keeping this event alive. The winners were Mr. & Ms. Claiborn & Carol Crain, who went on to represent TSS at the National Kidney Foundation's Annual Chili Cook off in Washington, DC.

In November membership turned out in masses for the Terlingua Two Step Shin-dig at the Birchmere. Jerry Jeff Walker provided the entertainment and lotsa dancing was required. President Bullard involved TSS, for the first time with the Washington National Cathedral state day's program.

On November 15th, it was Texas State Day at the Cathedral, a day of worship and prayer for Texans and the Lone Star State, lead by Very Rev. Nathan Baxter, Dean. Congressmen Ken Bentsen, Martin Frost and Silvestre Reyes participated as scripture readers and President Bullard served as a gift bearer. Also in from Texas were Rt. Rev. Wallis Ohl, bishop of Northwest Texas, the Rt. Rev. Leopoldo Alard, suffragan bishop of Texas and the 30 member choir of Christ Church Cathedral from Houston.

Nearly 300 Texans were in attendance and fellowship together during a reception where President Bullard recognized the guests and thanked everyone.

Other significant activities from this TSS Board were the adoption and kick off of the official TSS website, www.texasstatesociety.org. Kudos go to Howard Satori, TSS member for his initial forethought to develop this site, James Johnson and President Bullard who steadfastly worked to register the domain and provide other improvements, which culminated into bringing TSS into the 21st century.

TSS also renewed its relationship and membership with the National Conference of State Societies, whereby the search was on for a Cherry Blossom Princess to present at the upcoming Annual Meeting.

This TSS Board worked tirelessly on behalf of the membership to maintain the annual events, to create new events, and to update our record keeping ability with the (long overdue) purchase of a new PC and other office equipment. We thoroughly enjoyed the opportunity.

1999

As winter set in, TSS honored the members of Texas' congressional delegation on January 28th, at the Texas Congressional Reception in the Cannon Caucus Room. As always, the success of this event is due to many generous corporate sponsors.

At the Annual Meeting (Election of Officers) and Cherry Blossom Reception, the outgoing TSS Board and President Amanda Bullard passed the newly dedicated gavel and leadership on to the newly elected officers. Elected to serve for the 1999-2000 year were: Rick Meyers, President; Senator Kay Bailey Hutchison, First Vice President; Alisa Malechek Sell, Second Vice President; Jill Dowell, Secretary; Julie Turner, Treasurer; and James Johnson, Historian. The Board of Directors for the term include: Congressmen Kevin Brady and Charlie Gonzalez, Barry Brown, Amanda Bullard, Jennifer Gerber, Tim Isgitt, Diane Morales, W. John Nichols, Todd Rogers, Bill Shute, Trudi Lewis Boyd, and Brian Thomas, while Janet Slaughter Eissenstat continued her service to the Society as Newsletter Editor.

Amanda Bullard also continued as TSS' delegate to the National Conference of State Societies and chaired the Cherry Blossom selection committee and the annual meeting along with Diane Morales. Ms. Alison Priebe was selected and presented to the membership as TSS' 1999 Cherry Blossom Princess. She received the traditional necklace and Texas shaped charm and a beautifully designed congratulatory letter from Governor George W. Bush. This was the first time in several years that TSS sponsored a representative to the traditional Washington event. Ms. Priebe was escorted to the annual Cherry Blossom Princess Congressional Reception by Mr. Bill Christian, a Midlander from the staff of U.S. Senator Phil Gramm.

Ms. Bullard also renewed the TSS Service & Membership Award. This 2nd annual awarding was presented to Ms. Sarah McClendon and Ms. Elizabeth Hutchinson. They also received from Governor Bush's office of the, "Yellow Rose of Texas" citations.

As the TSS Board kept the activities coming, President Rick Meyers was also deep in the organizational planning process for the upcoming Black Tie & Boots Inaugural Ball. Many praised Rick's leadership and juggling abilities, as this was no easy feat.

The 1999 Annual Father's Day Picnic was held for the first time at the Pavilions of Turkey Run in McLean, Virginia. The event occurred on June 20th, and the new location—with its wealth of shade trees in Washington's notoriously hot summers—was a huge hit.

The RBIs of Texas, the softball team sponsored by Senators Phil Gramm and Kay Bailey Hutchison, won the coveted Picnic Softball Tournament trophy.

The Collegiate Tailgate Chili Cook-Off went official this year by teaming with the Chili Appreciation Society international, Inc. (CASI). This event was held on October 23rd at Jones Point Park in Alexandria, Virginia. Amanda Bullard and Jill Dowell successfully organized this event. Our winners, Dan & Janie Bauer, represented TSS at the National CASI competition in Texas.

The Terlingua Two-Step, featuring Texas' favorite son Robert Earl Keen, was held at The Birchmere in northern Virginia on November 11th. Many Texans were on hand to two-step the night away, and the consensus was clear: Robert Earl Keen was a resounding success. This successful event was organized by Rebekah Hamilton.

November also saw a major transition for the Texas State Society, as Becky Matthews Hebert retired as the organization's Executive Secretary after nearly ten years of service. Formerly with Congressman Ralph Hall, Becky turned over the reins to another former Texas Congressional staffer, Lois Auer. Earlier that year, Lois—a native of Runge, Texas—retired as Administrative Assistant for Congressman Charles Stenholm. Becky relinquished her responsibilities to Lois on November 15th. About the same time, James Johnson decided to resign as Historian for the Society, and Bill Christian was elected to fill the remainder of James' term.

2000-2001

Although still a full year off, the inauguration of a new President—particularly one that might hail from Texas—preoccupied the Texas State Society, as the officers and board members began the detailed planning for yet another hallmark event. This time, though, the excitement was unparalleled as Texas Governor George W. Bush won the Republican Party's nomination for President in the 2000 election. But well before the first Tuesday after the first Monday in November, the Society tended to its traditional activities, in order to meet the needs of its bipartisan membership.

The 2000 Congressional Reception, chaired by Mike Gerber of Senator Hutchison's office and Bill Christian of Senator Gramm's office, was held at the traditional site—the Cannon Caucus Room—on March 30th, 2000. The Annual Meeting was held at the Russell Senate Office Building on May 3rd, with Senator Kay Bailey Hutchison assuming the presidency of the Society. The Cherry Blossom selection committee, chaired by Amanda Bullard, introduced Nicole L. Morgan as Texas' 2000 Cherry Blossom Princess.

She received the traditional necklace and Texas shaped charm and a beautifully framed congratulatory letter from Governor Bush's office. In a major development, Society members ratified a change to the Constitution and By-Laws. The new change expands the leadership of the Society by adding two directors, each with two-year terms expiring in alternating years. The amendment calls for these two director positions to be filled exclusively by current Members of Congress representing Texas. This action brings the total number of directors to twelve and significantly strengthens the Society.

Officers for the new term include: Senator Kay Bailey Hutchison, President; Alisa Malechek Sell, First Vice President; Congressman Kevin Brady, Second Vice President; Jill Dowell, Secretary; Julie Turner, Treasurer; and Bill Christian, Historian. The Board of Directors includes Congressman Ken Bentsen, Barry Brown, Amanda Bullard, W. John Nichols, Todd Rogers, Bill Shute, Mark Franz, Jennifer Gerber, Rebekah Hamilton, Rick Meyers, Congressman Silvestre Reyes, Brian Thomas, Diane Morales, and Tim Isgitt.

Lois Auer completed her first full year as Executive Secretary and began a second, while Janet Slaughter Eissenstat persevered for another year as Newsletter Editor.

Congressman Sam Johnson, Chairman of the 2000 Father's Day Picnic, can be credited—along with his very able Assistant Chairs, Rebekah Hamilton and Missi Thomas—with another great event, held once again at the Pavilions of Turkey Run in northern Virginia. In a thrilling repeat, The RBIs of Texas (the Gramm-Hutchison softball team) won their second consecutive championship at the annual softball tournament.

On August 26th, Bess Abell addressed the 92nd Memorial Tribute to former President Lyndon Baines Johnson at the granite monument in the LBJ Memorial Grove located off of the George Washington Parkway in northern Virginia. Ms. Abell served the President as White House Social Secretary during the Johnson Administration.

Board Member Bill Shute, with a little help from friends like Glenn LeMunyon, resurrected the Annual Golf Tournament, which was held on September 25th at the South Riding Golf Club in Clifton, Virginia come rain or come shine. "It was the type of rain that all of our families back in Texas have been praying for," said Shute. "I was impressed that out of the sixty-three confirmed players, forty-eight showed up ready to play. Unfortunately, the weather didn't want

to cooperate.” “After five holes, the skies just opened up and it didn’t stop,” stated LeMunyon. “I think I saw several animals lining up in pairs before it was over.”

In one of the great political cliffhangers of all time, members of the Texas State Society anxiously awaited the outcome of the 2000 Presidential campaign, as the contest between Texas Governor George W. Bush and Vice President Al Gore extended for five weeks beyond Election Day. When the outcome was eventually determined in favor of Governor Bush, the Texas State Society, led by Rick Meyers, redoubled its efforts to host one of the most envied Inaugural Balls in the history of Washington’s social circles.

On January 19th, 2001, at the Marriott Wardman Park Hotel in northwest Washington, the Texas State Society, TSS President, Senator Kay Bailey Hutchinson, and other elected officials, hosted the most coveted event of the 2001 Inaugural weekend. The Black Tie & Boots Ball, chaired by past TSS president Rick Meyers and Ambassador Penne Percy Korth, was attended by well over 11,000 people—the largest audience ever at a state society sponsored event and the largest event ever hosted by this hotel—as compared to the Society’s 1997 ball, with some 7,000 attendees. Senator Phil Gramm, Governor Rick Perry, Chairman Williams, Railroad Commission, and acting Lieutenant Governor Bill Ratliff were on hand—along with members of the Texas Congressional Delegation and other elected officials—to welcome President-elect George W. Bush, the incoming First Lady Laura Bush, Vice President-elect Dick Cheney, and his wife Lynne to Washington in anticipation of the swearing-in of a new U.S. President the next morning.

The official party was serenaded by Lyle Lovett, before being introduced to the main audience, where internationally-acclaimed pianist Van Cliburn of Fort Worth performed a special tribute to the Presidential party and Lee Greenwood treated the crowd to the patriotic anthem, “God Bless the U.S.A.” The main ballroom included performances by Clint Black and Lisa Hartman Black, Tanya Tucker, Asleep at the Wheel, Gary P. Nunn, and Mark Chesnutt. Other venues within the massive hotel complex—all with Texian names like La Villita, the Spindletop Disco, the Luckenbach Java Lounge, the Hondo Honky Tonk Saloon, the Cotulla Cantina, and the Muleshoe Martini & Cigar Bar—featured such acts as The Beach Boys, Duck Soup, Blame it on Jane, Reckless Kelly, Aztex, and Marcia Ball.

This year’s ball was amplified by renowned Texas sports figures, who were on hand at the event’s Lone Star Sports Bar—although former Texas Rangers managing partner, George W. Bush did not make a stop at this venue. The crowd was more than satisfied, though, with the likes of Troy Aikman, Roger Staubach, Ben Crenshaw, Chuck Norris, Nolan Ryan, Darrel Royal, Jim Nantz, Mary Lou Retton, Zina Garrison, Mack Brown, Roger Clemens, Chris Gilbert, Drayton McLane, Bob McNair, R.C. Slocum, Norv Turner, and Chuck Watson.

One of the most unique and unprecedented aspects of this year’s ball was the inclusion of 100,000 square feet of exhibition space—dubbed the Texas Fair & Market Place—filled to capacity with goods and icons from all over Texas. The President-elect was presented with an original 1846 lithograph of Texas, while another highlight of the evening was a random drawing—by famed singer Wayne Newton—for a 2001 Chevy Suburban, won by one of the lucky attendees.

This event helped to increase the membership of the Society, thereby helping to rejuvenate the lifeblood of the organization—its membership. The unprecedented event was covered live by local, national and international media, including NBC, CBS, ABC, CNN, Larry King Live, and agencies from as far away as Japan and England.

While the success of the 2001 ball will surely be difficult to surpass, society members are already eagerly anticipating the 2005 inaugural ball—marking the Centennial of the Texas State Society in Washington, D.C.

The social calendar under Senator Kay Bailey Hutchinson’s presidency was rounded out by the annual Salute to Congress, held concurrently this year with the 2001 Annual Meeting and Election of Officers. The event, chaired by Bill Christian and Rebekah Hamilton, was widely

attended by both Society members and Members of Congress, as they bade farewell to Senator Hutchison, who was succeeded as President of the Society by Alisa Malechek Sell. Other officers elected for the 2001-2002 term included: Congressman Kevin Brady, First Vice President; Bill Shute, Second Vice President; Diane Morales, Secretary; Bill Christian, Treasurer; Bud Albright, Historian; Michael Crain, Entertainment Chair; and Barry Brown, Membership Chair. Board members for the new term included: Brenda Fleming Anderson, David Beckwith, Congressman Henry Bonilla, Mark Franz, Jennifer Gerber, Rebekah Hamilton, Wayne Hermandorfer, Rick Meyers, Congressmen Silvestre Reyes and Ciro Rodriguez, Nancy Smith, and Brian Thomas. The executive staff included: Lois Auer, Executive Secretary; Janet Slaughter Eissenstat, Newsletter Editor; and Gary Teal, Webmaster. As professional responsibilities commanded more of her time, Diane Morales resigned from the Board and was succeeded by Jennifer Boice, who was appointed by President Sell and confirmed by the Board.

In one of her last acts as president of the Society, Senator Hutchison appointed Houston Congressman John Culberson—Texas' only freshman Representative following the 2000 election—as Chairman of the 2001 Father's Day Picnic, held on June 17th at the Pavilions of Turkey Run in McLean, Virginia. An estimated 700 people attended this perennial favorite, and the Gramm-Hutchison softball team, The RBIs of Texas, won their third consecutive picnic tournament championship, dispatching fellow Lone Stars playing for the Texas Exes team (University of Texas alumni) in the final round. Congressman Joe Barton's team placed third.

2001-2002

As mentioned above, Alisa Malechek Sell and the newly elected Board of Directors assumed their new responsibilities on Feb. 5, 2001, at the annual meeting.

Following the financial success of the Black Tie and Boots ball and, under Alisa Sell's leadership, TSS was able to make several sizable donations to worthy Texas charities. Also, plans were implemented to finance a number of college internships for Texas students to live and work in D. C. for one semester.

Our annual Cherry Blossom reception on April 3 in honor of our princess, Sara Bryant Holland, was held in the Russell Senate Office Building. She is a native of Plano and recent graduate of Trinity University. Everyone enjoyed hearing Sara's remarks about her experiences as our state's representative at the Cherry Blossom festivities and also about her graduate studies here in Washington, D. C.

Our 2001 annual Father's Day picnic was held on June 17, at The Pavilions of Turkey Run, in McLean, Va. Under the enthusiastic leadership of the chairman, Congressman John Culberson, a great time was enjoyed by all. There was something for every age to enjoy. Activities included face painting, crafts and Moon Bounce for the youngsters, softball tournament sponsored by Lockheed Martin, bingo and, of course, and music by the Dixie Rebels. Plenty of good Texas food and goodies ensured that no one went home hungry.

Great plans were made for a contingent of TSS members to attend the Texas Rangers vs. Baltimore Orioles game in Baltimore on July 19. Regrettably, the game had to be postponed due to a fire in a railway tunnel nearby. Subsequently, the game was scheduled in Texas and disappointed TSS members had to put away their baseball cheers for another year.

On August 25th, the Society held its annual tribute to the late former President Lyndon Baines Johnson at the LBJ Memorial Grove located off the George Washington Parkway in northern VA. The speaker was Mr. Robert Dallek, renowned historian and author who has written several books about LBJ, including "Lone Star Rising: Lyndon Johnson and His Times, 1908-1960" and "Flawed Giant: Lyndon Johnson and His Times, 1961-1973".

Back by popular demand, the Society's 2001 Annual Golf Tournament was held at South Riding Golf Club in Clifton, Virginia on October 15th. A good time was reported by all.

In honor of the hard working White House and Congressional staff, a reception was held on October 25th at Tortilla Coast on Capitol Hill. These casual get-togethers allow staff to become better acquainted and enjoy talking and, of course, bragging about their beloved home state.

To close out the social calendar for the year, our Terlingua Two-Step was held at The Birchmere in Alexandria, Virginia on November 29th to a sold-out audience. Music was provided by Asleep at the Wheel, a Texas favorite. Coming soon after the horrible events of "9/11", special recognition was extended to two Texans who died in the fire at the Pentagon. Lt. Col. Karen Wagner (San Antonio) and Navy Electronics Technician Third Class Daniel Martin Caballero (Houston), unconditionally dedicated themselves to our country. Proceeds from the TSS Golf Tournament and the Terlingua Two Step were donated to the two families.

Our first event in 2002 found a group of spirited Texans (of all ages) attending a San Antonio Spurs/ Wizards game at the MCI center. A fun time was reported.

Next, on February 5, Angela Godby chaired our annual Congressional Reception in the Cannon House Office Building. Approximately 600 TSS members met to enjoy tasty Texas treats. Door prizes included airline tickets and tickets to several sports events.

Michael Crain chaired our Cherry Blossom reception on April 3. Four Southern states (Texas, Kentucky, South Carolina and Tennessee) joined to host one area-wide reception in the Rayburn House of Representatives Building foyer. Princess Kristin Elizabeth Barton, daughter of Congressman and Mrs. Joe Barton, graciously represented the Lone Star State at the week-long festivities. The Bartons are from Ennis, Texas. Preceding the reception, Alisa Sell presided at the annual meeting and installed Congressman Kevin Brady as the next TSS president.

2002-2003

During the annual meeting of the Texas State Society on April 3, 2002, Representative Kevin Brady was installed as the next president of the Texas State Society for the term of April, 2002 - April, 2003. Other officers installed that evening were Bill Shute, First Vice President; Representative Kay Granger, Second Vice President; Jennifer Boice, Secretary; Bill Christian, Treasurer and Barry Brown, Historian. Elected Board members with terms expiring in 2003 were Brenda Anderson, David Beckwith, Representative Henry Bonilla, Wayne Hermandorfer, Representative Ciro Rodriguez and Nancy Smith. Elected Board members with terms expiring in 2004 were Bud Albright, Roy Coffee, Michael Crain, Alisa Malachek Sell (immediate past president), Scott Styles and Representative Jim Turner. Non-Voting Positions on the board were: Lois Auer, Executive Secretary, Julie Hooks, Entertainment Chair, Missy Thomas, Membership Committee Chair, Rebekah Hamilton, Representative to the National Conference of State Societies and Brenna Hapes, Newsletter Editor.

Following the business meeting, everyone was invited to attend the Cherry Blossom reception jointly hosted by the State Societies for Texas, Kentucky, South Carolina and Tennessee. Miss Kristin Elizabeth Barton graciously represented the Texas State Society. She is the daughter of Representative Joe Barton and Mrs. Barton of Ennis, Texas.

Several social get-togethers were scheduled throughout the year including Texas Night at the University Club on May 9. About 30 TSS members attended Texas night at the club.

On June 7th 400 members of the Society attended a Cognac reception held at the French Embassy and hosted by the French Cognac Association. During the reception, recognition was given to the historic contributions of Texas horticulturist Thomas V. Munson to the continued health of the French wine industry. In 1880, a rare root disease decimated the French wine grapes used to make their Cognac. Munson, who lived in Denison, Texas, had developed a root that was resistant to that particular disease and sent thousands of them to France, saving the Cognac vines.

There were about 700 attendees at the Society's annual Father's Day Picnic held on June 16 at historic Fort Hunt Park, Alexandria, VA. All of the usual Texas fare was served including Capital Q barbecue, Texas Heritage Provisions Company's apple pie and, of course, Blue Bell ice cream. Representative Chet Edwards of Waco served as Picnic Chairman along with Assistant Chairs, Bill Christian of Midland and Sandra Hill of Denton. Along with all the games enjoyed by TSS members of all ages, David Vernon and The Dixie Rebels made an encore performance by playing some of the national music of Texas. A good time was had by all.

Our annual memorial tribute to President Lyndon Baines Johnson was held on August 31 at the granite monument in the LBJ Memorial Grove in northern Virginia. Ms. Catherine Robb, daughter of Senator and Lynda Bird Robb was the guest speaker. The group of about 40 attendees enjoyed hearing Ms. Robb's remarks. As in Stonewall, Texas, lemonade and sugar cookies were served.

Then, on October 7, the TSS Annual Golf Tournament was held at Pleasant Valley Golf Course in Clifton, VA. Bill Shute served as chairman; there were about 120 attendees including Representatives Solomon Ortiz and Silvestre Reyes.

An always popular event, our Terlingua Two-Step, was held on November 8th at The Birchmere in Alexandria, VA. When guests learned that chicken fried steak and Dr. Pepper were on the menu, there was no doubt that the evening was going to be first class. Gary P. Nunn was our featured entertainer. About 400 guests came out to sing and two-step to their favorite tunes like "Go Home with the Armadillos."

On November 12th, the TSS hosted a Texas Delegation Internship Luncheon in the U. S. Capitol. The luncheon was open to all Texans interning in the DC area. Several Texan natives, David Bearden, and Michael Crain, provided personal insight and professional advice about working in Washington and life experiences in general. A number of interns enjoyed hearing their remarks as well as enjoying a complimentary meal.

Washington's National Cathedral has a tradition of honoring individual states on a rotating basis. November 17th was our State's turn. It was interesting to hear of the Cathedral's strong ties to Texas including the fact that the Texas state seal is part of the Narthex floor in the West End of the Capitol and is represented on a needlepoint wall hanging in the War Memorial Chapel. Representative Gene Green read one of the scriptures and TSS treasurer, Bill Christian, was the flag bearer. About 70 TSS members attended the service and the reception following

In an effort to sponsor events fostering family participation, on November 13th, TSS reserved a group of tickets for the Washington Capitals vs. Dallas Stars at the MCI Center in DC. A second family event was also scheduled for the coming Washington Wizards vs. Houston Rockets to be held on February 27, 2003 at the same location.

January, 2003, started with several events already posted on the TSS schedule. A Happy Hour was held on January 31 for the Texas, Georgia, and Nevada State Societies. Everyone in attendance reported a good time and expressed interest in continuing occasional social events with other state societies.

Our annual Congressional Reception was held on February 1, 2003 in the Cannon Caucus Room, House of Representatives. Representative Kevin Brady welcomed the crowd and thanked Congressman Henry Bonilla for co-chairing the event with him. Senator Kay Bailey Hutchinson made a few remarks and then welcomed newly elected Senator John Cornyn who helped draw the door prizes. There was some concern among the 800 attendees when it was announced that the delivery of our favorite Blue Bell ice cream was delayed. Happily, the ice

cream arrived and along with another Texas favorite, Shiner Bock beer, the evening was a complete success.

2003-2004

On March 31, 2003, during TSS' annual meeting outgoing TSS President, Congressman Kevin Brady, installed Bill Shute as our new President. The annual meeting was held in Room 1116 Longworth House Office Building at 5:30 p.m. Other officers elected for the 2003-04 cycle were Rep. Kay Granger, 1st Vice President, Scott Styles, Second Vice President, Jennifer Boice, Secretary, Bill Christian, Treasurer and Barry Brown, Historian. Directors with terms expiring April, 2004, were Bud Albright, Roy Coffee, Michael Crain, Alisa Malechek Sell, Rep. Jim Turner and Bob Mansker. Directors with terms expiring April, 2005, were Rep. Kevin Brady, Rep. Chris Bell, Scott Dunaway, Mike Meece, Ed Perez and Michael Young. Julie Hooks was Entertainment Chair. Non-voting positions were held by Lois Auer, Executive Secretary, Ken Pittman, Representative to the National Conference of State Societies and Brenda Hapes, Newsletter Editor.

At the conclusion of the meeting, everyone adjourned to the Rayburn Foyer for our annual Cherry Blossom reception. Other states that joined the celebration were Kentucky, South Carolina, Tennessee and West Virginia. Our own State's princess, Monique Harps, graciously greeted the guests during the evening. As always, excellent Texas food and drinks were in abundance for a large turn-out of TSS members who had paid their 2003 membership dues.

A new event was scheduled that year - On May 3, TSS joined several Texas universities in hosting a tent at the East Coast Rodeo Spring Gold Cup horse races in The Plains, VA. Jennifer Boice made all the arrangements. Chartered buses provided transportation for a large contingent of TSS members. Good weather, good food and good friends all contributed to a great day at the races.

A Texas County Fair was the theme of our annual Father's Day picnic, held on Sunday, June 15th at historic Fort Hunt Park, Va. Cong. John "Judge" Carter of Round Rock served as the Honorary Picnic Chairman and was very ably assisted by picnic directors, Julie Hooks of Huntsville and Sandra Hill of Donna, Texas. There was something available for everyone's enjoyment, including a ride on a mechanical bull brought all the way from Lavernia, Texas. All the usual good food expected at a Texas picnic, including Capital Q's barbecue and Blue Bell ice cream, was enjoyed by a large crowd.

On July 18th, more than 200 members of the Texas, Florida and Hawaii State Societies enjoyed a Happy Hour at the Cantina Marina on the D. C. waterfront. The Sugarcane Farmers of Texas, Hawaii and Florida hosted the tropical-themed evening, providing a live band, silk leis, food and drinks. Early rain in the evening did not deter the attendance.

On an unusually cool and sunny Saturday morning, August 23rd, about 50 TSS members including Lynda Johnson Robb and her daughter, Jennifer, gathered to pay a birthday tribute to the 36th President of the United States, Lyndon Baines Johnson. TSS appreciated the outstanding presentation by the Joint Armed Forces Color Guard. Dr. Thomas Allen Schwartz, an LBJ Biographer and historian, gave remarks on President Johnson's extraordinary and often overlooked foreign diplomacy in Europe. Then, Lynda Johnson Robb and Jennifer laid a memorial wreath. As enjoyed in Stonewall, Texas, every year on the occasion of the late President's birthday, lemonade and sugar cookies were served. Kate Jeffrey chaired the event.

Next, a once-in-a-life-time event was held on Wednesday, October 29th at the historic National Building Museum in DC. A set of original flags flown over Texas soil were brought to Washington, D. C. Included in the display was the rare "28th Star" American flag, the official U. S. flag that recognized the admission of Texas to the Union. Bob Schieffer, Chief Washington Correspondent for CBS News was the Master of Ceremonies. Larry Gatlin & the Gatlin Brothers provided entertainment for the evening. Senator Kay Bailey Hutchison served as Chair. Honorary Co-Chairs were The Hon. Don Evans, The Hon. Rod Paige and Senator John Cornyn.

On November 12th, TSS hosted a luncheon for Lone Star State college interns, temporarily calling DC home. Two Texas natives, David Bearden and Michael Crain, both serving in the current Administration, provided personal insight and professional advice about working in DC. Their experience helped the students to better understand their role and link not only to Capitol Hill, but Washington as a whole.

Our annual Terlingua Two Step at the Birchmere, Alexandria, Virginia on November 14 rounded out a very busy year for the Texas State Society. The Wil Gravatt Band provided the “boot-scooting” music and our special entertainer for the evening, Junior Brown, entertained with his own unique style of Texas music. A Texas-sized buffet was provided by UPS.

On January 15, 2004, Bill Shute and his team arranged a Happy Hour with the California State Society. It was held at The Exchange Bar in DC (6:30-8:30 p.m.) A good time was reported by all.

On February 11th the TSS held the Salute to Members of Congress in the Cannon Caucus Room. The 34 members of the Texas delegation to Congress were the honored individuals. All members of the Texas State Society were invited to attend free, as part of their paid membership. As always, a large crowd attended.

2004-2005

As had become a regular event, the annual meeting of the Society, held on March 29, 2004, coincided with the annual Cherry Blossom Princess Reception, where Julia Reeder was recognized as the Texas Princess. The reception was held in the Rayburn House Office Building foyer at 6PM, while the business of the Society was held at 5:30 in Room 1116 of the Longworth Building, adjourning in time for the latter event.

At the annual meeting, Congresswoman Kay Granger of Fort Worth was elected President. Other officers elected were: Scott Styles, First Vice President; Congressman John Carter, Second Vice President; Jenifer Sarver, Secretary; Bill Christian, Treasurer; and Barry Brown, Historian. Board members for the year were: Congressman Kevin Brady, Congressman Chris Bell, Scott Dunaway, Ashley Meece, Ed Perez, Bob Mansker, Bill Shute, Congressman Martin Frost, Julie Hooks, Lucy Harwood Weber, and Laurie Knight.

The year of activities began on January 15th, when the TSS joined with the California State Society for a time of fellowship at The Exchange Bar, 1719 G Street, in DC. There was an arrangement made with the establishment for no cover charge for the event.

On February 11th the TSS held the Salute to Members of Congress in the Cannon Caucus Room. The 34 members of the Texas delegation to Congress were the honored individuals. All members of the Texas State Society were invited to attend free, as part of their paid membership, with a large crowd filling the Room.

On June 20th, Father’s Day, the annual picnic was held at Fort Hunt Park in Fairfax, Virginia. Picnic co-chairs, Julie Hooks and Bill Christian, provided a full day of food and activities. Capital Q barbeque, Texas Heritage Pies and Blue Bell Ice Cream captured the menu highlights, while bingo, tug-of-war, putt-putt golf, and the mechanical bull captured the attention of most participants. Door prizes for those who attended to the end of the picnic were highly coveted, as usual.

On July 22, the Florida Sugar Cane League, Rio Grande Valley Sugar Growers, and the Hawaii Sugar Farmers sponsored a happy hour for the three state societies at the Cantina Marina, 600 Water Street, SW in DC. Hula dancing was the centerpiece of the entertainment. Susan McAvoy welcomed attendees to the Lyndon Baines Johnson birthday tribute on August 21, traditionally held at the LBJ Memorial Grove, located off of the George Washington Parkway between the 14th Street and Memorial bridges. The Reverend Alvin Jackson of the National City Christian Church, where President and Mrs. Johnson attended, gave the invocation. Senator and Mrs. Robb were present.

During the year, the website for the TSS became a more important element in the distribution of information to Society members. Lois Auer, Executive Secretary to the TSS, led the way in moving membership records to the new computer system. Tickets to the upcoming Black Tie & Boots were placed on line for sale, with an immediate positive response to the offering.

The remainder of the term, the Board of Directors concentrated on the planning for the Black Tie & Boots Ball, to be held in January, 2005. The annual Terlingua Two Step country-western dance was not held this year due to all the preparations being made for the Black Tie & Boots Ball.

Bill Shute was the Chair of the Centennial Ball (Black Tie & Boots) and continued to keep the Board fully informed as to the various events (and costs) that were included in the planned event.

Recipe for a Successful Black Tie & Boots

Start by gathering the following ingredients:

25 cases salsa
90 cases of chips
300 lbs. Velveeta
600 lbs. Ground beef
6000 jalapeno poppers
20,000 enchiladas
21,000 quesadillas
44,000 beers
Over 1 ton shrimp (2500 lbs.)
Slowly add in:
500 entertainers
250 media credentials
Over 370 media stories

Mix well with frigid temperatures and three inches of snow, and then serve it up inside 300,000 square feet of the largest hotel in Washington. You will have on your hands the biggest and best party these parts have seen in the past four years. And by the way, this recipe serves 12,000 Texans.

By all accounts, the 2005 Black Tie & Boots Inaugural Ball was a huge success. Texans from Washington, Texas, and around the country gathered at the Marriott Wardman Park Hotel on Wednesday, January 19 to kick up their heels in their finest formal wear. Television, newspaper, and radio correspondents reported live from the event, representing media outlets as diverse as the major networks, local Texas stations, the Associated Press, the London Times, Access Hollywood, Allentown (PA) Morning Call, and the Brattleboro (VT) Reformer.

Black Tie & Boots guests were entertained by 23 Texas bands in seven ballrooms ranging from perennial favorites Asleep at the Wheel to Gary P. Nunn, Neal McCoy, Patricia Vonne, Del Castillo, Duck Soup, The Derailers, Blame it on Jane, Dexter Freebish, Rotel and the Hot Tomatoes, Lucas Hudgins and the First Cousins, The Gourds, Reckless Kelly, Midlife Crisis and the Hotflashes, Robert Earl Keen, Sara Evans, and Clay Walker. In addition, Texas pageantry acts performed as well, with appearances by the Kilgore Rangerettes, the Lake Highland High School Wildcat Wranglers, the Texas A&M Ross Volunteers, the UT Brownsville Mariachi Escorpion, and the University of Texas Showband of the Southwest.

For those guests who wanted to take a little bit of Texas home with them, the Texas Fair provided ample opportunity. More than 60 retailers and exhibitors from Texas filled the downstairs convention space at the hotel where they offered everything from Heritage Pies from Jasper to custom boots and hats to jewelry to clothes to fishing poles. And guests could get a picture taken with Reveille or BEVO (or both) as well as be photographed on top of a longhorn steer or holding an armadillo from the Fort Worth Zoo.

Two lucky guests walked out with a John Deere Gator all-terrain vehicle and an Inauguration special edition Toyota Tundra.

In the very crowded Main Ballroom, Houston's own Yolanda Adams sang a dynamic rendition of the National Anthem. At the conclusion of her performance, a large Texas painted curtain opened to reveal our special guests. As they did four years ago, The President, First Lady and their daughters joined us for a rousing presentation, accompanied by Vice President Cheney and his wife, Lynne. Also, on the stage were TSS President, Congresswoman Kay Granger, Senator Kay Bailey Hutchison, Senator John Cornyn, Governor Rick Perry, BT& B Chair Bill Shute and his wife, Zelda.

Earlier in the evening, two special presentations were made. In recognition of the many brave Texans who are serving our country overseas, members of the Armed Services who have recently returned from Iraq were honored. In addition, in recognition of the role he played in helping the entire nation pick itself up after the tragedies of September 11, 2001, former New York Mayor, Rudy Giuliani was made an honorary Texan by Governor Perry and was presented with a pair of Luchese boots and a Stetson hat by Senators Hutchison and Cornyn.

Of course, none of this would have been possible without the strong support of our corporate sponsors, and the Board of Directors would like to thank each and every one of them. Please visit the website to see a listing of our sponsors.

2005-2006

With the election of Scott Styles as President at the annual meeting held at 5:30 PM on April 4, 2005 in Room 304 of the Cannon House Office Building, a new Board of Directors was elected by the membership present. Others elected included: Congressman John Carter, First Vice-President; Ed Perez, Second Vice-President; Jenifer Sarver, Secretary; and Bob Mansker, Historian. Congresswoman Kay Granger, Kate Williamson, Stephanie Linder, Kristen Hawn, Barry Brown and Michael Crain were elected to two-year terms, while continuing on the Board with unexpired terms were: Bill Shute, Carolyn Hensarling, Julie Hooks, Laurie Knight, and Lucy Weber. Congressman Henry Cuellar was elected to a one-year term, to fill the vacancy of former Congressman Martin Frost. Lois Auer continued as Executive Secretary, a post she has held since taking the position from Becky Hebert in November, 1999.

Immediately following the annual meeting, all members were invited to a reception for the 2005 Texas Cherry Blossom Princess, Lauren McKenzie of The Woodlands, Texas, which was held in the Cannon Caucus Room at 6:00 PM. Joined by the state societies of North Carolina, Tennessee, and Kentucky, also celebrating their Cherry Blossom Princesses, guests were served barbeque from Tennessee, Shiner beer from Texas, and various other dishes, including chocolate covered strawberries and other desserts.

The first meeting of the 2005-2006 Board was May 6, 2005, noon, at the offices of former Board President Larry Meyers, who had offered his conference room for Board meetings for a number of years. The highlight of the meeting was a thorough report from former Texas State Society President, Bill Shute on the income and expenses that were generated by the Black Tie & Boots event held immediately prior to the inauguration of President Bush in January.

The Historian, Bob Mansker, began a regular presentation of historical events that impacted either the Texas State Society or the State of Texas, or both. The first presentation was a historical list of the Texas State Society's annual picnic locations for each of the past fifty-five years.

The June 3rd meeting concentrated on the upcoming Centennial Picnic, previously referred to as the TSS Father's Day Picnic. Co-chairs Julie Hooks and Bill Christian recommended that the name be altered, especially for this year, because of the 100th anniversary of the TSS. The name was to be called the Centennial Picnic on Father's Day. No change was anticipated for the name of Father's Day Picnic for future years.

The Executive Secretary reported that 1,444 paid memberships were on the rolls. The July 1 meeting of the Board of Directors was held in the offices of America's Health Insurance Plans, 601 Pennsylvania Avenue in the District. The Historian's minute focused on the freak incident of history in which the defeat of Senator Ernest W. McFarland of Arizona, by Barry Goldwater in 1952, actually provided the platform for Senator Lyndon B. Johnson of Texas to become Majority Leader of the Senate, thereby greatly promoting his career.

Julie Hooks gave statistics from the annual picnic, citing that approximately 1,200 tickets were sold, with 1,056 plates filled, according to Smokey Glen Farm personnel. 600 half chickens, 574 pounds of ribs, 1,200 ears of corn, 1,500 cups of Blue Bell Ice Cream, and 9 1/4 kegs of beer were served at the picnic. She reported that she and Bill Christian started an annual tradition — the singing of the Texas State Song: "Texas Our Texas".

Because of the Black Tie & Boots ball held in January, the Congressional Reception for 2005 was held at a later date this year, July 20. It was held in the Cannon Caucus Room in the Cannon House Office Building. Confirmation of 425 guests was given to the catering firm for the event. The Caucus Room was packed, with everyone feeling the event was a big success.

In August, the traditional LBJ Birthday celebration took place exactly on the former President's birthday, August 27. About fifty people participated at the LBJ Memorial Park on the Virginia side of the Potomac, with former Senator Chuck Robb attending.

Elizabeth Hutchinson, past President of the TSS and long time friend of the Johnson family, delighted the audience with stories about her association with the Johnsons. Everyone enjoyed looking at the personal mementos and photographs of the LBJ years in the White House, which she had on display.

The traditional Terlingua Two-Step was held on November 9th at the Clarendon Ballroom in Arlington, VA. The Ballroom provided a very convenient and comfortable location for the event. The Wil Gravatt Band played lots of Texas music for those who wanted to dance.

At the December meeting, the Board finalized a recommendation from the Treasurer to change the annual membership fees for TSS to the following scale: 1-year: \$25; 2-years: \$45; 3-years: \$70; and 4-years: \$90, all for individuals. Family memberships were approved: 1 year at \$40; 2 years at \$75; 3 years at \$110; and 4 years at \$140. At the January meeting of the Board, Lois Auer gave a report on the number of memberships for multiple years that had been received.

The Congressional Reception for 2006 was held on February 15th in the Cannon Caucus Room in the Cannon Building. Current members of the TSS were given entrance free of charge. The crowd was massive, as usual, with all who attended having a great evening.

The 34 members of the Texas delegation were honored by the reception. President Bush and the First Lady honored the National Champion University of Texas football team at the White House on February 14. A small group of TSS members was invited to the White House to join in the recognition event. Later, the team was hosted at the Washington Marriott Hotel in celebration of their winning national champion athletic fete against the University of Southern California on January 3, 2006, when they won the title of National Football Champions for 2005. Marco Santiago placed numerous photos of the two events on the TSS website, which has become increasingly important to the Society during the year.

At the end of the term, discussion and plans were already underway for the next Black Tie & Boots in January, 2009.

2006-2007

Immediately prior to the 2006 Cherry Blossom Princess, Heather Jennings, being introduced to the state societies of Texas, Tennessee, and South Carolina, meeting jointly in the Cannon Caucus Room in the Cannon Office Building at 6:00 PM on April 3rd, the 2006-2007 TSS Board of Directors was elected by the general membership. The meeting began with outgoing President Scott Styles calling for a vote on the following slate, which was adopted unanimously:

President, Congressman John Carter; 1st Vice-President, Ed Perez; 2nd Vice-President, Senator John Cornyn; Secretary, Stacey Kounelias; Treasurer, Bill Christian, and Historian, Robert T. Mansker. Newly elected board members were: Scott Styles, Congressman Henry Cuellar, Jenifer Sarver, Israel Hernandez, Amy Hawkins, and Walt Smith. Holdover board members were: Barry Brown, Congresswoman Kay Granger, Kristin Hawn, Stephanie Linder, and Kate Williamson. Elected to a one-year unexpired term was Nando Gomez.

Lois Auer continued as Executive Secretary. Julie Hooks filled the Entertainment Chair position; Marco Santiago, Public Relations Chair, and Brenna Hapes continued as Newsletter Editor.

President Carter announced that the first meeting of the Board would be on April 24 in the offices of Meyers and Associates.

The meeting dealt primarily with planning for both the annual Father's Day Picnic, again held at Smokey Glen Farm, and the 2009 Black Tie & Boots Event.

Board Historian Bob Mansker continued his presentation of Texas "Historical Minutes", which he began the previous year and which he continued to provide throughout the year.

On June 6, there was a Happy Hour at the Billy Goat Tavern, 500 New Jersey Avenue, NW, arranged by Jamie McWright.

Brittany Eck and Bill Christian headed the TSS committee for the annual Father's Day Picnic, while Congressmen Reyes and Hensarling were Honorary Picnic Co-Chairmen. The menu included Texas Barbeque brisket on the menu for the first time in the event's history at Smokey Glen Farms in Maryland. Over 1,000 plates were served at the event.

Members of the TSS were invited to a Kennedy Center presentation of "On the Road with Bob", a play about Bob Wills and his years of showmanship as a country music singer and band leader. The September 22nd presentation was enjoyed by all in attendance.

An Intern lunch was held in July, for the numerous Texas interns working in the various congressional offices representing Texas.

On August 26th, Kate Williamson headed the LBJ Birthday celebration, which was held at the LBJ Park on the Virginia side of the Potomac River. Howard L. Burris was the featured speaker. Former Virginia Senator and LBJ son-in-law Chuck Robb was present for the event. He presented his daughter and granddaughter to the crowd of about 50 attendees. A military honor guard was present for the ceremony.

At the September 15th meeting of the Board, President Carter began discussion about the possibility of the TSS purchasing a "Texas House", similar to the Florida House located on Capitol Hill. Former President Granger had previously brought forward the same issue; however, in later meetings of the Board, the general tenor of the group was that the cost, at the current time, would be prohibitive.

On November 16, Jen Sarver headed the traditional Terlingua Two-Step, which was again held at the Clarendon Ballroom on Wilson Boulevard. The entertainment for the evening was Wil Gravitt's and Texas native Cory Morrow's bands, while the TSS members and guests enjoyed barbecued ribs and chicken fingers. Over 600 enjoyed the event.

As of January, 2007, membership dues were increased to \$25 for one year, \$45 for two years; \$70 for three years; and \$90 for four years. Family memberships were \$40; \$75; \$110; and \$140 for the same periods.

On February 8, the TSS hosted the Congressional Reception in honor of the Members of Congress representing the State of Texas in both the House and the Senate. Carmen Terry was

in charge of the event, and Congressman Chet Edwards was the co-host of the event along with Congressman John Carter.

Planning began in March, 2007 for the Texas Day at the Washington National Cathedral. A breakfast and special morning service at the Cathedral celebrating the people and history of Texas was planned by the Director of the National Cathedral Association, as is done every four years.

Ed Perez continued to report to the Board on the Black Tie and Boots event planning progress at each meeting. The event, to be held in January of 2009, will be held at the Gaylord Hotel, which is under construction at a location south of the Woodrow Wilson Bridge and on the Maryland side of the River.

At the final meeting of the Board, the slate of Board members for 2007-2008 was adopted for presentation to the annual membership meeting. Throughout the year, former TSS Board President Larry Meyers provided space in his office for regular Board meetings.

2007-2008

The new Board of Directors took its place ahead of a year of planning for the upcoming Black Tie & Boots Inaugural Ball [January, 2009]. At the annual meeting on April 12, 2007, Ed Perez, serving as Executive Director of Texas Office of State-Federal Relations in Washington, DC, was chosen as the Society's 78th President; Senator John Cornyn, 1st Vice President; Bill Christian; Stacey Kounelias, Secretary; Bob Mansker, Treasurer; and Ryan Henry, Historian. Directors with terms ending in 2008 were Representative Henry Cuellar, Amy Hawkins, Israel Hernandez, Jenifer Sarver, Walt Smith and Scott Styles (past president). Directors with terms expiring in 2009 were Representative John Carter (immediate past president), Doug Centilli, Cathy Gillespie, Representative Gene Green, Susan McAvoy and Bethany Smith. Approval was given for Lois Auer to continue her duties as Executive Secretary.

Board meetings, throughout the year, were held in the offices of former TSS Presidents Larry and Rick Meyers.

Following the annual meeting on April 12, the 2007 Cherry Blossom Princess, Maggie Hass, a senior at The University of Texas at Tyler, was recognized at a reception held in the Rayburn Room of the House of Representatives. Over 200 people attended the reception, held in conjunction with the state societies of Mississippi, South Carolina and Tennessee.

On June 17th, the annual Father's Day Picnic was once again held at the Smokey Glen Farm near Gaithersburg, Maryland. Almost 1,000 members and others attended where a menu of barbeque chicken, ribs, and brisket was served. As always, Blue Bell ice cream and apple pie were on the menu. The Dixie Rebels provided music.

On July 31st, the Society hosted a luncheon for all the 2007 Texas interns working in the DC area for the summer. The Honorable Chet Edwards and the Honorable Kay Granger were the special guests and offered their remarks encouraging the interns. Julie Hooks chaired the event.

President Lyndon B. Johnson's birthday was remembered on August 25th, following the passing of Lady Bird Johnson earlier in the year. This year's annual event was given in her honor. Susan McAvoy was chair. The guest speaker was Marta Miller Dunetz who worked for Mrs. Johnson in the White House. Lynda Johnson Robb and her husband, for Virginia Governor and U. S. Senator Chuck Robb attended the ceremony.

On November 15th, the Society's Terlingua Two-Step was held at the Clarendon Ballroom in Arlington, VA. More than 150 attendees filled the ballroom, with music supplied by Texas

artist, Wade Bowen with the opening by the Wil Gravatt band. A menu of various foods was served, including chicken tenders, tacos, small beef kabobs, and more.

The Congressional Reception for 2008 was held on February 13, 2008 in the Cannon Office Building Caucus Room, honoring the 34-member Texas delegation. It was chaired by Congressman Gene Green. Ed Perez introduced the attending members of the delegation.

At the last meeting of the Board prior to the annual meeting, the 2008-2009 slate of officers was adopted.

2008-2009

With all thoughts focused on the upcoming Black Tie & Boots Inaugural Event, scheduled for January, 2009, the new board took office on April 10, 2008. New officers: President, U. S. Senator John Cornyn,; 1st Vice-President, Bill Christian; 2nd Vice-President, Congressman Silvestre Reyes; Secretary, David Kelly; Treasurer, Bob Mansker, and Historian, Jen Sarver. Board members were Congressman John Carter (past president), Doug Centilli, Cathy Gillespie, Congressman Gene Green, Susan McAvoy, Bethany Smith, Don Carlson, Congressman Mike Conaway, Craig Felner, Ed Perez (past president), Jenny Sheffield, and Hannah Simone. Lois Auer agreed to continue serving as our Executive Secretary.

The election of the new board coincided with the 2008 Cherry Blossom Princess Reception held on April 10, 2008 in the Hart Senate Office Building, where Sarah Worsham of Joaquin, Texas, a junior at The University of Texas at Tyler, was presented and introduced as the reigning Cherry Blossom Princess.

The 2008 Fathers' Day Picnic was held on June 15, 2008.

The Smokey Glen Farm in Gaithersburg, Maryland, was once again the site of the event, where more than 800 Texans and friends feasted on barbeque brisket, chicken, sausage, and other delights. For Brittany Eck, who chaired the event, and all who attended, it was truly a beautiful day for a picnic.

On Sunday, July 13, 2008, members and friends joined together at the Washington Nationals Ballpark in Washington, DC to support the Houston Astros. This was the first time a trip to a ballpark had been scheduled since bus and train trips were previously taken to games in Baltimore.

Celebrating the 100th birthday of President Lyndon B. Johnson, over 50 guests joined together on August 23, 2008 in the LBJ Memorial Grove next to the Pentagon. The Honorable Tyler Abell, Chief of Protocol for President Johnson, was the guest speaker. Chris Bjornson chaired the event during which Dr. Stephen W. Gentle of the National City Christian Church gave the invocation. Senator and Mrs. Charles Robb were in attendance.

With all efforts being placed on making the Black Tie & Boots event a success, both from individual attendance and sponsor participation, the annual Terlingua Two-Step was postponed until later in 2009. The decision to do so proved to be a wise one, as all resources were directed toward January.

On January 19, 2009, the much-anticipated and lavish Black Tie & Boots Inaugural Ball, chaired by Ed Perez, took place at the newly-opened Gaylord National Resort and Convention Center on the banks of the Potomac River in Maryland. Senator John Cornyn, president of the Texas State Society, welcomed revelers to the event and introduced Senator Kay Bailey Hutchison and members of the Texas Congressional Delegation on the VIP stage in the Main Ballroom where many presented their western boots to the audience. Other guests featured included the Kilgore Rangerettes, NASA astronauts, The Lake Highland High School Wildcat Wranglers, and

Academy Award-winning actor Denzel Washington. Publicized as the “hottest ticket in town” during the 2009 inaugural ball season, over 11,000 registered attendees were entertained by 23 bands performing on six Texas-themed stages from 7 pm until 2 am. Delicious hors d’oeuvres and an open bar were special treats made available throughout the evening. The Texas Fair featured 109 booths where vendors from Texas and other local businesses displayed and sold their wares. The 2009 Black Tie & Boots Inaugural Ball was made possible by the strong support of 51 event sponsors and through strong member ticket sales. After years of planning and coordination, the 2009 Black Tie & Boots Inaugural Ball was deemed a huge success.

The last event of the term, March 18, 2009, was the annual Texas Congressional Delegation reception held in the Cannon Caucus Room of the Cannon Office Building. This year the reception was combined with the reception for the 2009 Cherry Blossom Princess, honoring Michelle Elaine Jackson of LaPorte, Texas.

2009 - 2010

The **Annual Meeting** of the Texas State Society of Washington, DC (TSS) was held on Capitol Hill on April 21, 2009 in the Senate Visitor’s Center of the new Capitol Visitor Center. Approval and installment of the 2009-2010 officers were as follows: The Board of Directors 2009-2010: President, Bill Christian; 1st Vice-President, The Honorable Silvestre Reyes; 2nd Vice-President, Doug Centilli; Secretary, Bob Mansker; Treasurer, Jennifer Daniels, and Historian, Lindsey Mask.

Directors with terms expiring 2010: Don Carlson, The Honorable Mike Conaway, Craig Felner, Ed Perez, Jenny Sheffield Drucker, Hannah Simone. The newly elected directors with terms ending in 2011: LaKeitha Anderson, Senator John Cornyn (immediate Past President), Marc Gonzales, The Honorable Charles Gonzalez, Debra McKeown and Jack Peterson. Board Positions: Congressional Liaison, Barry Brown; Entertainment Chair, Brittany Eck; Executive Secretary, Lois Auer; Membership Chair, Gerardo Interiano; National Conference of State Societies, Bill Christian; Newsletter Editor, Marissa McCord; Public Relations Chair, Bethany Scully; Sponsorship Chair, Brian Haley.

Annual dues for 2009-2010 remained at \$25.00 for the calendar year. Family membership continued at \$40.00 per calendar year. TSS members were encouraged to join and/or renew their memberships at the TSS website: www.TexasStateSociety.org.

On Sunday, June 21, 2009 from 11:30 am to 5:30 pm the Annual Father’s Day Picnic was held at Smokey Glen Farm in Gaithersburg, Maryland. Family activities at the picnic included a softball tournament, bingo, zip line, climbing wall, horseshoes, face painting, live music, dancing, barbecue, and other treats. The 2009 Honorary Picnic Co-Chairmen: Senator John Cornyn, Congressman Michael Conaway, Congressman Charlie Gonzalez, and Congressman Silvestre Reyes. Picnic leadership: Brittany Eck, Picnic Director; Sarith Ruiz, Picnic Deputy Director; Chelsea Brown, Volunteer Coordinator. A great time was reported by all.

August 26, 2009 was the originally scheduled annual tribute and celebration of Lyndon B. Johnson’s 101st birthday (the day before his actual birth date). It was rescheduled for Saturday, September 19, 2009 out of respect for the family of the late Senator Edward Kennedy. LBJ’s daughter, Lynda Robb, led the event at LBJ Memorial Grove off the George Washington Parkway. There were approximately 60 attendees, which included Senator Chuck Robb (D-VA).

On November 19, 2009, the Texas State Society held its annual Terlingua Two-Step at the Clarendon Ballroom in Arlington, VA at 7:30 pm with Gary P. Nunn performing live. Tickets were \$35 per person with advanced online purchase. Admission at the door was \$45 per person. Everyone enjoyed the tasty snacks which included macaroni and cheese.

The new year began with the Annual Salute to Congress on Wednesday, January 27, 2010 from 6:00-8:00 pm in the Cannon Caucus Room of the House of Representatives. It was free for TSS members who had paid their 2010 membership fees. Members of the Texas Congressional

Delegation attended and the famed Texas-style Blue Bell Ice Cream was served as part of the traditional gathering. Approximately 400 TSS members were in attendance.

The Texas State Society revived another tradition with the Texas Breakfast Club in February, 2010 at Bullfeathers Restaurant on Capitol Hill. Dallas native, The Honorable Ron Kirk, U. S. Trade Representative, was the guest speaker. Tentative plans were made for hosting periodic breakfasts in the coming months.

In March of 2010, the Texas State Society began operating under a “Green” system, whereby it moved away from printing newsletters and towards a paperless system of e-newsletters. This was a move with the times of environmental awareness, while also allowing the State Society to save on printing and postage costs.

On April 8, 2010, the Texas State Society joined the Mississippi and Alabama State Societies to honor our 2010 Texas Cherry Blossom Princess, Ashley Olivas, from El Paso, Texas. The event was held at Bobby Van’s Grill on 1201 New York Avenue NW in Washington, D.C. from 6:00-8:00 pm. The Grand Ball was held on April 9th at the Grand Hyatt Washington at 1000 H Street NW. TSS Chairperson, Lindsey Mask, did a terrific job in coordinating and scheduling the event at a new location.
