INTERVIEW I

DATE: December 17, 1981

INTERVIEWEE: GEORGIA CAMMACK EDGEWORTH

INTERVIEWER: Michael L. Gillette

PLACE: Mrs. Edgeworth's residence, San Antonio, Texas

Tape 1 of 1

G: Well, Mrs. Edgeworth, let's start with an incident that you talked about the last time I was here, and that was LBJ's baptism. Do you remember the circumstances of that?

E: Yes. We had a minister from Fort Worth who came down and brought a singer with him to the little church, which is a Christian church, Disciple of Christ, and he was a very dynamic man. Of course, all the young kids went to church because the singer was pretty, and she was very capable, also. Lyndon, of course, had a background of Baptists all the way back. His entire family was Baptist, and one of his ancestors was a Baptist preacher. So Lyndon laughed after he was an older man and told that he went to this Disciple meeting, and of course they preached and scared the people with hell and damnation, so he joined the church. I think there were about twenty-six of us baptized at the same time; we were baptized in the little creek, Flat Creek, which is west of Johnson City, at a place we called the Dollahite Hole. Mr. Dollahite was very prominent in the church; in fact, he was superintendent of Sunday schools there. So we were all baptized out in this one little piece of water there, and it was quite crowded that

day with twenty-six of us, I tell you. This was in the twenties, I think probably about 1920.

So Lyndon joined the Christian church, and he never did take his membership out. He died in that church and has done an awful lot for the little church there. And I believe Lady Bird brought a stained glass window from Europe and it's in the little church now. Really, it was nothing but a one-room church when I was a girl, when we were children, but now they have added a fellowship hall and air conditioning and a lot of things. But strangely enough, and this is typical of Lyndon, the people who knew him, he told them he would help in that little church and gladly, and he came to church there, unless they fussed. If they fussed in the church, he didn't want any more to do with it; that would be the last of him. But he has done a lot for that little church, and I know that the people in Johnson City are very glad of that because. . . .

Of course, we had three churches there: the Christian church, and the Baptist, and the Methodist. You can hear the singing from any one of them in the others. And in the summertime then, they built a big arbor out there and they had interdenominational meetings; their revival meetings were interdenominational. But Johnson City was so small that you couldn't afford to have everybody have their own thing.

G: Was the arbor in existence at the same time the three churches were?

E: Yes. In fact, they held arbor meetings as long as I was a young girl going to church.

G: Were there resident ministers in each of these churches?

E: No. No, and not now even. The Baptists and the Methodists have a resident minister, and the Christian church, actually the last lay preacher they had up there was from Austin, and he taught school in Austin. He and his wife, Mrs. Ray Akin, taught in Austin, and they finally ordained him from the period of time that he had been in Johnson City seventeen years, I believe. He came every Sunday, but then he did not live there. But they do have a Baptist parsonage and a Methodist parsonage. They have resident ministers there, but not in our church they didn't have. But it's the same church we went to; the church has not changed other than the additions that he has made.

Another thing, you know I grew up and married and moved away from Johnson City, and we did not even have electric lights. Now, Johnson City has to give Lyndon the credit for ever having the lights, because he put in this rural electrification project and put lights in town. They did not have any before, and of course they realize that they owe that to him.

G: That must have wrought an enormous change in the way of life.

E: Oh, it did. The rural people had lights, and of course when I grew up, we studied by an Aladdin lamp. We had all kerosene lamps. A few people had--what is this?--carbide. They had carbide, and they had carbide lamps installed in their houses, but the average person there had kerosene lamps. I married and left there in 1928, and just before that they were getting ready to put [in] the lights, which of course, as I say, they did and wanted to give Lyndon credit for that because--I think he loved Johnson City, and all of the things he could do that he

knew the people had needed for so many years, well, he tried to do. So they had to give him credit for that. There's a lot of things there. I know the little Christian church there feels very indebted to him for his loyalty to that little church, and especially maybe because he was not of that persuasion. He was a Baptist basically.

G: Well, did he continue to attend the Christian church when he was a youth, or did he go to the Baptist church?

E: No, no. I don't think Lyndon ever went to the Baptist church in Johnson City too much. After he joined the Christian church, he went to the Christian church. Of course, it was not too many years until he left there. But then even after he became president, he attended the little Christian church there. It was just a joy to go and see him there because there were such a few people there, just a handful of people. It used to be a big church, but it's not now.

G: Well, did the Johnson City people go to church each week even though there wasn't a minister there, or would a minister show up on Sunday, or how would it work?

E: No, they have always had a minister each Sunday, but he does not live there. Brother Akin drove from Austin every Sunday morning and spent the day and did the visiting that's necessary for a minister, and during the week he came when called at a death or an emergency.

G: Now we're talking about back in the twenties, when LBJ was a youth.

E: Oh, in the twenties, no, we didn't--I believe though we had a pretty good every-Sunday minister, but then they did not live there. I remember one old--we had lots of fun out of him--he was I guess the

first traveler we ever knew to the Holy Land, and he looked exactly like an old Jewish rabbi. He wore a little black cap on his head and he had a long white chin beard. We had a lot of fun out of him because of course he seemed different to us. He was a wonderful preacher, and he had traveled extensively. Now, I think that Brother Morgan [?] lived--his name was Morgan Morgans, almost a double name--and I think that he came from maybe north of Johnson City, maybe Burnet. I don't know where he came from. But usually the minister--and we had a minister every Sunday--was someone who was near enough to drive there and back. They served other churches, too. Sometimes they'd preach with us and then some other little church in an area there. But I believe we always had a minister. Now, we at one time had a resident minister, but that was because he married one of the Kelleys, Miss Ellen Kelley there, and his name was Kelley also. But he married and they lived there themselves and he was resident. But we ordinarily did not have a resident minister and don't yet.

G: Was the church used by the students ever for public speaking, debate, or things like that?

E: Oh, yes, we did. One year we debated, and I am pretty sure it was Josephine Calloway [?], the Methodist minister's daughter, and myself, debated for the girls, and Lyndon and Ben Crider debated for the boys. You couldn't stand up on the stage in school because upstairs we only had three rooms: an auditorium, and a teaching classroom on either side, and then we were holding some classes in the auditorium, so we

were allowed to leave the school and go over to the church, the Christian church. They'd let us go over there and debate.

So we had quite a cute experience over there one time. Josephine and I were going to try to learn what Lyndon and Ben were debating on, so we saw them coming over. We beat them over there and we saw them coming, so we just rolled under one of the church benches to listen. But we didn't hear debating at all; we heard personal conversations going on, and we became a little embarrassed [about how] to let them know we were in the church. So finally we kicked the church bench, and the boys came down the aisle, and they were looking outside, of course, and in the back and everywhere. And they didn't look down to the floor and see us, and they were very perturbed. Finally we had to kick again to let them know where we were. So we didn't debate that evening. They were gone, and they didn't debate very much after that. Yes, we could go over there and debate and, well, do most anything. The little churches were for anything.

G: Someone has told the story that LBJ talked the superintendent or the principal into letting him use the pulpit in the church to give declamations or something like that.

E: Yes, they would declaim there also.

G: Do you recall that?

E: Yes.

G: Didn't Lyndon Johnson have a role in that?

E: Well, Lyndon was in debating. Ava Johnson, his cousin, always

declaimed. Yes, they let us use the church for any of our practice stuff like that.

G: Who was the teacher for debate and elocution?

E: Lyndon's mother taught everybody that ever went to Johnson City, I suppose, elocution. They called it elocution in those days; we call it public speaking now. And we went to her house from school, which was not too many--where his Boyhood Home now is--maybe eight or ten blocks. They had a fireplace room, we called it, and we all gathered there and sometimes sat in chairs, sometimes on the floor. But we all gathered around and Miss Rebekah taught us elocution and public speaking, not only in our debating. She taught anything anybody had to do. She would teach them how to do it.

G: What sort of a teacher was she?

E: Oh, she was grand. Miss Rebekah was a grand lady, and she was a lady. She was a grand person, beautiful person.

G: If you were recounting her teaching technique, how would you describe it?

E: Well, I tell you, she spoke, of course, in a normal voice. When she spoke, she spoke very quietly and softly, and in her speaking she had--in those days, there was a lot of expression taught in the elocution. She was very efficient at her teaching. I think that probably we could say that [she helped with] most anything that we had to do, but this was her contribution to school, elocution. But she helped with most anything we had. She was a brilliant lady, because she had graduated from Baylor, one of the first women to graduate. At that

time Baylor was at Independence rather than where it is now; [it was] down by Washington-on-the-Brazos. So she was a very accomplished person. Well, she was a gentle person. She was just quite a lady, I tell you.

G: Would she demonstrate how to speak, or would she have you speak and then critique you?

E: She would tell us. She would usually let us speak first, and then the things she picked up that she could put more force in what we were saying or what we were doing or whatever, then she would go back and she would go through the expression and stuff that should be on some certain thing, or what part of it. Then after she had done that, we would do it again. You know, she was a strict teacher. She was not a hard teacher, but she wanted you to do the way she thought it should be done. And she, as I say, was very capable. So, yes, she taught us. She really taught us.

G: Well, now, was this elocution that she taught part of your high school curriculum?

E: No.

G: At what age in your life did you study this?

E: This was about 1922. I was about fifteen years old. Any time that we had anything, this is what I say, that required some training of some kind, we went over there and she taught us. She would teach us any time that we wanted to learn something.

G: But it was informal then? It was not--?

E: It was informal. Everybody sat on the floor, and everybody was at home.

Incidentally, the floors we sat on are not the hardwood floors that are there now; they were white pine floors. Everybody had white pine floors. There were no hardwood floors in that day. They were white pine. In fact, I think Lyndon put hardwood floors in when he gave his Aunt Frank [Martin] that house to live in. He put the hardwood floors in, because we had white pine floors that required a lot of work to keep. And you washed your clothes in a little old washing machine that you did this-a-way, you know, and you saved your wash water, and this is what you washed your white pine floors with. You washed them with this soapy suds that you washed with and then you washed your other floors, porches, inside and everything, and the pine was white. It was very clean and nice. But it was the thing that everybody had then; nobody had anything but the pine floors.

Of course, as I say, if she was going to teach us something, we had a time to come to learn, and we walked from the schoolhouse over there and sat around on the floor, and she taught us.

G: Was it a co-educational group, men and women?

E: Yes. Yes. Anybody who needed the help, she helped--whoever.

G: What were generally the speaking topics during this--?

E: Well, during the debating period I know the first time we debated once on open and closed shops. Then we debated once on immigration, you know, whether we had too much or too little or whatnot. But immigration was the subject that time. Usually the topic of the day was what

we debated on. We had Interscholastic League there, you see, and there were days of that; there were days for track and then nights for the speaking part of it, the debating and the declaiming and all of this stuff, and it was quite a thing. Of course, there was a lot of rivalry between Blanco and Johnson City, and that got to be very hairy sometimes. When we got out on the track and in the ball games and whatnot, it was--like the north and south.

G: Why do you say it was hairy?

E: Oh, my! We had fights of all kinds. Women and boys and girls and everything and even parents got involved in that, because the courthouse had been in Blanco and it was voted to the center of the county, which was Johnson City. Blanco was to the south end of the county. So they voted to move the courthouse more to the north end of the county, to Johnson City, to be the center of the county. And this was about 1906 or 1907. I know that I was one-year old when we moved to Johnson City, and they were moving or had moved the courthouse then. This was in 1908, so it was somewhere in the 1900s that they moved it. And there came about this little rivalry then between the north--we called it the north--and the south end of the county, you know. It was kind of bad.

G: Was there any economic significance to the rivalry or political differences?

E: No. Of course, Blanco felt that the moving of the courthouse to Johnson City was a political thing, but I don't think so. I think that probably that was moved to Johnson City because Blanco County

served all the way to Round Mountain and nearly to Llano, and there were lots of ranches in that area of the country. The Striblings had, oh, big, big, big landholdings, and the Smiths, so it was--no, I think it was probably economical. They felt it was political, but I think probably for economy's sake they did move the courthouse to Johnson City. But they did not have the courthouse that's the present courthouse. The courthouse was in what is now the bank, the long building on the south side of the square, the southwest corner of the square, and they did not build the new courthouse until 1916. I believe it was about September 1916 they moved into the new courthouse.

G: I wonder if LBJ's father, Sam Ealy Johnson, had anything to do with the moving of the courthouse. Do you know?

E: Well, most likely. I don't know that he did, but I would say that if it was going at the time that he probably did because he was politically involved if there was anything that had to do with--now, I'm not saying politics from the standpoint that we would say politics today--but if there was anything going on that had to do with something like moving the courthouse I would say that he probably did.

G: Going back to the subject of public speaking and debate, was there a teacher in the Johnson City school system, in the high school, for example, who taught debate?

E: No. You mean speaking or--?

G: Well, or any of these.

E: Anything. No, not as such. We only had five teachers in the school, and that took care of all of the grades. We had some help, you know,

from some teachers in there. They'd help us all right, but it was not taught as a subject.

(Interruption)

G: Well, for example, you debated on the girls' debate team.

E: Yes, I debated three years.

G: Well, LBJ debated on the boys' debate team. Is that right?

E: I would say that probably Lyndon debated all three years. I just don't remember. I know he debated with Ben Crider, and I don't remember whether he debated all three years or not, maybe two.

G: Do you recall if he had a coach or you had a coach, or was anyone assigned to help with the Johnson City High School debaters?

E: No, I don't remember that we do. I think probably our teachers upstairs [would help] if we ran into any problem. But we always had a head of the Interscholastic League now. The order for the materials that we used went through there, and then we got all this material to write our speeches and stuff; we did that ourselves. We had to do our own research and do all of that--learn the rebuttal and everything. They helped us on that, but it was not taught as such. And then after we were ready to talk, Miss Rebekah helped us to learn to present our arguments. But of course in the declamations, whoever was declaiming had to learn their declamation, and then she also taught them how to deliver it. Of course, we had tryouts in our own school if maybe more than one person [competed]. But a lot of people don't like to debate. I do, but a lot of people don't care about the debating. But we had lots of other things.

G: Did LBJ like one form more than the other, say, debate as opposed to declamation?

E: Oh, he liked to debate, too. I think that went with him through life, not necessarily maybe the debate but the discussion end. He liked that.

G: Was he a good debater, do you recall?

E: Yes, he was. Yes, he was. He had a good background, and he was a good [speaker]. I think when we were young that he spoke a lot better than he did when he got older and got to be a politician. He spoke slowly after he got older, but he was kind of dynamic when he was [young]. I believe, I could be wrong in this, but I believe maybe he even debated at San Marcos after he went down there to school.

G: He did.

E: Yes, I thought so. I think he debated with the Sledge [?] boy down there--I think his name was Sledge--but I think he debated down there. No, Lyndon was dynamic in his speech. He was pretty good. Well, he was, I would say, a little above average student. He was a good student and a very ambitious student. I think he was always ambitious. That's my opinion.

G: How could you tell he was ambitious?

E: Well, if there was anything going on, he was going to be in it, and of course, like I say, we had to try out for things, and he really worked. If we were going to debate, he really wanted to do it and he worked to do it, so I would consider him ambitious. I think everybody there was ambitious because we didn't have much there. In Johnson

City there was no place to go. You had to figure that if you were going to do anything you had to do it somewhere else, and I think that most people worked hard to find their little place, and I think they were ambitious.

G: Did he ever talk about what he wanted to do when he grew up?

E: Oh, I'm sure he did. I don't remember what he talked about, but of course we all had all kinds of plans about what we were going to be when we got big, and I know that his mother nurtured the thought that they would raise a president. (Laughter) You know, every mother does, I think.

G: Oh, really?

E: Yes, I don't think Miss Rebekah was surprised when he became president.

G: Well, she was deceased by the time.

E: Yes, she didn't know it, did she, and that's a sad thing. But she was still living when he was vice president?

G: Majority leader. She died in 1958.

Well, let me ask you to name, if you will, the teachers in that Johnson City High School that you can remember. Do you remember who they were?

E: Well, we'll start--

G: With the superintendent?

E: I don't believe that Lyndon started--you want to start with the superintendent?

G: Yes.

E: All right. Edward Bowman was the superintendent and Arthur Krause was the principal under him. When we graduated in 1924, that was the two men. And when we get down in the grade schools, I can name teachers that we had, but I'm not sure that they were the last. Now, Miss Sally Burke [?], I believe, taught us the last year we were there; I'm not sure about that even. I'll just name teachers we had and I'm not going to say that they were the last year we had. And we had Miss Minnie Knispel from San Marcos, who was a very, very efficient teacher; she taught us Spanish and histories and government and stuff that was very--she was a very capable teacher. Miss Dena Meyers [?] taught us one year in high school, and then Miss Mary Redford taught us downstairs.

G: Was she Cecil Redford's--?

E: Mary Redford was Cecil Redford's cousin. Cecil's father was dead and Miss Mary's father, too, but they were from two different branches of Redfords.

And Miss Carrie Yett [?] taught us, and Leta Bradley taught us. Then in the first grade Miss Florence Walker taught the first grade there for years. Incidentally, Miss Florence Walker is living. She's in Houston, and she's in her nineties. Her name now is not Walker. She married Mr. Gibson, G-I-B-S-O-N; her name is Florence Gibson now. I still stay in contact with her because she's--

G: Yes. Well, did the superintendent and the principal teach also?

E: Oh, yes. Everybody taught.

G: What did the superintendent teach, do you recall?

E: Oh, I think probably--well, I'll tell you what they divided, I'll tell you that way, and I don't know that I remember just--they taught the maths, all the maths. Now, I would say that the superintendent taught the maths. I know that when Mr. Scott Klett taught us, he taught the math. We studied solid and plain geometry, trigonometry, and algebra in our high school, and I know Mr. Scott taught that, and he was the superintendent. So I would say that he probably did, and I remember that Arthur Krause, who was the principal when we graduated, taught us the histories and the English. Usually if we had the three teachers upstairs, the lady teachers taught the English and the man would teach the histories and whatnot.

We did have good [teachers]. We were not an accredited school then, and when we came out of school, if we were going away to college, we had to take college entrance exams because we did not enter on credits that we had. The school was not accredited. Oh, I would say that maybe there were two hundred and fifty children, the top-notch, that went to school there.

G: Were there some teachers that LBJ liked and others that he didn't get along with?

E: Well, I don't know any that he didn't get along with. They all liked Miss Dena Meyers, I know, because she had quite a few almost young men then, and they all liked her. Ben Crider was in school, and of course he and Lyndon were lifelong friends, and Harold Withers was up there, and all the young men liked Miss Dena. She was a sweet person and, of course, very young. She wasn't married; she was just a single girl.

She, too, is still living, as I told you, and I'll get her address if--

G: Were there some subjects that LBJ liked better than others?

E: Well, I think probably Lyndon liked math, and then we had a very nice government course. Now, Mr. Scott Klett--I believe that probably Mr. Bowman taught government too because Mr. Scott taught [government] several years when he was our superintendent; I took government under him, under Mr. Klett. I would say that Mr. Bowman taught the government, too. We had good government classes, and of course Lyndon liked the government classes, too. This went along because usually our debating sessions were on some prominent topic at the time that was going on in government, and he liked that. I think probably he liked government very much. And math, I don't know any of us that didn't like [that], we all liked math. I loved math. I think he liked math probably. Lyndon was a good student. He could learn most anything he wanted to learn.

G: Someone has suggested that the girls studied harder than the boys at that school and that he, LBJ, would sometimes get help in his studies from the girls.

E: I think that's typical, don't you? That boys are too busy, they don't apply themselves maybe as much as girls. But there was a little thing we had there that was very good. We didn't have anyplace to go, like I told you, so we had study nights at somebody's house. We never did have more than five or six in a class, you know, so we'd go to somebody's house and study. Usually one of the great places we went so

much was to the home of Kittie Clyde Ross, to Mr. and Mrs. Ross' home, and it was just--and we did study, incidentally. Sometimes we had a lot of fun, but a lot of times we studied, too, and if there was something that was difficult, well, we did study. I'm not going to say that we had a great group of studiers there because I don't believe we did. I think that most people, when it came time that they were kind of pushed into studying, they did, and when they could play, they did. So I don't know whether Lyndon studied as much as the girls or not, maybe not, but I know all the girls would have helped him if he came and wanted it, and John the same way. But John lived out in the country.

G: This was John Dollahite?

E: John Dollahite, yes. When he went home at night, he was four or five miles out of town. And we walked to study; we didn't have cars or anything. When you got ready to go somewhere you just walked, so you had to be close enough to walk. We did lots of studying together.

G: Could you name the students in your class?

E: Yes. The two boys were Lyndon, of course, and John Dollahite, and then Margaret Johnson--Lyndon's cousin--and Kittie Clyde Ross--Kittie Clyde Ross is related to Margaret but not to Lyndon. [They're related] from the mother's side. So there was Lyndon and John and Margaret Johnson, Kittie Clyde Ross, Louise Casparis, and myself. That was the six that graduated.

G: Did LBJ tend to hang around with older boys or with younger boys or

with people his own age when he was growing up in Johnson City, would you say?

E: Well, I would say that, like I said a while ago, Ben Crider was one of his best friends, and then Ben's cousin, Otho Summy, was another, and he was an older boy. He was truly--

G: Well, Ben was older, too, wasn't he?

E: Ben was older, yes, Ben was older than we were. And, yes, Fritz Koeniger was a good friend, a good friend of Lyndon's, and Fritz was also a very fine boy, and I believe he debated one year. But he was a very fine boy. Fritz' father was a lawyer and a judge there. But yes, I believe you would say that Lyndon did tend to maybe run with some older boys, but of course, there were so many of those Crider boys. And he ran with them all. There were maybe four or five of them, and the four or five Crider boys were usually in on almost anything we had.

G: Really?

E: But I think probably Ben was the closest one.

G: Were the Crider boys older than others in their class?

E: No, I don't really think so. I think they tended to come along about by age in the class. No, I don't think probably they were older.

G: Well, let me ask you to just tell me what Johnson City was like in the 1920s.

E: Oh, Johnson City was just a big country town, and we had nothing there, like I told you. We didn't have a railroad and, anyway, we were an inland town and everything that was brought there had to be

brought there, so everybody did for everybody else. We had no funeral home there like they have now. They have a lovely funeral home now, but at that time we had no funeral home. Really, [we didn't have] the necessities that most towns have. When you had sorrow in your family or a death in your family, it was the neighbors who went in and took care of your dead. You know, they were never taken away from there. They would prepare the dead, and they'd stay in their own homes, and most of the time the funeral would be conducted from a home, you know. There was very little taking to church or someplace like that. The home was open, and they had home [services]. And if someone was sick there--it was after 1920 when we had the first little sanitarium there. The doctor at that time, Dr. J. F. Barnwell, built a two-story house and had a little sanitarium there. And if someone was critically ill or something, he would take them there, and he did surgery there, too. But in the beginning if someone was ill, some neighbor went in and sat up, or two neighbors went in and sat up. I know in 1918, when the awful flu epidemic hit there, it was just real sad because whole entire families would die, you know.

G: Really?

E: Yes, the Carter family, I remember, was one that lost almost everybody in their family.

I have to tell you a story about a little funeral that we had there because this was a young man who grew up with us, Johnnie Speights. He had pneumonia and of course he died. And because he was young like we were, they conscripted. Ben Crider was one of these

boys who sat up there. But we had to take turns and sit up with his corpse in his house at night, the night before his funeral. So at that time, due to the way that the corpses were handled, they usually would take camphor rags, cloths, and put over the face to keep the discoloration because there was no embalming or anything, you know. So we were sitting up there, and they left Robert Edwards--I think it was Robert Edwards and Ben Crider, I'm not sure--to sit up with the corpse that night. And ever so often you took a little coal oil light and went in to see if everything was all right in the room. You could sit in another room, you know. So they opened the door and the door went back and a hat was hanging behind the door on the nail. So the hat fell off the nail and rolled out on the floor, and the boys dropped the lamp and flew. They ran away, and they got way up the road when they thought that they had left Johnnie in the house by himself. They went back, but we teased them all the rest of their days about that. They became so frightened. We were really too young to have been left there, but that's a long time ago. But when I think of Ben and Robert, I think of them running away that night. And then they got back. There was an old wives' tale that went on then, and I guess now, that cats would come where there was a corpse. So the boys thought a cat had come in, and they didn't know what to do with it. But when they got back to the house they found the hat. So it was just a little freaky thing that happened, a kiddish thing.

G: Well, would people be buried in family cemeteries or was there a town cemetery then?

E: Yes, there's a cemetery. In fact, there's now two cemeteries in Johnson City with the new one, the Masonic Cemetery and it was there then and they were using it. But just about a few hundred yards [away] was what we called the Old Johnson Cemetery. The Johnson Cemetery was one of the first families of Johnsons. There were several different Johnson families there. I believe the Johnsons in this old cemetery were brothers, uncles and cousins of Sam Ealy, Sr. Now, that was the cemetery that was there way back when, but the new cemetery that is there now was there then, also.

It's so strange that in that day when someone died, his friends or her friends in town would open the grave and be pallbearers and everything. This was just a gesture of love that went on there. Of course, now if you go to Johnson City and open a grave, you pay to have your grave opened and you pay for everything because you have a funeral home and everything there now. But in our days, about in the twenties especially, everything that was done for anybody was done by neighbors and friends, and even when Lyndon's father was sick, of course, the neighbors went in there and sat with him, Mr. Sam, too. It was just like a big family town. That's all it was. And nobody was rich, and everybody had plenty to eat and plenty to wear, and Lyndon was no different from the rest of us. He didn't have really financial any more than anybody else.

G: How were the Johnsons regarded by their neighbors in Johnson City, do you know?

E: I think they were regarded as--I'm going to use the word neighbors because I think everybody in Johnson City felt the same about everybody else. I think that probably living in a city, and I'm lucky, I live in a little neighborhood like a little town, but I think that when we came away from there and even until now, and I'm seventy-five years old, I miss that little town, the feeling that you had there that everybody or anybody would do anything for anybody else. I don't think I could divide who was, well, I guess we use the word prominent now, because I don't think anybody felt any more sophisticated or prominent than the other person. I think it was just a good, sweet country town, and that's the way I like to remember it. I always tell my sister, "I don't want to move back there because everybody there knows your business and they're just happy to help you tend to it." And they did, you know. If anybody had good things, well, everybody knew it, and if we had bad things, people knew it. We didn't have too many bad things that I can remember there. I hope we didn't, and I don't think we did. Of course, I just think myself that it was just a typical town.

G: Were there divisions within the community such as those who favored prohibition and those who opposed it?

E: Oh, yes. Oh, yes, we had prohibition, and woman suffrage came in even along about that time.

G: How did the Johnsons line up on those two issues?

E: Well, of course, Mr. Sam's going to line up for antiprohibitionists, but I don't know. If I expressed an opinion about what I thought, I

would say probably Miss Rebekah went to the prohibitionists. But I don't know.

G: Do you think that there were people in Johnson City who disliked Sam Johnson because he was a heavy drinker or because he favored repeal?

E: No. Let me tell you something. Sam Johnson wasn't the only man in Johnson City who drank, in the first place, heavily sometimes. No, I don't think people ever--he may have been criticized when he was drunk, but then I don't think anybody would have felt bad about him.

G: Was he liked or disliked in Johnson City? Do you recall how--?

E: Now, you're asking me just for my opinion.

G: Yes.

E: And I'm going to give you my opinion. I think Mr. Sam--I would say he was liked. If I picked out somebody in Johnson City that was disliked, I wouldn't pick out anybody. I don't know. No, I think he was liked.

I'm going to say one thing, that it's a strange thing in our world that if somebody begins climbing a ladder of success, there's always--I'm not going to label it jealousy because I don't think it is. But it was so funny to me a few years ago--well, probably when Lyndon ran for president, I don't remember--that it begun this little story of Johnson City, and everybody in Johnson City wanted to say, "I made him. I did this for him," and "I did that for him." You know, now this is just not Lyndon; this is human nature. And of course this started, and it was kind of amusing to me, because I left there in 1928 and Lyndon was already gone, so he hadn't spent a hundred per

cent of his life in Johnson City nor fifty nor even twenty-five. So I always felt and I still do feel that he made himself with the help of--I give a great deal of credit to Sam Rayburn, and of course he was a great believer in Franklin Roosevelt and Richard Kleberg. These are the people to me that opened a little way for Lyndon to climb to success. Now, the people in Johnson City loved him and they would have done anything, and they all probably went to the polls and voted for him. But now, you talk about being ambitious, I think by his own ambitions and desires he became, with the help of people as he went up, and people that could help--you know there's not very much Johnson City could do when you get up in Washington. I think by his associations and his ambition and determination that he got to be what he was. I'm very glad to say that I knew him, and I know that I didn't have anything to do with his becoming president of the United States if I did vote for him, because if he had lost my vote he would have still been president.

G: How did the Johnson family stand on woman suffrage? Do you recall what, say, Rebekah's opinion of that was?

E: Oh, I think that most people would probably have gone for suffrage. I think so. I can't remember how Johnson City went. I was trying to think. I know how it went in prohibition because my mother was at the cow pen milking, and we called down there and told her that Johnson City went dry, and she threw her milk bucket against the barn and spilled all of her milk. Of course, she was a preacher's daughter, and she was really a prohibitionist.

G: How about the Ku Klux Klan? Was the Ku Klux Klan active then?

E: We never heard--no. We never did have an active [Klan]. In that area I had an uncle, and I did not know this until I was quite a big girl, that was active in the Ku Klux Klan, and I never did know it.

G: Where, in Johnson City?

E: No, he was not in Johnson City. He lived at Burnet, which is close.

G: Well, you know stories have been told that the Ku Klux Klan threatened to riot on Sam Ealy Johnson or take some retaliation for a vote that he had or a speech that he had given.

E: Well, I don't think it was a local Ku Klux Klan.

G: Because there weren't--?

E: No. Really, I guess I didn't know very much about the Ku Klux Klan until I was married probably. No, I don't think that he was ever in any danger of the Ku Klux Klan.

G: Sam Johnson was a member of the legislature from Johnson City.

E: Yes, he was.

G: How did he get elected and re-elected? Do you recall?

E: No. I believe--and I may be getting off here, but I believe I'm right--Fredericksburg is in the same what-do-you-call-it that we are, I think, and I remember that one time Alfred P. C. Petsch run, and it seems to me like that it could have been against Mr. Sam, that they ran against each other.

Well, to me, there's always a little dirty area of politics, I think. My father was tax assessor up there for twenty-two years, and if you didn't keep your house swept clean yourself, well, you sure

would get it swept when election time came, and Johnson City was no different from anyplace else that was there. One election we had when I was grown, but then I was still at home, we had one killing in the little--we have a colored precinct there, Board House, they call it, and there was a man killed there. And of course there was a lot of people who went on then about buying votes, and election votes is why the man got killed. I don't know, and of course I don't know that Mr. Sam--I don't really know that he was even involved in that in any way because that was a county election.

G: Do you recall who was killed?

E: I think his name was Willie--it was a colored man--Willie somebody. Willie--let me think of what their last names were--Jones, it seems to me like. It was a common name. But anyway he was killed.

G: Was there much association between the blacks and the whites in those days in Johnson City?

E: Very little. The blacks had a--we called it the Negro colony. They don't do that anymore, but we always said the "nigger colony." The people from the colony came into Blanco and they worked in the daytime, and they came to Johnson City and they went to court in Johnson City and all this stuff, but they never spent the night there. That was it, they went back home. Yes, there was quite a bit of racial feeling when I was a little girl. I know a little Mexican man--he was kind of an old man--came in on the main street of Johnson City right by where the courthouse was then, the old courthouse, and he put in a little restaurant thing and made tamales there. Well, of course, we

were just, oh, I guess ten or so years old and we just thought it was great. We brought all the newspapers, you know, and he'd give us a few tamales because we had. But, you know, he just stayed there a few nights, and one morning he was gone. It was terrible.

G: Why? Did you think that he had been run off?

E: He was run off. We never had a Latin person there any more than colored men. And I know Andy Richardson went up on the creek up there to work on a ranch for a white man, and they run the whole white [?] family down. They run them all out.

G: Really? Where was this black colony you were talking about?

E: Right out of Blanco about seven miles, I'd say, and it's kind of east. It's more east; it's almost due east of Blanco. When you go out of Blanco and cross the river like you're coming to San Antonio, the road turns off that goes to the Negro colony. It's not very far down there. They have churches and had schools and baseball teams, and, oh my, we used to go down there on electioneering days and everybody would go to their big barbecues and everything down there, you know. They still have [it]; the colony's still there. But now Johnson City is half Latin. There's lots of Latins there, but in the twenties and in our day, there were no Latins there, none, and no coloreds there.

G: Well, what did Sam Ealy Johnson do when he was in the legislature? Did he do anything for Johnson City then or his district?

E: Well, I expect he did, but then I know that at one time, but I think this was after, he was over--was it liquor or was it game or something?--some commission that he was over there. Then at one time he

had to do with the highways because Lyndon worked on the highways a while, and there was a lot of sputter about that, now.

G: Really?

E: Yes, there was because at that time, you know, people didn't have jobs, and Lyndon was a kid.

G: I see. So it was nepotism.

E: There was some sputter over that, but I don't think to the point that anybody would despise Sam Johnson for that. Now, of course as I say, probably from a political standpoint and probably from--I don't think it's a jealousy, but probably whatever it was that makes people begin to pick people who are doing something that they couldn't do, and I think probably Mr. Sam got some of that. But Mr. Sam helped the schools there. If we needed some little string to be pulled in the schools, Mr. Sam would help there, and Judge Stubbs [?] would.

G: How about the veterans? Did he do anything for the veterans that you recall?

E: No, I don't recall anything maybe that they've--

G: I have the impression that he had a difficult time financially in the twenties, that he suffered some economic reverses.

E: Well, this is what I'm telling you, that there was no money in Johnson City.

G: Did this affect Sam more than the others, or do you recall?

E: Well, I think probably that Mr. Sam--well, we'll say this, that his being in the legislature and stuff like that made him live, or try to live, a different way from what people could live that lived there,

because people just didn't have much, you know. No, they didn't really have much either, certainly not any more than anybody else, and the children were never dressed any different from anybody else. But, yes, I think maybe Mr. Sam was involved--I can't remember how that went, but he might have been still involved in a little bit of cattle with other Johnsons that were doing in the cattle business. I wouldn't say that, but there is a possibility that he could have had some setbacks that I wouldn't even have known about then, but I know that they didn't have any more than anybody else, which was really nothing. As I say, we had plenty of clothes to wear and we had plenty of food to eat and everything, but there was no wealth there and no great show of anything. I suppose that Dr. Barnwell had the first automobile that came there, and it was way in, oh, goodness gracious, I suppose nearly the twenties before people begun to get an automobile.

G: Did most of the men farm for a living?

E: Well, if you call it farming. The farms there are not very big. They're not very big farms and they're not very big ranches. People tend and like to call themselves ranchers now, but then, of course, the ranches that we have at home are not the ranches that are really ranches to other people, because the average--as I say, Mrs. Stribling in the north end of the county there had quite a nice ranch and some of the Smiths had nice ranches, but the average ranch about Johnson City, nobody had over maybe a few hundred acres but not big ranches. They were not [big], and then they would farm the little hillsides there that weren't too caliche to grow anything.

G: What did they plant?

E: Oh, we had a little cotton, and the little cotton field would be sometimes as little as five or six acres. They planted cotton and some corn and of course some maize maybe and cane for stock, but there were not any big crops around Johnson City at all. None. As I say, somebody would have a little place they could find on the hillside to kind of cultivate, but they were not big fields or anything. If you'd call them a ranch or a farm, you would have to say they were both small.

G: What did you do for entertainment in Johnson City?

E: Well, we didn't have very much entertainment. A great thing with us, if somebody new came to town, was to take them snipe hunting, and you know how they do. So we'd walk down to Miller Creek, and it's about six miles, and, of course, we'd get around a pasture and leave them in the pasture. But on Sundays, if the Sunday was pretty, we usually would get--I'm going to say couples, but we didn't couple in those days, everybody went. And you'd invite up or ask it, and the crowd started to go we called it "kodaking," and we'd climb the hills and take pictures and just act silly, I guess, and on the river there. And we had snap parties.

G: What were snap parties?

E: Did you ever go to a snap party? Well, this is the kind of party that we had. Some good soul in town would give us a party, and a couple would go outside in the chimney corner or somewhere out there, and then some other boy or girl would go back in the house and snap

somebody. This is what they called a snap party. Well, they'd go out to where this couple was standing out in the yard, and if the girl snapped the boy, he'd chase till he caught her, and then one of the people, whichever one was caught, had to stand out there then and the one that had been standing out there went in the house. So then the boy she had snapped went in the house and got him a girl, and this was about all there was to it. And we played post office, of course, and musical chairs and just--well, they don't do it anymore. Then in later years, we got to where--I think that was after Lyndon was gone, and I was, too, because I think I was married when I went back there--they had a little square dancing. We had a few dances around there, but not too many people in Johnson City was allowed to go to dances.

G: I see.

E: Yes, they didn't have any way to go in the first place. But then they'd have a basketball [game]. We didn't have football, of course; we had basketball. And the men in the town now, not the boys at school, they played baseball, but there was a ball team made up of the older men out in town. If they had a ball game anywhere in getting distance, well, everybody went to the ball game, wherever it was around there. But then ordinarily our little get-togethers were very simple. They were just little parties, and sometimes we'd have sing-songs, but usually, it was just a little party. Our entertainment there was very, very simple.

G: Did LBJ have a steady girl friend when he was growing up?

E: Not that I ever heard of. I tell you, he was not a womanizing dater. He never did. I can't remember how or when our mode of living changed, and it changed after I was married, I know, because if we went there, it was usually--now occasionally, if something called for a date or something, but it was not a regular thing to date. Maybe if we was going to a party, some boy would ask you to take you to the party, but if he didn't, well, two or three girls would just go till you got there. But the times were just completely different then from what they were now. Actually I was surprised when Lyndon married because I never had heard of his going too much with anybody or anything, and all at once, well, then, Lady Bird popped up, and they came down here and married. But it was just not so then. I don't know, we just lived differently.

G: Was there a movie house or movie theatre there?

E: We had [one] in the last years there, yes. After they built the new courthouse, then upstairs, where the old courthouse was, they put a little movie house in there. Yes. We had the movies once a week, and that was usually on Saturday night. Then we had a little later, I don't know what to call them, an Assembly of God or whatever, that had church there on Sunday morning then upstairs, and then after that they had a grocery store downstairs, and then down in the basement after the courthouse was gone they had lodge meetings. Then years later they built a little theater, a little movie house there. But the place where we had--this was silent pictures, you know, that they had up there. Then we had little tent shows that came in there.

Truckloads of tents and whatnot would come in there, and they would put up this tent show and, oh, it would just have old plank seats. I remember one time the seats broke.

G: Oh, really?

E: And we had some people hurt there. But usually the sheriff would get tickets to these shows and give them to his friends, and they didn't make much off of Johnson City. But they had trapeze acts and everything. They were just little shows. Then later we had chautauquas a little while; we had a few years of chautauquas there. But anything that came there was something that somebody brought in there.

G: Excuse me, go ahead. I was just going to say, was Johnson City on the way to somewhere else? Were you on a route, say, to Fredericksburg or West Texas, or did people pass through Johnson City?

E: Not like they do now. No. No, we were strictly a little inland town and the people that were at Johnson City were Johnson City. If we had something down there like a fair, which most places around there would have, well, then everybody would come from everywhere to the fair, you know, or whatever. No, in the first place until long after Lyndon and myself [left], the roads were not the kind that were good enough for a trail somewhere. No, we didn't, I don't believe. I know that people in Johnson City took their children, and I was one of them, to Marble Falls to see a train. I was a great big girl and I never had seen a train because there were none there. There were no trucking lines there other than--most grocery stores there had their own truck, and

they came to San Antonio and got their produce and stuff from San Antonio.

G: That must have been a good trip.

E: It was, you know. You came down here, and of course after they got trucks, it was fine because they could go and come in a day, but then before they got the trucks, well, it was a little problem.

G: Did, say, the Johnson City High School students make trips as a group, as a class or something, to San Antonio or Austin or to larger cities?

E: Not in my time.

G: Really?

E: No, no. They didn't. I think they do probably now, but they didn't then. The only time we went away from there on something like that was to--now, we had the Interscholastic League in Blanco County, and the winners from the Interscholastic League in Blanco County, most of the time we went to San Marcos. I don't know whether that was the center of the district or not, but we moved from Blanco County to district at San Marcos. Then if we won at San Marcos, we got to go to state at Austin, and we did go those times but very well chaperoned.

G: Do you recall LBJ going on any of those trips?

E: Oh, yes.

G: He did?

E: Oh, yes, he did. I'll tell you how we were. We laughed at each other--Fritz knows about this. We had a little German boy with us. We had no lights in Johnson City--you'll have to remember this--and really none of the things that when you move into the city you find

that you don't know how to operate. He tried to cut the light off and he couldn't cut the light off, so he pulled out a dresser drawer and put the light down in the dresser drawer and shut the dresser drawer. That little man is still living at Johnson City now. We laughed about that.

Now, Fritz and Lyndon and everybody went when we went to those because we usually had several who would be from Johnson City. A lot of them would be from Blanco then, you know, but whoever had won in county went then [to district]. I presume that San Marcos must have been where we went for district, because we'd move on to San Marcos. Then a few times we had a few representatives at state, not very often but sometimes.

G: What did LBJ do for employment when he was a youth? Did he hold odd jobs around town?

E: There were not very many odd jobs there, but--

G: Someone has remembered him working, shining shoes, I think, in a barber shop or something like that. Do you remember if he ever did that?

E: He may have, I don't know. I wouldn't say he didn't, but, of course, I don't remember it, and he may have. I don't know. But after he got out of school--and they wanted him to go off to school--he wanted to go out in the world, and so he and Ben Crider and Otho Summy went to California in a little Model-T Ford, but they didn't tarry out there very long either. Then he worked on the highway for a while, I told

you a while ago, and then he went to school at San Marcos. Did Lyndon finish at San Marcos, do you know?

G: Yes.

E: What year did he finish, do you know?

G: Well, let's see. He graduated in--

E: 1924.

G: Yes, from high school, yes. Let's see. He finished, I believe it was August of 1930. That's right.

E: He couldn't have finished.

G: Well, that's when he finished.

Let me ask you this. Was he sort of a practical joker when he was a youth in Johnson City?

E: Yes.

G: Can you recall any instances of this?

E: (Laughter) Yes, he did. It was April Fool, I know, and our Mr. Scott Klett, who was superintendent of our school, was a bachelor, and we had a Miss Sally Burke that was teaching there, and Mr. Scott was going with her some. She stayed at the Emory Stribling [?] house right down behind the schoolhouse. So we went down one night--oh, it was about three cars full--and we ticktacked them. Of course, he was in Miss Sally's [house], where she stayed there. So they chased us and we ran to the river, and you come to Flat Creek before the river, and you go up a steep hill and then down to the river. It's about only a car wide; two cars can pass, but you have to be daylight and be careful about passing. So the first car of us flew up there and went

crossways of the road and ran, and then Mr. Scott comes zooming up, and the others went behind him, and we ran. He got us in school the next day and he wanted us to tell who had been in on that and where we were the night before, and nobody knew, nobody told. So he said, well, we were going to make people that didn't do it get punished because we all had to stay in two weeks after school and write English history word for word for one hour. And so we did. The whole high school had to stay in because nobody would tell who was there. Yes, Lyndon was in that and I'm sure Ben was in that, too.

G: What do you mean when you say you ticktacked them?

E: Well, if you've never been ticktacked, it's just a wild thing. You take a string, just a plain old string, and rosin it, use rosin and rub it, and then you tie it like under their window or somewhere on the porch outside of where they were, and then we went across the yard outside of the fence and pulled this string outside the fence. Then you use this rosin, and when you rub it on there, it sounds like cats fighting. It just sounds terrible. It makes a noise, screeching. It makes a loud noise, you can get loud with it. So we went down to ticktack them. (Laughter) Yes, this was another thing we would do, stuff like silly things like that.

And then on Halloween all the kids in town would get together and we'd carry the toilets from everybody's house up on Main Street and set them in front of the stores and all over everywhere, you know. Yes, we was kind of rough there sometime.

G: Last time you mentioned that LBJ once broke a window in the hardware store.

E: Yes, in the hardware store. That was boys in town that night. I don't know. I think they probably were playing and in their playing, well, of course, the rock was thrown, and it happened to have been by Lyndon and [he] broke the window in Mr. Ross' hardware store. Well, of course, Mr. Sam, he just went on terribly about Lyndon breaking the window and told him to go home and get a quilt, and he'd take him to jail and let him go to jail. Of course, he never meant to do it and didn't do it, but Lyndon was very upset about it, and Miss Rebekah. But anyway, Miss Rebekah stilled the troubled waters, which she always did. That was her role in that household, to keep the [peace]. The next morning they got up and Lyndon come into breakfast, and they were all sitting around the breakfast table, and Lyndon went over and kissed his mother. Lyndon was very fond of his mother. He really was. Well, his father, too, as far as that's concerned. So Mr. Sam said, "You didn't kiss me," and Miss Rebekah said, "He knew who took up for him last night when he broke the window."

I had an older sister, you asked me about her a while ago, Annie, and Lyndon, she was his caretaker. Anything that happened to him he went over there and tattled to her.

G: Oh, really?

E: Yes, she loved him very much.

G: And she's deceased?

E: Yes, she's deceased.

G: Well, now, was Lyndon's father stern with him?

E: Yes, pretty stern. Not only Lyndon, he was pretty stern with anybody, the girls and Lyndon and all. Yes, I think Mr. Sam would be considered stern. My father was stern. My father didn't drink, but he was stern. Yes, I think probably you'd say Mr. Sam was stern.

G: Can you recall any instances, you know, where he treated Lyndon harshly?

E: No, I don't think I know anything about him. Oh, I've seen him slap him, but then the average person has, you know. This is when Lyndon would go tell that his daddy had slapped him or his daddy had done something, and she would fix it and go on about it or something.

G: Who? Mrs. Johnson?

E: My sister.

G: Oh, I see.

E: Well, Mrs. Johnson always kept the waters [stilled]; yes, she always listened.

G: LBJ went to Robstown for a time and worked down there. Do you recall why he went or the circumstances of that?

E: No, I didn't know he went. I don't remember his going myself--about the Robstown. Now, of course, he had a family down there, you know, the Prices were down there, and the Kellams [?] were down there and a lot of people.

G: Harvey Roper.

E: Harvey Roper? Was he down there? I don't know, but I don't remember his going. Was that after he was out of high school?

G: Before, I think. No, maybe it was afterwards. Around 1924, so I guess it was the summer he graduated.

E: Well, then, he might have gone down there just because there was nothing to do because, as I say, they did go off away from home to explore the world and to see what was happening in the world.

G: There's a story that he once wrecked his father's car. Do you recall that?

E: No, I don't. In fact, I don't remember when Mr. Sam got a car. It must have been kind of late. Nobody there had a car very early.

G: Really?

E: No. As I say, I think Dr. Barnwell had the first car that I remember, and I don't remember Mr. Sam's car.

G: Where did you live when you were growing up in Johnson City?

E: Well, we lived back over by the cemetery first, and there's a house still there. Let me see who lives there. I don't know who lives there. But we moved then, and my father built the house on the corner of the school ground, the two-story house with all the gables on it. We moved there, and we lived there until about 1916; we lived right on the school ground. Everybody that went to the school ground or what-not [passed by]; our house was just right at the edge of the school ground. We lived there until about 1916. Then next we lived right west of the school ground, not a whole block, just down [the street]. If you're familiar with Johnson City, there's an old Sharman [?] house there, a big, old two-story house, and he didn't want us to take my brother away, so he built a house down there and we moved in it.

G: Do you have any general impressions of what LBJ was like when he was a youth in Johnson City?

E: Well, I think he was just an average youth, just an average ambitious youth. To me, he was, and he was kind of a happy person. I think we were all kind of happy. I know he and Robert Edwards had a fight one day right out in front of our house. As I say, as they came from school, you were right in our door, and my father was one-armed, and my mother raised a little girl who--her father had one eye gone. And when Lyndon and Robert had the fight out there, well, we took up for Lyndon and Robert got mad at us, and first he said, "Well, trot old One-armed George out"--to us--"and we'll see what he can do." And then to Zora Lee, he said, "One-eyed Levi." But their noses were bleeding. It was just a typical little boy fight. They were about fifteen, I guess, sixteen, maybe not that old. They weren't that old maybe, I don't know. Well, anyway, I would say that Lyndon was just a typical boy.

G: What were they fighting about? Do you know?

E: I have no idea and I doubt that they knew. No telling. They were just very typical. We just--

G: Did you ever think that he would be successful in politics?

E: Well, from the first after he got in politics, I really thought he would. I am going to tell you something about him, and I said this when we had our little documentary here. Lyndon was a persuader. He could sweet talk anybody into nearly anything that he wanted.

G: Even when he was in school?

E: Even when he was young. He could talk you out of your lunch if he needed to. Yes, he always had that persuasive [power] and enough of his mother in him that he knew the words to persuade with. He was a great--I just wouldn't have been surprised. He would have been a great persuader to me because he was just that way. He had the talent for it. No, I was not too greatly surprised when Lyndon went right up, because even, you know, people have--this is what I say. The associations he had always opened a way for him and he took it, like he was in the youths for a while, NYA. He always took it.

G: It seems that he was sort of restless for a while.

E: Oh, he was a restless person. That's why I tell you that I don't know why anybody would feel that he wasn't ambitious because--

G: Excuse me. He seemed to not have been as purposeful about things as he became after he went to San Marcos, and I was wondering if this is accurate, and if so, where you think he acquired his single-mindedness and the drive that he had.

E: Well, maybe somebody knew a side to him that I didn't know, but I would not say that he was a drifter or, you know, undecided, hunting for something. Other than everybody there did, hunted for something to do and somewhere to go. I think he was just average, and I think from the first, just like everybody else there, he was ambitious of finding him a place to go. I think the average boy around sixteen years old, you know, they're prone to run away from home or something. Of course, he didn't do that, but he went to California. But then I

don't see anything unusual in the way he behaved as a boy. I think he was just probably an average boy.

G: Okay.

E: I really think that after he got over his little nowhere-to-go and no-money-to-do-with and nothing-to-do, and he got his feet set on something, I think he just went--really, if I were to call him, I would say that he was always ambitious, always hunting for something. That's how we make a world.

End of Tape 1 of 1 and Interview I

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In accordance with the provisions of Chapter 21 of Title 44, United States Code, and subject to the terms and conditions hereinafter set forth, I, Georgia Cammack Edgeworth of San Antonio, Texas do hereby give, donate and convey to the United States of America all my rights, title and interest in the tape recording and transcript of the personal interview conducted on December 17, 1981 at San Antonio, Texas and prepared for deposit in the Lyndon Baines Johnson Library.

This assignment is subject to the following terms and conditions:

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(3) I hereby assign to the United States Government all copyright I may have in the interview transcript and tape.

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Georgia Cammack Edgeworth
Donor

January 21, 1985
Date

Robert M. Warner
Archivist of the United States

February 8, 1985
Date