

INTERVIEW I

INTERVIEWER: Ted Gittinger

INTERVIEWEE: FERD KAUFMAN (with Ida Kaufman)

DATE: November 6, 1997

PLACE: Mr. Kaufman's residence, Richardson, Texas

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G: How long had you been working for AP?

K: I went to work for the Associated Press in--gosh, I think it must have been March of 1957. Prior to that, I had worked three years at United Press here. I came here from Little Rock, Arkansas, where I had worked with the *Arkansas Democrat*, and then for about eight months, I was the official photographer for the State of Arkansas. I got a political appointment. Well, that didn't work out. I'm not--I just wasn't--I was too young to be a political appointee. (Laughter) So, anyway, I met a guy who had come to Arkansas to cover a severe tornado at Judsonia, and did him a little service, and one day I sat down and wrote him a letter--he was in Dallas--and he gave me a job, and that's how I got here. And I've been here about forty-plus years.

G: I see. And you started covering LBJ when?

K: The day of the election, actually. I was in Austin that night, at the Driskill [Hotel], when he accepted the--you know, made the--what do you call it?--the victory speech at the Driskill.

G: This is the 1964 election?

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K: Yes, yes. 1964 election. Prior to that--of course, I was in Dallas during the assassination.

G: Were you?

K: Yes.

G: What can you recall about that?

K: Well, I recall that I had gone--my assignment was to go to Fort Worth that morning for the breakfast meeting at the hotel, and then I was to do that bit, drive to Dallas, go to Market Hall to wait on his arrival there, and of course he never arrived. And from then on, I spent the rest of the weekend in the police station chasing--what, with about three hundred other members of the press--chasing [Lee Harvey] Oswald up and down the hall every time they moved him. But, you know, that's an unbelievable script.

G: What are the memories that particularly stand out?

K: Well, what really stands out now, after the fact, was--you know, the security was nonexistent in those days. We just wandered in and out of the police station, and it dawned on me about three or four days later, that somebody could have dropped a hand grenade in that hall up there and killed us all! But I never, never thought it was a conspiracy of any sort. [I] covered a lot of the conspiracy-type people and covered the [Jack] Ruby trial. I was at the hospital when Ruby died. When Ruby shot Oswald, I was down at the--the deal was, we had a pool arrangement going at the county courthouse, that we were going to get access to Oswald when they transferred him. Well, obviously he never got there.

So then after all that happened, I negotiated on behalf of the Associated Press with Mrs. [Marguerite] Oswald, his mother, went to Fort Worth, and ended up paying her

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about five thousand dollars for six family pictures of this cat. Interesting story--the woman was an absolute fruitcake. [I] took about two trips to do it, and finally got the pictures and copied them, and of course that's all the pictures you saw, when he was a child, in the Marine Corps, et cetera. But it was just a terrible weekend, plus--and on and on and on for years. Still goes on.

G: So you began--what was your first opportunity to cover LBJ after the assassination then? Was it the--?

K: Well, I'm just trying to remember. I guess--well, I don't know when he first came to the Ranch after that.

G: I think it was in December. I think it was before Christmas.

K: Well, if it was in December--we went to Stonewall. The Hahnes, Kermit and Tillie Hahne, ran a motel and restaurant down there, and the AP engaged a permanent room in that motel and paid them on a monthly basis, retainer; they never rented it, and we had the room adjoining it, and we had a darkroom set up there. And that's how we handled the picture transfers out of Stonewall. If he came to the Ranch, we alternated going down there--that is, myself and other people in the office here. But, gosh, after he had his--was it gall bladder surgery, or kidney stones? One or the other; I don't remember now.

IK: The end of October?

K: That was in October--yes, the end of October, so I was down there until--

IK: January 5.

K: Yes.

G: For the whole recuperation period there.

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K: Yes, the whole period. And I got to know a lot of the people that lived in Stonewall. Of course, Stonewall's what? Two hundred population, approximately, then. And mostly related to one another. Have you ever been to Stonewall?

G: Did you meet the Eckerts?

K: Walter Eckert?

G: Yes, and--

K: The Wein--

G: --Benno, I think is his brother. They had the garage.

K: Well, the Eckerts, yes; the Weinheimers--yes, and the Kleins, and so forth. Yes, I met all of those people.

G: I'm related to the Eckerts by marriage.

K: Is that right? Okay. Well, anyway, we had lots of fun--

IK: And the Bergs.

K: Yes, and the Bergs; Simon Berg and his kids. Yes, we had a lot of fun down there.

G: What was LBJ like in recuperation, that you remember?

K: Well, if you'll remember, he--fine!--he just was all over the place. You remember the great picture of him pulling up his shirt, and I know Fran [Frances] Lewine, who was on the trip; she was the Washington reporter. She came into the darkroom and says, "Well, we just all got to feel the President's bump"--(Laughter)--"where his operation was."

It was always wild trying to cover him down there because, number one, he didn't want to be covered. He wanted his privacy, and I don't blame him, but that wasn't part of our deal. The official White House crew, you know, stayed in Austin at the Driskill. And

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they had their daily briefings, and a guy would stand and say, "Well, the lid's on," and et cetera, while all the time the lid was on, Lyndon was running around the countryside down in the country.

G: Did the wire service have someone besides you then in Austin?

K: Well, we had a reporter down there.

G: How did you work together? How did you complement each other?

K: We generally handled the coverage on a day-to-day basis out of Stonewall, filing a story into the bureau in Austin, until he had an "official" something, a press conference or something, when the White House press corps would come out. But on a day-to-day basis, we just did it there.

G: You sort of shadowed him?

K: Well, and tried to keep with him. Hence finding the Secret Service radio frequency so we wouldn't have to run all over the country!

G: Why don't you tell that story, as long as we're there?

K: Well, of course the Stonewall hotel and restaurant was the center of activity, and of course the Secret Service--like everybody else, they came there [for] coffee, [to] eat, whatever. And so, with a tunable radio that you can buy for ten dollars, and by looking-- they would leave their radios in the seat, and you could pick up a frequency off of them, and we found the frequency and just started listening.

G: How did--you said you could pick it up. You mean you could just eyeball it and see where it was--

K: Well, yes, it's written on the radio! (Laughter)

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G: Okay.

K: And so we would--we picked it up, found it, and started listening. And that saved many a mile and a lot of time chasing him around, because--originally Ranch Road 1 was open. What we used to do is, we had a long telephoto lens, one guy would drive, one guy in the back seat, and we'd drive up and down Ranch Road 1 all day long, and every time you saw him out you'd take a snap. Well, that irritated him to no end, and they finally closed Ranch Road 1.

One of my favorite stories about that is--A. W. Moursund, who lived in Johnson City and was [a] big-time friend of the President's, and the AP--like they do with everything, anybody that's so closely associated with a prominent person, they wanted file pictures. Well, we were having no luck with getting A. W. Moursund to pose for a picture, so I finally went over--went to his office, went in, was talking to his secretary, and he heard me and he says, "Well, what is it that you want?" And I said--he used to be the county judge down there, and I said, "Well, Judge, I'll tell you what." He says, "I don't want an interview," and I said, "I don't want to ask you anything. All I want is a picture, to take a picture of you." He says, "Why?" And I said, "Well, it's just in case you die, we have an obit picture of you." So he says, "Okay, take my picture." And he said, "Why do you guys bother Lyndon driving up and down the highway?" And I said, "Well, I don't know why anybody else does it, but I do it for nine cents a mile."

(Laughter)

So he posed, and that solved that problem of the day.

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So after they closed the ranch road, we had no way to keep up with him. I mean, he could be anywhere, contrary to what the White House official story was in Austin. And he was never where they said he was; he was either at the lake--if it was summertime he was at the lake, and he regularly drove to all the ranches down there that he owned and watched the sun go down. Several of them--and you'll hear them on some of this tape--he's out talking.

The next big trick every Sunday was trying to figure out where he was going to church. Sometimes he went to Fredericksburg, to St. Barnabas; sometimes he went to Johnson City to the Christian church; on one occasion or two he went to Blanco to some other church. But the funny thing about it was, he wouldn't tell the Secret Service either. In fact, he'd just go out, walk out of the Ranch house and jump in a car and be gone, and these guys were just panic-struck like everybody else trying to figure out where he was going.

G: Did he drive fast?

K: Yes, he moved along, moved along. It always took them--when he went to the Fredericksburg church he'd just drive up to St. Barnabas, and he never put that Lincoln in park; he'd just get out of it and they'd have to catch it going down the street! (Laughter) But we got to know all the Secret Service guys really well, and I had a long--I had a forty-five-minute conversation with Lem Johns, who was the chief of the White House at that point in time, about us chasing him at the lake. And we argued and argued and talked and talked and it never solved anything. (Laughter)

G: What was he trying to convince you not to do?

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K: Oh, well, he was trying to convince us not to bug him, you know. I was going to tell you the other day on the phone, but the day before Princess Diana's funeral, I had a phone call from an old NBC cameraman I hadn't seen in about twenty years, and he says, "I'm sitting here watching CNN, and they just had on the screen a picture of Lyndon Johnson in his shorts and his caps up at Lake LBJ." And he said the guy on CNN said this was the first of the paparazzi pictures, and he said, "Did you do it or did Ted [?] do it?" And I said, "Well, I did it."

We found him. Don Erbach [?], who was then a *Life* magazine photographer--we went to the lake and rented a boat, got out on the lake and found the cruiser--and boy, a boatload of people. And he was in his bathing trunks, and he was sitting there having a little drink, and so we made a couple of pictures. Well, about this point in time, the Secret Service saw us, what we were doing. So we were beached by Rufus Youngblood and Lem Johns, and Lem Johns, who was much more aggressive than Rufus ever was, wanted to have the film. And I said, "No, you're not going to have the film at all." And--who was the secretary--Reedy?

G: George Reedy?

K: George Reedy was the press secretary at that point. And so they apparently--by the time I got back to Austin with the film, Reedy was on the phone at the bureau wanting to know what we were going to do with it, and I said, "We're going to put it on the wire, is what we're going to do with it." And we did.

G: You said they beached you. How did they beach you?

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K: Well, they just—they had a little boat, and they kind of came over there and made us pull into a little island inlet, and Lem was demanding this and that, and Rufus was trying to calm him down. I knew Rufus, and I said, "You're not getting this film at all," but it was fun and games in those days. And we had--Ted [?] found a spot--you know that he had a couple of places at the lake. There was one, the old place up in the narrows of the lake; I can't remember if that was in the north end or the south end. But we had made arrangements with a guy across the lake--it was the narrow part of the lake. Well, anyway, we had a telephoto lens set up there in a fish bait place that they couldn't see. We made pictures of him when he was out in his amphibian car, and on his boat, and all this jazz, and it just used to drive him wild. Racing Donzi boats up and down the lake, playing with the photographers, playing hide-and-seek. It was fun and games!

(Laughter)

G: I've heard that he didn't like it if the press deserted him, either.

K: Well, you know, like a lot of people, they want them and they don't want them. They want them when they want them. Yes, you know. But he was a nice--you know, I always got along. There's his picture up here; this was made in Stonewall at church one morning. And they sent that to me.

G: They say he liked to go to that little Catholic church in Stonewall a lot.

K: That's where that was.

G: I see.

K: That's where it was, the Catholic church in Stonewall.

IK: Tell about when he took you through the Ranch house. He took several of you--

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K: Oh, well, you know, he would--on occasions [he was] very impromptu. I remember one time we were out there, and he just decided to take the press corps on a tour of the Ranch house. We walked in there and he said--and I quote--we were upstairs looking in the bathroom and he says, "Lady Bird's going to kill me for showing you all this." We walked in there, and of course, there's her nylons hanging on the line, and--it was pretty folksy. (Laughter) Pretty folksy.

But--oh, he was fine. We enjoyed it.

G: Well, he was very down to earth. What are some of your favorite stories?

K: Well, I think you've--oh, let me finish the story. We got invited to the seventy-fifth birthday party. Do you remember the seventy-fifth birthday party? He was dead.

G: Yes.

K: They had a party at the Ranch.

G: That would have been in the early 1980s.

K: Yes, I guess that's right. But we all went, Ida and I went to the Ranch, along with everybody else that I knew, including Lem Johns and all the rest of these people. They had a barbecue on the banks of the Pedernales, and [we] all went down to the cemetery and laid a wreath, and Mrs. Johnson--it was the first time I'd ever been to a birthday party for a dead man.

G: Well, you know, we still celebrate his birthday every year in the Library.

K: I'm sure you do!

G: If you visit the Library that day, you get a piece of cake and a cup of coffee.

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K: Well, that's very good! Mrs. Johnson was certainly a gracious lady, still is a gracious lady.

G: Did he ever get angry at you personally? I mean, did he ever--

K: Oh, no, not personally, I don't think he ever got angry. He just didn't want his privacy invaded, and I can see that. But as I kept trying to tell Lem Johns, the man is president of the United States, and we're just not going to--especially--now remember, this is right after an assassination, and we're not going to just let him run rampant and go out and drive a speedboat up and down the lake at fifty miles an hour--at least we didn't think we were--because we'd already been burnt badly on one deal.

G: Well, how about the Secret Service? How difficult did they try to make your life?

K: Oh, they didn't make my life difficult, because I knew most of them and we just played a game. Of course, I could hear them talking about me on the radio from time to time.

G: Is that right?

K: Oh, yes. I remember one time they were changing shifts, and we were out on the highway with a camera set up, and I heard one of them say, "The photographers are at such-and-such," all ready and waiting for you, or something. That ranch is large, and of course there were several other ranches--the Reagan, the Scharnhorst, and so forth and so on, which I never put foot on. But one of the most interesting stories was, we got to know the telephone people. They had the--I think he said fifty-six trunk lines into the Ranch, which was enough phone to cover the city of Fredericksburg, and this guy that we used to socialize with says, "Well, we've lost five thousand handsets down here so far." He had

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telephone jacks on every fence post around down there. So the Southwestern Bell lost a lot of handsets down at the Ranch.

G: He could plug in just about anyplace.

K: Anything. If he wasn't on the radio--of course, they had that repeater station up by the lake, and--man, he could talk to the world on his car radio!

G: Didn't that ever become an issue, that this is kind of a breach of security that--I mean, if you could intercept the Secret Service, then anybody could.

K: Well, the thing about it is, he wasn't saying anything, particularly.

G: But I mean, the Secret Service frequency was--

K: Oh, well, yes.

G: --giving away his location. That might be considerably--

K: Yes, you could give away his location. Sure, you could.

G: Did that--it never occurred to them that this was going on?

K: I guess not. I guess it really hadn't--of course, one of the first things that occurred to the Secret Service was, when they got down to Stonewall, every guy that had a pickup truck had two guns hanging in the back. But they got over that. It's an entirely different world from what they were used to.

G: They were used to the East Coast.

K: That's right, yes. But everybody had a rifle and a shotgun in the back of the truck.

G: Of course. Were you ever able to cover any of his hunting exploits?

K: No, no, I was hunting myself. The AP even bought two-way radios. We had fairly sophisticated communications of our own, where we could be in contact as far away as

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Johnson City to the base station at Stonewall, and even I--the fellow that ran the hotel there, he had a hunting lease up on the mountain, kind of overlooking the Ranch, and I'd go up there and hunt deer and take the radio with me so I--(Laughter)--so I could be in touch.

G: I've heard that the Secret Service at first tried to convince people, neighbors, not to hunt, so that there wouldn't be anybody with guns there.

K: Well, I don't know whether that's true or not. I do know this, that it would have certainly been no trick to shoot down a helicopter flying over with a high-powered rifle, I mean, or shoot at it; you may not ever shoot it down, but, Lord, you know, that's rough terrain, and you couldn't possibly keep all those people from hunting.

G: No.

K: No way. Because they were leasing leases down there to hunt.

But--love the peaches! (Laughter)

G: And the--what do they call it, the native wine that they make?

K: Oh, Simon Berg's mustang wine? It was wonderful! Simon had a real storehouse of that stuff. Oh, yes.

G: Did you cover him in retirement as well?

K: No, not really. After he got out of office--now I did write a letter trying to get him to agree to an interview as a rancher. In fact, I've got a copy of the return I got from the White House down there. And the next time I had anything to do with him was the funeral.

G: I see. What was memorable about that?

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- K: Well, you know, really--gosh, it was a cold day, as I remember. Was it March?
- G: February.
- K: February, yes.
- G: No--January.
- K: Well, anyway, I knew it was cool and kind of misty, and of course they had the howitzers set up to salute down on the river bank, and they had all the dignitaries. It was quite a get-together, quite a get-together in a very pretty setting, in the cemetery there at the Ranch.
- G: Right. Well, it's a beautiful setting.
- K: Yes, it is. And that's just about the extent of my going on.
- G: Well, it's fascinating, it really is fascinating.
- K: It's hard to remember it, so it's not left to--I left the AP twenty years ago.
- G: Did you ever travel with him at all?
- K: Yes, I went to Cotulla with him, as a matter of fact, to go visit the school. And I think I went to San Marcos once, to go to something there.
- G: Anything you want to record about those trips?
- K: No, not really, it was just--the way the AP works, you know, the White House photographers travel officially, the local guys have to make arrangements to get the pictures transmitted, handled and transmitted, and that's what generally I was doing, except when he was at the Ranch and we were doing our own thing and the White House photographers were lounging at the Driskill--(Laughter)--until they had an "official," quote, function. Had a lot of fun.

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G: Did you know the White House photographer, [Yoichi] Okamoto?

K: Yes, yes, sure did. The fact of the matter is, there may be a picture right there of Lyndon and Nixon at the Ranch that he gave me. Yes.

IK: This one was taken at his boyhood home. In fact, that's myself and our son.

K: Yes.

IK: But this was near--at Christmas that he had the neighborhood children in for hot chocolate.

G: Yes, that was kind of a tradition with them. They would always do something.

K: Now, Ida did end up--Ida was down there once, and we went to church. We were with them at St. Barnabas, and after church he went into that little log cabin thing next to it and had a cup of coffee or something, and she was in the doorway, and the press corps surrounded him, and she was jumping up to see, and he says, "Let that little lady in!" So she ends up belly-to-belly with the President of the United States--(Laughter)--panic-struck--

IK: Speechless!

(Laughter)

G: Well, he was kind of an overpowering personality.

K: Yes, he was, and of course he was tall, and she's short, and--

IK: Very suave!

K: Very suave, he--I really liked the man myself.

G: Do you remember anything of Father Wunibald Schneider, that priest that was at Stonewall?

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K: Well, I remember him well, but I don't remember much about him, except Luci got engaged, and--well, we covered Luci and Pat Nugent coming out of there on Christmas Eve, as I remember, and unbeknownst to us, she had--they had just gotten engaged. Fortunately, we got a picture of them with the ring on it, but--we never went into the church. I personally didn't think somebody's privacy ought to be invaded in church for pictures, but that's changed.

G: Right. Well, a great deal has changed.

K: Yes, I don't think there's that--I tell you, there's just--I think television within itself has just brought a lot of this to no privacy anymore, and the demand to have the exclusive or the first or whatever, and the prices paid for pictures nowadays.

G: Yes. Well, you were on salary, but these freelancers are a different story.

K: Oh, yes! Well, in those days there weren't many freelancers. There just wasn't--well, you know, in this picture up there, there's everybody that was there. This older gentleman in the glasses--and I can't remember his last name--his first name's Tom. He had a son. They were both at the White House. The next guy is the AP photographer, Charlie Tasnadi, who was a refugee from Hungary during the 1950s. And the next guy behind him is the UPI photographer in Austin, and me, and then there's one other cameraman that came up there usually from San Antonio, a local TV station. But that was the crowd at Stonewall.

G: So you had to drive down every time he came to the Ranch.

K: Yes, we just camped down there, just lived down there in the motel. Yes.

G: Well, that was pretty frequent, too.

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K: Pretty frequent.

IK: Very frequent!

K: Very frequent. (Laughter) One Christmas she and the three children came down and we rented a mobile home right there, and we had Christmas on the spot. That was the long October-to-January--

G: That was he was recuperating from the gall bladder, I guess.

K: Right. But it was enjoyable. I had a deal with the AP, you know, work seven days a week. And so I was making two days' overtime every week, plus some holiday pay, which I enjoyed.

G: But it's a grind.

K: Well, it's not too bad when you're listening to him on the radio. You don't have to go out of the house!

G: I really am surprised that they never took to the idea--to the fact that you had the goods on them. I mean, obviously you must have surprised them any number of times.

K: Well, yes, I [would] show up, just show up. But as I said, it used to be a Sunday morning ritual to go into the Stonewall motel, and some of the Secret Service guys were there, and we'd all sit there and try to figure out where he was going to church that day.

G: You mean you and the Secret Service.

K: Yes, the Secret Service didn't know either--(Laughter)--till it happened. No, he literally would walk out of the Ranch house and hop in that car, and then these guys were playing catch-up, trying to keep up.

G: That's amazing.

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K: Yes, it is. It was pretty loose.

G: I heard that the Secret Service had to resort to these--you called them Donzis, but I'm not sure if that's the same as the jetboats--

K: That's what they are. They're Donzi boats that they had up on the lake, which in its day was the fastest thing on water. Yes, big ones. And they would patrol to try to keep up with him.

G: I heard that before they had those boats, it was one of his great pleasures to run away from them.

K: Oh, yes, play hide-and-seek in the lake. We did a lot of that, played hide-and-seek at the lake.

G: I don't remember who told the story of hiring one of the local fishermen to take him out in the boat, and they found the President [inaudible]--

K: Well, that may have been the early days of us, because we were renting boats and going out and looking for him. Sure were! I said that Fourth of July of 1964, that's how this other photographer and I found him. We just rented a boat and went out and looked for him, and we saw him before the Secret Service saw us. There was a lot of people on the lake, you know; of course, they were standing--in this picture, which I don't happen to have a copy of, you can see the Secret Service at the back with their glasses looking over the crop.

G: You mentioned that you were at the Ranch when he was there right after the 1964 election, and they were in kind of a celebratory mood, I gather.

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K: Well, yes, that's when he and Hubert had gone down there, and they had a barbecue, and quite a celebration, and--where Mr. Humphrey was quoted as saying, "Well, Mr. President, I've just stepped on the Republican platform," out in the field.

(Laughter)

G: I hope it wasn't a fresh platform.

(Laughter)

K: Yes, but that made the papers. It was quite a get-together.

G: And you saw him in that fire engine riding around?

K: Well, as you know, there's a low-water ford across the Pedernales at the main entrance, and that--one of those particular--I think it was that very day that he had a passel of cars, including a Model A convertible, and he got in the car and said, "Well, you all just get something there out of the barn," and they had this convoy of people going around the Ranch sightseeing. He was leading the way.

(Laughter)

G: That must have been a sight to behold.

K: Well, it was a sight to behold! But oh, we loved to go to the Ranch, have a cookie and a cup of coffee.

G: Did you ever get a Lone Star beer?

K: Not at the Ranch, no. The Secret Service, though, every time they went back to Washington they had a planeload of Coors; they couldn't get it up there then. (Laughter)

G: You might, now.

K: Well, we had a lot of fun.

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G: Let me pause this here.

K: From the store in Hye.

G: Yes, that's right.

K: Yes. Well, you know, he had a ceremony in the middle of the highway when he swore in Larry O'Brien as postmaster. I was there.

G: Were you there for that?

K: Yes. That was quite a get-together, at the Hye store.

G: Was that when he would try to get some cheese, and all they had was the processed cheese?

K: I don't remember that. I probably was on my way back to Stonewall with negatives, film to get transmitted. But I did go back the next day or two and took some pictures to Mr. [Levi] Deike, one of them--I don't know which one it was--but he had them on display at the store.

G: Well, that was the post office there for a long time.

K: That's right, absolutely. That was his post office, at Hye. But, you know, they had--

IK: Where did he sign the education bill?

K: Well, he didn't sign it--yes he did, he signed it at the old schoolhouse at the Ranch, sure did.

But--it was fun; it was fun. I enjoyed it. It was a change from what I was doing. We covered a lot of sports, as you can imagine, and I think that's really what burned me out finally, is sports every weekend. There was never any weekends off. You know, football is Friday, Saturday, and Sunday, and I left the AP in 1977, and I was pleased to

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be out of the rat race. It used to be fun; it's not fun anymore. There's too many people, if you'll see them on television, what they call the cats-on-a-boom mikes, and there's just too much. I got to the point where I couldn't handle that. And I liked it down there because there was just a few of us, and it was informal, and it was nice.

G: Did you have a lot of dealings with the press secretaries? What are your memories of Reedy, for example?

K: Oh, well, George Reedy and I never really knew each other well. I knew Bill Moyers pretty well, and of course I've known George Christian forever. Of course they had a press center in Johnson City, and--you know, I just really had a good time. I didn't have any problems particularly.

G: Did you cover the opening of the Library?

K: Yes, sure did.

G: Any memories of that?

K: No, not--well, my funniest memory is that there was a photographer that worked for UPI named Roddey Mimms, who I've known since he was a pup.

G: M-I-M-M-S?

K: Yes, M-I-M-M-S. And I remember Roddey standing down there--it was just before it started, and he had Thurgood Marshall cornered, and he was punching him and talking to him, and I thought--

G: Punching him with his finger?

K: Yes, punching him with his finger, and I thought, "Well, Roddey, that's pretty good, you know, a justice of the Supreme Court down there, giving him the benefit of your many

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years of experience!" (Laughter) But he was in Washington at that time, so he'd been around those people. But photographers are a breed unto themselves. They're funny. We're funny--we were funny.

G: What was your favorite picture that you took of him, if you had to pick one?

K: Gosh, it's been so many, I don't remember specifically.

G: But was there one you were proudest of, that you--

K: Well, I think probably this one right here, at the Sam Rayburn funeral, when you had the four presidents together.

G: Okay, that's your picture? I see.

K: Yes. That of course was before 1963, but specifically I don't remember. My memory is not what it used to be.

G: That's all right.

End of Tape 1 of 1 and Interview I

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FERD AND IDA KAUFMAN

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