



Baylor Collections of Political Materials



SEPTEMBER 2004 – OCTOBER 2004

PROGRESS

25th Anniversary Luncheon. Everything in September led up to the anniversary luncheon on Oct. 8. Donors of papers and their families were invited to attend along with former staff members of the congressmen. About sixty folks gathered for lunch in the newly renovated exhibit area. Many of them had never been to this library before including Alan Steelman. There were a number of former staff members present who worked for congressmen Poage, Fisher, or Leath: Fowler West, John O'Neal, Pat Gray, Mattie McKee, Dayle Henington, Chloe Johnson, Steve Pringle, John Hastings, and Coke Mills. Hyde Murray was here from Wisconsin with his daughter, Merri Carol, from California. John Hogan flew in for the day from Washington.

Also attending were twelve relatives of O.C. Fisher, Alta and Tom Leath, and former congressmen Jack Hightower and Alan Steelman. Unfortunately, Scott Poage, Bob Poage's nephew, was not able to come.

Fowler West challenged everyone to start a library friends' group to be called **THE STANDING COMMITTEE**. There has not been any organized fundraising for Poage Library in twenty-five years.

A special anniversary booklet was created for the occasion which included information from the library dedication program in 1979, current information about collections, and greetings from several dignitaries: Tom Foley, Herbert H. Reynolds, and Bob Bergland. A flag mosaic was created by our graduate intern Matt Gonzales using the photographs of donors and U.S. presidents.

Anniversary Open House. Everyone in the Central Libraries was invited to an open house on Oct. 21 to see the newly renovated exhibit space. About 75 folks came over.

Exhibit Renovation Completed. With the help of Sherry Cook and John Wilson, the exhibit area renovation was completed in time for the anniversary luncheon. This included a new wood floor, new paint, and new track lighting. After the luncheon, the Bullock Exhibit was moved from the Mayborn Museum to its new location in the exhibit area.

Penn Jones' Kennedy Assassination materials were purchased from Bob Platt, a retired professor of anthropology. The BCPM made its first collection purchase with help from the Dean's office. Penn Jones, Jr. collected materials related to the Kennedy assassination for over 30 years. He also published a monthly newsletter for five years containing his findings. The collection includes magazines, media tapes, film, and paper files. Student workers have begun creating a preliminary inventory.

Bob Platt has agreed to sell/give us about 1,000 books related to the political process. As a collector for over 50 years, he has a storehouse of books which he sells through his shop in the Fort Worth stockyards. He will sell us 500 for \$2.00 each and donate the other 500. He has already given us his Ronald Reagan campaign button collection and has said verbally that all his materials would come to us in the due course of time.

Jack and Colleen Hightower Reception Area

We have begun talks with the Hightowers about furnishing the entrance to the exhibit area office. Judge Hightower has already donated ten boxes of books about politics from his personal library which will be cataloged and placed in this area in locked glass cases.

Reference in Archives. Benna attended an SAA workshop in College Station dealing with reference in archives on Oct. 14-15.

Hyde Murray buttons. After he returned to Wisconsin from the Poage anniversary luncheon, Hyde Murray boxed up his campaign buttons and shipped them to Texas. They go as far back as McKinley-Roosevelt in 1896.

Cataloging, Janet Pence:

September: 123 titles 161 volumes, 15 original cataloging inputs.

October: 158 titles 164 volumes, 10 original cataloging inputs.

RESEARCHERS

- ❖ Several people have contacted us in the last two months about research. A Mr. Henderson is doing research on Bob Bullock for Dave McNealy who is a reporter for the *Austin American-Statesman*.
- ❖ A UT Dallas student has contacted the library about researching Bullock's leadership style.
- ❖ **George Green** and his mother continue to request information from the Bullock Archive.
- ❖ Two Baylor graduate students have visited us for information related to their thesis topics. One is researching the impact of September 11th on religion. The other is investigating a drop in cattle prices in the mid 1970s. Poage, Hightower, and Murray papers are good resources.
- ❖ A law firm in Houston contacted us for a publication in the Fowler West papers which Janet Pence cataloged for us in just a couple of hours.
- ❖ **Ben Marquez** in Wisconsin requested information on Hispanics in politics in the Bullock papers.
- ❖ **Jay Hudkins'** communications class at Baylor visited the BCPM and Benna made a presentation about campaign materials.