

THE Lighthouse

A PUBLICATION OF THE MUSEUM OF THE GULF COAST

Wade Phillips Talks Family, Football,
and Remembers the Early Years

March 2022



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March 2022

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Video of the Wade Phillips interview is available on our YouTube Channel

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from The Director

As spring approaches, we are seeing an uptick in activity at the Museum of the Gulf Coast. October 2021 broke every monthly record since we opened in 1994. Also, in that month, we were able to hold some long-delayed inductions into the Sports Hall of Fame. Hal Wiggins a career horse training champion, Frank Robinson the iconic National Baseball Player/Coach, the "Galveston Giant," Jack Johnson the first Black American world heavyweight boxing champion, and Coach James Gamble, Lincoln's legendary Champion Basketball Coach and mentor to NBA greats. We also officially opened our newly renovated Music Hall of Fame thanks to the generosity of Ron Arceneaux and board member Susan Arceneaux. Now we have a place to gather, listen and watch our talented musicians, engineers, and songwriters on two new 55" touch screens. Today our Woodstock exhibit is gone, and we have an amazing Art Show in the Dunn Gallery for a few more weeks. You will really want to see all of the captivating expressions of art and photography in this year's exhibit.

In conjunction with Women's History Month in March, now is the time to mark your calendars for "Woman, The Spirit of the Universe," our next exhibit opening with a special wine and cheese reception Friday, March 25, 6-8 pm. Artist Carolyn Marks Johnson recreated these historic collars and converted them to bronze sculptures. This will be the first time the exhibit is seen publicly. The collars represent historical women who have made significant contributions to the struggle for women's equality.



It includes Abigail Adams, Betsy Ross, Eleanor Roosevelt, Barbara Jordan, Ruth Bader Ginsberg, and many others. Words do not do it justice.

The Winter Olympics have come to an end, and it was a pleasure working with KBMT-TV, who televised this year's games and chose to feature 10 of our own Olympians from the MOGC, Sports Hall of Fame.

Sidney Bowman - Olympics in 1928, Amsterdam, Holland. Bronze medal in track/field 1932 Olympics, Los Angeles. Mildred Didrikson Zaharias "Babe" - 1932 Olympics, Los Angeles, set four world records, winning two gold medals and one silver medal for track and field. Morris Carona - Voted Captain of the 1940 Olympic Boxing Team. The games were canceled due to World War II. Won the 11th Naval District Championship in 1944. Dick Menchaca - Selected to the Olympic boxing team in 1940. The games were canceled due to World War II. In 1940, became the first Texan to win the national Golden Gloves title. Walter 'Buddy' Davis - a two-sport athlete, earning a gold medal in high jump at the 1952 Helsinki Summer Olympics with an Olympic record jump of 6'8". - overcame childhood Polio. Bubba Busceme - Won a bronze medal in boxing at the 1971 Pan American Games in Cali, Columbia. Competed the 1972 Olympics in Munich, Germany. He reached the quarterfinals. Ronnie Shields - 1974 National Junior Olympics Featherweight champion. Barbara Jacket - track coach for the 1992 U.S. Women's Olympic Track Team. The team won 4 Gold Medals, 3 Silver Medals, and 3 Bronze Medals, more than any group since 1956. Second Black female to coach an Olympic team. Mark Henry - A Drug-Free powerlifter, three-time Olympian in 1992 and 1996, and was a gold, silver, and bronze medalist, Pan American Games in 1995. Chanda Rubin - Competed in Tennis in the 1996 Olympics in Atlanta and 2004 Olympics in Athens, Greece reaching the third round.

Tom Neal



A total of 21 bronze collars will be included in the exhibit

The exhibit "Woman, the Spirit of the Universe" will be displayed at the Museum of the Gulf Coast from March 25th through May 30th in the Dunn Gallery. Carolyn Marks Johnson designed and created bronze collars honoring 21 women throughout history who have made a difference in the struggle for women's rights. Her long artistic journey started with the seven-year process of meticulously recreating each piece by hand, cutting and stitching each cotton collar. The collars were dipped in wax and then a plaster foundation. The interior was burned out at an extremely high temperature leaving a cast. The bronze was poured into the cast, and after cooling, the cast was carefully removed, and the bronze surface was given a final patina and then polished. The women represented in the exhibit are Margaret Brent, Abigail Smith Adams, Betsy Ross, Deborah Sampson Gannett, Sojourner Truth, Harriet Tubman, Myra Bradwell, Elizabeth Blackwell, Margaret Louise Higgins Sanger, Dorothea Lange, Anna Eleanor Roosevelt, Patsy Takemoto Mink, Mazie Keiko Hirono, Barbara Jordan, Ann Richards, Georgia O'Keefe, Wilma Mankiller, Dolores Huerta, Sally Ride, Nancy Pelosi, Sonia Sotomayor, and Ruth Bader Ginsberg.

Woman, The Spirit of the Universe

The most iconic collar of our time is the white lace collar of Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsberg. Collars have always had a distinct purpose which was often overlooked because of what they had come to represent. In the 1800s, the American Middle Class adopted collars as a symbol of their professional status. "White-collar" and "blue-collar" entered our lexicon about 1910. Today, male collars have been reduced to classic plain lines, while women's collars are elegantly styled.

Ms. Marks is a retired Texas District Judge who lives in the Houston area. Carolyn Marks Johnson: "The collar is my icon for a gender-based social statement to uplift the woman honored with a symbol of her life. Not all such women could be included in this exhibit, but the representatives here take in many others. You will notice that both Margaret Brent and Abigail Adams surrounded themselves with lace. I think both women used lace as a disguise for their very strong personalities and intelligence. Collar styles change, and as we move into the 21st century, our strong women wear the same type of collar, which I see frequently on women in the political world." *Opening night will be March 25th from 6 - 8 pm. – Robert Fong*



Wade Phillips: A Life in Football

Did you live in Groves or Port Neches?

Both, the first year we were in Groves, and the second year we moved to Port Neches, (smiling), so I am Port Neches/Groves.

Do you remember the addresses?

We lived on Jackson Street in Groves and Merriman Street, the same street the high school is on, in Port Neches.

Any players come to mind you played against in high school?

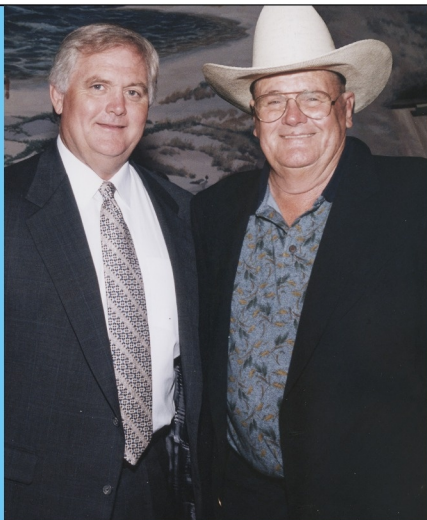
Well, Joe Washington I coached against when I was at Orange-Stark. Our claim to fame was that he didn't score a touchdown rushing against us. Now there was one play where he was running with the ball, and he ran backward and backward, and everybody was right there with him, and he threw the ball to a guy that was standing down the field just watching him, so he threw a touchdown pass in the game against us. If he hadn't broken his leg, which he did in the semifinal game, they would have won the state championship at Lincoln that year. They had a great football team, and they did beat us at Orange.

Was Bubba Smith with the Houston Oilers when you were there?

I coached Bubba Smith my first year in the NFL when he was with the Oilers. That was pretty neat. Bubba Smith was huge. He was all of 6-7 and really a great athlete for his size. He had been playing a long time when I got to coach him, but he had a lot of skills left, and he was a dominant player. Now his Dad coached a long time down here, and my Dad recruited this area, and he would go in to talk to him about players, and he said Coach Smith told him where to go. So if he liked the recruiter, he would tell him, you go here, you go there. Of course, some great athletes came from his school.

What was it like being at the University of Houston with your Dad.

You know my Dad was a head coach at UTEP, it was Texas Western at the time and then came to Port



Wade & Bum Phillips (photo courtesy of Bart Bragg)

Neches my junior year in high school, so I played for my Dad my Junior and Senior year, and then he went to the University of Houston. I had talked to Alabama and Texas A&M, he said, you can talk to them, but you're going with me to the University of Houston, so I went to the University of Houston. Of course, he was there for two years and then left and went to the San Diego Chargers. Sid Gillman was the head coach. He called Frank Broyles and Darrel Royal and asked them who the best defensive line coach was, and they said the same guy, which was my Dad.

Tell us about coaching with your Dad with the Houston Oilers.

I was coaching in college, I was at Oklahoma State when he got the head coaching job at Houston, and the next year I was at Kansas, and then he hired me from there, with the Oilers.

Those years were very exciting for a lot of people around here. If it hadn't been for one of the . . .

If it wasn't for Pittsburgh winning 4 out of six Super Bowls (he chuckles). We had them in our division. But, we had some great football teams. The city of Houston just got behind those teams partly because they were family-oriented, and the whole era was a western era, where my Dad certainly fit because he was a real rancher, a real cowboy. And they took to it, the love ya' blue era, it actually still lives on today,



Photo Bart Bragg

Lauri and Wade Phillips with the Bum Phillips Bowl Trophy

we're still having reunions with those teams because of the excitement they had with em.'

Your Dad had Earl Campbell; you've often had the 1st or 2nd best defensive player in the league at the time. I know that's not all luck. How were the two of you able to bring out the best in good talented players.

You know, I don't know if you do that. I always say, you know I got to coach Curly Culp, who is in the Hall of Fame, and then Elvin Bethea, the defensive lineman who is in the Hall of Fame, and then Robert Brazil who just went into the Hall. I was coaching all of those guys, and I was 27, 28 years old (smiles). I thought I was a heck of a coach because everything you would tell them to do, they could do it. So I'm not sure I helped them (laughing), but they were great players, and I was glad to see them get the honor of being in the Hall of Fame because they deserved it; they were great football players and hard workers, but they did do what you asked them to do. You know, hopefully, coaching helps you some. I wouldn't be in this if I didn't think that coaching helped, so we helped them some.

Can we talk a little about finally winning a Super Bowl?

Actually, the first time I was at Philadelphia, and I went to Denver as the defensive coordinator, and we went to the Super Bowl, but we got beat by the 49ers that year. And the next time I ended up going to the Super Bowl, I was back at Denver again, I came from the

Texans and went to Denver, and we won Super Bowl 50. We really had one of the great defenses of all time. I think people will talk about them for a long time because we beat Rothsburger, Brady, and Cam Newton, who was the MVP of the league that year. We beat all three teams and didn't let them score very many points. Of course, Von Miller was the Super Bowl MVP, and we scored a touchdown on defense and got a fumble on the 4-yard line, so that was a great experience. You know, along with the oilers, that team will always be together. I mean reunions, or whatever, they had such a great accomplishment, it'll be great to see those guys.

And you made it to the Super Bowl again with the Rams.

Yes, we actually held Brady to 13 points, which was less than what we did at Denver, but we only scored 3. But we had a great year and a really good super bowl except for the final score.

Can you tell us about your kids? I know they are both very accomplished.

My son Wes coaches for the Rams and coached with me for the Cowboys. The Shulas and the Phillipses are the only 3 generation NFL coaching family. Don Shula, his sons, and their grandson. And now my Dad, me, and my son. We're proud of that. And Tracy, our daughter, was a really good athlete, but she's a dancer. (smiles) She did way too many MTV videos that I had to watch. She was really good at that. Now she's a choreographer in L.A. She is still doing great things out there. And we have three grandkids - Wes has three kids that we just love. They're the best. We wish we'd have had them first because you can give them everything you want. Everything they want, and there's no discipline.

What was it about your Dad that made him such a great guy - a great coach?

Well, first, he let everybody call him Bum. That's hard to do, I would think. But that was his nickname, and all the players called him Bum; they didn't call him coach Phillips. He wanted everything to be personal. He was really a good-hearted person, looked forward to every day, you know everybody liked him, and he liked everybody. He enjoyed life so much, and I think that rubbed off on everybody around him.

With Phillips as their defensive coordinator, the 2015 Super Bowl Champion Broncos were the first defense since the merger to allow both the fewest yards per carry, and the fewest yards per throw in a season. That same year he was named the NFL assistant coach of the year. After this interview, Wes Phillips joined his father as a Super Bowl champion when the Rams won Super Bowl 56 as the entire Phillips family cheered him on in the stadium. Wade is currently retired and living with his wife Laurie in Houston. - Robert Fong

Woodstock Exhibit Features Four MOGC Hall of Famers

The night of the Music Hall of Fame rededication, the Museum also opened the Woodstock exhibit in our Dunn Gallery.

The focus was on the four members of our Music Hall of Fame that performed during Woodstock: Janis Joplin, Johnny and Edgar Winter, and Larry Graham.

The exhibit was curated by Museum director Tom Neal and featured a picture of the crowd that covered the entire wall at one end of the Dunn Gallery. Standing in front of the photo made viewers feel as if they were actually on stage looking out over the

massive crowd. The size of the crowd unnerved many of the performers, including Janis.

Edgar Winter was just out of high school, and was touring with his brother, Johnny. Larry Graham performed as the bassist for the band Sly and the Family Stone.

The exhibit included a ticket from the event and videos from Woodstock played continuously on a monitor.



Jody & Edward Holt on opening night

A colorful poster for Spring Family Fun Day. It features several Easter eggs in various colors (orange, yellow, green, pink, blue) with different patterns (dots, stripes, flowers). A green oval sign with the text "FREE EVENT" is prominently displayed. The text "SPRING FAMILY FUN DAY!" is written in large, bold, green letters. Below this, the date and time "Saturday, April 16, 2022 from 10-2 PM" are listed. At the bottom, it says "Follow MOGC social media for Announcements" with Facebook and Instagram icons, and "Sponsored by: SOUTHEAST TEXAS Business Referral Group" with a logo consisting of three red flowers.

Record for Museum Attendance Set in October

A number of events in October of 2021 unexpectedly broke the one month attendance record that has stood for eleven years at MOGC. Along with our regular attendance by visitors to the museum, a number of scheduled events contributed to the headcount. Four HOF inductions, including Coach James Gamble and Hal Wiggins, were very well attended. The Woodstock exhibit opening in conjunction with the reopening of the Susan and Ron Arceneaux Music Hall of Fame occurred. The Thomas Jefferson classes of 1960 and 1971 held portions of their reunion weekends here as well. The largest contributor to the total was the Spooktacular Family Day which saw 1,134 excited families take advantage of all the fun activities that we provide free of charge to the public. The grand total was a whopping 2,591 visitors!



Margaret & James Gamble

Seventh Annual Art and Photography Contest Shows Big Growth



The Seventh Annual Art & Photography Contest saw a large jump in participation with more than twice as many entries than last year. \$1,100 in awards were handed out on a very highly attended opening night celebration. The exhibit will be on display through March 17th. Photography in the adult category was judged separately for the first time. The winner of the Best of Show award, shown at left, was Kylun Girolamo, who is sixteen years old.



Foundation of S.E. Texas Grant Enables Repainting of Parking Lot

A generous grant from the Foundation of S.E. Texas has enabled The Museum of the Gulf Coast to repaint the lines in our parking lot. This has enabled us to increase the safety of the egress in the parking lot as people make their way into the facility. Large groups often visit in buses, and a space is now designated for those vehicles. The Accessible Parking spaces were also updated.



Goodbye to the Great Ones

We have recently seen the passing of several revered inductees in the MOGC Halls of Fame. Port Arthur native Barbara Jacket is likely the greatest female track and field coach of all time. The list of accolades is very long, and includes being named Southwest Atlantic Coach of the Year on 23 occasions and National Association of Intercollegiate Athletic Coach of the Year five times while at Prairie View A&M. As the 1992 women's Olympic track team coach, Ms. Jacket shepherded a medal count of 4 Golds, 3 Silvers, and 3 Bronzes - more than any women's track and field group since 1956.

Professional photographer Frank Cricchio had a studio in Port Arthur and was known nationally as one of the most outstanding portrait photographers in the country. His numerous articles and lecture appearances made him a celebrity in the field. He worked as a consultant for Fuji Film, and served as the President of the Texas Professional Photographers Association, Southwest Photographers Association, the Professional Photographers of America, and the American Society of Photography. He was also a member of The Cameracraftsmen of



Barbara Jacket

America, which is limited to 40 photographers.

Nederland native Walter Buddy Davis set numerous high jump records as a collegiate athlete. Davis won a gold medal in the 1952 Olympics at Helsinki, Finland, with a record-setting leap of 6 feet, 8.32 inches. He also played basketball, and the Philadelphia Warriors selected Davis in the second round of the 1952 NBA Draft. He spent five seasons with the Warriors and St. Louis Hawks. Davis was inducted into the Texas Sports Hall of Fame in 1964 and into the Texas Track and Field Coaches Association Hall of Fame in 2016.

MOGC board member and Groves resident Jerry Burnett served the community as a banker and insurance agent for many years. His banking career started in the building the Museum resides in now. Two of the model train cars he donated are displayed in our 1st floor exhibits. His storytelling, humor, and love of trains will not be forgotten. He was a great friend to the Museum of the Gulf Coast and to our community. - Robert Fong

Memorials

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Judy Lofton

LARRY BODIN

Tom and Becky Henry

CHARLES BOND

Tom and Becky Henry

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Colleen Sims in honor of Leanne Moore
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HumanitiesTexas

A special thank you to Humanities Texas for awarding the Museum of the Gulf Coast with a Humanities of Texas Relief Grant. The grant was made available for museums and other institutions to assist in dealing with the financial hardships brought about by the Covid pandemic. Many museums around the world have had to close their doors during this crises.

Thank you

Thank you to our steadfast supporters of the Museum of the Gulf Coast, and the Port Arthur Historical Society. Your generous contributions are a vital part of our effort to preserve the storied history of this region. Those members and non-members who wish to contribute a memorial in the name of a loved one, or make a donation, please call (409) 999-6282, email us at MuseumoftheGulfCoast@gmail.com, or go to MuseumoftheGulfCoast.org



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