

# LBJ portrait from 1962 is filled with memories

Painting by S.A. man donated to presidential library.

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Jesse Treviño was a 16-year-old Fox Tech student in 1962 when he painted a portrait of a pensive vice president from a black-and-white picture in the newspaper.

A prestigious New York art school was years away. So was Vietnam, which would claim his right hand and ability to paint.

Forty-six years later, the renowned artist — who taught himself to paint again with his left

hand, and whose works hang in some of the nation's most prominent museums — was in Austin to see that early work added to the Lyndon B. Johnson Library and Museum's permanent collection.

"I never imagined that the painting would end up at the LBJ Library and Museum," Treviño said. "But if someone asked where I wanted it, it would be at the LBJ Library and Museum."

Luci Baines Johnson, the president's daughter, along with a group of prominent San Antonians, including Dr. Alfonso Chiscano, Rosemary Kowalski and Patsy Steves, attended a luncheon Tuesday at the presidential library to celebrate the gift from Chiscano, his wife, Mary-Alice, and their children.

"LBJ," a 28-by-22-inch oil on canvas, will be exhibited in Austin later this year.

Museum director Betty Sue Flowers said the painting is significant not only for its artistic merit but for its history, attached, as it is, to the artist's injuries in Vietnam and that war's role in Johnson's presidency.

Flowers also described the gift as remarkable for the personal stories associated with it, one of which involves Treviño's sister Elvira, a seamstress who made jackets that President Johnson wore while at his Texas ranch.

That connection intrigues Flowers, who plans to exhibit the LBJ portrait alongside pictures of both Treviños and accounts of those memories.

"It's such a great story," said

Stevens, who said first lady Lady Bird Johnson saw the LBJ painting in Treviño's San Antonio studio around the time that Chiscano purchased it more than 10 years ago.

Chiscano, an arts patron, had his own LBJ memory.

"He signed Medicare into law," he said. "President Johnson was a great man, and he was a Texan. He did a lot of things for the little people, people like me, an immigrant."

Treviño also painted a portrait of President Kennedy at the same time. He gave that one to his aunt Maria Treviño of California. He has not seen it in several decades, though Treviño thinks it still exists and can be located.



COURTESY PHOTO

San Antonio artist Jesse Treviño painted this portrait when Lyndon B. Johnson was vice president. Dr. Alfonso Chiscano, a prominent San Antonio physician and arts patron, bought the painting from Treviño more than 10 years ago.

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# Role-playing group enjoys living in the past

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backed away and tripped over a rope. "My bad!" he yelled, drawing laughs from the crowd.

Without that slip of the tongue, a visitor would believe the sounds came from a medieval fight of old. Instead it was one of several contests that took place at Nolte Island Park in Seguin, at the third annual Academy of Defense campout. The Kingdom of Ansteorra, a local branch of the Society for Creative Anachronism, sponsored the three-day event.

Members of the society have adopted the ways and personas of the Middle Ages and the Renaissance since 1965, when a group in California pledged to bring chivalry, fantasy and pageantry to the 20th century. The small band grew to include 30,000 members around the world, broken into 19 fantasy kingdoms.

San Antonio, known as the Barony of Bjornsborg, is one of the baronies found in the southern region of the Kingdom of Ansteorra that includes Texas and Oklahoma. In the real world the baron's name is Michael Seminara, but here, dressed in black period leggings and smock, he was the ruler.

The group meets on Wednesdays and Saturdays, practicing arts, culture and swordplay with heavy blades and rapiers.

Lisa Theriot, aka Adelaide de Beaumont, joined in 1979 in Northern California, known as the Kingdom of the West.

"We're sort of a mob of misfits," Theriot said. "Somewhere still inside of us is a small child who wants to be more than what we are. We can be Monty Python-esque or we can be serious. It's probably the last place for a lot of women where a man will kiss their hand and tell them how lovely they are."

In the real world, they are everyday folks, including teachers, doctors, students, lawyers, accountants and military members.

Dressing up as knights, lords, ladies, sheiks and Vikings is a big part of the allure, members said, but they place equal emphasis on researching the Middle Ages for accuracy and education.

The group reserved one pavilion for reproduced works of art that included games and embroidery.

Martha Schreffler, 48, consulted museum curators in Italy to stitch together a replica of a 14th-century "Guicciardini" quilt. Stephen E. Acker researched the Internet to recreate a canvas banner of the German



PHOTOS BY ANGELA GRANT/STAFF

Beth Hodges of the Society for Creative Anachronism embroiders a button while Sir Ken Kenneth and Haroun al Tayyib practice swordfighting. The group aims to accurately reproduce crafts of the Middle Ages and Renaissance.



Sir Ken Kenneth slouches victoriously as Haroun al Tayyib laughs at collapsing from exhaustion after the two finished their long swordfight.

states of the Holy Roman Empire from the 15th century.

Greg Coffman, known as Iago Cabeza de Cadiz, an 18-year SCA member, watched the young combatants, applauding their skills. Coffman, a middle school teacher, said after 18 years of competitions, he knows how to keep up with the young members.

"I can't match them for speed,"

Coffman said, sitting in the shade of his tent. "But age and treachery defeats youth and skill."

Debora Marzec, 49, was drawn to the SCA when her daughter asked for a "princess party," on her birthday six years ago. She contacted the group after finding an ad in the paper. They attended a function and had such a good time they joined the group, Mar-

zec said. She's been Debora of Durham, ever since.

"I think that no television is a great way to bring up kids," Marzec said of the emphasis the group places on the outdoors and researching the past. "In fact you can unhook them."

Before the potluck feast, the baron gathered his kingdom for the final fight of the day, a free-for-all between all combatants.

Fifteen-year veteran Melissa Baxter-Kosub, aka Lady Branwen le Baxtere, escorted a 21st century visitor wearing tennis shoes, jeans and sweatshirt to the edge of the battlefield buzzing with service workers. They were waiting for a word from their ruler.

"Melee on the baseball field!" the baron yelled, consumed by the crowd bearing links of chain mail, leather and velvet.

Seminara looked on as the crowd broke into several clusters, clashing with each other at will.

"It means nothing," Seminara said of his nobility and responsibility to ensure a memorable experience for his members. "And it means everything."

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# East Side museum would salute Buffalo Soldiers

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presentation Monday night.

After spending about a decade since its inception sharing the units' story through presentations and re-enactments, the organization now is looking toward achieving one of its long-term goals: a museum dedicated to the Buffalo Soldiers' roughly 80-year history.

On Thursday, the City Council will consider a zoning change that will allow the group to move forward with its plans for a museum at a half-acre, former CPS Energy transfer station at 1602 Wyoming St.

So far, the variance to allow the museum in an otherwise residential area has been recommended by city staff and the Zoning Commission with the limitations that the museum's hours will be between 7 a.m. and 10 p.m. and that outdoor lighting will be directed away from neighboring residents.

CPS Energy donated the site to the group in July 2005. Since then, the group has erected a monument at the site and has been working to achieve the proper zoning before beginning its fundraising efforts.

"It really wasn't feasible until we got the property from CPS," Gordon said.

The multimillion-dollar museum will be a mix of artifacts and history for adults and interactive exhibits to engage children about the soldiers who earned a reputation for bravery and dedication in spite of obstacles like bad equipment and little respect from officials, Gordon said.

"To learn about the history, to talk about the history, that was very intriguing and challenging to me," said member Ben Felder, retired Air Force.

The nonprofit organization's roughly 30 members, most of whom are retired military themselves,



J. MICHAEL SHORT/SPECIAL TO THE EXPRESS-NEWS

Bexar County Buffalo Soldiers' Association members Clarence Thompson (from left), Ken Vaughn, Edward Hardy, Billy Gordon and Earlie Guest prepare for a recent presentation at El Tropicano hotel.

specialize in the Indian War period, the years between 1866 and 1890 when many settlers were moving westward after the end of the civil war. The group's uniforms and artifacts represent those used during that period and it is the focus of many of its presentations.

Without many comprehensive books on the Buffalo Soldiers' history, the organization relies heavily

on military archives, gleaning facts about the units from old incident reports and briefings, Gordon said.

"For a lot of people they've got bits and pieces," said association member Edward Davison, retired Air Force. "We try to teach the history."

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# Centenarian's acts draw recognition

From the United Negro College Fund to the National Council of Jewish Women, there are few groups in San Antonio that have not benefited from the work of Helen Jacobson.



JACOBSON

On Friday, her 100th birthday will be celebrated and her work honored at Temple Beth-El's Shabbat Eve Service starting at 6:30 p.m. The service will be followed by a Kiddush reception.

The public is welcome to

attend the event, which will be held at Wulfe Sanctuary, 211 Belknap Place.

Born in San Antonio on April 24, 1908, Jacobson went to New York and became the first woman to work on a radio network staff. In 1938 she returned home and met her future husband, Rabbi David Jacobson. Within six weeks the two were married and Jacobson moved back to San Antonio. Before his death in 2001, he said the decision to marry her was the wisest he ever made. In the 70 years since her return to the Alamo City, Jacobson has volunteered her time with, raised money for and been honored by cancer research groups, school districts, libraries, justice advocates and museums.

— Colin McDonald

# Town invests in security measure

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ing this week with key code access doors.

According to Garrett Medical Detectors, which is one of the country's largest metal detector manufacturers, the Kirkwood shooting caused a 10 percent spike in sales and the company has seen a growing demand for its products from increasingly smaller cities and schools. The Garrett sales department sees a similar spike in sales following every nationally publicized shooting, said company vice president Vaughan Garrett.

But Garrett points out that his family's metal detectors, especially the PD 65001 model that is popular for small cities and was purchased by Hollywood Park, is only 100 percent effective when a trained person is standing by the machine.

At Hollywood Park the detectors are only manned twice a month during court and the council meeting. The rest of the time the grey rectangular device stands in the lobby, beeping and flashing a red light every time a person walks through.

"I think it's great," said Beth Huddleston, who was surprised by the metal detector when she stopped by City Hall to pick up a resident sticker for her car. "It seems a little silly, but it's necessary."

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