

INTERVIEW I

DATE: April, 1965

INTERVIEWEE: FREDERICK DEIKE

INTERVIEWER: ERIC F. GOLDMAN

PLACE: Interviewed by telephone from KTBC-TV, Austin, Texas to
Hye, Texas

G: Were you one of the men who worked with the President on the roads?

D: No, neither Levi nor I worked with him. No, we never did work on
the roads.

G: But you do know of his working on the roads?

D: Oh, yes, they were working right through here on this Route 290.

G: Was it from Johnson City up?

D: Yes, from Johnson City westward.

G: What kind of road had it been previously--just a dirt road?

D: Dirt road, yes.

G: What kind of road were they turning it into?

D: They were just trying to fix it up into a paved road.

G: And what did the President do? Did he drive the truck, did he dig
the dirt out, what did he do?

D: He drove a truck.

G: Do you remember what kind of trucks they had? We want all the
colorful little details.

D: I don't know. I couldn't very well help you on that anymore.

G: He didn't do any of the digging of the actual ground?

D: No, not that I know of, he didn't do that. I think his brother,

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Sam Houston, was doing a little bit of that, but I don't know.

G: Some of the accounts say that it was awfully hot during the summer and awfully cold during the winter. Is that accurate?

D: Yes, sometimes it gets rather cold here and during the summertime it does get hot.

G: Could you tell me, Mr. Deike, when they were building the roads, did they go home at night or did they go to a place to sleep?

D: I don't believe I could answer that and know what I'm talking about. I imagine he went home, either back up here near where he was born or in Johnson City. I would imagine it was in Johnson City.

G: You say that the stretch of road that the President actually worked on would have started in Johnson City and run from where to where?

D: From the county line here about a mile west from here.

G: But it started from Johnson City?

D: I think so.

G: What route is that now?

D: 290.

G: Do you know whether any of the other men in town actually worked with him?

D: Not that I know of. I couldn't name any that worked with him.

G: There would be no one that you know that would have more personal knowledge of working with him about this?

D: Not at the present time, I couldn't.

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G: Do you know if Hugo Weinheimer worked with him?

D: No, I don't.

F: Do you know if there are any pictures of the road gang around?

D: I doubt it very much. If I had my sister here--she is in San Antonio now--she might know a little bit more about that than I do.

G: Actually, I'm going to San Antonio tonight. Could I give her a ring and talk to her?

D: Call Mrs. Ida Taylor on 110 Neff Avenue, San Antonio, Texas.

G: You have been very helpful, Mr. Deike. Thank you very much.

[End of Tape 1 of 1 and Interview I]

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