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	Transcript	Lady Bird Johnson's Diary, Monday, July 6, 1964, Page 7		1	7/06/1964	C

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11/17/2014

Initials

MONDAY JULY 6, 1964 -- page 1

Monday, July 6th -- the golden days begin to tarnish. While Lyndon and I were still in bed reading the paper, Lynda Bird came walking in all excited to talk to her Daddy about the White House job that she expects to get. No pay of course. But I had told her that we would see if she could work for McGeorge Bundy or somebody over in the West Wing after ~~xxx~~ we returned. She needs something exciting to occupy her days between now and the last of August when we go to the Convention.

Her Daddy popped that balloon quick. You would only be in the way he said. Then he went through the ~~kkx~~ -- "If you had only learned typing and shorthand you would be real valuable anywhere." Routine. Lyndon is completely adamant that the girls should take typing and shorthand, and I agree with him ~~but~~ because it is a tool with which to get a paycheck, but Lynda Bird is equally adamant that she is not going to -- in fact that she can't because one summer she did try typing. I think perhaps it is not just rebellion to family. Perhaps it ~~sxxx~~ stems back to that muscular disease that she had when she was 9 or 10, a derivative of ^h rheumatic fever .

We separated in tears -- angry tears, that is Lynda Bird . I am glad to say that Lyndon came back later trying to tell her how many other things she could do to fill up the summer, and I am going to try to get her started in some kind of volunteer work such as teaching children who have difficulty learning, or in ^{Mary} ~~Marnie~~ McNamara's Explanding Horizons.

Today should be full of work and I am in a humor to do it. Three days of play is enough for me. But when Lyndon insisted that I go over to the Scharnhorst with him it was one last chance that I couldn't pass up, so I went with ^{met} him and Jesse and A. W. over there, and we drove around over the prettiest ranch of all. I love that new road built ^{edge of the} precipitously along the cliff looking down into the valley. The huge boulders that rise on each side almost meet ~~onxx~~ above the road -- a perfect place to hold up a stage coach.

There was much talk of the big question. He wants to get out. There is no way out. As Ed Weisl expressed it looking at me rather shocked "Bird, I don't know any honorable way for him not to run." A. W. was the most subtle one of us. ~~Wexxx~~ He said "We just want you to do whatever is best for you, and you are the only man that can make up your mind. Only just let me know a few weeks first so that I

can unload some of the land and property and cattle and things I have bought." Jesse was more forthright. He said "Speaking as a selfish ~~x~~ citizen, I hope that you will. And then when and if you are elected I hope you will just make an announcement right away that you are one President who is going to ~~hope~~ hold the job down for four years, if you live, and do the best you can for everybody, black and white, Democrat and Republican, and not seek re-election."

On our return to the ranch I met Weezie Deathe and Roy White. First we sat down to a delicious lunch. Fresh corn and thin tender steak. How I have over-indulged and a half in these three/days! Then we drove down to the house where Lyndon was born with Roy and a whole back seat full of books of wallpaper. We chose some for the bedroom in which ^{he} presumably was born.

The texture of the limestone rocks in the fireplaces is charming. Roy has done a loving job here although he had so little to begin with. But he faithfully searched until he found foundations of the house. The lightening rods - the parts that go down into the ground on each side of the house next to the chimney were very good evidence. They were there, ~~broken~~ broken off some 2 or 3 feet above the ground.

an old
We chose ~~a~~ Victorian wallpaper that seems in
perfect harmony with the limestone fireplace. Made some
decisions about wallpaper and a few about light fixtures.
Roy has loved doing this. His fence is charming around
the place.

And then we came back to the house and with James
and Gertrude, Mary and Weezie, I went over the house doing
a bunch of housekeeping details, congratulating James on the
zennias. They have never before been so beautiful! Pointing
out that we need at least three copper containers on the mantel
at all times, and finding a very delightful place in the corner
of the living room for the old pine cupboard that had been given
to us in Finland in October or September of last year, urged
Mary and Gertrude to put up the corn the ~~xxx~~ very minute it
became ripe, to see that we got a large quantity of peaches
in the deep freeze, at the lowest price, and plenty of preserves
because Zephyr won't have time to make any this year,

Now that Lyndon comes home for lunch every day
is a
brining company and so she ~~does~~ two meals a day cook now.

Then I tried to reach Mrs. Truman Fawcett in
Johnson City and talked to Truman about what use any community
organization, such as a woman's club or a historical society
or 4-H groups or PTAs, ^{or} a Chamber of Commerce, or whatever
^{MR. and} there might be, could make of Mrs. Sam Johnson's

old house in Johnson City with us taking care of taxes and insurance, and perhaps the organization taking care of cleaning and general maintenance, and more ~~exp~~ especially of dishing it out to each organization for its use. He promised to have ~~him~~ his wife look into it and hopefully to get me ^a kind of proposal within a week or so.

I dislike uselessness and emptiness and I do so hope we can put this house to some appropriate use.


Then in the afternoon about four we got in the helicopter and flew to Austin, having our last view of the hill country from the air, and Lyndon spoke down rather forlornly into the talking machine "Goodbye" to A. W. who was driving along somewhere unseen below us on the highway, but the voice came back clear and strong "Goodbye, come home soon."

At Bergstrom we went in quickly to look at a portrait of Lyndon, full figure, done by someone named Wilson who I don't know, commissioned by Harry Jersig and some friends which is to hang in the State Capitol. It is a rather good likeness, the hands are good. It is rather photographic and lacking in any search for the soul, or any touch of greatness, but I do not think it is bad.

And then we flew to Washington so swiftly, less than 3 hours. If only we could do this more often! And this time the papers had not been bad. They had been restive and annoyed

because they didn't have much news from us, and so they had cooked up some of their old ones. They discovered the Haywood Ranch and had some rather attractive pictures of it from the air. "JOHNSON FOR FUN HAS A HIDE-AWAY RANCH. He Boats and Hunts Deer In Private at Texas Retreat. He Uses a New Cruiser to Give Lessons in Water Skiing." Reportedly, Lyndon at the wheel of a black run-about ~~xxxx~~ towed Lynda Bird ~~x~~ on an aqua-board trying to teach her how to water ski. It is a good thing she doesn't read absolutely everything because she is an excellent water-skier, and according to this after three or four spills, residents reported, the Presidential family gave up the water skiing lessons and went zipping off in a run-about in pursuit of a 28 foot motor cruiser that had preceded them down the lake. I have no idea who this was. However, I could forgive them because they spoke about how the 25 miles long lake was created by the Alvin Wirtz Dam and that the dam was named in honor of one of Lyndon's old friends from New Deal days, the man who was his first political patron and persuaded him to run for Congress in 1937. I rejoiced at credit to that unforgettable man.

Back at the White House the dogs were eagerly awaiting us and we had a happy tussle with them at the door. We had to wait a good long while to see Luci Baines who was

full of news about her job in mothering the young boy who
had had the terrific fall in the Capitol, when a bannister
had fallen off a story and half onto a cement floor, had
broken quite a few bones, and Luci had stepped in as close
of kin. ~~She had~~  ~~the still having those ups and downs~~

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