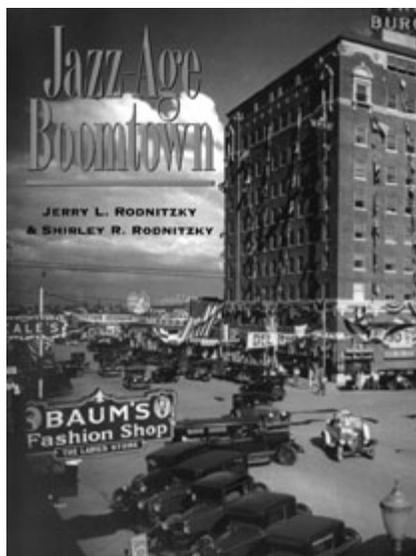


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By Shirley Rodnitzky



Jazz-Age Boomtown, a recent publication by Jerry and Shirley Rodnitzky, focuses on the 1920s photography of Basil Clemons. The Rodnitzky's believe the collection of approximately 18,000 negatives and photographs represent a microcosm of American popular culture of the era. **Fall 1998.**

[Virginia Garrett: Map Collector and Donor Extraordinaire](#)

By Gerald D. Saxon

This article was previously published in the gallery guide that accompanied an exhibition in celebration of the 1997 donation by Mrs. Garrett of her map collection. The article explains how Mrs. Garrett began her collecting activities and why she decided to donate her maps to UTA. **Fall 1998.**



From left: UTA President Robert E. Witt, U.T. system chancellor William Cunningham, Virginia Garrett and Jenkins Garrett.

[The Cartographic Collections of Virginia Garrett](#)

By Katherine R. Goodwin

Special Collection's Cartographic Archivist, Katherine Goodwin, discusses the strengths of the Garrett Collection and some of the many cartographic "gems" found in it. **Fall 1998.**



Spring 1997

[Rebel with a Cause: Carl Brannin and His Work](#)

By Jane Boley



Laura and Carl Brannin, 1961

Boley recounts the life of Carl Brannin as gleaned from sources in Special Collections, including three archival collections, five oral history interviews, and two reels of microfilm. Brannin was actively involved in a number of social causes and was "not an ordinary man."

[The Jack White Collection](#)

By Jerry L. Stafford



Swift Packing Plant, Fort Worth, Texas, ca.1910.

A description of a collection of photographic images and related material donated by Jack White of Fort Worth. The collection contains approximately 3,000 prints and more than 4,000 slides relating to Fort Worth and Tarrant County.

[Friends Offer Diverse Programs in 1996-97](#)

By Gerald D. Saxon



Cover of Friends invitation to presentation by Dr. E. R. Milner, author of the new book, *The Lives and Times of Bonnie and Clyde*.

Saxon, Associated Director of Special Collections, reports on the Friends of UTA Libraries' program and events. The Friends enjoyed presentations by *Fort Worth Star-Telegram* journalist, Jeff Guinn, author Dr. E. R. Milner, UTA provost Dr. George Wright, and the UTA Quartet, a talented group of choral students. The students entertained the Friends with Christmas carols at the December meeting.

[Notes](#)

Belo Foundation Funds Project

The Special Collections Division is pleased to announce that the A. H. Belo Corporation Foundation of Dallas has agreed to fund the processing of the A. C. Greene Papers. Judith Garrett Segura, vice president and executive director of the foundation, commented that the "Belo Foundation, by making this grant to UTA, recognizes the importance of Greene to the history of Texas literature and journalism, and is pleased to help the university make his papers available to researchers."

The Greene Papers include sixty-five linear feet of material reflecting Greene's life as a journalist, historian, writer, and familyman. Born in Abilene, Texas, in 1923, Greene spent many years in the 1940s-1960s as a reporter and editor for newspapers in Abilene and Dallas before leaving journalism to become an independent author. He has written twenty books, focusing on local and regional history, criticism, and fiction. Greene's Papers came to UTA in 1993.

In January 1997 Special Collections hired Chris Ohan, a graduate student at UTA working on his Ph.D. in Humanities, to process the Greene Papers. Ohan will work a year on the project. Special Collections wants to thank the Belo foundation for making this project possible!

Webmaster's note: The finding aid for the [A. C. Greene Papers](#) is now available online.

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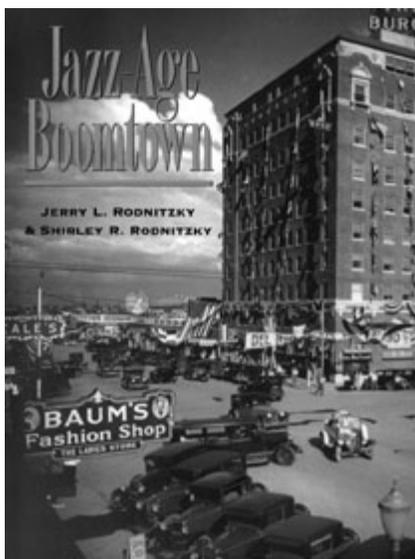
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Jazzy New Book Published

by Shirley R. Rodnitzky



Jazz-Age Boomtown, a recent publication by Jerry and Shirley Rodnitzky, brings Basil Clemons' 1920s photographs to a wider audience. The collection of approximately 18,000 negatives and photographs of Breckenridge, Texas, 1919-1948, has been part of the Special Collections Division since their 1985 purchase with a grant from Vicki Vinson Cantwell of Fort Worth. Shirley made the Clemons collection a standard dinner topic and this inspired the collaboration by the Rodnitzkys. The unique images impressed her from the moment she started processing them, and she hoped that someone would one day use them in a history of Breckenridge or a biography of the eccentric West Texas photographer. Although the photos were used for genealogical research and to illustrate an occasional article or exhibit, they remained virtually unnoticed and unappreciated outside the UTA Libraries.

In 1992, after looking over the collection at length and doing some preliminary research on Breckenridge, Jerry considered writing a photo-essay history based on the early Clemons photographs. He felt that the photographs revealed Breckenridge as a microcosm of American popular culture in the 1920s. He then outlined the text

and searched for more information about Breckenridge, Texas, and Basil Clemons. Shirley searched Special Collections holdings for information and selected likely photographs for reproduction to match the various chapters. Together they worked on captions and refined the text that Jerry had written. The finished product was accepted by Texas A & M University Press for publication in the Charles and Elizabeth Prothro Texas Photography Series. Texas A & M was the first press contacted because of the high quality of previous Prothro photo books, such as *Equal before the Lens* by Barbara McCandless.

Jazz-Age Boomtown is primarily a photographic essay about a West Texas oil boomtown. It is neither a biography of Basil Clemons nor a history of Breckenridge, Texas. On a larger scale, however, the book is a photographic record of the cultural roots of modern America. Whatever dates mark the beginning of recent or contemporary America, most historians would agree that modern American culture began after World War I and took shape in the 1920s. The twenties featured such modern cultural fare as widespread auto ownership, big-time sports, and the first mesmerizing mass media--radio and cinema. Basil Clemons never saw himself as the photographer of modern American culture, but that is what he became for the authors. His photographs will remain American--and Texas--treasures, because they so vividly captured that formative modern, national, Jazz-Age culture.

Basil Clemons, the town's only professional photographer and most eccentric resident, traveled to California, the Pacific



Clemons' own cutline reads, "Down In Breckenridge, Texas Where Horses Ride in Fords."

Northwest, and Alaska before returning to Texas in 1919

where he had followed the oil boom to Breckenridge. He photographed not only the oil fields but also many other aspects of the boom--views of main streets, fires, floods, the circus, movie theaters, sporting events, schools, ranches, shops, and restaurants--capturing the essence of the boomtown atmosphere including not only the permanent residents but the visitors and drifters who came with the boom and left when the oil ran out. One hundred photographs are reproduced in the text; a small fraction of the hundreds of striking photographs that comprise the collection. In June 1997, the book was published. The authors hope that it brings well deserved fame to Basil Clemons and his work.



Elephant trainer performing a trick with one of his 'students.'

Both the acquisition of the photographs and the publication of this book were enthusiastically supported by Jenkins Garrett. *Jazz-Age Boomtown* is available in paperback for \$19.95, and can be ordered directly from Texas A & M University Press, Drawer C, College Station, Texas, 77843-4354. It is also available at the UTA Bookstore and local bookstore chains.

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This page last update on Wednesday, June 25, 2003

Virginia Garrett: Map Collector and Donor Extraordinaire

By Gerald Saxon

On October 1, 1997, the President's Office and the University Libraries sponsored an appreciation ceremony thanking Virginia Garrett for the gift of her map collection to the Special Collections Division. The gift included more than 900 historic maps focusing on the Gulf of Mexico and Texas. President Robert E. Witt presided at the October 1 dinner and program. Also speaking that evening were William Cunningham, chancellor of the UT System; Mrs. Garrett; Louis De Vorsey, professor emeritus of geography at the University of Georgia; and Tom Wilding, director of libraries.

In addition, the Libraries opened a special exhibition that evening entitled "The Cartographic Collections of Virginia Garrett." The exhibit, located on the sixth floor of UTA's Central Library in the Special Collections Division, will run through March 15, 1998. A special gallery guide was printed highlighting the details of the exhibition. Assisting in the curating of the exhibition and the preparation of the gallery guide were David Buisseret, holder of the Jenkins and Virginia Garrett Endowed Chair in the History Department; Dennis Reinhartz, associate professor of history; Preston Figley, a map dealer in Fort Worth; Richard Francaviglia, director of UTA's Center for Greater Southwestern Studies and the History of Cartography; Robert S. Martin, director of the Texas State Library and Archives; Katherine Goodwin; and myself.

The donation of Mrs. Garrett's map collection is a watershed event for Special Collections, the Libraries, and the University. With the gift, the University's holdings of maps and other cartographic resources focusing on Texas and the Gulf Coast are some of the strongest in the nation. Recognizing this strength and hoping to build upon it, the University has committed to raising an endowment to adequately support the preservation, development, and enhancement of, and programming for, the collection. All of us associated with UTA and the UT System owe Virginia Garrett and her family a tremendous debt of gratitude!

What follows is a short article on Mrs. Garrett that we published in the gallery guide accompanying the exhibition. The article explains how Mrs. Garrett began her collecting activities and why she decided to donate her maps, at this time, to UTA. Elsewhere in this issue Katherine R. Goodwin, the cartographic archivist in Special Collections, discusses the strengths of the Garrett Collection and some of the many cartographic "gems" found in it. All of us associated with Special Collections encourage the readers of The Compass Rose to view the exhibition and use the Virginia Garrett map collection. You will not be disappointed!

Virginia Garrett has been fascinated with maps for as long as she can remember. She recalls in the late 1920s her father giving her road maps to look at to occupy her time on trips from their home in Fort Worth, Texas, to her grandparents' house in Marlin, Texas, close to Waco. While this trip today takes less than two hours to drive, then it took from sun-up to sundown, and all the way a young Virginia was captured and captivated by maps. "Maps were like puzzles to me," she admits. "I was mightily impressed that someone, somewhere, had calculated how far it was from



From left: UTA President Robert E. Witt, U. T. System Chancellor William Cunningham, Virginia Garrett, and Jenkins Garrett.

one town to the next and was able to display this graphically on a map."

Virginia Garrett never lost her fascination with maps. Indeed, her interest in maps and her marriage to Jenkins Garrett, an inveterate collector of books, manuscripts, and other historical materials, provided the impetus for her to begin collecting antiquarian maps. Today her collection consists of more than 900 maps focusing on Texas and the Gulf of Mexico, and is considered the largest such collection in private hands.



President Witt (left), chancellor Cunningham (center), and Mrs. Garrett after the ribbon cutting ceremony opening the exhibition, "The Cartographic Collections of Virginia Garrett."

Virginia Williams Garrett was born in Fort Worth on November 26, 1920, to John I. Williams and Bertha Kunze Williams. Virginia grew up in Fort Worth, graduating from Northside High School in 1937 and going on for comptometer training at Burroughs Training School after graduation. From 1938-1941, she worked in the Auditing Department of Continental Oil Company in downtown Fort Worth. On November 26, 1941, she married Jenkins Garrett, a young attorney who, at the time, was serving as a special agent for the FBI on the West Coast. During the early 1940s, Jenkins and Virginia lived in California. They returned to Texas in 1943, where her time was increasingly occupied caring for a growing family, which included a daughter, Dianne, born in 1943; another daughter, Donna, born in 1945; and a son, Jenkins, Jr., born in 1947.

While the children were small and her husband was building a career, Virginia had little time to think about maps. By the late 1950s, however, Jenkins had been "bitten by the collecting bug" and was aggressively amassing a book and manuscript collection focusing on Texas and the U. S. War with Mexico, 1846-1848. Jenkins's passion for collecting prompted them to frequent bookstores during their travels both in the United States and abroad. To keep herself entertained while Jenkins sleuthed for books, Virginia began looking at maps and other cartographic material, such as atlases and geographies. Virginia was drawn to the maps that depicted Texas. She remembers purchasing her first Texas map some forty years ago in a small bookstore on Paris's Left Bank. Like her husband, she too was bitten by the "collecting bug" after that first purchase.

Initially Mrs. Garrett had no collecting plan in mind; she simply acquired the Texas maps that caught her eye and those that would complement her husband's book collection. Gradually, as she learned more about maps, mapmakers, and the history of cartography, her interest became more focused. She broadened her collecting focus to include maps depicting the land that would become Texas (as opposed to Texas as a political unit) and the Gulf of Mexico region. This enabled her to collect maps dating back as early as the 16th century, including those produced by the leading cartographers of the western world. She decided to use 1900 as the ending date for the sheet maps she collected, but she did build a collection of some 375 atlases published primarily in the late 19th and 20th century. She donated her atlas collection to UTA's Cartographic History Library in 1990.

Today Mrs. Garrett is known on both sides of the

Atlantic as a knowledgeable and thoughtful collector. She and Jenkins are actively involved in state, national, and international map societies including Mrs. Garrett's leadership in the establishment of the Texas Map Society; they have visited the finest map libraries in the U. S. and Europe; they have befriended and read the works of the leading scholars writing in cartographic history; and they continue to travel the world to add to the collection. After four decades, Mrs. Garrett's map collection includes more than 900 maps, and virtually all of the leading mapmakers working during this four-century period are represented in it. In addition, the collection also includes lesser known cartographers and maps from smaller publishing houses, making it a collection that accurately reflects the evolution of the art, science, and knowledge of cartography over the centuries.



Jenkins Garrett (left), William Cunningham (center), and Robert Witt (right) examine a map in the exhibition.

When asked about her favorite map, Mrs. Garrett replied, "The map in my hand at the time!" She does admit that she is especially fond of the stunningly beautiful maps produced during the 17th century, with their vivid colors and ornate cartouches. Also, she remains fascinated by the "ribbon maps" produced by British mapmaker John Ogilby in the 1600s. Looking back over her collection, she wishes now that she had acquired more town views or birds-eye view maps. Like most collectors, Mrs. Garrett derives great pleasure from the "thrill of the hunt" and the satisfaction received in finding an important map in an out-of-the-way shop.

Virginia Garrett has decided to present the collection to UTA so that it can be used by students, scholars, and other researchers. She and Jenkins have previously built significant collections and then selflessly given them to the university to make them available for students and researchers. They did this in 1974, when they donated Jenkins's Texas and Mexican War materials; they did it seven years ago, when Mrs. Garrett gave the atlas collection; and they are doing it again in 1997, with the map collection. Mrs. Garrett believes the time is right to make the gift because the university is well positioned to effectively utilize it.



Virginia Garrett and Dr. Louis De Vorsey,

Indeed, in 1978 the UTA Libraries, with funds from the Sid W. Richardson Foundation of Fort Worth received largely through the efforts of the Garretts, established the Cartographic History Library. With the support and contributions of many others, they have built the library's map collection to include some 7,000 maps, 1,400 atlases and geographies, and several thousand books and serials relating to the discovery and exploration of North America, the Greater Southwest, and Mexico. Moreover, UTA has created the Center for Greater Southwestern Studies and the History of Cartography and, through the generosity of the Richardson Foundation, the Jenkins and Virginia Garrett Endowed Chair in Southwestern Studies and the History of Cartography to ensure that the cartographic collection is used, that public programs are

Professor Emeritus, University of Georgia. designed around it, and that both undergraduate and graduate courses are offered to take advantage of it.

While Mrs. Garrett admits that making the donation is like "giving your children away," she is confident that UTA will properly care for, develop, and promote the collection. The University of Texas at Arlington and The University of Texas System are indebted to Virginia and Jenkins Garrett for their ongoing generosity and for establishing a resource at UTA of inestimable value for students and scholars both now and in the future. If "every picture tells a story," then there are literally tens of thousands of stories to be told in the cartographic collections of Virginia Garrett.

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The Cartographic Collections of Virginia Garrett

by Katherine R. Goodwin

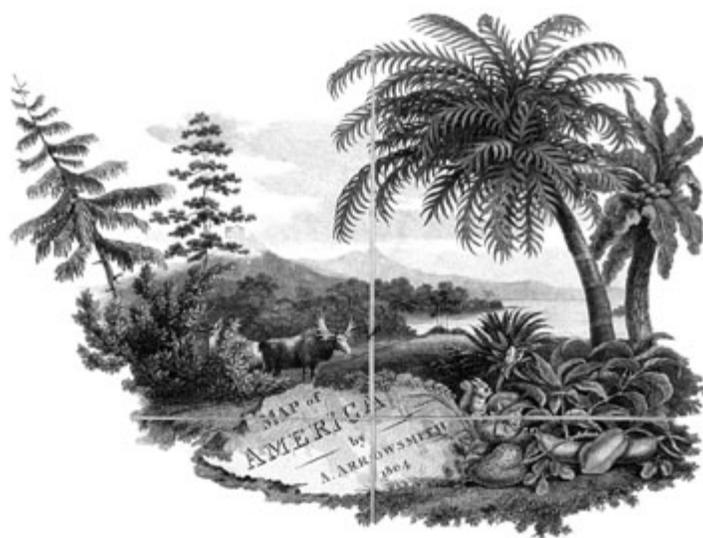


Texas, 1838 by Thomas G. Bradford.

On October 1, 1997, Virginia Garrett of Fort Worth formally donated her extensive map collection to The University of Texas at Arlington at a dinner and exhibition opening held in her honor. The event highlighted the acquisition by the UTA Libraries of one of the premier map collections in the country. Numbering approximately 900 maps, the collection focuses on Texas, the Gulf of Mexico, and the Greater Southwest, and will substantially enhance not only the Cartographic History Library, but the other holdings of the Special Collections Division as well.

Mrs. Garrett, who began acquiring the maps to compliment her husband's Texana and Mexican War materials, built the collection over a forty-year period. A review reveals that, although focused on a specific geographical region, the maps in the collection reflect a diversity of geographical views, printing processes used, and a variety of cartographers. The maps, dating from the dawn of New World exploration to the early twentieth century, depict not only the evolution of the cartographic history of the region, but portray its cultural, social, political, and economic development as well.

One of the greatest strengths, perhaps the signature of the entire collection, can be found in the representations of Texas and the development of its cartographic history. The Garrett collection includes most of the nineteenth century landmark maps of the area as well as earlier productions considered "mother maps" of the region. Among the holdings are *Map of Texas with parts of the Adjoining States compiled by Stephen F. Austin* (Philadelphia: Henry S. Tanner, 1836); *Map of Texas, compiled from Surveys on record in the General Land Office of the Republic by Richard S. Hunt and Jesse F. Randel* (New York: Sherman & Smith, 1845); *J. De Cordova's Map of the State of Texas* (Houston: Robert Kreuzbaur, 1849); *The State of Texas by David H. Burr* (New York: R. S. Fisher, 1846); and *Texas* (Boston: Thomas G. Bradford, 1838) to name just a few. Maps that predate the Republic of Texas period and are instrumental in tracing the cartographic history of Texas also are abundant in the collection and include, among others, the works of Nicolas de Fer, Guillaume DeLisle, Aaron Arrowsmith, Alexander von Humboldt, and John Melish.



Cartouche from Map of America, 1804, by Aaron Arrowsmith

In the area of Texas studies, the collection has great depth and diversity. The representations of the land that became

Texas begin with the earliest maps of the sixteenth century and continue up to the first decades of the twentieth. The collection will support research and study into the ever shifting boundaries of Texas, including state, national and international; emigration and migration, by covered wagon, ship, and railroad; and a number of other cultural and political topics spanning the five hundred year history of the region since first European contact.

Texas is not the only focus of the collection. In fact, other strengths can be seen in the diverse and encompassing views represented in the collection, including those of the world, the western hemisphere, the North American continent, and the Greater Southwest. The Garrett holdings also include a number of specialized maps, such as coastal surveys, city views and plans, and maps of railroads and other thematic productions. The collection is chronologically balanced in the representation of views, with world and hemisphere depictions dominating the earlier maps, while later nineteenth century productions provide large scale maps of the region, state, and city. Such a broad sweep strengthens the research value of the collection by setting the area in the context of the world.



America Settentrionale, 1688, by Vincenzo Maria Coronelli.

The collection also includes works of almost all the great sixteenth, seventeenth, and eighteenth century cartographers, publishers, and "schools" of cartography. The early Dutch cartographers who for a time dominated European map making are evident, including works by Abraham Ortelius, Jodocus Hondius, and Sebastian Münster. The French are represented as well in the seventeenth and eighteenth century productions with maps by Nicolas Sanson, Nicolas de Fer, and Guillaume DeLisle. John Speed, John Ogilby, Herman Moll, and Aaron and John Arrowsmith are a few of the English cartographers present. And, of course, the American publishers of the nineteenth century, including Henry S. Tanner, Samuel Augustus Mitchell, Thomas G. Bradford, and the many government agencies, abound in the collection as well. In addition to the well known names, the collection includes many of the lesser-

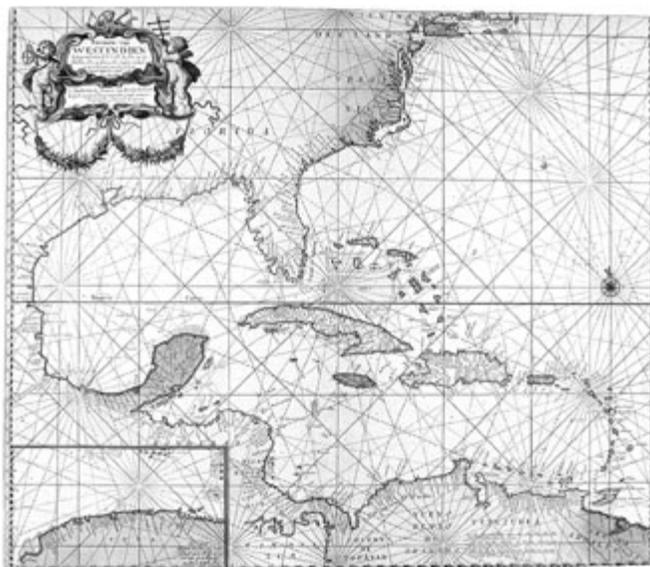
known cartographers and publishing houses, resulting in a more balanced collection from a historical perspective.

Two other important areas of strength, though minor, are found in the collection, one within the general focus and the other forming a separate focal point. The first is the reproductions and facsimiles found in the collection. Although limited in number (less than 1/2% of the collection), they do form an important segment of the collection, representing many of the rare maps that are not available for acquisition. One such map is a reproduction of Martin Walseemüller's 1507 world map, *Universalis Cosmographiae*, which portrays the first depiction of the Gulf of Mexico and the land that became Texas. To date, the only surviving copy is in the library of the Schloss Wolfegg, Germany.

The second minor segment is represented by the works that fall outside of the general focus of the collection, the specialized nineteenth and early twentieth century maps of the coast, the counties, cities, and thematic productions such as railroad maps. Here, again, there is depth and excellent coverage. Materials produced by the U.S. Coast Surveys are especially good with the entire Gulf Coast and associated harbors depicted in large scale. County and city plans represent another specialized area of strength in the collection. Another area of particular interest are not only specific North Texas municipalities, but also the more detailed views of sections of those cities and towns, such as the c.1903 map of the Rosen Heights real estate development in Fort Worth. The Garrett collection also encompasses a near complete set of maps that have appeared in *The National Geographic Magazine* from 1896 to the present, including the first, *Map of the Valley of the Orinoco River compiled by T. Hayward Gignilliat, 1896*.

The Cartographic Collections of Virginia Garrett are of inestimable value to the Special Collections Division and its users for a number of reasons. First, the collection compliments the division's already strong cartographic holdings. Mrs. Garrett has,

for a number of years, purchased with the division in mind, and, as a result, there are few duplicate holdings between the collections. In addition, she also has collected in the context of the history of the Greater Southwest and, consequently, the collection supports and enhances the division's other holdings in Texana, Mexicana, and Mexican-American War materials. Furthermore, this current donation, combined with previous atlas and geography gifts, provides the UTA Libraries with a premier map collection focusing on the Gulf of Mexico, Texas with its imperial boundary claims, and the Greater Southwest. The Garrett collection is open and available for research in the Virginia Garrett Cartographic History Library, located in the Special Collections Division on the sixth floor of UTA's Central Library.



Pascaerte van Wes Indien, c.1680, by Joannes van Keulen.

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Rebel with a Cause: Carl Brannin and His Work

by Jane Boley



Carl Brannin in front of his Dallas home. 1976.

He was in many ways a very plain person--homely, bespectacled, tall, and so thin that he was granted a 4-F deferment from the Army in World War I. He even had a rather colorless name. But Carl Brannin was no ordinary man. He was a rebel with a cause, and the cause was social justice: relief for the unemployed, desegregation, the single tax, public ownership of railroads, low-cost housing for the poor, anti-war protests. Carl Brannin was actively involved in all these causes as well as many others.

The story of Carl Brannin's life that is recounted below was gleaned from sources in the Special Collections Division of The University of Texas at Arlington Libraries. These sources include archival collections AR82 (Texas Civil Liberties Union), AR91 (Carl Brannin Papers), AR285 (Carl Brannin Papers); five oral history interviews; and microfilm of *The*

Vanguard and The Unemployed Citizen.

Life for this remarkable man began on September 22, 1888. Along with four brothers and two sisters, he grew up in Cisco, Texas, but spent much of his time at a small ranch outside of town, where his father operated a horse and cattle business and also acted as an agent for Eastern landowners. Working at odd jobs--selling magazine subscriptions, delivering *The Dallas Morning News*, peddling fruit at the railroad station--Carl was able to save \$300, which enabled him to enroll at The Agricultural and Mechanical College of Texas, now Texas A&M, in the fall of 1905. Although his grades were average, he developed traits that were to continue throughout his life: a flair for writing and a penchant for protesting. At The Agricultural and Mechanical College of Texas, he worked on the staff of the student newspaper, serving as editor in his senior year, and he participated in a student strike of several weeks duration against the policies of the college president. In 1909 he graduated with a B.S. in Textile Engineering.

While he was in college, Brannin's family moved to Dallas, and in order to be near his family, he accepted an apprenticeship at the Dallas Cotton Mills--\$1.75 for an 11-hour day, six days a week. Weary of the noise, dust and tedium, he quit after 12 months, just before he was to have been promoted to assistant superintendent at a handsome (for then) salary of \$125 a month.

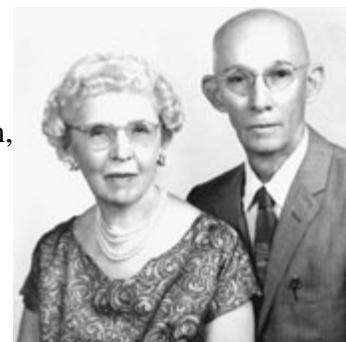
For a while he drifted from one odd job to another. He tried selling life insurance and selling real estate on commission, but despite his amiable personality, he was unable to do well at either job. For a time he made small repairs to houses managed by his father's real estate company. During this period, Brannin, who had always been a voracious reader, checked out a book from the Dallas Public Library that, in his words, "gave me a new and startling outlook on life . . . it was like getting converted. Decided I wanted to do some type of work that would be helpful to humanity." The book was *Progress and Poverty* by Henry George. It outlined George's single tax thesis, which stated that any increase in the value of land was due to population growth and was an "unearned increment" that should be returned to the community through taxation. Improvements to the property would be tax-exempt, thereby encouraging productive enterprise and discouraging land speculation.

As a result of his "conversion," Brannin applied for and was hired as a desk secretary at the Dallas YMCA in 1912. At his suggestion, the "Y" established an employment service to help the many young men looking for work who had come to Dallas from the rural areas. Brannin was put in charge of this operation as well as of the night school classes, where he promoted courses in English for foreigners and classes in business, salesmanship, and first-aid. During his two years at the Dallas "Y," Brannin's religious philosophy began to change from a fundamentalist theology to a more liberal, social gospel, or what today might be called "liberation theology." It was fortuitous that, at this time (1914), he was invited to serve as assistant to Herbert Bigelow, pastor of the People's Church in Cincinnati. The church was a liberal one with no creed, that equated religion with social activism. Bigelow, like Brannin, was an ardent proponent of the single tax and a strong advocate of public ownership of utilities, old age pensions, unemployment insurance, and civil liberties. Many of these views were promulgated through the **People's Bulletin**, a weekly publication of the church edited by Carl Brannin.

A letter to the East Dallas Christian Church, severing his connections with that group, officially marked the end of Brannin's connection with orthodox Christianity. He wrote, "The gospel I believe in and am trying to practice is a gospel of the head as well as the heart . . . To the extent that I am able to live this gospel fully am I able to be the Christian I would like to be, and. . . I am upheld and led onward by my trust in the Spirit of Truth and Justice, which must ultimately be every man's God."

The following year Brannin was busy serving as an anti-war delegate to the People's Council convention, participating in a Socialist Party protest against Pershing's expedition against Mexican revolutionaries, supporting Allan Beason as Socialist Party candidate for president and managing a campaign for public ownership of a light plant in Kalamazoo, Michigan.

Without a doubt the most important event to take place during Brannin's residence in Cincinnati was his encounter with Laura Haeckl, later to become Mrs. Brannin. It would be hard to imagine two more kindred souls. An active member of the People's Church, Ms. Haeckl shared completely Brannin's radical (for that day and time) views on religion, economics, and social activism. They were to spend nearly fifty years together in a dedicated crusade against social injustice.



Laura and Carl Brannin, 1961.

A difference in priorities between Bigelow and Brannin (the former committed to a campaign for old-age pensions and Brannin still pushing for the single tax as a remedy for economic inequities) finally led to an amicable parting of the two in 1917. Brannin moved on briefly to Kansas City, Missouri, where his campaign for the single tax was submerged by activities related to World War I, in which the United States was now actively engaged. As a pacifist, Brannin participated in an anti-war protest organized by the Socialist Party. As a patriot, he registered "under protest" for the draft. A 4-F classification and the intervention of a friend, who helped him to obtain a job with the War Labor Board in Washington, D. C., as an investigator of labor-management disputes, saved him from active participation in the war.

World War I came to an end eight months after Carl Brannin and Laura Haeckl were married, and this meant the dissolution of the War Labor Board. Laura found work with the Red Cross, and Carl toiled at a variety of jobs. Finally, in the fall of 1919, Brannin was appointed organizer of the Plumb Plan League, whose purpose was to promote public ownership of the railroads.

The young couple, however, yearned to visit Seattle, which at that time was one of the most progressive cities in the nation. The League agreed to send them there. And so in the spring of 1920, the Brannins found themselves in the city that would be their home for most of the next thirteen years.

They immediately involved themselves with the Farmer Labor Party, but after the party's unsuccessful political campaign, were once again without work. Seattle was in the midst of a depression due to the closing of many of the shipyards after the war, so Brannin had to scratch for a living by taking whatever work was available--weaver in a woolen mill, laborer on a goat ranch. Later, unemployed again, the Brannins moved to a deserted shack in what had once been an anarchist cooperative colony.

In 1922, Brannin received news that would dramatically change his life and the life of his family. Oil had been discovered on a West Texas farm that had been willed to him by an aunt ten years earlier. The revenues from this discovery were sufficient to enable the Brannins to travel and to devote most of their time and energies to causes to which they were committed. Later that same year, the Brannins took the first of many trips outside of the country. They spent four months in Mexico, travelling throughout most of the country by train. Brannin wrote stories along the way for a labor news service, the Federated Press.

The following year, they lived briefly in Berkeley, California, where Brannin worked as assistant editor of *Labor Unity*, a left-wing labor weekly. As with the Federated Press, Brannin donated his services. After a fire destroyed their home and car, the Brannins hitch-hiked back to Dallas, but in 1924 they took off again for a year-long tour of Europe, including three months spent in the Soviet Union. They were, in fact, one of the first Americans to visit Russia in a non-official capacity after World War I. Brannin resumed his duties as a correspondent for the Federated Press, sending back human interest stories and very favorable accounts of their sojourn in the Soviet Union.

In the fall of 1925, the Brannins returned to Seattle, where they built a house overlooking Puget Sound and the Olympic Mountains, adopted a son, and settled down for the long term. Hulet Wells, a friend and neighbor who had been a political prisoner in Leavenworth, said of Brannin, "Carl is a prince of a fellow, who by good luck has never had to work very hard to get a living, and consequently works like a slave all the time at some socially significant job in order to ease his conscience." The "socially significant" enterprise that attracted Brannin's attention was the Seattle Labor College, which had been founded in 1922 by two of Seattle's leading radicals. At the college, Brannin gave lectures on current events, taught a workers' correspondence course, and served as director of the school's Open Forum, and later as director of the college itself.

In addition to his activities at the college, Brannin continued to write articles for the Federated Press and for *Labor*, a railway workers weekly. In January 1930, he also founded and edited *The Vanguard*, a radical monthly. The tenets of the paper were clearly stated in its first issue: industrial unionism, an independent political party of farmers and workers, improved working conditions, recognition of the USSR, international solidarity against imperialism and militarism, militant rather than business unionism, public ownership of utilities, and worker education.



The following year Brannin was instrumental in helping to establish a Washington chapter of the American Civil Liberties Union and was also active in the Seattle chapter of the Friends of the Soviet Union.

Perhaps his most important contribution during this period (when the entire nation was struggling through the Great Depression) was the formation with his friend Hulet Wells of the Unemployed Citizens' League of Seattle. The league was founded to foster self-help among the unemployed and to encourage political representation of the unemployed in city and county government. The league became so powerful that it was able to elect a U.S. Senator, a U.S. Congressman, several members of the state legislature, and one city council member. But political dissension soon led to rivalry between the communists and the socialists in the league. Weary of the endless bickering, Brannin finally resigned as executive secretary in July 1932, although his paper *The Vanguard*, which was now published weekly, continued as the voice for the League. In fact, the publication changed its name briefly to *The Unemployed Citizen*.

A letter appearing in the paper on March 17, 1933, heralded yet another change in the life of the Brannins. Financial and family concerns compelled them to return to Dallas. "I feel a keen sense of regret," Brannin wrote, "for I have had some satisfaction in the growth of the radical movement in the Northwest and in participating in its development . . . In my new location I shall endeavor to have a share in the movement for human progress. History is being made everywhere . . . Wherever one is, there is work to do. I am not leaving the fight."

Brannin lost little time after returning to Texas in taking up the battle once again for the unemployed, 11,000 of whom were on the relief rolls in Dallas. He was elected chairman of the Central Council of Unemployed Leagues and shortly thereafter helped to organize a demonstration--perhaps one of the first "sit-ins"--to protest the cuts in relief. Six or seven hundred of the unemployed, black and white alike, took possession of the city hall auditorium and occupied it for eleven days and nights. The sit-in ended when the city cut off electricity in the building and arrested people for sleeping in the auditorium. The event was widely publicized in the four Dallas newspapers. Although the protesters were severely criticized for their actions, the press never mentioned that the demonstrators were an interracial group, a collaboration practically unheard of in 1934.

The following year Brannin participated in a strike of the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union, which resulted in his one and only arrest for walking a picket line. He was released from jail after a few hours, and the charges were dropped.

Brannin entered politics in 1936, running as an independent candidate for a seat in the state legislature that had been vacated by Sarah T. Hughes, when she received a district judgeship. Brannin admitted that he received so few votes he could not re-member how many there were. Undaunted, he entered the race for governor later in the year, running on the Socialist ticket. Out of a total of 842,215 votes cast, James V. Allred, the Democratic candidate, received 782,083, and Carl Brannin received 962. Brannin at this point decided he should devote his energies to other pursuits.

In 1937, Brannin and his wife became involved with the League for Industrial Democracy and were active principally in securing nationally prominent speakers for their open forum meetings, which were held every Sunday evening. Brannin at this time was also serving as state secretary of the Socialist Party. In this capacity he invited Herbert Harris to Dallas to speak and to show a racially integrated film on the subject of industrial unionism. When Harris, Brannin, Socialist Party organizer George Lambert and others appeared at a city park, they were attacked by a band of thugs from the Ford Motor Company. The hoodlums attempted to burn their truck, smashed the movie projection equipment, slugged Lambert, and kidnapped Harris, whom they subsequently tarred and feathered. While Harris recuperated at the Brannin home, meetings of Dallas socialists to protest the event were disrupted by hooligans from Ford. Peace did not return until the governor sent in the Texas Rangers to restore order.

Acting on behalf of the Socialist Party, Brannin travelled to Kansas City, Kansas, in the dead of winter in 1938 to hand out leaflets at a meat packing plant in an attempt to organize the workers. His efforts were unsuccessful but perhaps paved the way for the United Packinghouse Workers, which later developed a strong union there.

Later that year Brannin resigned as state secretary of the Socialist Party, and in fact, the Dallas branch of the party was dissolved the following year. The Brannins had found the few remaining members to be too dogmatic in their views, and although the Brannins believed that railroads and utilities should be publicly owned, they did not agree with the socialist agenda for nationalizing all industry.

During this period Brannin was also actively involved with the North American Committee to Aid Spanish Democracy. The Spanish Civil War was in progress at the time, and the group was principally concerned with working to abolish the arms embargo so that the Spanish Republican movement could purchase weapons from the United States.

With revenue from his west Texas oil well diminishing, Brannin was forced to turn his attention to securing a living for his family. He busied himself managing rental property acquired earlier. He also bought tracts of land, which he then divided into one-half to two-acre lots and sold for a dollar down and a dollar a week on "contract for deed." Later he would expand this operation to include the construction of small homes, which could be purchased for \$100 down and modest monthly payments. Often, to keep costs low, the homes were left unfinished so that the buyer could complete the work on the house himself. In effect, Brannin operated a privately owned, low-cost housing project, which provided housing for the poor and at the same time provided income for himself.

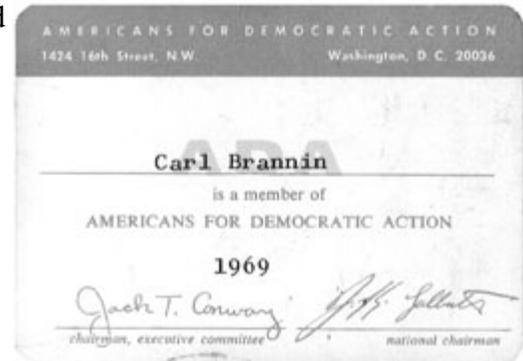
During the early 1940s Brannin also worked as a housing inspector for the Office of Price Administration. He asked to be assigned to the West Dallas district, which was a slum area occupied predominantly by African Americans, who were charged exorbitant rents by their landlords. He was able to correct this situation for the most part by the time rent

control ended in 1949.

Throughout most of the 1940s Brannin was purchasing tracts of land just north and east of the Dallas city limits. He later sold some of this property at a profit and held the remainder for further appreciation. Brannin stated that he "accepted the benefits, but did not defend or rationalize his participation."

Late in the 1940s the Brannins joined the Unitarian Church, where they helped to organize the Unitarian Fellowship for Social Justice. During this same period they also became charter members of the Dallas Chapter of Americans for Democratic Action, which Brannin served as chairman and later vice chairman.

In 1956 Brannin and his wife worked on the committee that organized the All Texas Roosevelt Day Dinner at which Mrs. Roosevelt was the featured speaker. The real significance of this event, however, was not the speaker but the fact that it was the first interracial social affair to be held in Dallas.



The Brannins for years had been interested in civil rights. Both were long-term members of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, and in the 1950s Carl Brannin was elected to its executive committee. The couple had also been active during this period in the Friends Committee for Employment on Merit, and in 1960 both picketed the H. L. Green stores in Dallas in a successful effort to desegregate the store's lunchrooms. They also actively, but unsuccessfully, supported black candidates for the school board and the city council.

In 1961 they departed on a bus tour of Scandinavia, Switzerland, and parts of western Europe. The following year they helped to organize a Dallas chapter of the American Civil Liberties Union (both were charter members of the ACLU when it was founded in 1920), worked to distribute a film that corrected distortions in another film--Operation Abolition--that was widely disseminated by the House Un-American Activities Committee, and signed the documents necessary to will their eyes to the Dallas Eye Bank and their bodies to the Southwestern Medical School.

In 1963 Brannin helped to establish the Dallas Committee for Full Citizenship (to encourage voting by African Americans) and to form the Thursday Luncheon Club, a discussion group of Dallas liberals who met weekly at the YMCA. In March, the Brannins were honored at a reception given by friends and admirers. A scroll presented to them read, in part, "To our friends Laura and Carl Brannin, selfless, dedicated, and effective workers for every good cause." In the fall of 1963, the Brannins took a rail and boat trip to Alaska. On November 22, after he had returned from the trip, Carl Brannin was attending a luncheon to honor President John F. Kennedy and therefore missed the fateful Dallas parade and assassination of the president. It was Brannin who insisted that an ACLU committee visit Lee Harvey Oswald in jail to be sure his civil rights had not been violated.

The spring of 1964 found the Brannins off on another trip, this time to the Copper Canyon in Mexico. When they returned to Dallas, they resumed their work for the civil rights movement by distributing handbills in the downtown area calling for desegregation of all facilities. Later they picketed the Picadilly Restaurant and succeeded in integrating the facility. In the fall, the Brannins toured the east coast from Virginia to Maine, stopping principally at places of significance in the early history of the Unitarian Church.

The following spring the Brannins took part in the Freedom March, where 3,000 Dallas citizens turned out in support of civil rights. This was their last joint effort on behalf of social justice. In June, Laura Brannin became ill. Two months later she was dead. "I could do nothing," Brannin said, "but stand by and see a person I had loved and worked with on family and community problems pass out of my life."

Brannin valiantly tried to carry on alone. He volunteered as a driver with Head Start and served as a poll tax deputy. After recovering from two surgeries, he embarked on a tour (sponsored by the Americans for Democratic Action) of

Italy, Yugoslavia, and Greece. Labor Day of that year he participated in a march of striking farm workers in the Rio Grande Valley.

As might be expected, Carl Brannin was strongly opposed to the war in Vietnam, which began to escalate in the late 1960s. He was actively involved with Clergy and Laymen Concerned About Vietnam and its subsidiary organization, the Dallas Peace Committee, and supported other anti-war groups. "This tragic waste should be ended," he wrote. "Stop the bombing. Get the issues to the conference table . . . and let's get really busy on our own serious domestic problems."

During the latter part of the 1960s and the early 1970s, as he passed his 80th birthday, Brannin travelled extensively, almost as if he were in a race against time: 1967, a 3,000-mile bus tour through Russia and eastern Europe; 1968, Hong Kong, Japan and Israel; 1969, Spain and Cuba; 1970, England; 1972, Cuba.



Increasing frailty and diminished hearing now slowed Brannin's activities, although he participated in an anti-nuclear rally at the Comanche Peak Nuclear Power Plant, showed up to vote at age 90, continued to attend meetings of the American Civil Liberties Union, the Armadillo Coalition, and other groups, and at age 93 rode in a rally to protest U. S. involvement in El Salvador.

From his early years until late in life, Carl Brannin was an inveterate writer, and he is remembered well for his many "Letters to the Editor," written between 1933 and the late 1970s. So many of his letters were published, in fact, that he sometimes had to rely on a pseudonym. These letters are a distillation of his thoughts on economics, taxes, war, race relations, politics, free speech, and other topics. Because he read extensively, Brannin had informed views on many subjects, and because he was independent financially he was free to say what he wished. For certain, he was never afraid to speak out in defense of unpopular causes.

Carl Brannin died on June 16, 1985, after a long illness. He was 96. His voice and pen were silenced forever. Biographer Miriam Allen DeFord wrote, "The Brannins gave their lives to the advancement of understanding between people, the betterment of the human race wherever and whenever possible. Popularity was never a concern. Justice was their passion." Brannin himself wrote simply, "What would I like people to say about me? 'He did the best he could. He was public-spirited.'"

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This page last update on Wednesday, June 25, 2003

The Jack White Collection

by Jerry L. Stafford



Swift Packing Plant, Fort Worth, Texas, ca.1910.

The Special Collections Division is pleased to announce the donation of a collection of photographic images and related materials by Jack White of Fort Worth. The collection contains approximately 3,000 prints and more than 4,000 slides relating to Fort Worth and Tarrant County. The images include those taken by Mr. White, who is a talented photographer, and those he has collected from other individuals or copied from historic photograph collections. Mr. White used these images to create advertising and promotional materials while holding the positions of Vice President, Executive Art Director, and Personnel Manager for Witherspoon & Associates, a Fort Worth public relations firm.

Although Jack was born in San Angelo, Texas, his family moved to Fort Worth before his first birthday, and he has lived there ever since. White is a graduate of TCU, where he was editor of the campus newspaper and art editor of the annual. He was associated with Witherspoon for twenty-seven years, specializing in design, type management, and photography. Under White's supervision, the art operations at Witherspoon was consistently recognized, both locally and nationally, for their creativity and design. After retiring from Witherspoon & Associates, he formed his own company, Graphic Arts Company. Jack started a reduced work load in 1995, when he first began donating his collection to UTA.

Many advertising clients have benefited from Jack's expertise in photography and graphic layout. Some of his more notable local clients were Tarrant County Convention Center, Osteopathic Medical Center, and the Kimbell Art Museum. In addition to the contemporary photographs of Fort Worth in his collection, Jack's interest in history has prompted his collecting some of the more significant images of nineteenth and early twentieth century "Cowntown."



Kimbell Art Museum, Fort Worth, Texas, May 1975.

Some outstanding examples of Jack's own photographic skills and the depth of his collecting can be viewed in the currently running exhibition entitled "Windows in Time: A Photographic History of Fort Worth from the Jack White Collection." The exhibition includes photographic images, both contemporary and historic, reflecting the growth and development of Fort Worth from its early days as a Victorian outpost on the prairie to the city's emergence as a twentieth century business and financial center. The exhibition is located on the sixth floor of the UTA Central Library, and will continue through August 15, 1997. Hours for viewing are 8:00am to 5:00pm Monday through Friday and 10:00am to 5:00pm on

Saturdays. Admission is free. For more information about the exhibition or the Jack White Collection, please contact the Special Collections Division, UTA Libraries (817) 272-3393 [phone], or (817) 272-3360 [fax], or spcoref@uta.edu [e-mail].



Tarrant County Convention Center, Fort Worth, Texas, July 1971.

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Friends Offer Diverse Programs in 1996-97

by *Gerald D. Saxon*

Since the last issue of *The Compass Rose*, the Friends of the UTA Libraries have been busy sponsoring programs and planning their annual business meeting and elections.

On December 13, 1996, the Friends hosted their annual holiday program. The Friends' special guest this year was Jeff Guinn, *Fort Worth Star-Telegram* journalist and author of the delightful book *The Autobiography of Santa Claus: It's Better to Give*. Guinn discussed how he came to write the book and then read passages from it. The book includes twenty-four chapters (one for each of the nights in December before Christmas), and each reveals little known facts about Christmas and how Santa Claus has affected our lives. The stories are heartwarming and ideal for the holidays.

After his reading, Guinn autographed copies of the book, which the Friends sold fast and furiously! Also, Guinn brought copies of the audio version of the book and, in the spirit of the season, donated half of the proceeds from its sale to the Friends. Both before and after his reading, the Friends and their guests were entertained with Christmas carols sung by the UTA Quartet, a group of talented choral students. More than 145 people attended the event and rang in the holidays in true FRIENDS STYLE!

In February the Friends sponsored a program to commemorate Black History Month. On February 21st, Dr. George Wright, UTA provost and noted historian of books on African-American history, discussed "Race Relations: A Personal and Historical Perspective." Wright grew up in Lexington, Kentucky, and has authored several books on the African-American experience in his home state, including *A History of Blacks in Kentucky: In Pursuit of Equality, 1890-1980, Volume II* (1992); *Racial Violence in Kentucky, 1865-1940: Lynchings, Mob Rule, and "Legal Lynchings"* (1990); and *Life Behind a Veil: Blacks in Louisville, Kentucky, 1865-1930* (1985).

In his talk to the Friends, Wright skillfully blended anecdotes from his personal history with the information he has gleaned through his extensive research to discuss the impact that race has had on him personally and on society in general. He also revealed his strong desire as a young man to devote his professional career to studying the black experience in the U.S. After a question and answer session, the Friends hosted a reception in Wright's honor.

As this issue of *The Compass Rose* is going to press, the Friends are preparing for the last program of the year, which also happens to be the business meeting and annual election. Scheduled for April 18th, the program will feature a presentation by Dr. E. R. Milner, author of the new book *The Lives and Times of Bonnie and Clyde*. The book has received glowing reviews, with many reviewers calling it the best book to date recounting the violent history of the notorious couple. Also, Friends President Connie Campbell will soon be appointing a Nominating Committee so that there will be a full slate of candidates to consider at the business meeting in April.

For those interested in more information about the Friends, please call Betty Wood at (817) 272-3393 or write Friends of the UTA Libraries, Box 19497, UTA, Arlington, TX, 76019-0497.



A picture of the car of Bonnie and Clyde from the *Fort Worth Star-Telegram* Collection used as the cover of the invitation to the Friends April meeting.

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