

Lady Bird Johnson To Head 'Happening on Town Lake'

Citizens of Austin, young and old, are invited to join Mrs. Lyndon Johnson and Town Lake Beautification Committee members for a "Happening on Town Lake" March 24.

Festive and informal, the occasion will provide Austinites an opportunity to see the progress of Town Lake landscaping and to enjoy the hundreds of recently planted trees and shrubs, the hike and bike trails, stone walls, wooden bridges, picturesque picnic spots coming to life along several miles of downtown frontage, on both north and south banks of Town Lake.

Mrs. Johnson, honorary chairman of the committee, will spend the afternoon strolling with visitors on lake trails, while committee member Luci (Mrs. Pat) Nugent will be co-judging along with Mrs. Tom Ezell a "Decorated Bicycle" contest.

Numerous activities and special events will take place along the lake and in Zilker Park, some of these exhibition events, some open to the public, but all free either to

watch or to participate in. Most are scheduled between 2 and 5 p.m., while a few begin at 1 p.m.

The Capital Bass Club will be sponsoring a Tiny Tot Fishing Contest at Shoal Creek Peninsula while Boy Scouts will hold a canoe race from Redbud Isle to the Gazebo. The University of Texas Interfraternity Council will stage a Frisbee contest for three age groups; there'll be contests for the best home-made kites. Sunfish and Dolphins will sail in a regatta, and Dr. Stan Burnham will lead a jogging group.

Families who bring their picnic lunches or spend the afternoon sight-seeing will be entertained by a roaming banjo player, some guitarists, folksingers, clowns from the Capitol Clown Club, barbershop quartets. St. Martin Lutheran Church's famous Bellringers will be there too.

Senior citizens' crafts and a special porcelain show and sale will be open to the public at the Austin Area Garden Center; Indian Guide Dancers will perform on the north shore; a rugby game will be

played at Martin Junior High School and gymnastics exhibitions will be held at the YMCA near the lake.

The Austin Municipal Soccer Association will hold its final round of league competition at Zilker Park, softball will be played at Butler Fields; model airplanes will be whizzing through the air in Zilker Park and there will be one-mile, three-mile and six-mile predicted time runs starting from the YMCA at 2 p.m.

"At 5 p.m., Mrs. Johnson, Mayor Roy Butler and other dignitaries will participate in presentation of ribbons to winners of the various contests," says Mrs. Hardie Bowman, general chairman. The honors event will be held at the Gazebo on Auditorium Shores.

Appointed by the City Council, the Town Lake Beautification Committee has worked closely with the City Parks and Recreation Department on the project. Approximately \$140,000 in donations from private citizens has been made available for the project, while large additional funds have come

from the Federal Bureau of Outdoor Recreation and the City of Austin.

Live and red oaks, cypress, weeping willows, redbuds, dwarf crepe myrtles, Chinese tallow trees, callerya pears, oleanders, and many other plants are being used in the landscaping effort — some 600 trees having been planted by Austin people as living memorials for a deceased relative or friend," says Mrs. Bowman.

Now under construction is an automatic irrigation system in certain areas of the park. Being completed is the hike and bike trail from the Lamar Bridge to Eilers Park, where Deep Eddy swimming pool is located. Crossings at three ravines have yet to be finished before the entire length can be traveled without interruption. Going eastward on the north bank, hike and bike trails now extend to Waller Creek and the general location of the Lakeside Activity Center. Eventually, a bridge will be built over Waller Creek and the trail continued to the area west of IH 35, finally all the way to Longhorn Dam.



BEAUTIFIED BIKES — (1 to r) Mark Zell, Lyn Nugent, Monte Ezell and Coco Nugent are judged up for next Sunday's "Decorated Bicycle" contest. Sponsored by the Town Lake Beautification Committee.

the competition will be one of the featured activities of the "Happening on Town Lake" March 24. Judging will be 2-4 p.m. in the parking lot of the Parks and Recreation Building. (Photo by Jim Dougherty)

Owners 'Accentuate the Positive' Youth Ranch Gives Boys Real Chance To Be Boys

By BARBARA KAPLAN Staff Writer

At first the setting is peaceful: a few cabins, a pond, horses on a track, a garden. It is 4 p.m. and a couple of dogs chase themselves around the yard.

But the general calm is not typical of the atmosphere at the Texas Youth Ranch, set on 20 acres of land east of Austin. It is the lull before the boys return from school.

When a van drives up, a hulking black-haired man in a cowboy hat steps down from it, extends a strong hand and says, "Hi — I'm Oel Castner. Let me tell you our philosophy

And the Texas Youth Ranch's guiding principles

begin to turn the land into a home where 16 boys learn how to put a little something extra

into their own lives and give it back to others.

"This is not a rehabilitation center," Castner stresses. "All we do is accentuate the positive."

"You might think these kids need people to do things for them, but you'll never see a group of students more active in social service, academics, sports . . . and he trails off into an impressive list of accomplishments accepted as a way of life at the Texas Youth Ranch.

About this time boys, ranging from the lowest elementary grades to seniors in high school, can be heard celebrating their after-school freedom.

A freshman rides up on Charger, his cinnamon-colored horse. He says horses are his whole life when he's not

managing the school football and basketball teams.

"To learn to ride, you've just got to learn you've got to fall sometimes," he confides.

A fifth-grader rides a small mini-bike he bought last year from his earnings as a Senate page. Clutching the handlebar is a tiny boy, one of the twin toddler sons of houseparents Brian and Pam Killmain.

"That's another thing," says Castner. "We succeeded because the houseparents are so talented and the ratio of parents to boys is so high."

The Killmans and Rudy and Judy Cisneros, houseparents, are all employed outside the ranch as university students or teachers. They also cook, clean, organize and delegate authority to their "families" of four to six boys in each cottage.

Besides the "regular" houseparents, there are three "relief" houseparents for weekends.

The ranch is a dream-come-true for Castner and his wife Catherine, who says, "We don't try to replace lost parents — we just give guidance and try to meet whatever need anyone has at any time." They founded the ranch three years ago.

With all the residents present at once, the mood is one of intense activity. Boys are fishing, flying kites and tending gardens or aquariums. The athletes boast of honors won in statewide meets.

One boy tells how he walked 20-30 miles for the March of Dimes, eating only two sandwiches. One displays his artwork ("Guess what this is — an abstract!")

Many are student government leaders; others enter 4-H Club cookoffs with golden beef casseroles and chocolate chip cookies.

Castner hopes the ranch will house girls as well as boys in the future. "It should be interesting," he admits — "a whole new can of worms."

While the boys at Texas Youth Ranch are busy helping others, one Austin group is getting ready to do something for the boys. The Junior Forum will present a Broadway variety show to raise money for ranch improvements at its "Forum Follies of 1974," March 29 at Municipal Auditorium.

Tickets may be obtained by calling 452-6889 or 345-3190.

Hopefuls To Speak

School board candidates will be busy espousing their views this week at five forums.

Sunday at 9:45 a.m., the Memorial Methodist Church, 6100 Berkman, will host candidates.

A group of concerned parents from South Austin will query hopefuls at 7:30 p.m. Monday at Dawson Elementary School, 3001 S. 1st, and Tuesday at 7:30 p.m., Crestview Methodist Church, 1300 Morrow, will sponsor a forum.

Wednesday at 7:30 p.m., the South Austin Democrats are sponsoring a candidate gathering at the Mutual Savings building, 1005 S. Congress, and on Thursday, Northeast Austin Democrats will meet with candidates at 7:30 p.m., in the Trinity United Church, 5800 Cameron Rd.

for something when it's one big happy family — as long as you stay out of the doghouse.



BACK AT THE RANCH—Joe, left, a fifth grader, Mike and Mark Cisneros (2-year-old twins) with a dog named "Useless" explain that everybody's good



HARD DAY AT THE OFFICE—Housemothers Pam Killmain, background, and Judy Cisneros, center, tease Ricky as he returns home to the ranch after a grueling day as a Senate page. "You'll be the next

governor," they tell him. "No," he replied, "it goes too slow down there." (Staff Photos by Linda Kerr)

Gen. King May Be No. Two, But That Says a Whole Lot

By WENDELL FUQUA Staff Writer

John Q. T. King became number two last month.

After more than 30 years of trying hard, the black president of Huston-Tillotson College was promoted to Brigadier General in the Army Reserve — a generalship shared by only one other black Army reservist.

In a recent interview, the 52-year-old Austinite — whose family has been in the mortuary business here for over 40 years — looked back over a military career spanning three decades, during which the outlook for minority promotions changed from bleak to bright.

The erosion of the color barrier began in 1948, when President Harry Truman integrated the armed forces. King said, but actual equality in the services has been a long time coming and still has a way to go.

Attitudes had to change — and slowly they have changed, King said. Starting at the top "there was a recognition that through the years the

government had lost some golden opportunities for service by denying some of these minority group members the opportunity for promotions," King said.

This change of attitude has worked its way down to middle-level managers but has not yet permeated the rank and file, King said. "(The change) has got to get down to the troop units...the squad, the platoon," he commented.

King is in an excellent position to help get the attitude change punched further into the gut level of the Army. His reserve assignment at the Pentagon is Special Assistant for Minority Affairs to Lt. Gen. John J. Hennessey, chief of the Army's reserve components.

In his advisory capacity to Lt. Gen. Hennessey, King monitors the Equal Opportunity Race Relations Program in reserve components and also visits National Guard commanders to discuss problems arising in their minority recruitment and retention programs.

But even though problems of discrimination still exist and true equality remains a goal instead of a reality, King feels that in terms of minority opportunities — including opportunities for women — there is no comparison between the Army now and the Army that existed when he was drafted in 1942.

Prior to Truman's edict in 1948, black units were strictly segregated from the white army, and during World War II, King served in various black units, first as a private and later as an officer. He saw action in an anti-aircraft artillery unit stationed in New Guinea and completed his active duty in 1946 as commanding officer of a medical sanitation company on the Philippine Islands.

On returning to the United States, King joined the reserves, despite the prevailing color barrier, just "to see if things would change." He told himself he was getting something out of his reserve experience and had hope that his situation would improve.

In the meantime, King began his upward climb in the civilian world. Having received a bachelor's degree in mathematics from Fisk University in Tennessee before the war, King returned to Austin and earned a business administration degree from Huston-Tillotson. In 1947, he joined the Huston-Tillotson faculty as a mathematics instructor. At the same time, his wife, Marcet, joined the faculty as a music instructor.

In 1949, King and his wife both took leaves of absence to earn their masters degrees in Chicago. In 1957, after a mixture of part-time and full-time study at the University of Texas, King earned his doctorate in the field of statistics. In 1960, he was named dean of Huston-Tillotson, and in 1965, he replaced the retiring John J. Seabrook as president of the college.

Now, having reached the top in both worlds, King takes obvious pleasure in reflecting on a past he considers useful to both himself and his country. Similar



GEN. JOHN KING Top Black reservist

accomplishments can be achieved by minority youngsters today, he said. King's secret? Perseverance. "I refused to give up," he said.