

Table of Contents Fall and Spring 1996

Fall 1996

[A Quarter-Century of Change, Controversy, and Chaos](#)

By Jerry L. Stafford



Pitcher, Nolan Ryan.

In June of 1996, the *Fort Worth Star-Telegram* donated an addition to its Photograph Collection that included nearly 300,000 negatives dating from 1955 through 1979. The images document a quarter-century of significant changes. Stafford selects a number of events to spotlight in this photo-essay ranging from Rosa Parks and Elvis Presley to Tom Landry and Nolan Ryan.

[Friends Start Fall '96 with a Bang!](#)

By Gerald D. Saxon



Invitation cover for Friends September meeting showing a nineteenth century railroad bridge.

On September 1, the Friends of the UTA Libraries began their ninth years as an organization actively supporting the development and improvement of the University Libraries. The article reviews the events and speakers who highlighted the year.

[John W. Carpenter, A Texas Giant](#)

By Shirley R. Rodnitzky

The article focuses on the career of a man, who for more than three decades, was prominently identified with virtually every civic, charitable, and community enterprise in Dallas. The biographical narrative was made possible with the donation of the Carpenter Papers by his son, Ben H. Carpenter. The papers include 218 linear feet of files revealing fifty-plus years of twentieth century



John W. Carpenter, president of Lone Star Steel Company signs contract with Secretary of Commerce Jesse Jones as a group of Texans look on.

Texas history. They contain Carpenter's business files and other materials that he produced and collected during his career.

Notes

The Texas Map Society (TMS)

The society is a new organization devoted to fostering the study, understanding, and collecting of historical maps and cartography. The TMS is the only society of its kind in Texas, and one of the few map societies in the United States. The TMS will sponsor its first program and organizational meeting on November 23, 1996, from 10:00-4:00, on the Sixth Floor of the Central Library on the campus of The University of Texas at Arlington.

A great program has been planned featuring some of the leading scholars, map collectors, and authors of books on maps in the state. Anyone interested in maps is sure to find the program interesting and stimulating, and is encouraged to attend and join the TMS. Registrants will also be given a special tour of the cartographic History Library at UTA, one of the finest resources for the study of maps and historical cartography in the southwest.

For more information about the [Texas Map Society](#), please contact Texas Map Society, c/o Katherine Goodwin, Special Collections Division, UTA Libraries, Box 19497, Arlington, Texas 76019-9497. Goodwin can also be reached at (817) 272-3393 (phone), (817) 272-3360 (fax), and email at goodwin@library.uta.edu.

Spring 1996

[The José Salazar Iarregui Papers](#)

By Maritza Arrigunaga



José Salazar Iarregui.

In the spring of 1991, the Special Collections Division acquired the papers of José Salazar Iarregui, a man who served under Emperor Maximilian of Mexico as Imperial Commissioner for Yucatan. Arrigunaga gives a brief history lesson of Mexico in the 1850s and 1860s in order to put the important collection in perspective. The papers, dating from 1823 to 1898, reflect a tumultuous time in Mexico's history and present a point of view rarely told and currently unpopular in Mexico.

[Special Collections Wins ICI Conservation Division Prize](#)

By Shirley R. Rodnitzky

In winning the national competition prize, Special Collections will receive \$3,000 worth of conservation service from ICI Conservation Division to preserve the maps and a journal of



Carte de viste from Benham Papers.

Henry Washington Benham, an engineer and officer with the U. S. Army . The article describes Benham and his importance to both the Mexican-American War or 1846-1848 and the Civil War.

One Millionth Volume Celebration Highlights the Friends' Spring

By Gerald D. Saxon



Friends members viewing the One Millionth Volume.

Saxon reports on the busy spring season of the Friends which was highlighted by the Friends day-long series of events to commemorate the addition of the one millionth printed item to the Libraries' collection.

Notes

UTA Centennial History Published



The UTA Libraries is pleased to announce the newly published book *Transitions: A Centennial History of The University of Texas at Arlington, 1895-1995*, by Gerald D. Saxon. The book was published to coincide with UTA's centennial celebration, which began in August 1995 and ended in May 1996. The volume traces the university's history, taking the reader on a roller coaster ride over the school's ups and downs. Based on hundreds of historical sources, *Transitions* documents the many changes the school has undergone in its evolution from a private elementary, intermediate, and high school to the graduate level university of today.

The book includes 165 historical photographs, is hardbound, and has a colorful dust jacket. It has received an award of excellence from the Printing Association of Texas and the Printing Industries of the Gulf Coast. *Transitions* sells for \$29.95 and can be ordered from the UTA Bookstore, UTA Box 19075, Arlington, Texas 76019-9975. For order information, please call Mary LeVesque at

(817) 272-2785 .

Table of Contents:

- [Fall & Spring 2000](#)
 - [Fall & Spring 1999](#)
 - [Fall & Spring 1998](#)
 - [Fall & Spring 1997](#)
 - [Compass Rose Introduction](#)
 - [Special Collections Home](#)
-

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A Quarter-Century of Change, Controversy, and Chaos

by *Jerry L. Stafford*

In June 1996 the Special Collections Division of the University Libraries received a valuable addition to its *Fort Worth Star-Telegram* Photograph Collection, when the newspaper donated nearly 300,000 negatives dating from 1955 through 1979, images that document a quarter of a century of significant change, controversy, and chaos. The negatives complement the voluminous prints and negatives the division received from the paper in the mid-1980s and early 1990s. "Baby-Boomers" in particular will enjoy these negatives. Focal points of interest range from local to world-wide concerns of the time, including a local connection with America's teenage heartthrob, Elvis; the Washington Senators move to Arlington's Turnpike Stadium and becoming the Texas Rangers; construction of the Dallas-Fort Worth International Airport; the war in Vietnam; Rosa Park's stand for equality; and the tragic visit of President John F. Kennedy to the Dallas-Fort Worth area in 1963.

The following images are from the recent *Star-Telegram* donation, and each tells its own story. The first of these was taken in 1956 in Montgomery, Alabama. Forty years ago, an unimposing and quiet African-American woman, Rosa Parks, took a stand for equality by refusing to give up her seat on a city bus in Montgomery. She was not a radical or even an activist--just an ordinary citizen who worked as a domestic. Not seeking glory and fame, all Rosa Parks wanted was equality. Her soft-spoken protest did lead to her arrest and subsequent fingerprinting as shown in this photograph. But more important, it led to the Supreme Court ruling that segregation was unlawful.



Rosa Parks



Elvis Presley

The year was 1958; Elvis Presley was the "King of Rock 'n Roll" and the heartthrob of thousands of young teenage girls. From the door of his personal Pullman car on the Texas & Pacific that crossed through Fort Worth to Hollywood, Elvis greeted his adoring fans. This lucky young visitor from Oklahoma City, Mary Savage, had climbed up the steps to gain an autograph, but got much more as seen in this photo of she and Elvis.

President John F. Kennedy took office in 1961 and challenged the American people at the inauguration to, "Ask not what your country can do for you, ask what you can do for your country!" His tenure in office has sometimes been referred to as "Camelot," but is representative of this era of change, controversy, and chaos: change in the form of civil rights rulings and laws, chaos resulting from the nation's involvement in Vietnam, and controversy arising over Kennedy being the first Roman Catholic president and culminating in the mystery surrounding his death. This image shows President Kennedy and his motorcade proceeding down Fort Worth's Main Street on November 22, 1963. The very next day, in Dallas, an assassin's bullet would strike down the young leader. Controversy still surrounds his death, giving rise to numerous theories advanced in books and film.



John F. Kennedy

The British "invasion," in the form of four young men from Liverpool, led



Beatle fans.

to a sensational new age in music and hairstyles. Never again would popular music be staged by the "clean-cut American kid next door." Beatle mania quickly spread through TV appearances, record deals, and even their first movie, "A Hard Day's Night." The young women in this image are exerting their political rights with an interesting alternative for leader of the nation in 1964. How would Ringo, drummer for the Beatles, stack up against then incumbent president, Lyndon Johnson?

The conflict in Vietnam grew to fever pitch during this era and divided the nation. Change would come in society's response to the returning soldiers. There was not a resounding ring of triumph and glory, but the cold shoulder of a nation wishing to quickly forget defeat. Change can also be seen in this photograph taken in 1966 by a staff photographer from the *Star-Telegram* on assignment in Vietnam. The juxtaposition of the modern war machine as it passes the age-old ox cart represents a forced move into the modern world that many Vietnamese were not ready for nor did they desire.



Trucks in Vietnam.



Lyndon Baines Johnson.

Lyndon Baines Johnson, a long-time senator from Texas and vice-president under John F. Kennedy, became president as the result of the assassination. Johnson would later serve a full term, elected by the American people. A man of humble beginnings, LBJ started as a school teacher in Central Texas and later embarked on a political career. His tenure in the Oval Office was also one filled with both success and failure. In 1964 Johnson signed the Civil Rights Bill, paving the way for equality among all men. During his administration and as Commander-in-Chief of the armed forces, he issued orders for the bombing of Hanoi, thus escalating the war in Vietnam.

The Dallas-Fort Worth Regional Airport came a step closer to reality when construction began in 1968 amid controversy and rivalry between the two cities. Erik Jonsson, chairman of the D-FW Regional Airport Board, was quoted in Stanley Scott and Levi Davis' book, *A Giant in Texas*, calling the project an "impossible dream." After its opening in 1973, the airport soon became one of the largest and busiest airports in the world. The facility was designed with the latest in technology and design, employing nearly 4,000 workers at the 17,000 acre site during construction.



Dallas-Fort Worth Regional Airport under construction.



Pitcher Nolan Ryan 1973.

1972 was the year that Bob Short bought the Washington Senators and moved them to Arlington, Texas. The team was renamed the Texas Rangers, and played at Turnpike Stadium for manager Ted Williams. According to Mike Shropshire, author of *Seasons in Hell*, Short planned to keep the team for a couple of years and then sell it to some rich Texan for a profit. The California Angels pitcher in this photograph is Nolan Ryan and the year is 1973, when the Rangers were known as the worst team in baseball. Two decades later, Ryan would be pitching for the Rangers, not against them, and the turn-around would propel the team into the national spotlight.

Even more than baseball, the sports fans of the Metroplex love football. And like the Rangers, change and controversy have

played a big part in the development of the Dallas Cowboys. The team's first name was the Dallas Rangers, but this was changed to avoid conflict with the Texas Rangers baseball team. The Cowboys have gone on to be one of football's winningest franchises, due in large measure to individuals like Coach Tom Landry and Roger Staubach. Fate and fortune could never be seen in the face of the Cowboys' first coach, Tom Landry. That stoic expression is pictured in this photograph of Landry with one of the team's most popular quarterbacks, Roger Staubach, taken in November 1976.



Dallas Cowboys coach Tom Landry and quarterback Roger Staubach, November 1976.



Scene from the 1979 production of "the Wizard of Oz" at Casa Manana.

Another thread also runs through this twenty-five year period--one of fantasy, fun, and family entertainment. That thread is reflected in the children's stage productions at Casa Manana in Fort Worth. Although its beginnings can be traced to the open air dinner theater of the same name in the 1936 Centennial Celebration, Casa Manana's stage productions developed a national following in the 1950s, and have attracted some of the top names in the entertainment business. This scene from the 1979 production of "The Wizard of Oz" is a favorite of young and old alike. It features the local talent of Karen Dodds as Dorothy, Cran Dodds as the Scarecrow, and the Cowardly Lion portrayed by Art Lippa.

Dr. Janice Fennell, Director of the Library Information Center of the *Fort Worth Star-Telegram*, has worked closely with Special Collections staff to move the seventeen storage cabinets that house these negatives. This mutually beneficial relationship between the *Star-Telegram* and UTA's Special Collections will ensure that this important historical resource is preserved and available to the public.

The *Star-Telegram* Photograph Collection, with nearly 750,000 images, is one of the largest and most diverse photo collections in Texas and the Southwest. Other major photographic collections in Special Collections are the Basil Clemons Photograph Collection, the William Wood Photograph Collection, and the Jack White Photograph Collection. In addition, there are other newspaper photograph collections and numerous small collections of photographs housed within the division's manuscript and archival holdings. If the old cliché is true, that "every picture tells a story," then there are tens of thousands of stories to be told by the images in the Special Collections Division.

[🔍 Top of Page](#)
 [🔍 Next Article](#)
 [🔍 Previous Articles List](#)
 [🔍 Special Collections Home Page](#)

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This page last update on Wednesday, June 25, 2003

Friends Start Fall '96 With a Bang!

by *Gerald D. Saxon*

On September 1 the Friends of the UTA Libraries began their ninth year as an organization actively supporting the development and improvement of the University Libraries. On that day the officers elected at last year's annual meeting took office. These officers are Connie Campbell, president; Lannie Forbes, first vice president; Dennis Reinhartz, second vice president; Charles Deur, secretary; and Sam Nix, treasurer. The newly-elected members of the Friends Advisory Council also began their service, and these members include Betty Bob Buckley, Tom Cogdell, Nancy Eichelberger, Carole Findlay, Daniel Kauth, Valerie Wright, and Jane Yarbrough.



Cover of the invitation for the September, 1996 meeting of the Friends depicting a nineteenth-century railroad bridge outside of Austin, Texas.

The first meeting of the 1996-1997 season took place on September 27 and was a resounding success. The meeting was held in conjunction with a major conference being sponsored by the UTA Libraries, the Center for Greater Southwestern Studies and the History of Cartography, the Friends, and a number of corporate sponsors. The conference was entitled "The Railroads and the West." The guest speaker for the evening affair was Robert D. Krebs, president and chief executive officer for the Burlington Northern Santa Fe Railroad (BNSF), the largest railroad corporation in the U.S. Krebs' topic was the "Challenges and Opportunities Facing Western Railroads in the Future."

Krebs held the crowd's attention talking about the major problems that railroads have faced in the last quarter of this century and what they have done to address them. The BNSF, for example, is in the process of computerizing its entire operations, which will require an investment of close to \$300 million before it is completed. Once this is done, virtually all of the railroad's operations (the control of every switch, every train, and every car on every train) will be controlled from the corporation's new headquarters in Fort Worth. Krebs ended his presentation by showing a film on the Santa Fe line, emphasizing its long and proud history.

After Krebs' presentation there was a formal opening of the major exhibition in Special Collections entitled "Whistle Stops: Mapping 19th Century Railroads." The exhibition focussed on the variety and scope of railroad maps as well as the type of information provided by both government and commercial mapmakers in the 1800s. A reception was also held for the 220 attendees.

Dr. Paul Boller, Jr. was the speaker at the November 2nd meeting. With the presidential election only a few days away, Boller spoke on "Campaigning for President: The Great American Shindig." And who better to address this topic than Boller, who has written a number of books on presidents, politics, and first ladies. After his talk, the Friends sold copies of his most recent book, *Presidential Campaigns*, published by Oxford University Press.

Boller is professor emeritus of history at TCU and a noted authority on U.S. politics and politicians. Born in New Jersey, he received his Ph.D. in history from Yale. His many years of teaching really was apparent as he captivated the 100-plus people in the audience with his anecdotes and stories. A reception was held in his honor after his presentation.

The Friends have a full season of programs already planned for the year so please mark your calendars for the following dates:

🕒 *December 13, 1996, 7:30 p.m.*, Jeff Guinn, author of *The Autobiography of Santa Claus*, will be the special guest for the Friends' holiday program.

🕒 *February 21, 1997, 7:30 p.m.*, Dr. George Wright, UTA provost and noted historian of African-American history, will speak on "Race Relations in Kentucky: A Personal and Historical Perspective."

🕒 *April 18, 1997, 7:30 p.m.*, Dr. E. R. Milner, author of the new book *The Lives and Times of Bonnie and Clyde*, will speak about the notorious couple.

For those interested in more information about the Friends, please contact: The Friends of the UTA Libraries, Box 19497, UTA Libraries, Arlington, TX 76019-0497. The telephone number is (817) 272-3393 .

🕒 [Top of Page](#) 🕒 [Next Article](#) 🕒 [Previous Articles List](#) 🕒 [Special Collections Home Page](#)

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This page last update on Wednesday, June 25, 2003

John W. Carpenter, a Texas Giant

by Shirley R. Rodnitzky



Frank Stanton's poem, "Keep a-goin,'" hung for more than five decades on John Carpenter's office wall. It was his motto, and he lived by it. Carpenter was representative of Texans who had the pioneer spirit, valued hard work, and believed that with the right amount of drive and determination anyone could become a success. He was a giant in Southwest agriculture, business, and industry. In Dallas, Carpenter was prominently identified for more than three decades with virtually every civic, charitable, and community enterprise. When asked about his heavy community involvement, he replied, "I feel a very personal obligation to repay my community for the advantages it has afforded me. It is my duty to plow back as much good as I can." Although Carpenter had no political aspirations, he personally knew nearly every political figure important to Texas. Although he was a giant in steel, utilities, and insurance, he was always a willing mentor to Texas youths, the future farmers and business leaders of the state. In spite of Carpenter's success he stayed close to the land and enjoyed raising food, horses, beef cattle, and mules on the farms and ranches that he owned.

John William Carpenter, the son of Thomas Wirt Carpenter and Ellen Isaphene Dickson, was born August 31, 1881, in Corsicana, Texas, in Navarro County. He grew up on the family farm established by his father after the Civil War. His father's death forced him to become head of the family at age nineteen. In 1900, he took a job digging pole holes for Corsicana Gas and Electric Company to supplement the farm's revenue. In 1907, he became the president and general manager of that same company as well as president and general manager of the Corsicana Transit Company and the Athens Power & Light Company.

On June 18, 1913, in Palestine, Texas, John Carpenter married Flossie Belle Gardner, daughter of Judge and Mrs. Benjamin Howard Gardner. They had three children, Ellen Carolyn, John William, and Benjamin Howard. Home and family were of great importance to Carpenter. For him, family ties and loyalties marked the character, personality, and stability of a person. He believed that these qualities were essential to building a respected career or business. Those who knew him considered his interest in the families of his employees to have had an influence on the success of his various enterprises.

In 1918, Carpenter moved to Dallas where for a year he was vice-president and general manager of the Dallas Power and Light Company. In 1919, he became vice-president and general manager of Texas Power and Light Company. His energy and ambition brought him recognition as the dean of the Southwest electric power industry while serving as president of Texas Power and Light Company from 1927 to 1949. After 1949 he became chairman of the board and retired in 1953 as director and chairman of the executive committee. The utility company enjoyed a period of expansion and prosperity during the Carpenter years.

Carpenter also achieved distinction as chief organizer and board chairman of one of the nation's largest life insurance companies. He organized Texas Security Life Insurance Company in 1930,

which through mergers, acquisitions, and consolidations, became the Southland Life Insurance Company in 1945. By 1959 it was the fifteenth largest publicly owned life insurance company in the United States. He was also the founder and first president of Lone Star Steel Company in 1942. In addition, his support was crucial to the success of the State Fair of Texas, to the Texas Centennial Exposition in 1936, and the Texas agriculture and livestock industries. Carpenter operated one of the largest dairy farms in North Texas prior to World War II and served as president of the Trinity Valley Cattle Company from 1940 to 1946. His interest in education was illustrated by his service as a trustee and member of the board of counsellors of Baylor University, his role in establishing Texas Technological College (now Texas Tech University in Lubbock) where he served on its first board of regents, his membership in the advisory committee of the Bureau of Business Research of The University of Texas, and his service on the advisory board of the North Texas State Teachers College Ex-Students Association. For many years he held a commission as major in the U.S. Army Officers Reserve Corps. He received an honorary LL.D. degree from Texas Tech University and an honorary D.Eng. degree from Southern Methodist University.



SIGNING TEXAS STEEL CONTRACT: Secretary of Commerce Jesse Jones (seated at right) and a group of Texans watch as John W. Carpenter (seated left), Dallas, president of the Lone Star Steel Company, signs a contract with the Defense Plant Corporation to set up plants in the long idle Texas iron ore belt. Left to right standing: Senator Tom Connally; John W. Snyder, vice-president of the Defense Plant Corporation; Representative Wright Patman; G. H. Anderson, director of the steel company; J. G. Peterbaugh, president of a McAlester (OK) fuel company; Speaker Sam Rayburn; and W. W. Lynch and F. M. Ryburn of Dallas. [July 18, 1942].



A major portion of the collection deals with Carpenter's efforts to improve and control the Trinity River.

To underscore his deep concern for conservation and reforestation, Carpenter planted more than two million pine seedlings on his farms in Anderson County. Along with his friend, Amon Carter, Sr., of Fort Worth, Carpenter recognized the importance of the Trinity River to the future of Texas. Despite its periods of drought and flood, engineering studies revealed the stream to be the most important single water resource in Texas. He proposed stabilizing the river to reduce floods, harness its flow, and store the flood waters for utilization in the home, industry, and agricultural production. He also envisioned the Trinity as a link between Dallas, Fort Worth, and other

Trinity Valley cities for the purpose of industrial growth and development. As a champion of Texas waterways, Carpenter served as chairman of the Trinity River Development Committee of the Dallas Chamber of Commerce and as president of the Trinity Improvement Association from its beginnings in 1928. The association sponsored surveys and studies of the Trinity River which led to Congressional approval of several Texas reservoirs and improvements to Dallas and Fort Worth floodways. He was also the prime mover of legislation that created the Trinity River Authority as the state agency for stream development. He served as a member of the committee that helped bring Texas its first national park, Big Bend National Park. He was later director of the Big Bend National Park Association and also the Big Bend Trail Association.

John W. Carpenter died of a heart attack at the end of a full day's work on June 16, 1959. Several thousand messages of sorrow and sympathy were received by the Carpenter family. Nearly every Texas city newspaper published a tribute. The *Longview Daily News* perhaps said it best: "Although we are the poorer for having lost 'Mr. Texas'. . . we are immeasurably the richer for the living inspiration of his friendship and example and the lasting contribution of his service to the cause of progress in Texas and the nation."

Special Collections Division is pleased that Ben H. Carpenter of Irving, Texas, has donated his father's papers to The University of Texas at Arlington. Early in 1996 more than 218 linear feet of files in 114 boxes of varying size were received. Since the transfer, the collection has been reboxed and inventoried. Much like a buried treasure, the boxes hold many gems waiting to be discovered. The division's remaining task is the organization and processing of fifty-plus years of twentieth century Texas history in this collection and the compilation of a detailed guide to the papers.

The papers have been sorted and placed into 205 smaller, more manageable boxes. They contain Carpenter's business files and other materials that he produced and collected during his career. Nineteenth century photographs, histories, legal documents, and reports dating back to 1891 concerning the Trinity River are also included. The bulk of the papers, correspondence, maps, financial and legal documents, speeches, studies, surveys, histories, and photographs trace Carpenter's efforts to spearhead the improvement, control, and development of the Trinity River. In 1955, Ben H. Carpenter was elected the first president of the Trinity River Authority by its twenty-four man board after serving as its temporary president. Indoctrinated with the "Trinity gospel" since childhood, Ben Carpenter was, at age thirty-two, one of the youngest men to serve as the head of a major government agency. A significant portion of the papers are Trinity River Authority records and files that reveal Ben Carpenter's work for the development of the Trinity River from the 1950s to 1980.

The John Carpenter Papers also contain records concerning the founding, construction, and operation of the Lone Star Steel Company, from 1930 to 1959; the operation and development of Texas Power and Light Company, from 1927 to 1959; and the Dallas Railway and Terminal Company, from 1914 to 1947. There are also files on Carpenter's role in numerous community clubs and organizations, as well as his industrial development activities, from 1908 to 1959. His diverse community service included being general chairman of the organizing committee that established the National Conference of Christians and Jews in the Southwest, a trustee of the National Safety Council, a director of both the Dallas Crime Commission and the Dallas Citizens Council as well as the Dallas Grand Opera Association. As a founding father of Highland Park Presbyterian Church, he served as president of the board of trustees and member of the board of elders.

Particularly well documented is his work in the Dallas Chamber of Commerce, the Dallas Citizens Council, the Kessler Plan Association of Dallas, and the promotion of textile mills in North Texas. His relationship with Amon Carter, Sr., of Fort Worth, and his efforts to cooperate with other area chambers of commerce is revealed. Files from his years as regent of Texas Technological College include minutes of the first meeting of its board of regents, commencement programs, photographs, and yearbooks. Carpenter enjoyed putting Texas on display. State Fair of Texas materials depict Carpenter's involvement in promoting the agriculture and livestock industries and include clippings, postcards, and programs from several of the State Fairs and rodeos in the 1930s and 1940s. His political files primarily involve the resolution of the conflict between the Lower Colorado River Authority and the Texas Power & Light Company in the late 1930s and early 1940s. These files include correspondence revealing negotiations between John Carpenter and President Franklin Delano Roosevelt, Congressman Sam Rayburn, and other Texas and national political figures.

Speeches, articles, awards, and newspaper clippings that reflect Carpenter's life and widespread activities are found throughout the collection. Carpenter was a historian at heart, leaving behind not only the usual letters and reports, but also an accumulation of many fine photographs, numerous newspapers, and publicity files of newspaper clippings, as well as several rare printed historical sources that document his activities and the companies that he established. One such item is an album of photographs by Charles Erwin Arnold depicting various Texas electric plants that were operating from 1924 to 1928. The album includes photographs of Pecos Valley Power and Light, the Sweetwater Plant and town scenes, and the Wichita Falls plant and town. It also has scenes of Burkburnet's oil fields and power and light exhibits at the 1927 Texas State Fair. Numerous photographs capture scenes at the site of the various stages of construction of the Lone Star Steel plant in Daingerfield, Texas, in the early 1940s.

The Carpenter Papers also include stock certificates for the Trinity River Navigation Company, 1891 to 1909; a copy of the City of Dallas charter for 1907; blueprints for a proposed textile mill in Dallas in 1924; a bound volume,



Scene of cristenig ceremonies of the blast furnace, "Flossie Bell," Lone Star Steel Company plant, Daingerfield, Texas, October 30, 1947. Mrs. Carpenter, for whom the furnace was named, formally christened it.

Suggestions for the Industrial Development of Texas by John Carpenter originally submitted to the Honorable W. Lee O'Daniel in 1938; a scrapbook highlighting the war effort activities of the Lone Star Steel Company in 1943; programs from the dedication of the George Dealey monument in 1949 and the events commemorating General MacArthur's visit to Dallas in 1951; a master plan of the Trinity River and its tributaries, railroad maps, and maps of the major river basins of Texas; motion picture film, "Home to the River;" and film and radio scripts regarding the improvement of the Trinity River from the 1930s through the 1970s.

The papers are a gold mine of North Texas economic history. UTA Associate Professor of History, Robert Fairbanks, an urban historian, who examined parts of the Carpenter Papers, located a significant amount of material that filled the gaps in his current research on twentieth century Dallas history. He calls the Carpenter Papers "the best source yet on the mid-twentieth century power structure in Dallas." He notes that the collection "makes available for the first time minutes and reports of the Dallas Chamber of Commerce and the Dallas Citizens Council dealing with a variety of local issues." Fairbanks feels the Carpenter Papers "are quite simply the most important source on twentieth century Dallas since the George Dealey Papers."

[🔍 Top of Page](#) [🔍 Next Article](#) [🔍 Previous Articles List](#) [🔍 Special Collections Home Page](#)

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The José Salazar Ilarregui Papers

by Maritza Arrigunga



José Salazar Ilarregui.

There is a historical cliché that says the "winners write the history," and this is probably more true than historians like to admit. It is rare that the losing side in a conflict or the defeated nation in a war be treated objectively and fairly in the written histories that follow. In the spring of 1991, the Special Collections Division acquired the papers of José Salazar Ilarregui, one of the "losers" in the nineteenth century history of Mexico. Salazar served under Emperor Maximilian of Mexico as Imperial Commissioner for Yucatan and led the conservative forces on the Yucatan peninsula for nearly three years. These papers reflect the inner workings of Maximilian's government and the efforts of the conservative elements in the country to rule and bring stability to southeastern Mexico.

To understand the Salazar Papers, however, one must first know something about Mexican history in the 1850s and 1860s. In 1854-1855, a group of Mexican liberal leaders participated in the successful Ayutla Revolution in the state of Guerrero to overthrow the government of Antonio López de Santa Anna. One of the primary

concerns of these revolutionaries was to write a new constitution that would embrace the liberal ideas in vogue in the nineteenth century. Their desire was to reform the government in order to regenerate the nation. This movement came to be known as La Reforma (the Reform).

In November 1855, the first reform law was issued abolishing the special privileges of the religious and military *fueros*. The *fueros* had granted soldiers and clerics the right to be tried by their own courts for civil or criminal crimes. After the passage of the reform law, the ecclesiastical and military courts handled only those cases dealing with canon or military law. This law, named after Minister of Justice Benito Juárez, generated relentless opposition by conservatives and divided the liberals into two factions.

Under the presidency of Ignacio Comonfort, a second controversial law was drafted, this one by his secretary of treasury, Miguel Lerdo de Tejada. The Ley Lerdo was promulgated on June 6, 1856. Its purpose was to increase the revenues of the government and stimulate the economy. All institutions were denied ownership of landed estates. Therefore all of the estates owned by the Catholic Church were to be sold. The church was forbidden to own land, but it would receive some money in selling its lands, and the government would benefit from collecting sales taxes from these transactions. Unfortunately, the law had other results. The revenues derived from the sales were minimal, and many wealthy Mexicans were deterred by the clergy from taking advantage of the anticlerical law. As a result, many foreigners were the ones to benefit from the law. The law was not restricted only to church lands. Indeed, any corporation was forbidden land ownership; consequently, the Indians' communal lands, the *ejidos*, were taken away leaving many Indian families landless.

The reform laws strained the social and political fabric of Mexico, but the breaking point came with the adoption of the Constitution of 1857. It had been drafted with the intent of removing all remnants of special privilege in Mexican society. Slavery and compulsory service were abolished, as were all titles of nobility. The constitution provided that instead of the vice president, the head of the Supreme Court would take over in the event of the death or incapacity of the president. Suffrage was offered to all males twenty-one years old if single, eighteen if married. The constitution also included a bill of rights guaranteeing freedom of speech, press, and education. Freedom of worship was implicit

because Roman Catholicism was not made the state religion. Objections to many parts of the document were immediately voiced. The bishops saw freedom of education as contradicting canon law and argued that abolishing compulsory service would allow nuns and priests to renounce their vows.

Civil servants and military men were faced with a serious predicament. They could pledge allegiance to the constitution and face threatened excommunication by the Catholic Church, or they could oppose the constitution and lose their positions. The new constitution and its implementation divided Mexico into two irreconcilable camps, leading eventually to civil war, foreign intervention, and the Maximilian Empire.

In December 1857, the Plan of Tacubaya, advanced by General Felix Zuloaga, denounced the constitution and called for a new convention. After taking Mexico City, Zuloaga and his supporters dissolved Congress and tried to win President Comonfort to the cause, but the president hesitated, resigned the presidency, and left the country. Zuloaga was appointed chief executive by a junta. In the meantime, Benito Juarez, who as head of the Supreme Court was next in line for the presidency, assumed the presidency in Guanajuato, declaring that the constitutional government had been reestablished. Afterwards, he moved his liberal government to Veracruz. Now, Mexico had two presidents and two governments: one in Veracruz proclaiming "Constitución y Legalidad," and the other in Mexico City proclaiming "Religión y Fueros."



The War of Reform (1858-1860), sometimes called the Three Years War, was a long civil war marked by excesses on both sides. In late December 1860, the last battle was fought and won by the liberal army. In March 1861, Juarez won the presidential election, but the liberal triumph brought peace only for a limited time because complications with foreign powers had emerged.

After the war, the nation was bankrupt and owed more than \$80 million to foreign powers. Juarez and his government were willing to accept their responsibility, but immediate payments were impossible. In July 1861, he decreed suspension for two years of all payments on foreign debts. In response, France, Spain, and Great Britain signed a treaty in October 1861 to join in an armed intervention to confiscate military forts and customhouses in Mexico, allegedly to collect revenues to cover the debts owed to their respective governments. The Spanish army, led by General Prim, arrived at Veracruz in December 1861 and was joined by English and French detachments a month later. In order to explain their presence, the European allies issued a proclamation in which nothing was said about debts. They had come to aid the country to solve its internal disorder and to "preside at the grand spectacle of [its] regeneration." The allies' leaders soon found their military commanders bogged down in disagreements, but they all acknowledged that the French had a deeper interest in Mexico than the other countries. Napoleon III was emperor of France and had an ambitious foreign policy. As a result, the British and Spanish decided to leave Mexico with the French.



Benito Juarez.

On May 31, President Juarez and his cabinet were forced to move to San Luis Potosí, where he remained until December 22, 1863. From that point on, Juarez would be on the run in Northern Mexico, from Chihuahua to Saltillo to Monterrey. It took almost a year for French General Elie Forey and his forces to take Mexico City, but when they did he organized a provisional government. The government was a triumvirate formed by two conservative generals and a clergyman acting as regent. In addition, an Assembly of Notables, consisting of 215 Mexican citizens, was called to decide on the future government of the country. The assembly proclaimed that Mexico would be a hereditary monarchy with a Catholic prince as emperor. The chosen candidate, previously selected by Napoleon III, was the Austrian archduke, Ferdinand Maximilian von Habsburg. In October 1863, a delegation headed by José María Gutiérrez de Estrada offered the crown to Maximilian. He accepted the offer on the condition that the Mexican people should vote in favor of the offer. After this Marshal Achille Bazaine, who had replaced Forey as French commander in chief, masterminded a favorable plebiscite.

On May 28, 1864, Maximilian and his wife, Carlotta, arrived at Veracruz, and two

weeks later the young couple made their jubilant entry into Mexico City. For the next ten months Maximilian's government established control in all but four of Mexico's twenty-four provinces. However, the imperial armies, both French and conservatives, found out that they could not control and pacify the entire country. Benito Juárez had maintained his government in Paso del Norte, and his forces gained strength at the end of the U.S. Civil War in 1865. A large volume of surplus military equipment was transferred to the Mexican republican forces, while thousands of discharged American veterans joined the liberal army.

Napoleon III was under pressure from the U.S. to withdraw from Mexico, and France's Chamber of Deputies advised against a costly Mexican campaign while their country needed to prepare for the rising Prussian threat. Bowing to this pressure, Napoleon announced that his forces would be withdrawn in three separate stages. Marshal Bazaine advised Maximilian to abdicate, but he refused. By mid-March 1867, all foreign troops were evacuated, and

only a few cities were under the imperial banner: Mexico City, Puebla, Veracruz, and Merida.

In February Maximilian had taken command of the imperial army in Queretaro. On May 15, Maximilian and his army fell to the republican forces of General Mariano Escobedo. After a perfunctory trial, Maximilian was executed. With his death the second empire collapsed and the Conservative Party died as a political force in Mexico. Since then the term "conservative" has carried with it the stigma of association with traitors and foreign invaders. In some instances, the three years of Maximilian's government is not even discussed in Mexico's official history. Moreover, the records of imperial forces or administrations that were not destroyed by the triumphant liberal-republican armies were deliberately left to oblivion or natural destruction. The liberal victory of 1867 is seen by most Mexican historians as the beginning of a new era in the nation's history.

Salazar Ilarregui took office as the Imperial Commissioner for Yucatan on September 4, 1864. He served in that capacity until March 1866. On March 3, Maximilian transferred him to Mexico City to head one of the national ministries (Gobernación.) He remained in the nation's capital until October 1866, when he was sent back to Merida, Yucatan's capital. While he was in Mexico City, the Imperial Commissioner for Yucatan had been Don Domingo Bureau. On November 10, 1866, Salazar once again assumed the government of Yucatan, and Bureau was appointed Imperial Commissioner of Veracruz. Salazar held this position until he capitulated to the republican armies in June of the next year.

A large portion of the Salazar Ilarregui Papers concentrates on his second term, providing minute details of the last six months of his administration before his surrender to the forces of General Cepeda Peraza on June 17, 1867. There are a few files from his early administration in 1864, but only two reports from 1865. There are also several accounts and reports from various imperial administrative and military officials during the administration of Domingo Bureau. These deal primarily with internal affairs and the so-called Caste War of 1866 (April-November). Included in the papers are military and official correspondence from Commander Francisco Canton Rosado, General Felipe Navarrete, and commanders Pablo Tommasek, Juan Ortoll, and José Lara.

José Salazar Ilarregui was born in Hermosillo, Sonora, in 1823. He graduated from the Colegio de Minería as a mathematical engineer. He was commissioned to work in 1849-1850 on the U.S.-Mexico boundary survey mandated by the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo. He also worked on the measurement of the Mesilla. On July 8, 1863, he represented Chihuahua in the Assembly of Notables to choose the future government of the country and later was in charge of the Ministry of Public Works. He was exiled to New York after the fall of Maximilian, but returned at the request of the Mexican government to teach, which he did until his death in 1892. In 1850 his work on the border survey was published under the title *Datos de los trabajos astronómicos y topográficos dispuestos en forma de diario, practicados durante el año de 1849 y principios de 1850 por la Comisión de Límites en la línea que divide esta República de los Estados Unidos*. Salazar had the reputation of being a scientist and a man who was fair and honest. Even his political enemies admired and respected him.



Carlotta, wife of Maximilian,

His papers reflect a tumultuous time in Mexico's history and a point of view rarely told and currently unpopular in Mexico. The José Salazar Ilarregui Papers include two boxes of documents dating from 1864 to 1867. The papers are open for research. For more information about the papers, please call Maritza Arrigunaga at (817) 272-3393 .
[Webmaster's note: The finding aid for the [Ilarregui Papers](#) is now available on the *Special Collections* web site].

 [Top of Page](#)  Next Article  [Previous Articles List](#)  [Special Collections Home Page](#)

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Special Collections Wins ICI Conservation Division Prize by Shirley Rodnitzky



Rare cartes de visite from the Henry Washington Benham Papers.

The Special Collections Division is pleased to announce that a proposal written by Shirley Rodnitzky and Gerald Saxon last fall recently won first prize in the ICI Conservation Division's Prize for a Plan 1995 national competition. Special Collections will receive \$3,000 worth of conservation services from ICI Conservation Division to preserve the maps and a journal of Henry Washington Benham, an engineer and officer with the U. S. Army.

The purpose of the award is to help smaller institutions or institutions without the necessary funds for preservation. The Conservation Division of ICI, located in Brown Summit, North Carolina, was founded in 1987 to offer high quality, economical, and timely preservation and conservation services for libraries, archives, museums, historical societies, and other collection-holding institutions as well as for individuals.

The fall 1995 *Compass Rose* featured an article about General Benham. It described the importance of that summer's acquisition of the Benham Papers and outlined his career in the U. S. Army and his service in the Mexican War of 1846-1848 and the U. S. Civil War. Benham's papers reflect primarily his military career and include letters, military orders, military service records, maps, and documents, which describe the various campaigns in which he participated. They also include published articles he wrote concerning his service in Mexico, the West Virginia campaign of 1861, and technical manuals about the construction of pontoon bridges and devices for service in the field. Letters and documents are from many historical figures, such as John C. Fremont, George McClellan, and William L. Marcy. A contemporary manuscript facsimile of a letter written and signed by Abraham Lincoln in 1864 regarding Benham's assignment of duty is included with his military service records. Photographs of Benham show him at various ages in military and in civilian dress. His journal contains copies of orders, letters, and dispatches sent and received during the battle for Western Virginia. Thirty-five manuscripts and printed maps drawn or used by Benham show battlefields, towns, and the topography of the areas in which the various armies collided. Some of the maps contain extensive annotations concerning troop movements, enemy positions, and battle sites.

The condition of General Benham's maps and journal were of concern when the papers arrived in Special Collections. All of the maps were folded as they had remained for many years. Tears and multiple irregular creases prevented the safe access of these maps without causing serious damage. Preservation of the maps require that they be carefully unfolded, flattened, repaired, de-acidified, and encapsulated before use by researchers. The leather and marbled paper-covered journal contains two fold-out manuscript maps and more than one hundred pages of handwritten communications and battle reports recorded from June to December 1861. It is fragile and the binding partially broken. It was fortunate timing that the receipt of the collection was followed by ICI Conservation Division's announcement of a "Prize for a Plan 1995." In proposing the Benham maps and journal for the conservation plan, we felt we had a winner. The papers were not only of interest to Special Collections because of the maps and Mexican War materials, but General Benham was a national figure whose activities spanned the expansion of the American frontier and made

engineering and military history during much of the nineteenth century.

The remaining portion of the Benham Papers, approximately two hundred items, was acquired by the university in the late fall of 1995. Dr. and Mrs. Marvin Applewhite and the UT System Board of Regents provided the funds necessary to purchase the second portion of the papers. This addition contains more than sixty-five rare cartes de visite and other photographs of family members, U.S. Army officers, scenes of waterways, ships, buildings, and machinery from about 1862-1907. Additional military documents, a bone ruler used by Benham and his son while at West Point, family correspondence, and papers of the Dielman family, possibly descendants, are included in the collection. There are letters from Benham to his wife, Elizabeth McNeil, as well as letters from his son, Henry Hill Benham, to his wife and mother from military stations in Cuba, 1900-1905. Military records, estate papers, and a printed biographical sketch of General John McNeil, Benham's father-in-law, are included in the collection. General McNeil had a distinguished military career in the early nineteenth century and fought in the U.S. Army at the battles of Chippewa and Niagara. After retirement, McNeil was surveyor of the port of Boston.

The Benham Papers will be reunited, processed, and available for research later in 1996 or early 1997. A great deal of U.S. history is packed into approximately two linear feet of papers, photographs, and artifacts. The Benham Papers' research value will reward students of military history, cartography, engineering, the Mexican-American War, the U.S. Civil War, and family history of the nineteenth century.

[🔍 Top of Page](#) [🔍 Next Article](#) [🔍 Previous Articles List](#) [🔍 Special Collections Home Page](#)

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