

Sympathy marks local reaction to LBJ death

Local reaction to the death of former President Lyndon Johnson was marked by sympathy and mention of Johnson's escalation of the Vietnam War.

Former Senator Wayne Morse, probably the most outspoken critic of Johnson's Vietnam policy said, "The news just received of the sudden and unexpected death of Lyndon Johnson shocks me. During our years of our service in the Senate, we worked closely together on many vital important legislative programs.

"In January of 1955, as an independent I cast the deciding vote that made Lyndon Johnson become the majority leader. He became a great majority leader. He was the chief sculptor of a long list of legislation in the fields of education, health, social welfare, labor, civil rights, agriculture and many other subjects which have been carved in the history of our nation.

"They constitute a great historic monument to his memory and to the debt of appreciation which many generations to come will owe to him. During his presidency, I was privileged to manage all of his education bills in the Senate and to work closely with him on many presidential assignments.

"We came to completely disagree on his escalating involvement of the United States in the war in Vietnam, but we never ceased to be friends. I am greatly saddened by his death. Mrs. Morse and I extend to his wonderful wife and family our deepest sympathy."

Another vocal critic of Johnson's Vietnam policy, former Congressman Charles Porter, said of Johnson, who was majority leader while Porter was in Congress, "My guess is that history will give him a big minus for deepening our involvement in the Vietnam War.



Photo by Phil Waldstein

Dena Wild, a project coordinator for RideStop, Inc., watches preparation of one of the blue and yellow hitchhiking signs that were installed through the Eugene-Springfield area last weekend. The RideStop signs, installed by Seabee Reserve volunteers, are designed to make thumbing a ride to school safer and easier. A map of RideStop locations is on page nine of last Thursday's Emerald.

Heart attack claims Johnson at ranch

SAN ANTONIO, Tex. (UPI) — Lyndon Baines Johnson, 36th President of the United States, the powerful Texan whose dreams of wiping out poverty and social injustice were shattered by the Vietnam war and the violent 1960s, died of a heart attack Monday at the age of 64.

His death less than a month after that of the nation's 33rd president, Harry S. Truman, on Dec. 26, 1972, left the United States with no living ex-presidents for only the third time in its history and for the first time in more than 100 years.

Ironically, Johnson died as negotiators in Paris seemed on the verge of finally reaching a settlement to the war which cost him the presidency and his dreams of bringing about another Rooseveltian revolution — the "Great Society"—which would abolish poverty and racial discrimination.

Johnson was stricken at his LBJ Ranch in the Texas Hill Country at 3:40 p.m. CST.

Three Secret Service agents on the former president's staff administered emergency aid and Johnson was flown in a helicopter 80 miles to Brooke Army Medical Hospital. Dr. George McGranahan pronounced Johnson dead at the hospital.

Johnson's widow, Lady Bird, was notified at her offices in Austin and flew immediately to San Antonio.

The attack was his fourth over the past 17 years. He suffered the first when he was a U.S. senator, the second two years ago and the third last April 7, 1971. He recovered from the attack at the same hospital where he was pronounced dead Monday.

Johnson was a robust 6-foot-3-and 200 pounds. He often bragged of his formula for success: "Hard work." But he was finally stricken during a life of ease away from pressure politics.

Johnson did not attend the Washington inauguration of President Richard Nixon last Saturday. His last public appearance was that day—an Arbor Day tree-planting ceremony down the road from his ranch in Central Texas.

During that final appearance, he visited with friends for 30 minutes, shaking hands and smiling broadly. He appeared in good health then.

Johnson had undergone a physical checkup last month at Brooke.

Johnson's most recent previous attack was suffered April 7, 1972, at Charlottesville, Va. He recuperated in San Antonio at Brooke, and last Nov. 17, he said he was making "substantial progress" toward full recovery.

"I believe I am going to be as good as new by the New Year," he said two months ago.



Lyndon B. Johnson

For the past four years, Johnson had lived the life of a gentleman farmer in the Texas hills where he was raised. The man who hitchhiked to college, ran for his first elective office 35 years ago and rose to lead the nation and the world had taken no active role in politics since he left Washington.

He was under doctor's orders not to make a speech at the Lyndon B. Johnson Library in Austin in early December when the civil rights papers from his White House years were opened to the public.

Johnson went ahead with the speech anyway. His talk was slow and deliberate and he stopped

once to take a pill prescribed as a result of his previous heart attacks.

Johnson became President on Nov. 22, 1963, when Kennedy was assassinated. In 1964 he won re-election over Republican Sen. Barry Goldwater by a crushing 61 per cent of the vote and set about to transform American society by pushing through Congress the strongest civil rights law since Reconstruction, and a far-reaching program designed to wipe out poverty across the country.

But four years later he retired from public life voluntarily when the Vietnam War and the turbulent events of the times caused a rising tide of enmity against him.

Since his dramatic announcement on national television on the night of March 31, 1968, that "I shall not seek and I will not accept the nomination of my party for another term as your President," he had lived quietly and in virtual seclusion at the ranch in his beloved Texas hill country.

When Lyndon Baines Johnson was born on Aug. 27, 1908, his rancher grandfather, Samuel Ealy Johnson Sr., rode on horseback around Johnson City, Texas, telling his neighbors: "A United States senator was born this morning."

Johnson's other grandfather had served in the legislature and had been Texas secretary of state. His father, Sam Jr., served five terms in the legislature. His mother's antecedents included a signer of the Texas Declaration of Independence, a governor of Kentucky, a member of the first Congress of the Republic of Texas.

He graduated from Johnson City High School and Southwest Texas State Teachers College at San Marcos. For two years he taught speech and debate in a Houston high school, then—in a turning point in his life—he volunteered to work for Texas Congressional candidate Richard Kleberg, owner of the mammoth King ranch, and at the age of 22 went to Washington with Kleberg in 1932 as an assistant.

At State Board meeting

Perrin loses appeal

Portland (Special) — The State Board of Higher Education "ratified and affirmed" the University's decision to deny former University history professor John Perrin tenure at its monthly meeting at Portland State University Monday.

Perrin, now teaching at the University of Nebraska and unavailable for comment, was denied re-appointment to the University's faculty after the end of the 1971-72 school year. Ed Fadeley of Eugene, Perrin's attorney, has said in the past that his client would appeal to the courts in the event of an unfavorable decision by the board.

In its action, the board upheld University President Robert Clark's findings that evaluations of Perrin's "teaching performance were generally,

though not uniformly favorable," and that his, "record to the academic community" was adequate but not exceptional.

Clark, in his findings, had also

stated that Perrin, who specialized in medieval history research, "had a very limited record and a slow rate of scholarly production."

Bill drafted to add students to State Board

SALEM (Special) — A bill which would expand the membership of the State Board of Higher Education to include three student members will be introduced in the House today by the House Education Committee.

The bill, which was drafted by ASUO President Bill Wyatt and Jeff Johnson, Interinstitutional Union of Students delegate, will be read in the House some time this week and referred back to the Education Committee. Representative Larry Perry (D-Eugene) chairs that committee and will set a hearing date after the bill has been referred.