

April 16, 1949.

Honorable Lyndon Johnson
United States Senator
Senate Office Building
Washington, D. C.

Dear Lyndon:

Enclosed herewith you will find a copy of a letter which I am today sending to Governor Beauford Jester, regarding the official opening of the Big Bend National Park which, incidentally, is the only remaining national park which has not as yet been formally dedicated and accepted for the nation by a President.

Former Governor Coke Stevenson signed the deed in my office in Fort Worth conveying approximately six or seven hundred thousand acres of land to the Interior Department, and presented the deed to me, as President of the Texas Big Bend Park Association, with the request that I officially present it to President Roosevelt and the Interior Department.

The last ceremony of this sort was President Truman's dedication of the Everglades National Park in Florida in 1947. A commemorative three cent stamp was issued for that event and, undoubtedly, our Texas delegation in Congress will be able to arrange a similar commemorative issue for the Big Bend National Park.

Officials of the National Park Service, including Mr. M. R. Tillotson of Santa Fe, New Mexico, the regional director, approve of this plan and have suggested that next October would be the most suitable time of the year, if that could possibly be arranged in harmony with President Truman's plans.

As stated in my letter to Governor Jester, Texas is greatly indebted to the Texas State Park Board for the efficiency they have shown, not only in the original Big Bend Land Purchase program, but especially in the last two years in the handling of several difficult and troublesome purchase deals on the remaining lands, and quite naturally that Board should share in the arrangements for this dedication ceremony and must receive credit for the work it has done. I am sure you share in my own feeling that we should put on a celebration in traditional hospitable Texas style, if President Truman will accept our invitation.

In my letter to Governor Jester I have suggested that he send me a copy of his letter to President Truman, and that I would supplement this letter with a special invitation from the Texas Big Bend Park Association, which is still in operation, although the park has been officially turned over to the Federal Government.

I am sending this letter with the hope that you will take the matter up with the President, advising him that he will receive the official invitation in due time. We would make it an outstanding occasion, and strictly in confidence, we would like to have the President, if possible, stop in Fort Worth either on his way to the Park or on his return to Washington, at which time we have a special program which we will discuss with you over the telephone.

Fort Worth was the headquarters for the Texas Big Bend National Park Association and, incidentally, the Star-Telegram raised a substantial sum of money from people throughout Texas contributing certain amounts necessary to acquire a certain number of acres for park purposes, and we hope we would not be considered presumptuous in taking an active part in supplementing the Governor's invitation to President Truman to officially dedicate and accept the Big Bend National Park.

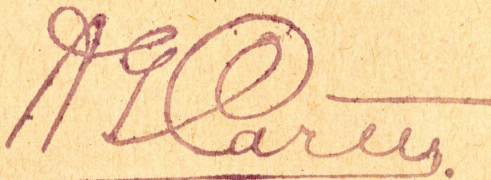
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You will note in my letter to the Governor that we have suggested further that President Miguel Aleman of Mexico be invited, through Department of State channels, to be present for the ceremony. This can also be made to commemorate 101 years of peace between the two republics, since the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo was signed.

I am leaving here Monday morning for New York to attend the American Newspaper Publishers and Associated Press meetings, and will be at the Ritz-Carlton Hotel, from which place I will call you sometime early next week.

Hope you are feeling better, and with best wishes to both you and Mrs. Johnson, I remain

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in purple ink, appearing to read "H. D. Carey", with a horizontal line underneath.

AGC:nm